

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 18 June 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

HERITAGE PLACES (ADELAIDE PARK LANDS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 17 May 2023.)

The SPEAKER: The member for Elizabeth.

Mr ODENWALDER: I yield to the member for Unley.

The SPEAKER: That sounds very British, does it not? The member for Unley, someone has yielded to you.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (10:33): I thank the member for Elizabeth for allowing me to make a contribution to this bill. This bill was passed in the upper house; it was a bill of the Hon. Mr Simms in that place. The bill was also supported prior to the Labor Party being in government, in their last term in opposition. Since then there have been numerous attempts to get this bill through this chamber, but it has continually been postponed.

Today is a great opportunity, I believe, for goodwill to be shown by the Malinauskas government through supporting this bill. They have been supportive of it before. We have an opportunity to complete the debate on this bill today and get this bill off to the Governor to be signed so that we can see the protection of the Parklands.

There are some key important points. It actually reduces the bureaucratic process, if you like, for the protection of the Parklands. The amendment bill seeks to establish Adelaide Parklands as a State Heritage Area. I think it is fair to say with great confidence that with most cities around the world people talk about the parks within the city; when it comes to Adelaide, it is this city within the park. It is a unique future of the city of Adelaide. It is the lungs of the city of Adelaide and certainly the inner metropolitan areas. There is no doubt that my electorate in the seat of Unley benefits enormously, particularly those in the northern end, with a very easy walking distance to both manicured Parklands and also Parklands that still resemble bushland and have a very strong biodiversity of native flora and fauna that grow and live in that space. There are the playing fields too, of course, which are a very important part of the Adelaide Parklands.

I can remember when I first joined the Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association in 1988. One thing that everybody had in common in that group was that they supported the Parklands, but there was a big divide back then, and I think that divide is still there, as to what the original intention of Colonel Light was for the Parklands. I sided with those who believed it was not for it to be an actual bushland but for it to be a parkland for people to use and to enjoy, and yet there was another group in that organisation who believed that it should be a bushland that is looked at and admired and that preserved what was there before European settlement. However, that debate I think still continues today.

I think the important thing is that we are actually seeing a balance of those two ambitions, if you like, in the Parklands. Personally, I would like to see, particularly in the southern end of the Parklands along Greenhill Road, more manicured garden, more introduced species of trees, more parks that have a lawn that is mowed that can be used for families, particularly as we are seeing a higher density of housing being introduced into the suburbs.

The third high-rise development now has been approved for Unley Road. The first one that went up—the process started just after the 2010 election—was completed a number of years after that because it was quite controversial. This is the development between Opey Avenue and Hart Avenue. After a long consultation period, the council and the then Labor government negotiated a five-storey cap for Unley Road north of Northgate Street, I think was where that started.

It got off to a bad start because the very first development that was approved by SCAP was 7½ storeys and that was that development. It ended up being divided into two development sites, developed at the same time by two different developers. We have now seen other high-rise apartment buildings. There is another one being built on the former second-hand store in Unley, just down the road from the Ultra Tune and the Rotary op shop, across the road from where my shop was when I was there back in the 1990s. I understand it is selling extremely well. A lot of people who are downsizing from living in larger homes in Malvern and Unley Park are wanting to stay in the area and they are moving in there. There is now an application for another one on the corner of Esmond Street and Unley Road.

Of course, this all requires open public space. The Parklands are very close to these developments and I believe it is very important that they are protected and that we have this heritage status. It is important not only that we have this heritage status but that we improve the maintenance and the care that we have for the Parklands, and not just those Parklands that are accessible for those who are ratepayers of the City of Adelaide.

Perhaps the City of Adelaide and the City of Unley, for example, could talk about how they could share the maintenance of Parklands that are used predominantly by those who live in the City of Unley who have moved into apartments built on Greenhill Road or Unley Road. We know that there is going to be another application for a large subdivision on the corner of Mary Street and King William Road coming to the minister for approval sometime soon.

I think it is a very innovative way of increasing access to open public space and using that open public space more effectively by making it very attractive. I know there are people who do not like walking through the Parklands, particularly in the summer when they might want to walk from Unley to the city, because of a fear of snakes because of the bushland nature of the Parklands. If we see more manicured Parklands near where people live, the Parklands will be used even more and I think we will also see that they will feel safer because more people will be there.

It is important, I believe, that we have an uplift in the care and management of the Parklands, including more grassed areas. I would like to see more specimen trees. We were very quick off the mark with our Adelaide Botanic Garden to plant some amazing trees from around the world and from other parts of Australia. I believe we have the largest introduced or planted Australian cedar tree growing in the Adelaide Botanic Garden, and we have some extraordinary examples of kauri pine trees from New Zealand and from Queensland that are enormous trees in the Botanic Garden. It would be lovely to see those, as well as the old Moreton Bay fig trees that we see throughout Adelaide and also along the boulevard off the Botanic Garden. They are really quintessential Adelaide. I support this bill and encourage the government to carry this bill through and support it also.

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:43): I move:

That the debate be adjourned.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes	24
Noes	16
Majority	8

AYES

Andrews, S.E.
Brown, M.E.
Dighton, A.E.
Hood, L.P.
Koutsantonis, A.
Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
Picton, C.J.
Szakacs, J.K.

Bettison, Z.L.
Clancy, N.P.
Fulbrook, J.P.
Hughes, E.J.
Michaels, A.
O'Hanlon, C.C.
Savvas, O.M.
Thompson, E.L.

Boyer, B.I.
Close, S.E.
Hildyard, K.A.
Hutchesson, C.L.
Mullighan, S.C.
Pearce, R.K.
Stinson, J.M.
Wortley, D.J.

NOES

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

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

Bell, T.S.
Cregan, D.R.
Hurn, A.M.
Pederick, A.S.
Telfer, S.J.

PAIRS

Piccolo, A.
Cook, N.F.

Tarzia, V.A.
Teague, J.B.

Motion thus carried; debate adjourned.

*Motions***SPACE SECTOR**

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (10:55): I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges the importance of the South Australian space sector, not just to the state's economy but to a variety of sectors ranging from education and skills, to energy, resources and the environment;
- (b) recognises that Lot Fourteen is host to the Space Innovation Precinct, which houses the Australian Space Agency, SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre, key space organisations, the Mission Control Centre and the Space Discovery Centre;
- (c) commends the former Liberal government for their foresight in the creation Lot Fourteen, located on the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site, as a hub of technology, space, innovation and entrepreneurship;
- (d) condemns the Albanese federal Labor government for defunding and scaling back programs targeted to support Australia's space sector, including the \$1.2 billion National Space Mission for Earth Observation mission, the \$7 billion military-grade satellite communications system JP9102 and the NASA-backed Starshot program; and
- (e) calls on the Malinauskas Labor state government to publicly condemn and admonish the Albanese Labor federal government for their ongoing and egregious cuts to the Australian space sector.

I take the opportunity in parliament to acknowledge the critical importance of South Australia's burgeoning space sector. It is an industry that is not only launching satellites but also helping to launch careers, technological innovation and economic growth across our state.

I also take the opportunity to reaffirm the opposition's commitment to South Australia's leadership in Australia's space sector. It is a sector that inspires the next generation of engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs. It also helps secure our place in emerging global industries and ensures that here in South Australia we are not just users of technology but also creators of it as well.

It is undeniable that South Australia really has become the centre of gravity for Australia's space industry. It is not by accident. In large part it was through the foresight, determination and vision here in South Australia of industry and also the former South Australian Liberal government which laid the foundation for what is now a thriving ecosystem at Lot Fourteen.

Over the last 12 months South Australia's space sector has witnessed some significant milestones. In May last year Southern Launch successfully launched the HyImpulse SR75 from their new permanent rocket launch site at the Koonibba Test Range. The SR75 is a hybrid rocket and its propeller is made from liquid oxygen and paraffin wax, quite similar to candle wax. The SR75 was the first vehicle to be launched under the high-powered rocket permit issued by the Australian Space Agency that is based right here in South Australia at Lot Fourteen, again thanks to both the former state and federal Liberal governments.

In terms of the SR75, it was also the largest ever commercial rocket to be launched from Australia. As I said, it launched successfully on 3 May and flew to the edge of space. The mission itself was a short one, only lasting eight minutes, but the mission was not only a success for the teams of Southern Launch and HyImpulse but also a success for the local Koonibba Aboriginal community as well. Over 30 of the approximately 50 Koonibba locals were employed by Southern Launch, bringing economic opportunity to that area as well. The community can rightly be very proud of the contribution they made to this historic launch.

Then we also had the success of Kanyini, launched on a SpaceX rocket mission out of the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California in August last year. On that SpaceX rocket there were many satellites, and one of them, of course, was Kanyini. Soon after it was launched, you got the running commentary from the flight controller, and he was able to announce 'Kanyini deploy confirmed'. Just that short three-word statement heralded the successful launch of Australia's first state government-funded satellite, which was developed and manufactured right here in South Australia.

It also marked the fruition of over 3½ years of intense work by everyone involved in the project. The Kanyini project got underway in January 2021, when former Premier Marshall announced that his government was providing \$6.5 million for a groundbreaking South Australian space mission. Under a partnership with the South Australian space industry, a small satellite was to be manufactured in South Australia and launched into earth orbit.

While space obviously seems out of this world, it is also about making our life here on earth better. The information gathered by the Kanyini satellite will help to improve state services and provide vital data for everyday South Australians, helping to assist farmers to monitor water levels and more accurately predict future crop yields. It will also help emergency services personnel get greater oversight to monitor, manage and even mitigate emergencies like bushfires. The mission also helped to boost South Australia's space economy by getting South Australian businesses, some of them small, into the small satellite supply chain. This helps by getting that space legacy further embedded into the space sector in South Australia, the opportunity to have further investment in South Australia.

The space mission itself was overseen by the SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre, which led the mission and also the application prototyping. The SmartSat CRC is led by chief executive Professor Andy Koronios, and the Kanyini mission director was Peter Nikoloff, with Adelaide-based satellite manufacturing company Inovor Technologies designing and building the satellite and South Australian space company Myriota contracted for the Internet of Things space services.

Fast-forward to February this year, and Southern Launch were part of a world first this time with Varda Space Industries when they safely landed their W-2 satellite at Southern Launch's Koonibba Test Range. This was the first ever commercial satellite to return to a commercial rocket range, landing at Southern Launch's Koonibba Test Range. The satellite was launched into space in January, and it had two payloads on board. One was pharmaceutical and the other was US Air Force research testing of a heat shield for hypersonic re-entry.

After 45 days orbiting, the satellite re-entered the atmosphere, first over Norway at hypersonic speeds before its trajectory found it approaching Koonibba Test Range, where it deployed parachutes and safely landed there. Of course, Koonibba Test Range is 41,000 square kilometres

of uninhabited land, so it really makes that an ideal and safe location for satellite re-entry. Varda also chose Southern Launch because the US airspace is so heavily congested that it really can only be closed down for satellite re-entry very infrequently. This is a great opportunity for further collaborations between Southern Launch and other companies seeking to use the Koonibba Test Range going forward.

To do this, Southern Launch had to secure all the regulatory approvals for re-entry through the Australian Space Agency. It was the first commercial re-entry into Australia, and it was the first one under Australia's new space law. After landing, Southern Launch's recovery team, along with payload specialists from Varda, again operated with and involved the local Koonibba Aboriginal community as well. Those are three fantastic and, I think, groundbreaking milestones for the space sector here in South Australia over the last year, and really show the work the industry is doing.

It is also important to say that the space sector's value extends far beyond rockets and satellites. As I have said before, it also touches a lot of our society. We may think we are disconnected from the space sector, but if it were not there a lot of our everyday life would become much more inconvenient because a lot of applications rely on data that emanates from space as well.

At the heart of our space sector here in South Australia is Lot Fourteen, a global innovation precinct on the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site that was transformed under the former Liberal government. This world-class precinct hosts, as I said, the Australian Space Agency, the SmartSat CRC, Inovor Technologies and other cutting-edge players. It also hosts Australia's Mission Control Centre and the Space Discovery Centre, which is fantastic for helping inspire the next generation of students interested in space. It really helps to cement South Australia's reputation as the nation's space capital.

Let's not forget that this was a deliberate and bold initiative by the former South Australian Liberal government to help transform what was a defunct hospital site into what one would say is a launchpad of innovation, research and entrepreneurship here in South Australia. Lot Fourteen has also become an economic magnet for these sorts of industries, and draws investment and talent not only from Australia but from international companies as well. It is a legacy that will stand South Australia in good stead.

Again, talking about some of these companies that are coming to South Australia, we had big global giants like Microsoft and AWS getting involved because of the work going on at Lot Fourteen. As members can see, we had great support invested in the space industry here in South Australia, and I highlighted the \$6.5 million Kanyini satellite project. All that work is proceeding at pace, and goes towards building sovereign capability here.

Unfortunately, the federal Albanese Labor government has taken the opposite approach to space and, in fact, has axed important space programs. I have spoken in parliament before about how the Albanese Labor government slashed nearly \$80 million in programs targeted to support Australia's space industry, with cuts including the Moon to Mars Supply Chain Facilitation grant, which was aimed at helping small and medium space organisations be part of the supply chain for NASA.

The Albanese government also cancelled a \$30 million program designed to support faster access to space flight by Australian companies, which will directly affect some of the companies I have spoken about before with their work in Kanyini. Also axed was \$32.5 million allocated to support the development of Australian space ports. I have just spoken about two fantastic milestones reached by Southern Launch, and the opportunity to bring international money here into South Australia at their Koonibba launch facility and potentially Whalers Way as well.

These cuts were just an entree to the massive cut by the Albanese Labor government to the \$1.2 billion National Space Mission for Earth Observation, which was really going to help in having a sovereign capability for the country in terms of earth weather observation as well. The Labor government also axed the ambitious NASA-backed Starshot program, which was aimed to drive research into game changing space technologies.

It also cut the very significant \$7 billion JP9102 military space communication system. This would have ensured sovereign communications capability for our defence forces tracking. We have

seen the effects of cruise missiles in conflict, and for our country to have a sovereign capability to be able to have its own military communication system is vitally important in a modern defence posture. At the same time it also provided opportunities for South Australian space companies here in our state.

These really are a series of short-sighted decisions by the federal Albanese Labor government. When other countries in the world are doubling down on space investment, we have cuts by the federal Labor government. It just demonstrates a complete lack of interest or understanding in the role that government has to play in building a native and self-reliant space industry in South Australia.

Of course, it is just not good enough for the Malinauskas Labor state government to remain silent while South Australia's hard-earned leadership in space is being undermined by their federal counterparts. I call on the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer—who is also the Minister for Defence and Space Industries—to join the Liberal opposition in defending our space interests and calling out the federal Labor government's egregious cuts and lack of interest in Australia's sovereign space industry.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police) (11:10): I thank the member for Morphett for moving the motion, because I think it is always important that this place recognises the significant leadership that our state has in space, but I seek to amend the motion as follows:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges the importance of the South Australian space sector, not just to the state's economy, but to a variety of sectors ranging from education and skills to energy, resources and the environment;
- (b) recognises that Lot Fourteen is host to the Space Innovation Precinct, which houses the Australian Space Agency, SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre, key space organisations, the Mission Control Centre and the Space Discovery Centre;
- (c) acknowledges the former Liberal government for the creation of Lot Fourteen, located on the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site, as a hub of technology, space, innovation and entrepreneurship; and
- (d) acknowledges the Malinauskas Labor state government's commitment to the South Australian space industry by continuing to support and invest in Lot Fourteen and the broader sector.

I welcome the opportunity for the house to recognise South Australia's leadership in the space industry. As the member has indicated, space is not just a discrete industry which only few people either are involved in or get benefit from, it is an industry which enables so much more of our economic activity, not just in South Australia but nationally and internationally.

It underpins our agriculture industry by providing the positional accuracy that allows tractors to sow and harvest accurately, it supports our timing systems that allow us to conduct bank transfers and contactless payments, and it saves lives in search and rescue by providing communications and navigation to find people who are in need. So the space industry is not some sort of optional accessory for an advanced economy. It is an essential ingredient.

But of course, at this juncture in our nation's history and the geopolitical circumstances in which we find ourselves, space is also an enabler of critical technologies in national security and this government is committed to investing in programs that develop and grow innovative ideas and space technologies.

While the motion in the amended form recognises the previous government for rebranding the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site into Lot Fourteen and putting some focus onto entrepreneurship and the space industries, we have taken steps including providing significant funding to carry that endeavour so much further forward.

Not only have we continued to fund initiatives totalling more than \$33 million to support and expand the local space industry, which is helping to attract, grow and retain space companies in South Australia, but we are also investing directly with space companies themselves. There is \$20 million of funding that is going towards a space assembly, integration and test facility that will be an anchor tenant in the new innovation centre at Lot Fourteen. We have partnered with companies

including Fleet Space Technologies, one of the first recipients from the previous Labor government's Venture Capital Fund, which has enabled them to go on to such successful heights.

We have directly supported Southern Launch in some of the endeavours that the member for Morphett referred to before, helping them get through a period of significant uncertainty while they were waiting for approval from the federal government under the EPBC Act approval processes, making sure they could keep their business going—not just making sure they could get their facility up at Whalers Way at the bottom of Eyre Peninsula but also making sure they could continue conducting activities at Koonibba, which the member also referred to.

We have supported Myriota, we have supported Inovor and, of course, we are very proud that we have prominent South Australians like Katherine Bennell-Pegg, an Australian astronaut who is raising the profile so successfully of space as an industry which young South Australians can aspire towards and achieve significant lucrative long-term careers in, based right here in South Australia.

It is important also to recognise that we are starting to see some of those young South Australians take really bold and entrepreneurial steps for themselves in the space industries. I have had great pleasure spending time on a number of occasions with Robinson Aerospace Systems, who are taking the training and learning materials about how to construct satellites into our schools to teach kids while they are in high school what is involved in the space industry, trying to inspire that next generation.

We have a very prominent South Australian company that has recorded years of success, particularly in automotive electronics: Redarc now also develop a significant business in defence and space. For anyone who enjoys watching the Adelaide 500, you will see two Redarc defence and space-branded vehicles contesting in the V8 supercar series around Australia, getting their brand out not just to the rest of the country but to the world for their extraordinary capabilities.

There are so many other companies and organisations that are doing great work. In fact, I think it was only last sitting week that I went to the innovation precinct that the University of South Australia has created. Some of those with a few more grey hairs would remember it as the site of the former Night Train restaurant, which fortunately has been repurposed to a higher and better purpose.

The Hon. K.A. Hildyard: And Le Rox.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: And Le Rox.

The SPEAKER: Da Vinci's in the '80s.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I feel like I had a sheltered upbringing, hearing some of the suggestions from other members about what happened in that part of the city. But I had the great pleasure to meet with and see a demonstration of the technology that Paladin Space is developing, which effectively will see a low-orbit garbage collector that will pick up the fragments and detritus of waste that has been accumulating in space.

This saves companies like SpaceX millions of dollars a year by getting some of this debris out of the way so they do not need to alter their orbital travel to avoid the collisions that would occur at tens of thousands of kilometres per hour for their critical equipment as well. It does not take too much of an imagination to understand how that sort of capability could be deployed for other communications and defence endeavours in the coming years.

I do recognise the issue that the member for Morphett raised, that just after the election of the Albanese Labor government a significant pool of funding for a significant space program was withdrawn and reallocated into a much broader bucket of funding for much broader economic allocation. This was understandably not well received by the Australian space industry, understandably so.

We have made those representations to the government. In fact, only three or four weeks ago I flew to Canberra after the new cabinet was sworn in at the federal level and met with the new minister, Tim Ayres, who has already demonstrated a strong enthusiasm for supporting the

Australian space industry. Before I could pitch it to him, he was quick to recognise South Australia's successful achievements and formidable leadership in the space industries area.

So I think it is really welcome for the member for Morphett to put this matter before the house and for there to be the opportunity to celebrate and recognise the significant achievements in South Australia's space industry. We want so many kids in our high schools to dream big about their endeavours once they leave school, and this is an industry with, to pardon the pun, limitless potential for people to have really rewarding, satisfying and lucrative careers for the long term in our state. It is really pleasing that this is an industry that enjoyed bipartisan support.

The SPEAKER: Great references there to Da Vinci's. I remember seeing the Eurogliders there in 1985. It was one of the great nights of my life. The member for Morphett.

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (11:20): I think there has been a fulsome debate. We really appreciate the appetite here in South Australia for space from the Minister for Defence and Space Industries. We welcome that. We also welcome the fact that there may be an opportunity with the new federal Labor government and the new minister to actually understand where space takes us. I also reiterate on this side of the house the opportunities we see in space and what it can bring not only to the economy here but also for rewarding careers for our next generation. I commend the motion to the house.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

GLOBAL MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE AWARENESS DAY

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (11:22): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises that 21 June is Global Motor Neurone Disease Awareness Day;
- (b) notes that this is a day to acknowledge the devastating impact of MND, to bring attention to the plight of those living with the disease, and to remember those who have tragically passed;
- (c) acknowledges that South Australia is at the forefront of global research to cure MND, with groundbreaking work taking place at Flinders University;
- (d) recognises the vital role of MND South Australia (MNDSA) and MND Australia in advocating for and supporting people living with MND, their families and carers, as well as raising awareness and funding for research;
- (e) remembers the Malinauskas Labor government's commitment to additional funding over four years to MNDSA, ensuring the provision of specialist care, treatment and equipment to improve quality of life for people with MND and help them remain at home rather than in hospital; and
- (f) thanks and applauds the dedicated carers, including family members, friends and healthcare professionals, who go above and beyond to provide compassionate care and unwavering support to those living with MND.

This Friday marks Global MND Awareness Day, a day when we pause to reflect, to acknowledge and to commit ourselves to action. This week, MND Awareness Week, is not just a time for ribbons and hashtags; it is a time to listen.

Yesterday at our annual Parliamentary Friends of MND event, which I proudly co-host with the member for Frome, we had the honour of hearing from Peter, a South Australian who lives with MND. Peter's words will stay with me for a long time. He opened by saying, 'It is an honour to stand here today and speak to you all. Because it is, in fact, not just an honour—but it is a miracle.' Diagnosed over 11 years ago, Peter is a statistical outlier, a medical anomaly. But more than that, he is a husband, a father, a cyclist, a coach, a worker, a friend, and he is now a voice for those who can no longer speak.

He shared with us how his MND journey began with a tremor, a strange weakness in one finger and a long road to diagnosis. At just 29 years old, he sat in a neurologist's office beside his wife, Mandy, and their three-month-old son Josiah. He knew what was coming. He said, 'You can be expecting it, but there's no way to be prepared.' Peter heard what so many others have heard: the diagnosis and then the prognosis—two to five years to live, the life he imagined with his wife and children suddenly slipping away—yet in that moment of devastation he made a decision. Quoting

The Shawshank Redemption, he told us, 'I guess it comes down to a simple choice, really. Get busy living, or get busy dying.'

That day, and every day since, Peter has chosen to live. He returned to work, where his company, EML, showed him remarkable compassion and support. He raced road bikes, winning every race he entered in 2016, and when his arms no longer allowed him to ride on the road, he adapted. These days he rides indoors on Zwift at 5am several times a week. He has now clocked nearly 70,000 kilometres without leaving his house, but even more impressive than the distance is the intention behind it. As he said, 'The importance of keeping my body active, as well as the positive impact on my mental health, cannot be understated.' Peter's journey is deeply moving, but it is also rare. As he reminded us:

For the average person who receives this diagnosis, 11.5 years later their family and friends will have been remembering their passing for more than nine [years].

He said his survival means that nine others did not make it past the first year and that he has done nothing to deserve those extra years. He knows that. He carries the weight of that knowledge every day, and he uses it to advocate not just for himself but for the thousands of Australians living with MND who are walking a much harder path.

One of those is a young woman, a friend's stepdaughter, just a few years younger than Peter. She has a daughter, too, close in age to his own, and she has followed the typical MND trajectory. Peter has walked beside this family, witnessing their grief, their exhaustion and their struggle to access appropriate care. He spoke about how hard it is to find experienced, qualified carers. As he said:

Sometimes, in futility, they seek quality care to help her through to the end of her days. The need is so great—and yet to find carers with the necessary experience and training...there are simply so few.

That is where MND South Australia comes in. They are the ones who step into that gap, who show up day after day in people's homes and lives and who provide breathing equipment, communication aids, shower chairs, counselling, loan devices—whatever is needed, however quickly it is needed.

But many South Australians do not realise that MNDSA is not the same as FightMND. As Peter reminded us, 'If I've donated to FightMND, I've donated to you too, right? Unfortunately, no.' Public awareness, thankfully, is growing. The Ice Bucket Challenge that we are seeing all over our socials at the moment, Neale Daniher, the Big Freeze at the 'G—these campaigns have been incredible, but the result is that organisations like MNDSA who deliver day-to-day care are often overlooked in funding.

That is why our government stepped in. The Malinauskas Labor government is proud to support MNDSA with \$2.4 million over four years, including \$500,000 a year to employ a team of allied health professionals to support people over 65 who are not eligible for NDIS funding, and \$100,000 a year for a rapid response equipment loan program, so that people do not wait for vital equipment they need to breathe, move or communicate. In South Australia, 65 per cent of people diagnosed with MND are over the age of 65, and 80 per cent of those people will die before they receive any meaningful federal support from My Aged Care. That is a failure, and MNDSA are the ones who pick up the pieces.

I know this issue deeply. I lost my mum to MND in 2020. I have felt the heartbreak, the slow stripping away of someone you love and the loss of speech, movement and connection. I have also seen what care—when it is done well—can do and I know how critical it is that we continue to support organisations like MNDSA.

Peter reminded us that for him, progression has been slow. That is a blessing, but one with a shadow. As he said, 'If I stay well for a long time, then the medical prognosis is that I will also have a very long and gradual period of significant disability. That is a problem for another day, though.' And when that day comes, he said, 'It will be comforting to know that with your support, MNDSA will still be there.'

That is what today is about, it is about recognising the support that is needed, ensuring that MNDSA will still be there for Peter and for every other South Australian facing this cruel disease. It is about acknowledging that the fight for a cure is vital, but until that day comes, we must fight just

as hard for care. It is about honouring the extraordinary strength of families, carers and the MND community, and it is about seeing the humanity behind the diagnosis: the father who cannot throw his children in the air, but who coaches their soccer team; that man who cycles 200 kilometres a week with only the strength of his legs; and the outlier who chooses every single day not to be defined by the number in a prognosis.

To Peter, thank you for standing, for speaking, for reminding us what really matters, and for giving us hope, and to everyone walking this road, we see you, we support you, and we will not stop fighting until there is a cure and until care is guaranteed for all who need it. I commend the motion.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (11:30): I rise to speak to the motion that has been brought to the chamber by the member for Davenport, and I thank her sincerely for bringing a focus on what we recognise on 21 June as being Global Motor Neurone Disease Awareness Day. Certainly, with our reflections today, we will acknowledge the devastating impact that MND has, that we want to bring attention to the plight of those living with the disease and to remember those who have tragically passed.

I do thank the member for Davenport, who not only makes herself vulnerable by sharing her family's experience with the loss of her mum but together we co-convene the Parliamentary Friends of MND to make sure that through our own platform we maintain that level of awareness at least to our colleagues and through comments like this today.

MND, of course, we understand with the national campaign now is a devastating terminal neurological disease with no known cure. We were reminded yesterday that the average life expectancy post-diagnosis is on average about 27 months. Over 2,100 Australians are currently living with MND, including many South Australians. Yesterday, we had the privilege of meeting a number of MNDSA clients, people living with MND who made the effort to come to us. I am always grateful when we host events that people choose to come to us. It is not always a convenient location, but it is a special one. I think people enjoy the opportunity to spend time in Parliament House as honoured guests, whatever the focus might be.

The morning tea yesterday was our annual event for the parliamentary friends group and it was an opportunity to celebrate research, to celebrate carers, to celebrate life, but also to shine a light on the tragic existence of this disease and how important it is for us to sit in the discomfort of people living with MND, to sit in the discomfort of their experience and make sure that we do not just wear our pins and have a cuppa and move on but that we actually embrace and take on the sadness, the grief, and the trauma that comes with the diagnosis.

Part of the work towards finding a cure is the research that goes along with that. South Australia is home to world-leading MND research, particularly at Flinders University under Professor Mary-Louise Rogers. The work that is taking place through this research shows advancements in biomarker detection, non-invasive diagnostics and clinical trials, which I know are making a difference. It is certainly a source of pride for our state, and a hope for families globally, that one day we will crack that nut. I want to acknowledge the work of the Motor Neurone Disease Association of South Australia (MNDSA), as well as MND Australia for their pursuit of a cure.

In referencing Professor Mary-Louise Rogers and her research work, we were also joined yesterday by other colleagues from Flinders, or professionals who work in the MND space. I want to recognise Dr Vinod Aiyappan, a respiratory specialist; Laura Birks, a research coordinator; Associate Professor Peter Catchside, a researcher; and to thank CEO Karen Percival for her leadership at MNDSA. She has set a course for this state, and I know that she is supported in that by the research team, by the board members, by families, by carers and by clients.

We heard from the deputy, Glen Winkler, who set the scene for our morning tea in regard to how MNDSA interacts with its clients and what supports are available, and the importance of fundraising. The member for Davenport is quite right, I think, that we left either knowing more or being reminded of important details. Only just last weekend nationally, in our national sport, our AFL code of football, the awareness campaign that has been run by Neale Daniher and the Fight MND Big Freeze campaign has had the desired effect to draw attention to this disease.

Millions of Australians have donated tens of millions of dollars to research and developing awareness about the disease, but what might be a good problem to have is that awareness then convinces those who have donated that that is the only way to provide financial support. What we need to see from South Australians in particular is a bespoke approach to donating to MND South Australia because that is where the home modifications, the equipment, the counselling support and the wrap-around team really come into their own, so I join with the member for Davenport through the chamber in always raising the profile of our South Australian organisation, MND.

I had the privilege of interacting with everyone in the room yesterday, but a very special person caught my eye, and her name is Katrina Jensen. We just started talking about teaching and education. She was proud to rattle off to me the different schools that she taught in, in her career, and what a passion she had for learning, what a curiosity she had about the world and life, and the pursuit of knowledge. I think once a teacher, always a teacher. You are driven to impart knowledge. She made me laugh because I discovered that we have a hula hoop making industry in our state. She is a member of the Adelaide hula hoopers, and they have a Facebook page, and it is worth having a look.

Katrina lives with MND, and so it was a sharp contrast of emotions interacting with a woman whose knowledge and brain was rich with information and a love for life, but that same brain is defying her love of life by its attack on her body. I sincerely thank her for making the effort to come to parliament, to be a part of our morning tea, to tell her story, to not wrap it up in cotton wool, but to talk about the harsh realities that she is facing. Without these interactions I am not in a position to share what is now my experience of talking with someone who lives with MND.

The member for Davenport and I will never forget the speech that was delivered by another survivor for now of MND. I am sure I have not phrased that properly, but I blame Peter himself for defying the odds eleven years on from his diagnosis, that he is an outlier. Peter George, our guest speaker, is a young man, a father, and is living with a diagnosis that was given to him over 10 years ago. He set a challenge for himself about how he, his wife and his children are continuing on this journey to live with the impact of MND on his body.

He made us laugh and he made us cry. We had tears of joy and tears of sadness, and I know that the Minister for Health and Wellbeing and I both reflected on the fact that Peter's delivery was one of the best speeches we had ever heard on any topic anywhere. It is just terribly sad that it has to be about his experience living with MND. I said to him that it was never wrong to quote *The Shawshank Redemption*, and he was quite right that his motivation is always to 'get busy living' or 'get busy dying'. We know what he chose. I commend the member for bringing this motion to the house.

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (11:40): I wish just briefly to thank the member for Frome for her contribution and for continuing to partner with me with the Parliamentary Friends of MND. It is always an excellent occasion, those morning teas that we have. We are now four years in and we are building some beautiful relationships with MND SA and the MND family here in South Australia. Also can I just say that we also acknowledge those carers that were here yesterday with their family members and that live every day with this challenging, awful disease, and we want to remind them that we are in their corner and we are here to support them. I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

WORLD MILK DAY

Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (11:41): I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges that 1 June 2025 is World Milk Day which celebrates the dairy farming industry round the world and its vital role in agriculture globally;
- (b) recognises the importance of milk, cheese, yoghurt and other dairy foods as a nutritious part of a healthy balanced diet;
- (c) notes that the dairy sector's responsible livestock and food production regulations continue to ensure the highest quality milk and dairy products;

- (d) acknowledges the dairy industry's essential contribution to jobs, agricultural research, technological advancements, rural community support and the economy; and
- (e) further recognises the wonderful South Australian dairy farmers and their employees who underpin our magnificent South Australian dairy industry.

The dairy industry is a very passionate group of people and certainly I, as a former dairy farmer, am very passionate about dairy farming and I am very privileged to be able to celebrate the dairy industry here today. World Milk Day is very much recognising not just how important milk is to the world but how much the dairy industry worldwide actually underpins many of the things in our diet that we consume. This year's slogan was to 'celebrate the power of dairy', and I think that is a great thing.

As we reflect right now, our dairy farmers here in South Australia are certainly struggling through some very tough climatic conditions and it is something that has made me very much reflect back on my memory of the millennium drought and it was a very tough time. But the drought that we are currently going through is worse than that. I very much remember as a farmer that, at that point in time, we were milking about 450 cows in similar climatic circumstances to where we are right now, in June. We had a late opening to the season which meant we did not have any grass growing that was producing much feed at all. That meant we were buying all the feed in, so we were buying grain and hay in.

Grain was certainly something that we supplementary fed right throughout the year, but hay we would normally not feed into June, for example; we would normally have enough pasture on the farm. Going back into those drought times, as I said, I very much reflect on that time, milking 450 cows. Just to keep the cows fed in that time, we were requiring 2½ semi loads of hay a week. When you think about that, that is what people are now having to do right at this moment in South Australia to keep their dairy herds going and get through to the grass actually having time to grow, to be long enough to actually consume.

We are seeing those farmers having to purchase feed. My memory of it was it got to the point where you actually got past worrying about whether you could even pay for the feed: it got to the point of worrying where you were going to find the feed. We see that occurring again now. I recently attended a dinner in Victor Harbor celebrating a donation of feed from the Need for Feed organisation, which had delivered 16 semi loads of donated hay down to the Fleurieu Peninsula. They had invited farmers to attend the dinner, and it was great to see the people there being recognised.

But when you think about the number of dairy farmers on the Fleurieu, it is more than 16 per se. Yes, the donation was helpful, but there is a long way to meeting the needs of what the farmers have to find. Throughout that evening, it was outlined that the cost of feed has gone absolutely through the roof. Basically, there is no hay available to be purchased in South Australia, New South Wales or Victoria, which means the only hay that can be sourced to get into South Australia at the moment is coming from either Queensland or WA. They both cost roughly the same to get here from either direction, and the quotes that the Need for Feed organisation was giving for getting this hay into the country were quite scary.

What you would normally buy here in a normal supply year is \$150 a tonne and then cartage on top of that. Over there, the price people are now having to pay is between \$400 and \$500 a tonne in Western Australia, and then the cartage to actually get it here from WA either using triple road trains or putting it on trains is in the vicinity of \$500 a tonne. That is getting close to \$1,000 a tonne delivered to farm when farmers would have normally been paying in the high hundreds, \$200 to \$250 a tonne, delivered. The effect is absolutely mind-blowing when you are getting 2½ half semi loads a week, which is roughly 50 tonnes. It is quite scary for the industry out there at the moment.

Just reflecting on the great things of our industry, dairy is the third largest rural industry in Australia. It produces 8.376 billion litres, worth about \$6.2 billion. There are just under 4,000 dairy farmers nationally. There are about 1.3 million cows nationally, and the industry across the country employs over 31,000 people. Interestingly on the consumer side, dairy is certainly still an important part of the diet.

We have dropped off the peak consumption of a couple of decades ago and are now only consuming 88 litres of milk per person per year, but we are also consuming 12.5 kilos of cheese and

3.4 kilos of butter as well as 10 kilos of yoghurt. It is a really important part of our diet and really important in helping people manage osteoporosis and things like that, to make sure we keep our bone densities up. The calcium from dairy is a wonderful source.

The dairy industry is also a significant exporter, and China still is a large and very important buyer of dairy from Australia. Over 185,000 tonnes are exported to China, with Japan being a distant second at just under 72,000 tonnes being exported across there. Those are two significant markets that are still part of the Australian industry.

It is also interesting to see the huge changes that have occurred in a relatively short period of time. Across the country, back in 1990 there were about 15,500 dairy farms but, as I said, we are down to under 4,000 now. In a relatively short period of time it has been a dramatic change, but we have seen the total consumption by the consumer go the other way. Back in 1990, total consumption of all dairy products was about 245 litres equivalent, and now it is just under 300.

We have also seen a huge variation in total milk production across the country in that time. Back in 1990 we were producing only 6,300 million litres. We went up to a peak in about 2000, just as the deregulation of the industry occurred, and were sitting at 10.8 billion litres. We have now dropped back to 8.4 billion litres. It is quite a changing industry, as things have changed in the structures of the industry.

Here in South Australia we have also seen those changes. Back in 2011 there were 275 dairy farmers in the state—and I was one of those—but we are now down to only 170. We have seen even more dramatic changes in places like Victoria, which have gone from 4,500 down to 2,500—so they have lost 2,000 dairy farmers in that same timeframe. Likewise, cow numbers here in South Australia were at 76,000 cows in the state producing milk and we are now down to 64,000. In Victoria it was over 1.1 million and they are now down to 825,000. So there have been dramatic changes across the industry, and we need to keep an eye on these changes.

The changes are also reflected in farm management itself. We are seeing significant changes in cow production that has occurred over the last close to 50 years. Cow production in South Australia has gone from just under 3,200 litres per cow per year to what is now the highest in the country of nearly 7,400 litres per cow per year. South Australia has very much taken the lead in being able to get very efficient cows and turning feed into large volumes of milk. We have a wonderful industry here in South Australia.

We are seeing changes actually occurring on farm in terms of how they are structured. As they manage the changes in milk price that have been there, they also need to change how they do things. Back in 2010, which is about the time of the dollar milk campaign, milk prices were at 38¢ a litre. If you adjust that for inflation, in today's money that is about 53¢ a litre. At the moment farmers are getting just a bit over 70¢ a litre, which certainly looks like a great improvement, but costs have eaten away at that margin as well.

So, it is not as clear as a significant price rise that has led to a wonderful outcome. It is still putting on huge pressure, as I mentioned, particularly in a year like this where feed has been quite a difficult thing for people to find. The problem with dairying is that they are actually right at their breeding levels. They cannot reduce their numbers without actually reducing their ability to recover following the drought, so farmers are left with very few options but to actually try to keep finding that feed and making sure they keep their production up, because otherwise they have enormous effects on their potential going forward.

I think some of the most exciting stuff that I am seeing in the industry is something that has happened since I have left, and that is the adoption of robotics into dairy farming. I had the privilege of recently opening a new robotic dairy in Mount Compass, owned by the Jacobs family and the Hicks family. They have done an amazing thing transitioning that farm to robotics, where the cows get to choose what time they would like to be milked. They come in about 2½ times a day to the dairy.

The cows have, amazingly, in a very short period of time, completely changed how they react to people. That day there were a couple of hundred people wandering around, and if that was an ordinary dairy the cows would be a bit skittish and jumpy but the cows completely ignored all the

people and were completely relaxed by the whole experience. The farmers themselves were relaxed because they do not have to do the milking themselves.

The great improvement is the data that the farmers can now work with that is coming from the collection as each cow comes in. They know how much each cow is doing and they are able to monitor their health by milk yields and all those sorts of things and whether the cow has turned up when she was expected or not. So it is changing the industry enormously.

The SPEAKER (11:57): Before I call the next speaker, I would like to thank the member for Finniss for bringing this motion to the house and commend him for his work on farm and off farm. When I was the Minister for Agriculture, the member for Finniss was leading, first of all, the state dairy body and then the national dairy body and did a great job in communicating with governments the need of dairy farmers in South Australia and further afield.

The dairy industry is what got me into politics. I learned to lobby on a dairy farm from the age of five. I had worked out it was the smelliest job and the hardest work that you could ever possibly do. Growing up on a dairy farm down at Glencoe in the South-East, you would just get to the beach, you would have your first swim, build your first sandcastle and you would be packed back in the car to go milk again, and you would say, 'But we just milked.' So I was into my dad saying, 'If you want someone to take over the farm, it is not going to be me.' In 1976 I was 10, we moved off the farm, we moved to Adelaide, and I had learnt a valuable lesson in how to lobby.

Then in the lead-up to that 2006 election, Pat Conlon goes, 'Rob Brokenshire is a dairy farmer in Mawson. We should run a dairy farmer's son against him.' I have absolutely zero credibility in the dairy world, but I have the utmost admiration for everyone who goes out there and works hard in economies that never seem to work in favour of the dairy farmers. So, again, I commend you for all your work. member for Finniss, and thanks for bringing this motion to the house.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police) (11:58): One of the great privileges of being a member of parliament is getting the opportunity to meet so many people across South Australia and hear their stories, learn from them about what they do, what they are interested in, what they are passionate about, what motivates them. Also, from time to time, hopefully, you get the opportunity to try to do something to assist them in their endeavours or in what interests them. That is particularly the case for someone like me who has spent all of their life living in the metropolitan area of Adelaide, having the opportunity from time to time to get out of Adelaide and meet so many South Australians from across our regions who are delivering, not just really important economic activity, but the goods—in this case, the food—that people rely on so much across our state.

I have had that opportunity to some small extent with the dairy industry—in particular because of the member for Finniss, the member for Hammond and also the person the Speaker referred to earlier, the former member for Mawson, the Hon. Robert Brokenshire—in recent times.

It was the member for Finniss and the member for Hammond who drew my attention to the difficulties that the dairy industry was having, not just generally because of the economic challenges that the member for Finniss just mentioned or even the drought conditions that have been confronting dairy farmers for well over a year now but particularly because of the collapse of Beston Global Food, a major purchaser of milk from the South Australian dairy industry—in particular, my understanding is, from the dairy farmers reasonably close to where Beston Global Food was operating at Murray Bridge.

That company's collapse left 42 dairy farmers owed more than \$10 million collectively, which is a huge amount of money across a relatively small number of farmers to be left without in that climate of challenging drought conditions and challenging economic circumstances that the member for Finniss referred to earlier.

I am very grateful to the member for Finniss—particularly given his experience as the leader of firstly the South Australian dairy industry and then also the national dairy industry—and the member for Hammond for making me aware of this and starting that process of educating me in some of the very basics about the industry and, hopefully, what an opportunity might be for the government to try to provide some support in some way to help the dairy farmers get through this

difficult circumstance of being owed so much money by a company that has now gone into administration.

I had the opportunity to go out and visit Rob Brokenshire's farm just outside of Mount Compass. It is a really impressive facility. It was not so impressive seeing what the dry climate conditions had done to his land, but it was really impressive to see the amount of money he and his family have invested in the operations there: what looked to me like a very sophisticated, mechanised and automated milking set-up which fortunately would preclude a politician like me from having to attempt the task of milking, not just because—

Mr Basham: Christopher Pyne did.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Christopher Pyne did; I also remember the former member for Heysen, Isobel Redmond, did it, to much fame. But I try not to get involved in demonstrations after my mishaps with a stuffed kangaroo. I learned early that it is best to be a spectator in these sorts of activities rather than a participant.

But I have to admit that while I am an extraordinary consumer of dairy products, in particular cheese and to a lesser extent yoghurt, I do not tend to make a practice of drinking dairy milk often. I made the extraordinary faux pas of telling Rob Brokenshire that I drink almond milk. He said, 'It's not milk, it's juice! It's almond juice!' All I could think of, of course, was the scene from *Meet the Parents* when the putative son-in-law was trying to demonstrate how he could milk various domesticated animals in his household, to no success.

I have had the opportunity to learn a little bit about the industry and, most importantly, understand the challenges that they have come to. It is on the back of the representations and the advocacy—particularly from the member for Finniss, the member for Hammond and also Robert Brokenshire—that the government put together a package to try to provide some interim support to those 42 dairy farmers. It is a grant program to be administered by the dairy association with the support of the South Australian Financing Authority within Treasury to try to provide a bit of financial support: \$3 million for those 42 farmers.

It will not repay all of the money. It is not designed to. It is meant to try to help them through the period while Beston Global Food is going through administration and try to make sure that they are hopefully able to keep going when the climate conditions improve and also hopefully the trading conditions improve with being able to sell milk to an entity that is not going to let them down as badly as Beston Global Food did.

I want to thank the member for Finniss for bringing the motion to the house and for giving the house the opportunity to recognise the extraordinary contribution that the industry makes. But I did want to put on record my personal thanks as well as the government's appreciation for the advocacy and the effort that the member for Finniss and the member for Hammond have put in in recent months to raise this to the government's attention to the point where we felt motivated to act.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (12:05): I also want to make a contribution in recognition that 1 June was World Milk Day. We have this opportunity to reflect on the dairy industry because of the motion that has been brought by the member for Finniss. I, too, recognise his significant experience and expertise in this space, noting not just his advocacy in this chamber but also the contributions that are frequently made by my colleague the member for Hammond and, as we have heard from other contributors, the significant political and industry advocacy that Robert Brokenshire has also brought to the dairy industry.

It is, of course, an industry that is a key contributor to the state's agriculture and economy. An industry annual report coined the phrase 'from grass to glass', noting that it is a billion dollar industry across the supply chain, where South Australian production contributes about 5½ per cent to national milk production.

We know that thousands of South Australians are employed in the dairy sector, on farms, in processing, transport, freight and retail. We also note that the South Australian dairy sector is certainly a hub for agricultural innovation and research, adopting cutting edge technologies. I hope to reflect on an example of that in just a moment.

The member for Finnis addressed the challenge that the drought has brought to not just grain hay producers, grape growers and livestock, meat and sheep growers but the dairy industry as well. When you think of the Mid North, you might not quickly think of dairies in a dry area. But with great pride from my little hometown of Blyth, I get to reflect on and recognise the industrious and innovative approach that Gary, Ros and Justin Zweck bring to their dairy just north of Blyth. It is the most northern milk-producing dairy in South Australia.

By virtue of their isolation from others in the dairy industry across the state, given the sometimes dry, dusty and often hot summers that we know occur around Blyth in the Mid North, they have had to be innovative. They have had to be industrious. They have had to rethink their model of practice. Planning for successive generations to come, Justin and his partner, Brydie, are now really front and centre in the running of the dairy. That innovation and industriousness has actually come from the old adage that necessity is the mother of all invention.

While I have had the privilege to visit their property a number of times, it was in September 2016 during the statewide blackout that I was connected to Ros and Gary in an extraordinary way. While the state was grappling with the blackout and the lack of energy, and people in the city were under threat of traffic lights out in terrible weather and people were fossicking around for candles, torches and camping lanterns, there was no power for Gary and Ros's cows.

To be on site the next day and to hear the story of how they worked their way through that dark, black, rainy, miserable evening—their first thought, naturally, was for the welfare of their cows. At that time, without the voluntary milking systems based on robotic technology, those cows were not going to be able to milk themselves, so the call-around that night across the whole state was for generators.

I will never forget the visual and mental impact of being on the ground the next morning and understanding what it meant through the night to have to source generators in the dark that were required for two things: firstly, the cows just needed to be milked, and power was required for that, so generators were sourced from other farmers so that the cows could be relieved of that pressure and could be milked. But the vision that was captured by media and can still be found, I am sure, was the devastation of all the work going into sourcing a generator to milk the cow, only to watch the milk be poured down the drain, literally, because there was not enough generation to refrigerate that milk.

The welfare of the cows was front and centre for Gary and Ros, but there was not enough power to refrigerate their product and they would have lost so much money in that moment in time. So it was a visual that stuck with me. From that experience, where necessity was the mother of all invention, they have gone on to invest in themselves, invest in their business and invest in their family to build a really large herringbone shed for their 300 head of cattle for the more than two million litres of milk they produce a year, and to embed that practice now around the ag technology that we heard about in a previous address from the member for Morphett when he was reflecting on the space sector.

The innovation, design and invention that comes from defence and space that washes back through to the farming industry and gives us agtech has allowed a family business like the Zwecks' to invest in the voluntary milking systems and robotics that are now in place. Six robotic milking machines assist them to manage their lives and the welfare of their cows in a much better way. Gary reflects on the change that has made to their household with these words, saying that the benefits of the robotics systems far outweighed any of the challenges that they faced:

I'm not getting up at 3am and going off to milk cows and then watching the clock and milking them again at 3pm like I was.

He said:

The lifestyle benefits are fantastic and I'm a lot more relaxed. We've got an app on our phones that alerts us if there are any problems.

I am really proud of the Zweck family and the innovation that they have established in their industry, where they exist as the most northern milk producers in South Australia. I am delighted that the motion that has been brought by the member for Finnis—through his leadership, advocacy,

knowledge, expertise and wise words in laying out this motion—has allowed a number of us to speak to this motion today. I commend the motion.

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (12:13): I rise today in support of this motion for World Milk Day, held globally on 1 June every year to celebrate the remarkable contribution of the dairy industry to agriculture, health and economic development both here in South Australia and across the world, and I thank the member for Finniss for bringing the motion to the house. It is not political, it is practical, and it is important. It asks us as a parliament to recognise the enormous value that dairy brings to our lives and our state's prosperity.

Let's begin with the basics: dairy foods—milk, cheese, yoghurt and butter and, as a side note, cottage cheese, which is having a rebirth at the moment thanks to the excellent TikTok health experts that has even me putting it in my scrambled eggs. It is the new super food. Try it out.

Dairy foods are the cornerstone of a healthy balanced diet. For children, dairy supports strong bones, teeth and growth. For adults, it aids muscle health, metabolism and nutrition absorption, and for older Australians, dairy helps combat osteoporosis, preventing fractures and supporting active independent ageing. From toddlers to grandparents, dairy sustains life with calcium, protein, vitamin D, B12 and potassium, all nutrients that our bodies need to function well.

Dairy does not just keep us healthy, it keeps South Australia strong. In the 2023-24 financial year, South Australian dairies produced over 474 million litres of milk, contributing more than \$755 million of revenue to our economy. Our state accounts for approximately 10 per cent of Australia's total milk production and we punch well above our weight in both quality and innovation.

We have around 170 to 180 dairy farms across the Barossa, Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu, Murray region and the South-East, farms run by hardworking families who rise before dawn every day of the year to care for their animals and to bring us the highest quality milk and dairy products. In addition to fresh milk, South Australia is becoming renowned for its value-added dairy products, especially cheese.

In the past year alone, the value of South Australian dairy products rose to \$127 million thanks in large part to an 80 per cent surge in cheese exports. Brands like Woodside Cheese Wrights, led by the renowned Kris Lloyd, are creating award-winning cheeses that showcase local milk and native flavours, from the floral Monet chevre to the unforgettable Anthill cheese, which uses native green ants. These are not just delicious, they are telling the story of South Australia to the world.

At Paris Creek Farms, based in the Adelaide Hills, we see organic, biodynamic and dairy production at its best. Their milk, yoghurt and butter are free from chemicals and preservatives, and they are produced with an unwavering commitment to animal welfare and to environmental sustainability.

Of course, you cannot talk about dairy in South Australia without mentioning an icon: Farmers Union Iced Coffee. First launched in 1977, it is more than a beverage, it is a cultural institution. At one point, Farmers Union Iced Coffee was outselling Coca-Cola in South Australia by 3:1, a statistic unmatched anywhere else in the world, building strong bones across the country. It is deeply woven into our identity and speaks to the pride South Australians take in supporting local dairy.

Beyond the brands and statistics, our dairy industry is about people: it is about generational farming families, it is about skilled workers, veterinarians, food technologists, researchers and transporters. It is about small towns that survive and thrive because of the economic activity dairy brings. It is keeping schools open, keeping shops trading and keeping communities connected.

That is why the government has worked closely with the industry to launch the South Australian Dairy Industry Action Plan 2024-29, a clear commitment to supporting the sector through innovation, research, workforce development and market expansion. This plan sets out a strategic road map to help dairy producers adapt to climate change, to improve productivity, reduce emissions and build stronger links to consumers at home and abroad. The action plan lists 10 specific objectives:

- to grow South Australia's production of milk to 700 million litres to meet growing demand;
- the continued development of South Australian product as a premium product;

- to increase reach into Asia to develop markets for South Australian dairy;
- the development of world-class traceability systems using distributed ledgers and blockchain technology;
- the creation of an industry centre of excellence;
- a strong focus on sustainability, dovetailing on Australia's excellent reputation as the best, clean, green natural supplier of dairy products, while positioning SA as being recognised as the best of the best;
- demonstrating that South Australia has the highest animal welfare standards;
- working with the South Australian government as it outlines its strategic direction for South Australia;
- development of career paths, training models and succession plans for the future of the industry; and
- promoting the industry as an industry with prospects.

The state government will continue to work diligently with the industry assisting them to achieve these goals over the next five years.

This Dairy Action Plan is a wonderful example of an industry-led initiative that aspires to help the sector grow through many ways, including increasing their market share both domestically and internationally, a desire for South Australia to be the go-to Australian jurisdiction and premium dairy and dairy products from buyers around the world and to invest in the latest research and development through the Dairy Centre for Excellence. All these initiatives will help ensure growers are profitable and the industry continues to grow.

In more recent times, the state government has worked closely with the SA Dairyfarmers' Association to ensure dairy farmers impacted by the collapse of Beston Global Food will receive financial support through a state government assistance program. The state government committed \$3 million for the establishment of the support package to be administered by the SA Dairyfarmers' Association with the support of SAFA to help farmers left out of pocket re-establish themselves and grow.

The sector is constantly evolving and learning to tackle new issues through initiatives such as the annual DairySA Innovation Day, which focuses on important themes ranging from sustainability to agtech and emissions reductions. Our state's dairy industry is valued for its significant economic contribution as well as its premium products, which are supplied around Australia and the world, and the Malinauskas Labor government is committed to continuing to work closely to ensure the industry's sustained growth.

One of the hallmarks of South Australia's dairy industry is its commitment to quality and safety. Through world-class regulations, our consumers can be confident in the safety, traceability and ethical standards behind every litre of milk and every block of cheese. The sector continues to embrace new technology, from robotic milking systems to feed optimisation and waste reduction strategies. It is not a static or old-fashioned industry; it is a dynamic and forward-thinking one, leading the way in sustainable agriculture.

We should never take this industry for granted. At a time when global food security is a pressing concern, when climate pressures affect production systems, and when consumers demand transparency and sustainability, the South Australian dairy industry stands as a beacon of resilience, quality and care. So today, on World Milk Day, I say thank you to the dairy farmers of South Australia.

Thank you to the employees, the processors, the researchers and the innovators. Thank you to those who have invested in new technology, cared for their herds, trained apprentices and driven trucks to make sure milk gets from the farm to the fridge. You are helping to feed the state, support our economy and represent the very best of what regional South Australia can do. I commend this motion to the house wholeheartedly, and I hope every member raises a glass—of milk, of course—in support of this essential, proud and growing industry. I commend the motion to the house.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:21): I rise to support this motion by the member for Finnis:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges that 1 June 2025 is World Milk Day which celebrates the dairy farming industry round the world and its vital role in agriculture globally;
- (b) recognises the importance of milk, cheese, yoghurt and other dairy foods as a nutritious part of a healthy balanced diet;
- (c) notes that the dairy sector's responsible livestock and food production regulations continue to ensure the highest quality milk and dairy products;
- (d) acknowledges the dairy industry's essential contribution to jobs, agricultural research, technological advancements, rural community support and the economy; and
- (e) further recognises the wonderful South Australian dairy farmers and their employees who underpin our magnificent South Australian dairy industry.

At a very young age in the early seventies (that is showing my age a little bit) prior to going to school—and school was only three kilometres away—we would either milk one or two cows in the morning, and sometimes you would do that on your own. I had an older sister and two younger brothers, so they would have been involved as well. That was something we did in the mornings before school and when we got home after school. There was a benefit because what we also did was separate the cream from the milk at times and the skim milk got fed to some pigs that we grew to get our first motorbike, which from memory was a Suzuki 175. We did get some reward for our efforts, apart from getting that lovely fresh warm milk straight from the cows, the Friesian cows that we milked.

The dairy industry is a vital industry to this state and they, like other farmers, have had an extremely difficult time of late with the drought. Locally, other suppliers that have supplied Beston Food in recent times were basically done over when Beston fell over. Beston went into receivership for over \$10 million. This was a huge hit for those 42 dairy farmers who were doing their best and supplying their milk to these two factories at Murray Bridge and Jervois in my electorate, thinking they would get paid. I personally spoke to two of those 42 farmers, who lost around \$800,000 each. Just think about that. Whatever capacity you are in, if you lose \$800,000, that is a lot of money.

In fact, one of those farmers gave me another phone call and said he had to put off five or six staff, because he just had to scale back after that great loss, and was unable to get feed and had to sell some of his cows. It has had a massive hit on their business, but that family will pull through. I have known them a long time and they have had to deal with the River Murray drought in times gone past as well.

It is just the nature of the beast and sadly it is compounded, not just with the drought but with what has happened at those factories, at Jervois and Murray Bridge, just in my time, which would be close on 20 years in this place. I think there have been three changes of ownership. I am certainly not very pleased with how some of those changes of ownership have happened and how some of the management has been in regard to this.

When Murray Goulburn left and got rid of the business at Jervois, they basically took the oxytorch and the angle grinders to the plant so that no-one else could utilise it, which is just sheer vandalism and an outrageous waste of resources. Companies had spent many millions of dollars, especially in more recent times before that, to get the different plant up, whether it was involved with whey powder or other areas of the milk production industry. It was just an absolute disgrace.

At Beston's, the plant was supposed to be the platinum thing of taking lactoferrin out of the milk and really pave the way. We were told, 'this is going to be the thing,' and for whatever reason, that did not work.

Our dairy farmers do a magnificent job and it is not just during drought. They also, 2½ years ago had to get through the River Murray floods. There was a lot of innovation being done for people to just milk their cows. They would have to shift their herds to use dairies further on high ground. One operation was using the robotic method. Their robots were on the wrong side and they had to retrieve them and move the robots. These are not simple machines. I am not sure, but from memory I think these robots are worth about \$250,000 each.

I ran into this robotic technology a few years ago now down in the South-East, near Mount Gambier, and it is a completely different version of milking. Nowadays the bigger dairies might have 700 or 800 cows and you run them into a huge herringbone set-up which is milking side by side, or the rotating platforms, which are quite a common milking process now. When you look at how the robot works, it is a milking-on-demand scenario where the cows are trained up and they know to walk towards the machine and they have identification systems at work, so they know which cow is being milked, etc. It is amazing.

What you rely on is the 24-hour tech support, which I am sure is in place right across the state, because if the machines break, as has been indicated before with what the Zweck family have had to do up north, you have to milk the cows. You have to take the pressure off. That tech support is absolutely vital and it does give a new avenue and it gives an extra option. Not everyone embraces the use of robots, but it is that extra option that people can use and, as we have heard, it can make it easier.

It probably saves having as many people on the farm, but many dairy farmers do most of the work themselves and it gives them a bit of a quality of life. I certainly take my hat off to people who have to be on deck very early in the morning and do their other chores during the day. It is not that they can just go and lie down, they have to cart hay and clean sheds out or whatever they need to do during the day and then milk again at night, and that is seven days week. There is no respite and so I certainly salute the dairy farmers.

During the River Murray floods, a dairy farmer at Mannum did an innovative thing. They needed to get generation for their dairy where the fuel tank was located. The generator was put on a floating platform so it could feed the fuel in to make sure that they could keep everything operating on that dairy farm, because it is absolutely vital that you have that power. Some people made no noise about it at all. I heard one farmer invested \$1 million during the flood to make sure they could keep operating. They made no public noise about it at all, and that is a lot of money; yes, they are a big operator.

Across the Lower Murray—I might get the numbers slightly wrong—between Mannum and the lakes, there used to be about 130 dairy farms. There are probably about 30 now. There is probably a very similar number of cows but a lot fewer farmers milking those cows. They do a magnificent job. The one thing I will say about the industry—and I have seen it a couple of times now with what has happened at the same plants that are involved at Jervois and Murray Bridge—is that when something happens, the milk finds another home.

That is the beauty of the industry. The industry supports itself in that degree. We saw it years ago when we were a bit concerned about who was going to pick up the milk, and it was all sorted out. Sometimes milk does not go to its contracted buyer, and it is just the way it is. I truly support the milk industry. I support all the work that our dairy farmers do and everyone in the industry. They do great work for this state.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (12:32): I, too, rise to support this motion. I want to take the house back to when I was at school, when there was free milk. It was such an important thing, the protein that came with free milk and the fat that came with milk. We were all, of course, very aware of the health benefits of milk, not to mention the free milk program's benefits to the dairy industry's bottom line. I think the free milk program had some very good results in giving families the extra protein that was needed for those children to grow healthy and with strong bones.

We have to also look at what happened in the seventies and the eighties when there was a war on milk. All of a sudden, cream was bad and full-cream milk was bad. We saw non-fat or low-fat this and non-fat or low-fat that. That period coincides with the increase in obesity in the Western countries. It was not just Australia that went on the low-fat pathway: it was every like economy, the United States, the UK. Wherever you went, you could see the light version and the full-cream or the full-fat version.

Unfortunately, in order for the light or the low-fat versions to be of any appeal, they had to give the low-fat milk, the low-fat yoghurts and the low-fat cheeses some additional depth, and they did that with sugar. All of a sudden, we were seeing the replacement of a healthy fat that the brain needs, a healthy fat that people need for energy. There is this misconception out there—due to the

low-fat industry—that fat is not energy, that carbohydrates are energy. Unfortunately, increases in carbohydrate, whether they be complex sugars or, even worse, refined sugars or refined carbohydrates, have contributed to an increased spike in type 2 diabetes. People get sugar spikes when they eat high carbohydrate food instead of food that is high in natural fats, whether that be fats from dairy products or fats from other animal products, or alternatively from fruit and vegetables (avocados are obviously a great source and nuts, of course, are another great source of fat).

The damage the low-fat industry did to the minds of many women of my mother's age (who has now sadly passed) was that even as my mother was getting older and older and her muscle mass was deteriorating, she insisted she should be having skim milk because she believed that was healthier. Even when I bought full cream milk home for her it would stay in the fridge until it went off, and she would arrange for it to be replaced with skim milk. She believed that was healthier for her because of that low-fat movement that started in the seventies and grew through the eighties and nineties.

It is really only in recent times that people are realising how important fat and dairy products are for the sustainability of bone density, muscle mass and general health. As people get older, of course, muscle mass deteriorates and bone density deteriorates, and a diet that includes full-fat dairy products is a way of protecting yourself as you get older. A backup for that, of course, are weight bearing exercises—so, a healthy lifestyle.

We can thank Australia's enthusiasm for the dairy industry since European settlement for South Australians generally being quite big people compared to other people in the world. I am sure there are people like the member for Narungga and I, and the member for Hammond, who would not be quite as tall if we did not drink as much milk, full cream milk, when we were growing up. Evidence of that, of course, is my heritage; many Italians tended to have a reputation for being a little bit shorter, and when their children who were born here in Australia had access to the quality and quantity of dairy products we have in Australia, we saw that many of them were so much taller than their parents because of that diet, and access to dairy products, in particular.

I support the member for Finniss's motion, and thank him and his industry for what they have done for the health of South Australians, in particular, for what they have done for the economy, and where they have placed Australia in the pecking order of a quality place to live, a healthy place and a country of opportunity.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12:38): I rise in support of the motion that so appropriately has been brought to this house by the member for Finniss. It is rare that such a decorated and long-serving senior contributor to the dairy industry, not only in South Australia but also nationwide, is also a member of this place, and I pay tribute to the member for Finniss for his contribution to the dairy industry in this state, and indeed around the country.

There is no doubt that the industry has been at the heart and soul of what we are proud of in South Australia. Reference has been made to some famous milk products. We know Farmers Union iced coffee is dear to us, just as the SADA milk on the supermarket shelves is a popular choice in South Australia, and I pay tribute to all of those dairy farmers around the state.

This is also something that is near and dear to me locally in the Hills. I have been fortunate since my days as a new candidate rocking up and looking to prove my credentials in the local community to be a participant in the Meadows Country Fair Udder Tug, particularly the Celebrity Udder Tug. As the front pages under frame on my walls attest, I was proud to win the Celebrity Udder Tug on my first outing at the Meadows Country Fair.

I came back to defend my title the following year. Much to my chagrin, I found myself embarrassed by a bucket being kicked over and all sorts of mayhem ensuing and I thought that I had blown it all together, only to find that the local newspaper thought this was even more entertaining than what I thought had been my triumph the previous year. I was doing that having observed the real experts in hand-milking, showing off their skills as the centrepiece for the Meadows Country Fair. We will look forward to getting out there and doing that again in just a few short months from now.

As other members have contributed in the course of this debate, South Australian dairy farmers produce the best milk anywhere in the world, and they do so to contribute in turn to some of

the very best dairy products that are produced anywhere in the world. The motion rightly recognises the importance of not only milk but also cheese, yoghurt and other dairy foods.

With that in mind, I want to pay particular tribute to my dear friends Kym and Joanne Masters, who have founded Section28 at Woodside in the Hills. For the last decade or so, they have shown how—literally from scratch—it is possible to learn how to make the best cheese, to source the best local milk and to then produce products that are capable of taking on the world and being awarded on the global stage. Kym Masters, the owner, founder and lead cheesemaker at Section28, has done exactly that.

It is truly a tragedy for this state and for our cheese industry locally, that Section28 has had to indicate that it needs to close its doors. It proves that it is just such a grinding challenge to make a sustained financial success of a business in this space, and we ought to be very conscious of that. They are hardworking dairy farmers every day and those who would value-add to that magnificent product. So I pay tribute to Kym and Joanne Masters for their achievement in leading the way in making world-leading cheeses right here in the Adelaide Hills, and I really hope that there may be a resurgence at some point for that great product. It is truly something that has been built and developed and then demonstrated to all of us, coming from a place of heart and soul and a love for making that very best cheese in the world. We ought to be speaking up loudly and proudly and frequently about all of these wonderful people in the industry.

The point has been made already, in a whole range of different circumstances, that we are going through the worst drought that we have seen for decades and decades. It should not be lost on anybody that dairy farmers do not get to just go slow on the feed or trim the rate of production. They have cows needing to be milked twice a day, every day, and they have cows needing to be fed every day, and that means that when feed and water are in scarce supply then the stress builds enormously on them.

We need to do all we can to support them in the hard times, to celebrate the great work of those who are bringing world-leading products to the market, and to continue to recognise on World Milk Day—as well as all other times through the year—those wonderful South Australian dairy farmers and all who work in the industry. I commend the motion.

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (12:46): I would like to thank the member for Finniss for his private member's motion in acknowledgement of World Milk Day. I know that we are running out of time; I will be very quick. One of the things that I want to touch base on and I was thinking about is we have a dairy industry and milk production system in South Australia/Australia that is not meeting our needs today. In other words, we are importing more product than ever. It is even suggested that sometimes during the year we are getting our milk imported from New Zealand because we are not meeting demand.

Why is this happening? I did not just say this yesterday, either; I have said it over the last five to 10 years. Why is it diminishing? Why are dairy farmers falling off the perch? Why are they not continuing? How is it not expanding on these couple of cases? One reason is we know that we saw a massive problem with world trust in baby formula in China, where they started playing with this formula and perhaps even killing their own children because they got it wrong. They then made our product in Australia more valuable by filling their suitcases with it and importing it on aeroplanes, taking it back to China because they did not trust their own product. Why did that happen? Because we do have such world-class production of food, including this dairy sector and industry.

One of the things I want the South Australian and federal governments to understand is not only are dairy farmers the owners of these dairies—the cows and the infrastructure, with all the associated costs that I have heard all the speakers talk about like dry periods, \$1,000 per tonne for hay, the cost of water and the technology—but they cannot actually find employees out there to milk these cows.

We do not have a workforce in Australia that wants to wake up at 3 or 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning and milk cows in the morning and at night. In fact, we have an employment situation where it is really hard to employ someone for those three or four hours each end of the day and say, 'You can have a sleep in the middle of the day and do nothing, then come back and start again.' It does not even allow them to do this.

One of the things I want the South Australian and Australian governments to recognise is this is not the only sector that is really struggling in battles to get employees out there and doing the work. We see it in aged care: if you go to the aged-care facilities it is almost like you have to try to spot the Australian. We know that all these imported workers and people are coming in and doing that work because Australians do not want to. The dairy sector is facing the same sorts of struggles.

We know that Australians do not want to work in the meat sector and the processing sector where we have abattoirs. We have a billion-dollar processing works around dairy—e.g., the cows, calves and the like, as they are surplus to the requirements of milk when they reach their end-of-use-by date—but we do not have a workforce that actually wants to process this type of food or collect the milk like I am suggesting.

What do we do? We could watch what supermarkets Woolworths and Coles did and go and make milk at \$1 and think that the farmer should be paid only paid 30¢ or 40¢ a litre. That was not many years ago. It made it really hard for those dairy farmers to survive that sort of downturn. In fact, it even created an exit strategy of saying, 'Well, if you're going to sell milk in the supermarkets for a dollar, I am out of here, because I can't make that work for me.'

Another option that I have not mentioned yet, but I know it exists in the Middle East, is where the local workforce does not want to work. They are very, very wealthy countries over there. The locals get the jobs, but they have to import other workers to do the work for them. The locals themselves, I think from when I heard about this process, are on nearly \$20 an hour—probably \$30 or \$40 now because it is 10 years ago—and the local workers were only on \$5 an hour. The imported workforce came from Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan. People from other places around the world where they cannot find work were coming to these Middle Eastern countries. There was a quota system. This quota system says, 'Right, if you employ one local at \$20 to \$50 an hour, you are allowed to employ some overseas workers to come in and do the work that these locals do not want to do.'

Maybe Australia and South Australia need to look at this type of example, because we are going to watch our own milk industry, which is really valuable and important, just diminish because we will not consider the fact that Australians do not want to get out of bed and work and work a job at two ends of the day, and say it is all too hard and we should just go and import our milk from somewhere overseas like New Zealand.

I will finish by thanking the member for Finniss and everyone else who has spoken to support this valuable industry. It does exist in MacKillop. It is a valuable sector. It has continued to decline. It probably will decline further if we do not address this workforce issue and all the costs associated with producing milk, but it is not the only sector that is going to face these troubles.

Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (12:51): I would like very much to thank all those who have spoken: the members for MacKillop, Heysen, Unley, Hammond, Waite and Frome. In particular, I would like to thank the Treasurer and the Speaker for their comments and their thanks for my time in leadership roles in the dairy industry.

I just want to also get on the record the names of people who have led the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association in my adult lifetime: going back into the seventies and eighties, Aub Kretschmer was president, followed by Alan Manning, Ray Heinrich, Frank Beauchamp, Phil Kernick, Jeff Wright. Nick Brokenshire, who is Robert Brokenshire's son, was there briefly, then John Hunt, and now we have Robert Brokenshire.

I will mention the CEO roles. There have been an amazing number of very long-term CEOs who have been there, back decades and decades when there were only five on the list. I think we go back to the 1950s: David Higbed, a very long term CEO, then Adrian Scott and Chris Luz-Raymond. I personally spent most of my time working with Ken Lyons, a wonderful CEO to work with, and then more recently Andrew Curtis. They are wonderful leaders in the dairy industry and in what they have done for this state and the dairy industry in this state, so I would like to thank them directly. But I also very much would like to thank all those who are engaged in the dairy industry, whether owners, workers, operators of processing facilities of milk, right through to cheese and other manufactured goods. It is such an important industry and such an important part of our state.

Motion carried.

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (12:54): I move:

That this house urges the government to—

- (a) fully investigate the cause of the recent algal bloom, including the link to brevetoxin found at Stansbury;
- (b) examine the health effects on humans and damage done to marine life;
- (c) consider the likelihood of this occurring again and whether it will become more prevalent; and
- (d) commission research into how to minimise the effects of this should it happen again, including possible intervention to dispel the bloom proactively.

I would like to start by thanking the government and the opposition for allowing this motion to be brought to near on the top of the list. It is a time-sensitive one; it is an issue that is affecting the coastline of South Australia as we speak here today. It is something that I am glad we can deal with, or at least start to deal with, today in the chamber so as to hopefully ensure we can get the ball rolling on some opportunities for improvement going forward and to ensure we are not missing out on addressing this issue as it is occurring.

It is a massive issue. I can tell you that the bottom of the peninsula has suffered greatly from the algal bloom arrival, the damage done to marine life and the impact it is having on human health. There are people who live down at the bottom of Yorke Peninsula who frequent beaches around there for the marine life and the untouched beauty that our natural environment has, and who are returning home after their morning walk suffering the side effects of the algal bloom.

Rick Hutchinson has been in touch with my office quite a bit; he is someone who I have mentioned in this chamber before. He loves to go to the beach in the morning and it is part of his normal routine, but he has had to stay away as a result of the algal bloom affecting his health and the side effects that it is causing. It is having a significant effect on our local population.

Lochie Cameron, who has been in the media frequently as a citizen scientist, has been patrolling the beaches and surveying the marine life that has washed up there, unfortunately, and he is reporting a catastrophic event out there in the ocean. In his view, and it is far more educated than mine, it is an apocalypse-style event that is doing significant damage to our marine life and it will be generations before it rebounds to the state that it was in previous to the algal bloom.

I know that a friend of mine, Steve Bowley at Pacific Estate Oysters, has had his business shut down as a result of the brevetoxins that have been found that are presumably associated with the algal bloom. He has had that extended again; it is yet to be opened and it is having a significant impact on his business. He said in the local paper just yesterday that if this is to continue for another month, he is not sure that his business will survive. There are at least two or three oyster farms near Stansbury that are suffering the same fate and presumably will head towards the same result if they are not allowed to open sooner rather than later to ensure they can get back to turning a profit on their business. It is having a significant impact.

Rob Rankine, another friend of mine, who owns the Dalrymple Hotel in Stansbury, has reported catastrophic earnings as a result of the algal bloom. It is having a significant impact on our tourism industry. People who ordinarily come for crabbing or fishing or some sort of winter activity on Yorke Peninsula have not come over the past few months and have stayed home as a result of the bad publicity—rightly so—that the algal bloom has brought with it. It is having a significant impact on our community.

I think the most frustrating thing is that there does not seem to be any action that the government or anyone else can take to try to ameliorate the issue. This is not a criticism of government, that is for sure; they have, in my view, been up-front and provided information to the people who are affected. But, as best we understand it, there is nothing that can be done proactively to get the bloom moving, get it dispelled and get it moving on, and that is something that I think we need to address sooner rather than later.

If this was a bushfire on land or some other natural disaster, there would be action that the government would have in the chamber ready to go so they could launch as soon as it became an issue. Well, there does not seem to be anything ready to go for this algal bloom, apart from the fact that we need to wait for the conditions to be right, for the cool weather to blow in and for some rain to dispel that bloom and ensure it can get moving. That is frustrating for people who are affected by it. It is frustrating for people like Steve Bowley, it is frustrating for people like Lochie Cameron and it is frustrating for me as someone who is receiving quite a few complaints from around the electorate.

I hope we can get some research commissioned to try to investigate how we can best cope with this if it is to happen again. It is not a unique thing; it happens around the world. My quick googling has revealed it has happened in the US, Norway and the English Channel, and it was first spotted in Japan in 1935. So it is not a new thing. It is something that we should be able to research and call upon a body of evidence that has been accumulated over quite a number of decades now to try to figure out what, if anything, we can do to address this issue in the future and ensure it does not have such a catastrophic impact on our local community when it happens again.

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (12:59): In the time allotted to me, I move to amend the motion as follows:

Remove paragraph (a) and insert new paragraph:

(a) consider the causes of the recent algal blooms and naturally occurring brevetoxins;

Remove paragraph (b) and insert new paragraph:

(b) consider the damage done to marine life and the effects on human wellbeing;

Remove paragraph (d) and insert new paragraph:

(d) continue research into the effects of the bloom and mitigation measures.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

Sitting suspended from 13:01 to 14:00.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before they leave the gallery, I would like to welcome to parliament students from Seaton Park Primary School, who are the guests of the member for Playford as well as the Treasurer. It is wonderful to have you in here. I hope you have had a good tour. I would also like to welcome to parliament students from St Michael's College. You are the guests of the member for Colton, but you also share a school with the Minister for Trade and me as a couple of old scholars. It is great to have you in here today.

An honourable member: How many schools did you go to?

The SPEAKER: I went to seven schools and got kicked out of six. I did not finish year 12, so the odds were pretty good, weren't they? I said to the St Mick's kids who were in here yesterday that if you do not do well at school you will end up in here.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Auditor-General—Contract Management in Local Government Report 4 of 2025 [Ordered to be published]

By the Premier (Hon. P.B. Malinauskas)—

Public Sector Act 2009—Overseas and Interstate Travel—Premier Report 23 to
29 March 2025

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

Public Sector Act 2009—

Overseas and Interstate Travel Reports—

Deputy Premier Report 13 to 19 April 2025

Minister for Education, Training and Skills Report 21 to 29 March 2025

Minister for Trade and Investment Report 13 to 19 April 2025

By the Minister for Health and Wellbeing (Hon. C.J. Picton)—

Abortion Reporting Committee, South Australian—2024 Annual Report

Preventive Health SA—Maternal and Perinatal Mortality in South Australia—Report 2022

Parliamentary Committees

ECONOMIC AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (14:07): I bring up the fifth report of the committee, entitled Emergency Services Levy 2025-26.

Report received and ordered to be published.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:08): I bring up the 65th report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received.

Mr ODENWALDER: I bring up the 66th report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received and read.

Question Time

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:11): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier given up on his promise to fix ramping? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: At the 2022 state election, Labor promised South Australians they would fix the ramping crisis. Last month it delivered the 36th worst month of ramping in South Australia's history. Paramedics and patients spent 4,791 hours ramped at our public hospitals in May; it was the third worst month of ramping hours in South Australia since records began.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:11): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. The government remains as dedicated as ever to tackling the challenges that we see within our public hospital system. Only on the weekend, in fact, I had the pleasure of being able to join some incredible people at Hampstead with the health minister. At Hampstead we now have over 70 beds open that are effectively new beds to the system that are available for people who we seek to transition out of public hospital beds, who do not need to be there.

More specifically, they are effectively people who are ready to be discharged from hospital who require an aged-care bed and can't get access to one because the aged-care system is breaking down across the country. As it stands today, somewhere in the order of 240 people are in our hospital beds throughout the state—and that is a lot. That is the equivalent of a Modbury Hospital I think, in its own right. That is 240 people who occupy hospital beds, who are ready to be discharged and who will receive better quality care given their circumstances outside of the hospital system than within it.

But we've got this massive challenge that as the state government continues to open dozens and dozens and dozens of beds into the system, as we have funded and fully committed, as we continue that effort and it continues to roll out over the years ahead, we are seeing ever-increasing demands being placed on the system by virtue of people not getting access—it is not an issue so

much of a lack of access to the system but a lack of ability to be able to get out of the system once they are in it, and that is an exceptionally complex challenge that we continued to elevate on the weekend.

At the official opening of those 70 beds—which I will come back to in a second—we also put on the table to the commonwealth 10 constructive suggestions, to the Hon. Mark Butler as the health minister, things that can be done, some of which in relatively short time that would make a big difference.

If those 200 plus people weren't in our public hospital system, bearing in mind that they effectively weren't only a few years ago, we would see a ramping collapse, because you would have 200 beds flowing through the system. That is a massive game change, which is why we committed so many extra beds at the last election.

In terms of those beds that are coming and have been invested in, critically, we are nation-leading in our ability to recruit people to do that work. It would stun people to know that at the last election we committed to 100 extra doctors in the system. Last year, we recruited over 300 doctors in one year alone over and above attrition. We increased the public hospital system by 300 extra doctors in one year alone—triple the election commitment in one year. I think we are close to 600 doctors, 600 extra doctors in the system now versus what was the case when we were elected.

I got to see some incredible people in geriatrics. There was a geriatrician with us on the weekend at Hampstead. It struck me that there was one prevailing truth that cannot be escaped in regard to what we saw on the weekend at Hampstead, and that is that, if not for the election of this government, that was going to be sold. Hampstead was set to be sold by those opposite. That was their policy. Their policy was to sell off public hospital assets: our policy is investment. Could you imagine where we would be now if those opposite were able to sell that facility? We would have yet more pressure on the system than was otherwise the case. So we maintain our effort, we are steadfast in our policy commitment, and that is something that South Australians can see.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:15): My question again is to the Premier. Will this year be South Australia's worst winter of ramping? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: The ABC reported last week that the head of South Australia's ambulance employees union, Paul Ekkelboom, said May's record ramping figures of 4,791 hours have given him grave concerns about the winter months ahead, and the government has now recorded the 36 worst months of ramping in South Australia's history.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:16): As the Premier has outlined already, this is a government that is committed to doing every single thing that we possibly can to open up more capacity and to make sure that patients can get through the system and get the health care that they need. Evidence of that, of course, was on the weekend when we officially opened those 70 CO-ACT beds at Hampstead, a site that was previously going to be closed and sold off. It was in the budget for that to do so, and the Treasurer and the government had to reverse that sale to be able to keep those beds there.

Through the course of this year, we also have significant extra beds that are coming online right across the system. At Lyell McEwin Hospital, we are converting areas of the hospital that were previously used for administration. The builders have been through there, turning those into brand-new patient care areas so that we can expand the number of beds at Lyell McEwin Hospital. Similarly at The QEH, an area that previously had been a ward space got converted to an outpatient space. We are going through and moving those outpatient areas elsewhere so that we can return that area to open up over 30 beds there at The QEH.

We are opening three additional fully staffed large mental health wards across the state this year at The QEH, at Modbury Hospital and also at Noarlunga Hospital. In addition, at Noarlunga Hospital, we are opening an additional 24-bed acute ward there as well. We are opening an

expanded mental health unit at Flinders as well. That is all coming through the course of this year. There is a lot of investment coming through the course of this year.

In addition to that, we have even had to use space in the Pullman hotel, where we have contracted to be able to provide clinical care because, as the Premier outlined, we have so many people who are stuck in the system waiting to get out, to get to the next level of care, who do not need to be in hospital anymore. Those over 200 patients who are stuck, who have had their ACAT assessments and have been told that they need aged care who we cannot get out—it is not only a bad outcome for those patients to be in hospital a lot longer than they need to be but, of course, it also means that the next patient coming from the emergency department cannot come through to those beds.

While, when it comes to ramping and flow issues, there are 100 different things that need to be done right through the system that we are addressing, the key pinch point is those patients every morning who are stuck in the emergency department waiting for a ward bed who we cannot get into a ward bed. There are well over 100 patients every day who need access to a ward bed but they are not available.

So we are going to continue to open up additional beds. We are going to continue to put pressure on the commonwealth in terms of meeting their responsibilities of making sure that those aged-care patients can get out. That means we can free up the emergency departments, and that means we can free up both the ambulance ramp and the waiting room for those people who need emergency department care.

What wouldn't help is if we went down the approach of what the opposition leader has been talking about, which is cutting the health budget. When he was asked, 'Well, how are you going to round this issue where you are saying you want to increase spending, you want to reduce the debt and reduce taxes', he immediately jumped to the health budget. He immediately jumped to health expenditure as his answer for that subject. So we know what they will return to, which is cuts to health, cuts to our frontline doctors and nurses, and we can't see a repeat of that—

The SPEAKER: The minister will resume his seat. Deputy Leader.

Mr TEAGUE: Point of order on standing order 98a: it is clearly debating the matter. It is not addressing the substance of the question, about the worst winter in the history of ramping.

The SPEAKER: From my recollection, the question asked the minister to gaze into a crystal ball to work out whether this was going to be the worst winter we have had. Given that we are only in June, it's probably a little bit hard for him to give the answer to that. I think, like the Premier was in his answer to the first question, the minister was explaining how South Australia got to this point and explaining how the government is trying to get South Australia into an improved situation.

I am keen to hear some more from the health minister and a little—a lot less, actually—from the member for Hammond and the member for Unley, because I am actually finding it hard to hear the Minister for Health above the interjections, which I remind members are unparliamentary and disorderly.

Mr Telfer interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Flinders, you do not need to be adding to the noise level. Minister for Health.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: The last point I will make is that this is a government that has added almost 2,800 extra clinical staff above attrition, as opposed to our predecessors, who made hundreds of nurses redundant during a global pandemic.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Let's keep it down; it is your leader who has the call.

NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:21): My question is again to the Premier. Does the Premier guarantee that the new Women's and Children's Hospital will be delivered on time and on budget? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: On 7 June the government announced interstate design firm BLP will replace Woods Bagot as the new architectural team for the new Women's and Children's Hospital. There is currently no design for this project, and this comes after the project had been left rudderless for almost six months with no project director.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:21): I certainly do not accept the argument and the inaccuracies in the explanation from the member's question. However, my answer is very similar to the answer I gave in the previous sitting week, which is that this is a project the government is committed to, this is a project on which the government is working as hard and as fast as possible.

All the advice we have is that we are confident in terms of the 2031 date, which obviously is six years away. There is work underway on the construction of this site already; you just have to go down Port Road and see construction underway on that site in terms of both the demolition of the barracks site and the site preparation works that are now underway in terms of connecting essential services to that site, as well as the construction of what is a very significantly large car park on the site.

A lot of planning has been done, and we are now very pleased with the architectural team we have employed. Of course, they are not starting from scratch. There are significant designs that have been in place, but we are looking forward to the new team's work on those designs, improving those designs and working with our clinical team to make sure we get the best possible outcome for this project, which is critical for the women and children of this state into the future.

What I can absolutely assure the house will be the case is that this will be a larger hospital than what was previously envisaged and it is going to meet the needs of this state well into the future, as opposed to the previous plan that was going to have one extra overnight bed and was going to take up the expansion space of the Royal Adelaide Hospital. You would have two landlocked hospitals into the future. We know that at some stage the Royal Adelaide Hospital is going to have to expand, and that would have shut off the opportunity for that to happen. We will now have two hospitals that will be larger and will have the capacity to be able to expand into the future, which is obviously a very good outcome for the patients of this state long into the future.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:24): My question is to the Premier. What impact has the government's GP payroll tax grab had on ramping and emergency department pressure? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Labor's decision to implement its GP payroll tax grab was criticised by the medical profession, including the AMA and the Royal College of GPs, who claimed it would impact vulnerable patients and increase the pressure on EDs. The South Australian health system is now in the grips of the 36th worst ramping month on record.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:24): Firstly, I don't accept the premise of that question either in that, what this government and this Treasurer have done is put in place a tax cut for practices, particularly for practices that are bulk-billing across the state.

The arrangements that the Treasurer has put in place in South Australia are much more generous than what you find in many other states. For example, in a measure in New South Wales that they have triumphed as a boom for bulk-billing you have to reach a particular threshold, some

85 per cent bulk-billing, before you get any benefit. Whereas here in South Australia, under what the Treasurer has put in place, every single bulk-billed service is exempt from those.

We know how critical bulk-billing is in terms of demand across our health system and our hospitals as well. We have of course seen a reduction in bulk-billing happen over the course of the past decade as Medicare rates have been frozen by the federal government over the past decade. That saw a collapse in bulk-billing here and across the country. That is starting to recover, and we of course welcome the significant investments that have been made by the federal government and their commitments at the preceding federal election to aim to get back to 90 per cent bulk-billing across the board.

We see that as critically important to make sure that we can have people getting that care in the community and less pressure on our emergency departments. It is less usually the case that somebody can't get into their GP and they roll up to the emergency department. Of course, sometimes that does occur. But what happens is people don't get that ongoing care from a GP and then they get sicker and then they have no choice but to go to the emergency department. So having that bulk-billing rate restored is critical to reducing pressure on our health system overall, and that is what the Treasurer's package is designed to support, so all of those bulk-billed services are completely supported.

MOUNT BARKER HIGH SCHOOL

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel) (14:26): My question is to the Minister for Housing and Urban Development. Will the minister transfer to the Mount Barker High School certain land in the care and control of the minister, which the high school is seeking to compensate them for land acquired by the state for other purposes, particularly the construction of a roundabout?

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (14:27): I think this is the first time this matter has been raised with me, but I am happy to take the question on notice from the honourable member. He is a prolific writer to me about various matters around housing, and of course I am happy to take it on notice and get back to the honourable member.

GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX

Ms O'HANLON (Dunstan) (14:27): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier inform the house about any recent international reports regarding Adelaide?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:27): I thank the member for Dunstan for her question. Last night, as is annually the case, the Economist Intelligence Unit released its most liveable city rankings for cities around the world, and for a sustained period we have seen Adelaide really outperform the world with respect to our liveability rankings, and it is something to be proud of. It improved yet again last night—we are going back into the top 10, thankfully.

I just thought it was interesting, and I have looked at this previously and I had a chance to do it again last night, to see what actually sits behind those scores? We look at the ranking and it's often reflected upon how lucky we are and how we outperform not just the rest of the nation in many respects but also the rest of the world, but what actually sits behind those statistics? There's a range of different measures that they look at. They look at stability, cultural environment, education, health care and infrastructure. I thought this is not a partisan point, this is just a genuine observation around how we are going. Adelaide, interestingly, on both health care and then separately for education—they rank you and they give you an index out of 100. On both health care and education in a global context, Adelaide ranked at 100 points. We got 100 points.

I know, as we all know, that the health system as we have been exploring today is not perfect and there is always more we can do, as is the case with education. But I tell you what: if you looked at every single city around the world and you accept this as a measure of success or otherwise, if you could pick any city around the world and you said, 'Right, I'm going to get sick, I'm going to pick one,' then where you would choose is Adelaide if you look at these others.

It is the opposition's job to point to failure, and we accept that. That is part of our Westminster system of government. But it is also not unreasonable, every now and then, to reflect on just how

fortunate we are to have literally tens of thousands of people working within our health system—in fact, I think over 50,000 now—in the state of South Australia who have been able to deliver us such good health care that there are few other places around the world that you would rather be to be able to get access to that care, and similarly with the thousands upon thousands of people who work within our education system, who have delivered the same result with respect to education.

We look at these numbers as an incentive to keep the effort up and to not be complacent. There are a number of cities around the world, including in First World countries, that have seen their rankings go backwards. You cannot be complacent; you have to continue to invest and renew your effort.

But, my word, this is an incredibly special city to live in. That is not a function of this government or our predecessor or the one before that; it is a function of sustained effort, for a long time now, to actually create a highly multicultural, open society that is peaceful and stable, as is reflected by this report, and that delivers every citizen access to high-quality services regardless of their economic circumstances. That is something to be proud of and something to keep dedicating ourselves towards.

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:31): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the government make primary health care more accessible for South Australians? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: Yesterday the opposition announced that we will fund a two-year GP after-hours increased access trial if we are elected in 2026. This is an initiative that the Royal Australian College of GPs have been calling for to provide flexibility for families and to keep people out of EDs.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:32): Firstly, this is something that the government is investing in, in terms of primary care. We have been very delighted by what we have been able to deliver already in terms of expanding the access for pharmacy, in particular the three—soon to be four—24/7 pharmacies that are now available across South Australia.

Hundreds of thousands of South Australians have been able to utilise these to get access to their health care throughout the night. That has been a very welcome service that has been available for South Australians. Of course, we are expanding the role that pharmacists can play to be able to treat more conditions. That has already happened with UTI treatment and the pill, and is about to expand to well over 20 different conditions through the work that we are undertaking in our expanded scope of practice for pharmacists.

Secondly, I would point to the work that we have done collaboratively with the federal government in terms of the Medicare Urgent Care Clinics that people now have access to. We have Medicare Urgent Care Clinics across Adelaide, and also based in regional areas, where people are able to get, for extended hours, care for urgent but not life-threatening matters. These have been incredibly well utilised and received by the community and have absolutely made a difference in terms of reducing some of the low acuity-level presentations to our emergency departments. We are thankful that there are more of those to roll out across the coming years as well, in the federal government announcements.

The other thing I would point to is the work that we have done in terms of virtual care services. People are now able to access a GP when they call Healthdirect. If they speak to one of our nurses on the Healthdirect phone line, previously they would have been referred to 'speak to your GP the next day'. Now we can refer them directly to a GP on the line. That has helped many South Australians to get the care they need immediately, and connects in with the 24/7 pharmacies so they can quite often get the medication that they need all within the space of an hour or so, whereas previously they would have been waiting until the next day.

Of course, we are always looking in terms of other opportunities to expand the work that we are doing. Certainly, there is more work to come in terms of expanding mental health primary care

services as well. We are really delighted with the opening of the new Mount Barker Medicare Mental Health Centre that has recently opened there. That adds to the Elizabeth centre that has been opened. The Port Pirie centre has been opened as well. We are soon to have a Kids Hubs service and an Aboriginal mental health and wellbeing centre to open to provide more community mental health primary care services as well.

The thing that I would say in terms of the opposition's proposal that they floated yesterday is we haven't heard anything about what that means for price for people when they would be going to one of these services. There has been no commitment as to whether these services are bulk-billed. All the Medicare Urgent Care Clinics are bulk-billed. A lot of the GP practices that we have seen the opposition stand up with over the past couple of years have some very significant after-hours rates, well over \$100 out of pocket in some cases.

So I would argue that shifting appointments from the day to the evening and then having a resultant additional cost for patients wouldn't lead to a significant benefit for patients. I guess I would point to the opposition to outline how they are going to guarantee that those would be bulk-billed services. The other thing that I would say is to bring us back to the tricky question that they seem to not be able to answer, which is how they want to increase spending and reduce the debt and reduce taxes all at the same time.

An honourable member: The magic pudding!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: The magic pudding.

PROTON THERAPY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:36): My question is to the Treasurer. Will life-saving proton therapy treatment be delivered in South Australia and, if so, when?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police) (14:36): I thank the member for Schubert for her question. It's an important question because the Minister for Health and I have been working very hard, particularly over the last 18 months, to try to ensure that the proton therapy project stays alive here in South Australia.

Yesterday we had the Auditor-General provide a report to the parliament outlining the sequence of events over the last eight or so years which have led us to the current situation where the contracted supplier of the proton therapy unit, ProTom International, has been unable to deliver on its contract to SAHMRI. This has placed SAHMRI in an incredibly difficult position. SAHMRI entered into a series of agreements with, firstly, Commercial & General, which then onsold its interests in the Australian Bragg Centre building to Dexus to try to ensure that another proton therapy unit can be procured and successfully installed in the space below the Australian Bragg Centre building, what is referred to as the 'bunker space', which was specifically built for ProTom International.

Some of the work that we have done between SA Health and Treasury is to get some independent expert health infrastructure advice about what the state of play is in the global industry for proton therapy units and whether it might be feasible for an alternative supplier, obviously one that is a bit more capable and financially credible, to provide one of their units that can be installed in this bespoke space.

Our initial advice is that it's likely that is feasible, although it may well require some modifications, albeit relatively minor, to the building. But what it does require is an agreement from the commonwealth to fund the project again. The reason I say that is because this was intended to be an initiative which would provide medical services not just for South Australians but to all Australians, so in that respect, of course, it's not reasonable that South Australians should be paying for the development and delivery of a service which will benefit all Australians, including beyond our borders.

But the good news, to get to the nub of the question that the member asked, is that the federal health minister, Mark Butler, has remained open-minded and indicated in principle his support for procuring and installing a proton therapy unit for the benefit of Australians. We are engaged in

detailed discussions with his federal Department of Health officials to work through the logistics of what would be required to install a proton therapy unit in that bunker.

I can't be any more specific than that, except to reassure the member and the house, as well as the broader community, that we are doing everything we possibly can and we are leaving no stone unturned to try to ensure that we make a success of this. As I have said to the house before, I still believe that we remain a frontrunner for this because we are the only jurisdiction with a building. It just requires those other elements I have just gone through to be successfully navigated, and that is the work that we continue to be committed to.

PROTON THERAPY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:40): Supplementary to the Treasurer: has he received a commitment from the federal government that they are willing to inject additional funding so that proton therapy can go ahead in South Australia?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police) (14:40): I thank the member for the supplementary question because I think it is the question that has been on most people's lips about where the federal government is up to with that. To date, we haven't got that commitment, but I must say, to be fair on the federal government, I am not sure that they are in a position where they can give that commitment.

As I have tried to explain to the house, the federal government needs to be assured that there is a viable, deliverable solution for the building that we have: to get an alternative proton therapy supplier and their equipment and have it successfully installed in the space that was built for a different supplier, ProTom International. We think that is feasible, but there is a lot of technical work that needs to be done, and that is part of the discussions that we are having with those federal departmental officials.

I have to say, again, Minister Butler has been very open-minded about this but, to be fair, I don't think we can expect him to make a commitment until he can be confident that we are not going to commit further funds to this endeavour and get into the same sorts of difficulties that SAHMRI got into with ProTom International. We remain hopeful and we will do everything we can to put Minister Butler and the commonwealth government in the position where they can provide a positive response, but we are not quite there just yet.

BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (14:42): My question is to the minister representing the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister please advise beekeepers and honey producers whether the government is considering allowing the introduction of interstate bees into South Australia? With your leave and that of the house, sir, I will explain further.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: I have been advised that due to the impact of the recent drought there is now insufficient pollination for almond producers. I have also been advised that there are now discussions regarding the potential introduction of bees from interstate, which could introduce the varroa mite disease to South Australia.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police) (14:43): I thank the member for Stuart for his question. I have taken the opportunity to seek some advice from the minister—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: No, this is an important topic; we should all listen up. I might learn something. I have received the following advice from the minister, and that is that it is well acknowledged that for many primary producers who rely on bees to pollinate their crops, the drought conditions that are afflicting our state are causing significant impacts to apiarists and making it very difficult for apiarists to provide pollination services from their businesses. That has led, quite rightly,

to consideration of whether there can be bees brought in from other places around the nation to pick up some of this task.

I am advised that the South Australian Varroa Industry Advisory Committee, which has been advising the primary industries department on this, has determined not only the number of hives that will be necessary to conduct the pollination activities but that there is a shortfall in the number of hives somewhere between 5,000 and 15,000. So it is a very significant shortfall to pick up.

This is further compounded, I am advised, by the number of beekeepers not wanting to participate currently in the provision of pollination services, instead focusing their particular businesses on honey production or apiary commodity production as their business model. That has meant that in particular Queensland and Victoria have been looked at to bring in bees, and then there is that consideration about whether it's safe.

As the member for West Torrens was saying, of course every government should be clear that they will determine which bees come into our state and the conditions on which they come in. Moreover, we want to make sure that it's done safely with a mind to keeping diseases out of the state, given our reputation for managing biosecurity threats.

There will be the allowance for bees to come in from interstate, but under strict supervision from that advisory committee and from the Department of Primary Industries to make sure that that particular varroa mite is not inadvertently imported into South Australia causing the sorts of impacts that primary producers would otherwise very rightly be worried about.

I hope that has been of benefit to the house. It has been of remarkable benefit to me. I have learnt more about this in the course of the last 3½ minutes than I expected to previously. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: We might have to get you to Kangaroo Island to meet some of the Ligurian bees that produce fine Kangaroo Island honey.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FILM INDUSTRY

Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (14:46): My question is to the Minister for Arts. Can the minister provide an update to the house about the South Australian screen sector?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:46): Thanks to the member for Badcoe for her question. I know she is very passionate about supporting the screen sector in South Australia, and I have some good news to share.

South Australia is known within the national screen industry for its premium locations, for its ease of access, and for our incredibly talented pool of creatives, both in front of the camera and behind. This morning, I was pleased to be at the South Australian Film Corporation's Adelaide studios where I joined representatives from Netflix to talk about a new and very exciting South Australian project.

What we do here in South Australia is tell great stories, and this project is no different. I am very excited to inform the house that Miles Franklin's groundbreaking Australian novel *My Brilliant Career* has been adapted into a dramatic series that is going to be filmed right here in South Australia.

Miles Franklin was a pioneering Australian author who developed a uniquely Australian voice in her writing, ultimately providing an endowment for the Miles Franklin Award that is awarded for literature about Australian life in any of its phases, so it makes sense for SAFC to partner with Netflix to produce this exceptional adaption of this iconic Australian story right here in South Australia.

This series will showcase South Australian locations, shooting in our beautiful regions, including the southern area of the Barossa Valley to the state's South-East and across metropolitan Adelaide. This production is being supported by the Malinauskas government through the SAFC's Screen Production Fund. Apart from showcasing our state, this production is expected to inject \$17 million into our state's economy. It is anticipated that this series will be the highest spend of any TV series ever made in South Australia.

The production will see 450 South Australian jobs for crew and on-screen talent. It will engage more than 250 South Australian small businesses, from caterers through to costume

designers, and whilst harnessing a majority of South Australian crew, the production of *My Brilliant Career* will also provide valuable upskilling training opportunities for up-and-coming local crew through a special Netflix and SAFC attachments initiative.

This will support four training roles to work on *My Brilliant Career*, including a production design assistant, a costume assistant, a costume maker and machinist attachment, and a safety attachment. This government is committed to building our state's skills capacity, and this production is contributing to building the skills that are transferable across industries.

Netflix's commitment to *My Brilliant Career* comes off the back of significant investment by this government in our screen sector. We have committed more than \$15 million to a partnership between SAFC and ABC to provide an ongoing pipeline of high-quality Australian TV productions in our state. We came to government promising to annualise the Adelaide Film Festival with an additional \$2 million. We followed this up with an investment committing a further \$2 million to the Adelaide Film Festival Investment Fund to support local independent filmmaking.

I know just yesterday, I think the Leader of the Opposition seemed a bit critical of our support of the South Australian screen sector and a really excellent program of the Adelaide Film Festival Goes to Cannes, an Australian first that has seen some incredible results for South Australian screen producers taking us to the global stage.

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: We have seen some incredible work that was presented to last year's Cannes Film Festival, and we have had *Lesbian Space Princess* sold overseas. We have had *Mockbuster* acquired by a US distributor, and many other successful stories from that program.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is warned for the final time.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Ms PRATT (Frome) (14:51): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. What, if any, additional funding for mental health services did the minister secure while attending the national Health Ministers' Meeting last week? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Ms PRATT: Every state and territory mental health peak body, including the Mental Health Coalition of South Australia, signed an open letter calling for a bilateral funding commitment into psychosocial services as an outcome of that national meeting.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:51): I am very happy to speak about the meeting that was held last week, the Health Ministers' Meeting, in a joint meeting with those other ministers where there is a split responsibility for mental health in those jurisdictions as well. As the shadow minister outlines, one of the key things that was talked about at that meeting was the need for psychosocial services across the country. That is obviously a very key topic on the agenda of all states and territories, and the commonwealth.

We heard from a number of different sectors, whether it be people who work in the sector, but also people from lived experience and carers. We also had deliberations with the Productivity Commission. The Productivity Commission is undertaking a review at the moment of the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement that was signed, I think perhaps the day before we went into caretaker, before the last election by my predecessor, and clearly one of the key things in terms of the negotiation of that new agreement will be ensuring that we can improve the availability of psychosocial services.

For people who are not aware, psychosocial services are a level of services provided in the community—support services for people with mental health conditions—not psychiatry or psychology sorts of direct clinical services but help for people with their daily lives and to try to keep them healthy in the community. They are generally provided by people who have qualifications, such as a

Certificate IV in Mental Health, and by non-government organisations. There are a number of those services that are provided through the NDIS. There are a number of those services that are provided by state and territories, but clearly there are more of those services that could reach more people.

There was an outcome of that meeting, which is available in the communique from the meeting, that all the states and territories and the federal government commit to, in the development of that new National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement, addressing unmet need in psychosocial services, as one of the two points that we will be working towards as part of that new agreement, and to make sure that everybody is committing in terms of their current level of effort in terms of the services they are providing.

Of course, I can report that here in South Australia not only will we be keeping our current level of effort, but we have been increasing it substantially. Whereas under the previous government there were significant levels of cuts to those services that were made in the order of some 20 per cent, there has been a substantial uplift in terms of the investing that we have made into those services since we have come into government.

The other thing that this, of course, connects to as well is the work that is underway at the moment at national cabinet level, and also between health ministers, treasurers and disability ministers in terms of the next National Health Reform Agreement, but also the agreements around the NDIS and foundational supports as well. From the states and territories I think there has been a degree of caution in terms of making sure that we can get that balance right, so that we are not going to have people unfairly cut off from the NDIS, where they are going to impact upon our state-run services, particularly public hospitals.

But I do think that there is a really good opportunity now, with the federal health minister, Mark Butler, taking on board both the NDIS and foundational support services, that we can reach an agreement that can ultimately provide care for more people in a better way through those foundational support services that can address some of that unmet need, but also at the same time reduce some of that increasing level of expenditure of the NDIS.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Ms PRATT (Frome) (14:55): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Does the government now believe that management of mental health is a matter for police? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Ms PRATT: On FIVEaa radio this morning, the police commissioner said, and I quote:

It is taking up a significant amount of police time dealing with mental health in the community and we do convey a lot of people to hospital and we spend a lot of time waiting for those people to be assessed so we can get back to our core function. So we are doing what we can to minimise the impact of mental health on police tasks, but it is a perennial problem.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:56): The short answer to the member's question is no, and I am not sure that there is any correlation between what she is asking and what the police commissioner said on radio this morning. I think the government, just in the past couple of weeks, has demonstrated that we know what we need to address in terms of supporting both our police and our hospitals, but also people in the community, in terms of the investment that we have made in the budget in the Mental Health Co-Responder model.

This is a model which we originally piloted a couple of years ago based in the NALHN region and have now extended to the CALHN region as a trial, but we will now be making this permanent and extending it to the southern Adelaide local health region as well, where our police and mental health clinicians respond jointly to many of these cases in the community, which has the benefit of making sure that we can improve the outcome for that person and their journey, in many cases—probably the majority of cases—avoiding the need to go either to an emergency department or into the criminal justice system. But this also means that there is less pressure on our hospitals and less pressure on our police and our criminal justice system as well.

So this has been a real win-win. That is why we are investing in it further and that is why we continue the collaboration that is happening between SA Health and our local health networks and South Australia Police. Clearly, there is always going to be a level of cases and call-outs that police will have to deal with where there's a threshold question in terms of whether it is a mental health issue or not, in terms of the police response to particular crimes or issues that are happening in our community. These sorts of models where we can work more closely together, delivering a better outcome for that person and the system overall, is a very key way in which we can address that, which I also think, if we had the full transcript of what the police commissioner said on radio, he went on to explain in some detail.

NORTH ADELAIDE PUBLIC GOLF COURSE

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (14:58): My question is to the member for Adelaide. Does the member for Adelaide support the government's North Adelaide Public Golf Course Bill 2025?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Leader of Government Business has the call. Member for Unley can you sit down? The Leader of Government Business has the call.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: First and foremost the bill is before the house. Second, the member, like every other member, will know how people vote in the house, and that question is clearly out of order under standing orders and Erskine May.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order.

Mr TEAGUE: On the point of order: to the standing order 96 2. that the Manager of Government Business raises, this is a matter that has been addressed in the Third Edition of Blackmore at pages 200 and 201. A member may be asked a question, including specifically in relation to a bill before the house, because it is public business. The member in responding may not debate but may give an answer to the house in relation to the member's view on the bill. Does the member support the bill: yes or no?

The SPEAKER: The member for Adelaide is not responsible to the house for the bill. The member for MacKillop has the call.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Point of order, sir: I refer you to an incident that happened in this place on 4 June 2009, when the Hon. R.J. McEwen, the member for Mount Gambier, who was a minister in the Labor government, asked a question related to travel of the member for Hammond. Mr Venning raised a point of order objecting to such a question. The Speaker, the Hon. Jack Snelling at that time, said:

Order! Any member can be asked a question if the Speaker thinks that the member has a responsibility to the house for the matter about which a question is asked.

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley can resume his seat. You have just answered your own question: 'if the Speaker thinks the member has responsibility for the question'. I do not.

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley can leave the chamber until the end of question time. You can leave.

The honourable member for Unley having withdrawn from the chamber:

MOBILE PHONE TOWERS

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (15:01): My question is to the Premier. When will we see the rollout of the first 27 mobile phone towers that were promised to my electorate back in 2023? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and the leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr McBRIDE: We have funding commitments from three tiers of government but still no announcement on when the first towers will be delivered.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (15:02): I know the member for MacKillop has a work ethic that might mean he works on Christmas, unlike the member for Hammond. We all know the member for Hammond did not have too big of an agenda on Christmas Day all those years ago, and I want to thank the member for Unley for reminding the house of how frequently the member for Hammond seems to have questions over his travel arrangements.

Mr Pederick: At least I answered the question.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: I don't know if that would have helped or hindered you at the time, mate; goodness knows.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: You have the right to remain silent.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: That's right. I want to thank the member for MacKillop for his question because the member for MacKillop, along with a few others in his community, has been incredibly steadfast in his perseverance around getting better mobile phone coverage in his community. The member for MacKillop has been on the phone to me and a number of other members in this place regarding this issue over a sustained period.

It was historic in many respects that, as a result of the member for MacKillop's agitation, we were able to get this agreement in place, which is an agreement between basically every council on the Limestone Coast, bar one, to support and improve mobile phone coverage with the federal government plus industry, because the forestry industry stepped up to the plate, and then, of course, the state government did in an unprecedented way. This is a program that is now exclusively with Telstra, I am advised. My office has spoken to Telstra regarding this; in fact, I chased this up in advance of my visit there last week because I anticipated it would be raised.

Telstra is currently going through the design and development approval process for each of the 27 sites. Individual approvals are then received from the various regulatory agencies, then Telstra begins construction on the towers. I am advised that Telstra is hopeful to have the first towers constructed before the end of this year, so once the approvals are given, it actually can happen pretty quickly. The only thing it will depend on is the planning process that underpins the development of the site.

It is Telstra's view, or Telstra's intent, that all 27 towers will be fully operational by the end of next year. I would love that to be this year, but obviously there is a process that needs to be gone through. My office continues to be engaged with Telstra on this, and I take the opportunity to thank Telstra for their recent communications with my office to keep us up to date on it.

As the member for MacKillop is already aware, this is going to add an extra just under two and a half thousand square kilometres of new 4G coverage across the South-East, and 1,800 new dwellings will receive coverage for the first time. Of course, it is jointly funded, including our contribution of \$5.5 million. There are a few different elements to this that make it worthwhile. The first, of course, is convenience for constituents, and the second goes to safety for the community around it, particularly on our roads and so forth.

However, one of the really exciting elements about this project, which transcends convenience and safety, is the uplift we will see in economic productivity in the region, particularly amongst the primary production sector, which is becoming increasingly sophisticated and increasingly advanced in the technologies it deploys to produce what they do as efficiently as anyone around the world. This level of connectivity will only enhance that, and I spoke to some people within the livestock sector about the sorts of ways they intend to use the technology only last week.

I commend the member for MacKillop for his diligence in pursuing this. We will continue to keep the house updated on this project, and look forward to those first towers being operational this year.

WORLDSKILLS AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr BROWN (Florey) (15:06): My question is to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills. Can the minister update the house on the recent WorldSkills National Championships in Brisbane, and provide information about the next national championships?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (15:06): I thank the member for Florey for this question. I am very happy to give the house an update on the National WorldSkills Championships, which were held in Brisbane from last week.

It was a great thrill for me to be able to travel up there and visit, and have a walk around the Brisbane Convention Centre and see about 600 competitors who were there from all states and territories competing in about 64 different categories. That included everything from competing for a gold medal in bakery and patisserie to mechatronics to welding to landscape gardening.

This year the South Australian team was the biggest team we have fielded at the national championships in a very, very long time. In fact in 2023, when we got back into WorldSkills—it was something this government thought we needed to do, given the huge pipeline of VET-trained staff we will need across the next few years—we had only seven members in the team. This year I can say that the South Australian contingent was 63 competitors, and the exciting news is that we performed really well; in fact, we had 16 medals and 12 certificates of excellence, and out of those 16 medals three were gold, seven were silver, and six were bronze.

I want to use this opportunity to put on the record the names of a few of those who really did our state proud in those competitions. We had: Emilie Flavel, who won a gold medal in graphic design; Angus Blanksby from Aberfoyle Park High School, who in the VET in Schools Carpentry section won a gold medal; and Andrew Sherman, from Findon Tech College, again in VET in Schools in welding, who won a gold medal and who has already started his apprenticeship with BAE.

There were seven silver medallists as well, including: Nazif Sohel, who won in IT; Jemma Glatz in painting and decorating; Isaac Schubert in carpentry; Amity Lob in cookery; Austin Riddell in graphic design; Lachlan Leake in fitting; and Jet Mules in welding.

Then there were the six bronze medallists: Jade Woonton, who won in welding; Nicolas Andresakis, who won in barbering; Oliver Anthonysz, who won in wall and floor tiling; Thomas Scott, who won in motorcycle mechanics; Tyson Read in welding; and Jayden Lines in plumbing and heating. As members can see, this was an incredibly successful championship for our state.

The good news on top of all that, though, which the member for Florey alluded to in his question, is that we have successfully bid for the national championships for WorldSkills here in Adelaide in 2027. That is going to be a fantastic opportunity for us to not just showcase what we are doing in terms of our hands-on pathways and our tech colleges, but also the amazing skills that are out there amongst our young people.

I can also say it is a huge opportunity. It was certainly an opportunity that Brisbane utilised to maximum ability, and that was to allow high school students of all ages to spend the day coming in as part of a jobs expo but to also see those older students who were there actually competing.

I think, if we want to talk about the things that will really move the dial in terms of inspiring and motivating young people to choose a pathway in these hands-on careers that our state desperately needs them to choose, there is nothing more powerful than them going to see their peers competing in events like plumbing, welding, landscape gardening and electro tech for a gold medal and actually winning the opportunity, as have three of our own contestants here, to actually represent Australia in the international competition. It was a very proud moment and I look forward to, I hope, being able to update this place about some more good news once we have that WorldSkills competition here in South Australia.

DROUGHT, MENTAL HEALTH

Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:10): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. When will the government implement its comprehensive strategy to boost mental health and resilience in drought-affected areas? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Ms PRATT: Three months ago, the government promised relief to farmers by committing, and I quote, '\$2.5 million for an immediate and comprehensive strategy,' which is separate to rural financial counselling support.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:11): We are rolling that out now. I am happy to bring back a further update in terms of the exact measures, but just in fact today I had an updated meeting with the Chief Psychiatrist, the Mental Health Commissioner and also department staff who are busily working on this, who have contracts in place with a number of different providers, to get those services out to the community.

Just one of those elements I can speak to off the top of my head is the government is doing work with the Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation. They are rolling out a number of services directed at farmers, particularly learning from their experience that they have undertaken in the wake of the bushfires on Kangaroo Island and in the Adelaide Hills and just on the weekend undertook the first of those sessions in the Mallee region, together with Chris McDermott. It was very well attended. John Mannion from Breakthrough foundation told me that there were over 40 different farmers and regional people who attended that session and had a really good outcome in terms of connecting with the community. Those sessions will be running out across regional South Australia as just one of the many, many measures that are part of that funding.

Grievance Debate

ADELAIDE HILLS PRODUCERS

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:12): I rise to bring to the house's attention the magnificent work that has been done by local growers in the Hills. The Fruit Producers SA Industry Day is being held as we speak. It commenced this morning, and very happily, at the Lenswood Bowling Club. I was glad to be along for the beginning of that day and want to thank those growers present for having me along to hear current concerns about industry challenges that are being faced by, in many cases but I might say especially characterised by, this multigenerational legacy that we have so proudly in the Hills—multigenerational family growers from Cherryville through to Lenswood, Lobethal, Forest Range and areas surrounding it; Norton Summit in the northern parts of the Hills.

I pay a particular tribute in this regard to my friend Brenton Green, who is one of those multigenerational growers in the Hills. He was along, as were so many well-known family growers for the industry day this morning. The concerns that are raised by these growers are no surprise to the government, but what ought to be of concern to the house is that we have seen an insufficient response to what are now persistent concerns among these growers.

First, growers are no exception when it comes to the experience of this terrible drought. They have suffered through these very dry conditions. In the northern parts of the Hills, many growers are reliant on a water licence and drawing on underground water. There is a practical concern about how that is measured and how the grower is then interacting with the allocation that they have. In too many cases, growers are being met with a shock bill that has resulted from an assessment of water usage. That needs to be gotten to grips with in a practical way so that growers are not taken by surprise and can operate day to day with confidence.

Of course, fruit fly is an issue of major concern to local growers and, just like in so many other areas, growers are determined to get to grips with that in practical ways. We know that in the northern parts of the Hills we are very close to the eastern suburbs, where that built-up suburban area is full of backyards with fruit trees in them. That is one of those challenges of proximity. We have a very sophisticated community of growers who can and will respond effectively to prevent fruit fly damaging their own crops and to manage any outbreaks when they occur. That is going to be an issue of keen interest going forward.

We all know that the government has invested many tens of millions of dollars in ensuring that we are fruit fly free. We ought to also be conscious of the fact that South Australia in its efforts operates as a buffer between Western Australia and the Eastern States in terms of the fruit fly that makes its way east from WA and west from Queensland, New South Wales and in the east. It is a matter of keen concern to growers.

Thirdly, I would highlight the issue of nets and their accessibility to growers—again, a practical concern. The last round of funding had left funds unspent because of the requirement that

growers fund the entirety of the building of frames and nets before they are able to access funds. So we need to do more practically.

Finally, might I just say that it is timely to be raising these matters in circumstances where the Horticulture Coalition of South Australia will launch the horticulture industry blueprint here in the building, in the Old Chamber, this evening at 6pm. I look forward to going along to that event.

SKEWES, MR I.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:17): One of the great things about being involved in public life is that you get the opportunity to meet some wonderful people in our community: people who touch the lives of many and make the world a better place. The late Ian Skewes was one such person. The devastated family of Ian Skewes has discovered how many lives across the state he has touched, after the Gawler and Roseworthy community stalwart died following a short fight against cancer. The funeral held today was attended by hundreds of family members and friends, with standing room only at the Taylor and Forgie Chapel on Adelaide Road, Gawler South.

Born in Adelaide, Ian was adopted by Mr and Mrs Skewes as a baby, but he always recognised them as his parents. A few years ago, almost by accident, he was able to find his biological mother and developed a very strong bond with her as well. Ian passed away on 6 June, aged 67, having learned less than six weeks earlier that metastatic cancer had spread throughout his body.

Ian had a varied working life, commencing with a carpentry apprenticeship, then working in security and later in life joining the South Australian police force. I met Ian when he was elected as a councillor at the Town of Gawler at the same time I was elected as Mayor of the town. It was not easy chairing council meetings when Ian was present, as his one-liners and dad jokes were very distracting—yes, they were funny, but made concentrating on the matters at hand challenging.

Ian loved life and could see the humour in everything. He lived life to the fullest. While Ian loved his police and community work, his true love was his family—his wife, Suzy, daughter Brooke and sons Anthony and Alexander, and later the partners of his children and, of course, the two grandchildren.

Ian was well known for reviving and serving as the chairman of the Gawler Blue Light from 2004 to 2016. It was an event that meant a great deal to his family, and his family had all pitched in. It was painful when the program was cancelled. He also started the SA Nomads Police Softball Club and worked in other community groups, including the Gawler Rangers Baseball Club and the Adelaide Plains Kennel and Obedience Club.

Ian will be remembered for his drive and his enthusiasm, especially encouraging young people through the Gawler Blue Light's camps and leadership programs. The funeral this morning was attended by many who had benefited from Ian's work with young people. A lot of the messages received by the family have been from these kids who are now adults, who have extremely fond memories of the camps they went on and how that impacted their lives and the people they have become today.

At the service today, his family spoke fondly and lovingly about the husband and father Ian was. While he dedicated a great deal of his life to community work, he always found time to care for his family. Many memories were shared at the service, many reflecting Ian's zest for life, his sense of humour and his inability to read a room, with his humour often getting him into trouble.

It was clear at the service that time spent on family camps was treasured by both Ian and his family. The lack of skills never stopped Ian from trying anything, often with disastrous results and embarrassment for the family. He was a real hater of people who would sit back and do nothing. His catchphrase was always, 'Nothing is achieved by doing nothing'. Nothing was impossible for Ian. His humour knew no bounds, so it was not a surprise when he recorded a video message for those who attended his service today. He loved to have the last say, and he did so today but with a wry smile. How can you not love a person who thanks all those attending his service today but says he cannot see us because he is in the box at the front of the service?

It might sound cliché, but Ian was larger than life, the centre of a party and had a real talent for connecting and engaging with people. Everybody felt important when they were around Ian. My condolences go to his family and friends. While Ian lived a full life, it was a life cut too short. Goodbye my friend, or, as he would say, hooroo for now.

ADELAIDE BEACH MANAGEMENT

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:22): I rise today to discuss again the ongoing issue of coastal management and beach management on my stretch of coastline. It has been something that has been an issue for a considerable period of time. It is not anything new to this house.

This time a week or so ago, I was standing here pondering what would be included in the budget. I wanted to see whether there was going to be a clearer understanding for our local community of whether the government was going to prioritise fixing the issues that exist—what was originally, a couple of years ago, largely through West Beach, that in subsequent years has now traversed its way down through Henley Beach South and Henley Beach as well, to the extent that we have seen essentially the level of sand outside iconic venues such as Joe's kiosk literally drop a metre. It is getting to the point now where there are serious issues on our coastline, where significant infrastructure is at risk if the government does not get on and do something about it.

Instead of prioritising that in the budget last week, what we saw is a near 30 per cent reduction in budget measures funding for coastal management. That is not acceptable, by any stretch of the imagination, to see our beaches getting worse. Instead of responding in a way that logically would mean that you increase the funding towards that, or at the very least announce that you had found a new way to address this problem that was going to mean that the reduction in funding made sense, no, the text that was included through the budget measure pointed out that the government would continue with their program of delivering quarry sand into West Beach, as has been the case under this government from the very beginning.

What we have seen, unfortunately, over the last couple of months in particular is a huge reduction in the quality of the sand that is coming in to West Beach. We have had a couple of locals who are very well known to some people in this place, including a man named Alan Young, who does significant work in this area as well as the replanting of dunes through the West Beach area, identify that there has been a significant increase—in his mind and through his testing—of the clay content in the sand that is being delivered. So not only are we seeing sand continue to come in to West Beach but it is sand that is not of the same quality that was coming in just a couple of years ago.

I stand here again in a desperate plea on behalf of my community, asking the government to get on with making a decision on what they are going to do in the longer term in terms of coastal management along our section of coastline, because it is just not good enough to have torn up a contract and to have said, 'We don't like what you guys are doing,' and then do nothing. We are three-plus years into the term of this government. We have had a review. We have had a trial. We have had the results hidden from the community for now upwards of six or seven months.

We have obviously had significant events that have taken place along the coastline since, particularly over the last couple of weekends where we have seen significant erosion. We have seen infrastructure that has, to this point, not been uncovered for significant periods of time, such as large stormwater drain pipes, now significantly exposed along the Henley South section of beach. There are access issues again, not just at the point that we have had over a large period of time but there are now other access points to the beach that have been damaged and degraded: council infrastructure further impacted by the inaction of this government.

It is not good enough at the eleventh hour to turn around and say, 'We are going to do something.' What has happened for the last three-and-a-bit years? Why in the world has it taken this long to do anything? For every bit of hesitation, for every month that has passed by and for every year that has passed by, it takes more to rebuild that beach. It takes a larger effort and it costs more money to fix the problem. It is the delay, the inaction and the contempt with which they have treated my community that is the real crux of the issue here. Again: get on with it, release the results, tell us what you are doing and get on and do something.

THANK A FIRST RESPONDER DAY

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (15:27): Last Wednesday was Thank a First Responder Day. It is a national day of appreciation and a time to acknowledge the dedication and sacrifice of our first responders and their families. Unfortunately, I was suffering the effects of COVID and was not able to get out and celebrate with my first responders, so I thought I would take the time now to show my appreciation.

First responders are a special breed. They are the people who are there when we are at our most vulnerable, whether it be through a car accident, a tree falling on your home, facing an illness or injury that needs a trip to the hospital, or when we need police assistance—and let us not forget when we are staring down the very real threat of a bushfire, or our home is on fire. Whether our first responders wear blue, green, orange or yellow, they wear their hearts on their sleeves, and whether they are paid or volunteer, they are the first people to lend a hand when we really need it.

Locally to Waite, we are cared for by our emergency services. The Sturt and Lofty CFS groups, including Belair, Eden Hills, Blackwood, Coromandel Valley and Cherry Gardens, with backup from the Upper Sturt and Ironbank brigades, are often called to help. These are our neighbours, friends and families: ordinary people doing extraordinary things, often in unfavourable conditions. Whether it be in the scorching sun or the freezing middle of the night, our CFS volunteers are there and I thank them all. While we do not have an MFS station in our community, I know that many of our CFS responders are also MFS employees, and I want to thank them for not only helping us during the day in their day job but also volunteering their time after hours to assist our community.

In Waite we also have two SES units, the Sturt unit and the Metro South unit, and I was very pleased to join them recently at their WOW Day celebrations where they were thanked and honoured. Last week, I had a visit from Jayne and Glen from the Sturt unit, who were out sharing some of the love around our community, and they popped in to deliver some bright orange doughnuts. SES members are highly trained and can assist in many ways, including rescues from heights, when people go missing, when kids fall from their mountain bikes on the tracks, when trees fall and when storms arrive. A big thank you to our volunteers in orange for all that you do.

Also in our community we have the Mitcham Ambulance Station, closely supported by the Edwardstown Station and the Marion Station. We are very lucky to have these true legends so close for when we are at our most vulnerable. I would like to thank our ambos who work so hard today—and today especially, two years since he left us, I remember the times they came to assist my dad towards the end of his life. They were so caring to our family and I can only imagine that experience that we had is echoed across the state every minute of every day. Thank you to our ambos for all that you do in supporting our community.

Another of our first responders who deserve recognition are our police. Our South Australian police officers are quick to respond to our area when things go adrift, whether that is helping at accidents, chasing down the bad guys or helping educate, including our mountain bike riders. The team that spends time keeping an eye on our riders, spending time talking with them, growing the relationship are just wonderful. They come along to our pop-up barbecues, they ride dirt bikes up and down the trails and they hop on trains to remind the kids that they are part of a community that comes with responsibility and respect.

Our police face challenging situations, whether it be in the line of fire or having to visit someone who has lost a loved one. They are the ones who have to break the news and break the hearts and that cannot be easy. Having had that knock on the door, I know firsthand how they must constantly have to look after themselves to ensure that their mental health is intact. They face hard times and I thank them for what they do.

Yesterday was the very first Police Legacy Day and we all donned the purple daisy to honour those who currently serve our community and remember those who are no longer with us. Police Legacy organisations across Australia provide support to police and their families through both heartbreak and healing. I would also like to thank the other support associations that look after all our emergency services: the CFS Foundation, who work so hard to create and support our firefighters; the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation, who look after our MFS; the National

State Emergency Services volunteers, who are there to look after our SES; and the many more unions that also support our emergency service responders.

It is also important to recognise the families of our first responders, the ones who sit at home worrying about their loved ones and in some cases do not get them back or get them back with injury. On Thank a First Responder Day we need to thank them too. It is not easy to see your loved one walk out the door. I know how hard it can be waiting for them to come home. So whilst I missed the day last week, know that I am thankful to our first responders every day. I appreciate you, I see you and I thank you.

EDUCATION STANDARDS

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (15:32): 'Test scores out' read the headline a few weeks ago in an opinion piece written for *The Advertiser* by former Finnish education bureaucrat Pasi Sahlberg. Unless we pay attention, in my view, to test scores and standards, I think we risk failing all our students. I could not disagree with Mr Sahlberg more, with respect.

In particular, we especially place at risk, if we ignore standards, if we do not pay attention to test scores, the students who most need a strong education to lift them up in life. Arguments such as those raised by Mr Sahlberg in education have been present since the time of Jean-Jacques Rousseau before the French Revolution.

The thinking goes that if only the creativity and individuality of a child could be given full expression and dignity, then the teacher would learn as much from the child and vice versa. This brand of thinking in many ways has dominated teacher training in our universities for an extended period of time, during the seventies, eighties, nineties and until quite recently. It is the archetypal cliché of a seventies trope.

It is a type of thinking that is sceptical of having a teacher as the expert in the room explicitly teaching a rigorous knowledge-rich curriculum and instead favours helping children gain skills through their engagement with things that they may already be interested in or care about. That is, of course, quite damaging for a child who does not have a broad expression, a broader set of experiences in life, who may have had fewer books at their home, who may have had fewer opportunities and advantages through their family. Those children, if they are only encouraged to pursue those issues that they know about as a way of engaging them in their studies, are less likely to learn about the world and the things that will benefit them in life.

In recent years, as first South Australia, now followed by the rest of the country, has re-embraced phonics and the science of learning to the teaching of early years literacy, the so-called progressive education movement has resisted politicians and education department officials from focusing too much on standards and test scores, particularly in the domain of literacy.

I remember this well from the four years that I was education minister. I am sure that the current education minister has come up against it as well on occasion—the sense that a focus on literacy and numeracy is somehow diminishing the educational experience of our young people. My view was always that you need to get the basics absolutely right to ensure that students are able to unlock their potential, that they are able to appreciate the opportunities given them through a broad and rich curriculum. Unless a child can read effectively, can decode new words that they have not encountered before, how can they possibly grasp new concepts when they are encountering them in a book?

We hear instead from the progressive education movement, if you like, that you need to shift your focus away from literacy and numeracy and instead have it absolutely focused on wellbeing. Let me be clear: wellbeing is important, but without strong literacy skills a child will be at greater risk of unhappiness and poor wellbeing throughout their schooling and, of course, through the rest of their life.

Moving to best practice—rooted in the science of learning—in the teaching of reading across all of our schools, including a heavy focus on the teaching of phonics, saw South Australia's NAPLAN results in reading improve faster than any other state in Australia between 2018 and 2022, and that is why every jurisdiction in Australia, and the federal Labor Party as well, has now followed our lead. Year 1 Phonics Check data shows that the biggest improvements have been for the most

disadvantaged students, coincidentally the same kids for whom our level of concern about their wellbeing is the greatest.

Ideally, we want all students to be supported in our schools to fulfil their potential, no matter what their background. To ignore standards and the test scores we expect them to achieve, in my view, stifles their potential. It succumbs to the numbing inevitability of low expectations that are therefore going to be met. It is an educational sedative. More than that, it is a betrayal of the opportunity that we expect a good education to give those kids who need it the most. Pasi Sahlberg's article concluded with the following quote:

The Age of Achievement where school's success was judged by test scores, rankings, and data-driven teaching is fading. We are now entering...the Age of Agency, where trust, professional autonomy, and collaboration are becoming the cornerstones...

In my experience, people arguing the hardest for us to ignore the data are usually the ones who do not have any data to back up their argument. We would not accept that approach in any other area of public policy, and we must not accept it in education.

CITY OF ONKAPARINGA PLAYGROUNDS

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (15:37): I rise today on behalf of families right across my electorate of Davenport who are deeply worried about the future of their playgrounds. The City of Onkaparinga is currently reviewing its open space strategy, and one of the most concerning proposals is to increase the minimum distance between home and playgrounds from 500 metres to 1,000 metres. This shift towards a quality over quantity model would see many small, much-loved neighbourhood playgrounds removed over time, simply left to decline and disappear when the equipment ages. That might sound like a minor planning tweak, but for families on the ground, it is a big deal.

For parents juggling school pickups and busy schedules, for families without access to transport, for grandparents helping with care and, of course, for kids who deserve access to outdoor play and connection close to home, it really does matter. And when you think about parents walking from home to a playground, they are not always walking with one child; they are often walking with multiple children, sometimes with a pet also and a pram. You can imagine them walking all the way for one kilometre to get to their local playground only for one of those kids to need to use the bathroom and then having to turn around and walk straight back again. So it is a huge impact on parents.

In my community of Davenport alone, there are 11 playgrounds that have been earmarked for no further renewal, and then once they get to end of life they will be removed altogether. Sites include:

- Fountain Valley Drive and Powell Street in Happy Valley. Fountain Valley is one of the favourite places in our local community for families to go to feed the ducks after school.
- APIC Reserve and The Parkway in Aberfoyle Park, as well as Roxanne Avenue in Aberfoyle Park, which is a huge favourite for families. Families have been lobbying for years to see upgrades in that space to now learn that the equipment that is there now will be removed altogether.
- Mandilla Reserve and Sturt Gorge Recreation Park in Flagstaff Hill, along with many other much-loved playgrounds in my area.

These are not just swings and slides. They are gathering spaces. They are landmarks of childhood. They are where neighbours become friends and where kids learn to take turns, climb higher and dream bigger. Many of the people who have grown up in our neighbourhood remember these playgrounds from when they were kids and are now enjoying taking their kids there themselves. While we welcome investment in larger regional reserves like Serpentine and Flagstaff Park, this must not come at the expense of smaller, accessible local spaces.

What concerns me also is that playgrounds such as Roxanne Avenue playground have had effort put in from the council to look at developing new spaces. They have spent time and money. Many staff at the council have spent days, weeks and months putting effort into what a new design for that playground could look like. They have had quotes on new equipment, they have gone out to

the community and consulted on what they would like there, and they have set an expectation for the community around Roxanne Avenue that they will be getting something new and bright and shiny in the next financial year, now only to learn that actually, no, they will not be receiving an upgrade at all and once that equipment gets to end of life, it will be removed completely.

So as local MPs—myself, alongside the member of Kaurana, the member for Hurtle Vale, the member for Reynell and the federal member for Kingston—we are standing with our communities and calling for a more balanced approach, one that values both quality and accessibility. Bigger does not always mean better, and it certainly does not mean fairer.

I have heard from many residents, particularly older people who rely on nearby playgrounds to spend time with their grandkids, that a walk to the local park is part of their daily rhythm. It helps keep them active, socially connected and able to lend a hand with after-school care.

Not everybody wants to drive to their local playground, and not everybody can drive to their local playground. If we remove these spaces, we are not just removing play equipment, we are removing one of the quiet cornerstones of community life. That is why we have launched a petition and we are urging council to reconsider. We are encouraging every resident who values their local park to make their voices heard, because once these playgrounds are gone they will not come back.

While I am speaking about the importance of community spaces, I want to take an extra moment to celebrate the delivery of a project that shows what is possible when we do invest in our suburbs, not cut them. This is a project that I thank the City of Onkaparinga for partnering with our state government and federal government on, and that is the Hub Gymnastics club and their redevelopment of the Paul Murray Recreation Centre. This was a \$3 million investment from state government and an election commitment of mine at the last election and we will be officially opening that space this weekend with the Premier.

I really encourage locals to come and check out this amazing new facility which is being made available for kids. There are over 700 kids on the waitlist to get in and start enjoying gymnastics and they will be able to do that from this weekend.

Private Members' Statements

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (15:42): We know that the Parklands has been a very contentious issue for the Labor Party, and, in fact, any party of government. It is precious for South Australians, but there is a significant difference between this government and the previous Labor government.

In the previous Labor government, the passionate member for Adelaide, Jane Lomax-Smith, who is now the Lord Mayor, was so passionate about the Parklands that she sought a special exemption from the Labor Party caucus rule that you could not have a different view when it came to the party position on any issue. She was given the ability to express opposition to the proposed grandstand for what was then the Clipsal 500 and she was granted that.

But what was missing in this debate and what is missing today is that the current member for Adelaide obviously has not asked for that exemption because she will be supporting this bill. It is very clear that we have given the member for Adelaide every opportunity to indicate her concern about this bill, but she is obviously supporting it. She will not even explain to her constituents what her view is.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Unley, there is a point of order. I will hold the clock.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: There are two points of order, sir: the member is imputing an improper motive to the member for Adelaide and he is debating and talking about a bill that is before the house.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the first one, I think the actual member has to take offence. The second one I agree with, so I would ask the member for Unley to limit his comments to not cover the bill that is before the house. You are reflecting on that.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: I am actually speaking about the member for Adelaide's attitude towards the Parklands. It is simply not there. There is no passion for the Parklands from the member for Adelaide. That is clear. Despite what she claims in her pamphlets that she sends out to the residents of North Adelaide, that is clear.

Ms O'HANLON (Dunstan) (15:45): It is hard to overstate just how significant this year's AFL Gather Round has been for our local community both in terms of energy and economic impact. The Spendmapp data released by the City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters shows just how significant it is. Across the council area, which incorporates about 85 per cent of the Dunstan electorate, we saw a total spend of \$15.8 million during Gather Round, a 7 per cent increase on last year.

That includes more than \$1.12 million from interstate tourists alone, with visitors from Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland spending big in our local community. Victorians led the way, contributing \$750,000 to our economy. Norwood Oval once again played a central role, hosting two key matches that brought footy fans from across the country to The Parade. The atmosphere was just electric, and our local pubs, cafes and restaurants were bustling—just the way we like it.

I really want to acknowledge the foresight of Premier Peter Malinauskas and the Malinauskas Labor government for investing in major events like Gather Round. This is exactly the kind of smart strategic investment that supports local jobs, energises small business and strengthens South Australia's reputation as a destination for world-class events. I also want to thank the City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters for publishing the Spendmapp data, which gives us a clear picture of just how valuable Gather Round is. For example, hospitality spend across the city jumped from \$3.6 million last year to \$4.6 million this year, a 26 per cent increase.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:46): Yet again, a serious and dangerous incident has taken place in our community that puts mental health back into the spotlight. As the parliament prepares itself for the estimates committees process and we reflect on the budget, I feel that it is really important to summarise where we are at when it comes to government investment in mental health services.

As it stands, we see psychologists join with other allied health professionals in an EBA dispute with the government. Industrial action has been required, and treatment services have been paused. When it comes to the psychiatric workforce, a 10-year report card handed down independent of the government shows that we will have a shortfall of 61 psychiatrists across our state by the year 2027. Of course, when we look at the ratio of patients to psychiatrists in regional South Australia, we continue to be worse off than Mongolia.

The government in its drought relief package three months ago committed—online, you can still find it on the PIRSA website—to an immediate and comprehensive strategy to boost mental health and resilience in our communities. In questioning the minister today for an update on that three months on, because it had not been written yet, we are yet to see that roll out. They had a national Health Ministers' Meeting on Friday. That was a missed opportunity to put mental health front and centre. Of course, the only measure that we see now is a government outsourcing mental health services to our already overworked SAPOL.

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (15:48): The member for Unley seems to have an incredibly short memory. It was only a few years ago that the former Marshall Liberal government was planning to build a basketball stadium on our Parklands. One of the very first things we did when coming into government was restore the full Parklands protection to Helen Mayo Park, protecting those Parklands and trees. We are delivering an extra 1,000 square metres of Parklands as part of the Adelaide Aquatic Centre development.

We are creating 30,000 square metres of accessible Parklands as part of the Women's and Children's development, and, yes, we are investing in our North Adelaide Golf Course to deliver a world-class golf course venue. We are in the business of acting, investing and delivering on accessible Parklands. On Sunday, I had the pleasure to join my local community in opening the second pocket park in our community, which is delivering more open green space and tree canopy for our local community.

I just want to take these last few seconds to thank the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and his department for helping me to deliver an increase in open green space in the Prospect and Ovingham communities, and also to local James Maybank, a passionate Ovingham local who came to me with a vision for the pocket park on that site. I also want to thank all the locals who joined me on Sunday to welcome this new open green space and increase tree canopy in our community.

Parliamentary Procedure

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:50): I move:

That the house at its rising adjourn until Thursday 26 June 2025 at 11am.

Motion carried.

Bills

HARBORS AND NAVIGATION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:50): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Harbors and Navigation Act 1993. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:50): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

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

Leave granted.

I rise to introduce the Harbors and Navigation (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2025 (the Bill). The Bill makes a number of amendments to the *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993* (the Act).

Harbor Rules

Relevant to the Minister's powers under the Act concerning the control and management of harbors in the State, the Bill inserts Division 2AA of Part 5 into the Act to create the ability for the Minister to publish harbor rules in the *Government Gazette*, to assist in the smooth operation of harbors around South Australia. The Minister must also make the harbor rules publicly available on a website maintained by the Minister.

Harbor rules will be tailored to a particular harbor and, for example, will cover matters such as activities that may or may not be undertaken by persons or vessels, the maximum size limits for vessels, the reporting of incidents and hazards and the priority and safety of movement of vessels within a harbor. A maximum Court penalty of \$10,000 is created for failure to comply with a harbor rule. As provided for in the Bill, harbor rules prevail over a council by-law. In the circumstances, the applicable council will be consulted prior to the publication of any harbor rules to minimise the possibility of any inconsistencies arising.

It is not anticipated that rules will be created for all of the 33 harbors around the State, and harbors (or parts of harbors) that are subject to port operating agreements are not in scope. Harbor rules are likely to be developed particularly for harbors where ferry services operate, such as Penneshaw and Cape Jervis. This is intended to assist in the smooth operation of those services.

Safety Direction

The Bill inserts a new section, being section 67A Safety direction, into the Act. Similar to the Minister's powers to issue directions in an emergency, the new section creates powers for the Minister, by notice in the *Government Gazette*, to publish a safety direction. A safety direction will be used where appropriate to ensure the safety of the public, the protection of vessels or other property and the safety of water users and occupiers of land adjoining those waters. This is to manage situations that are not an emergency, but do involve a heightened safety risk.

These notices will operate on a temporary basis and must also be publicly available on a website maintained by the Minister. The notices can impose restrictions, for example, prohibiting swimming or limiting the speed of vessels,

in specified areas within the jurisdiction. It is intended for safety directions to assist in various situations, for example, to limit access to an area where remedial works are being undertaken, or to manage safe access to marine areas when events are taking place, such as regattas.

Introducing the ability for the Minister to publish safety directions, placing temporary restrictions concerning activities on navigable waters in appropriate circumstances, will increase safety for the general boating public and persons undertaking aquatic activities. These changes are intended to create a consistent, effective and orderly approach to managing marine related works, events and non-emergency situations of heightened safety risk.

A maximum Court penalty of \$10,000 is introduced for non-compliance with a safety direction, and a safety direction will prevail over a council by-law. This is necessary to minimise any uncertainty, given a direction is addressing a situation of heightened safety risk.

Declaration of harbors and ports in private ownership

The Bill also provides that a harbor or port established under the Act may include areas that are wholly or partly in private ownership. This amendment seeks to clarify that a harbor may be declared by regulation and a port may be constituted by regulation where private ownership of the land or waters is included, provided the Minister has obtained the agreement of the private owner. The declaration of a harbor or port under the Act does not relate to the tenure or ownership of the land, but rather it is concerned with the regulation of the place, land and waters which fall within the declared harbor and the land and waters constituting a port.

Clearance of wrecks

The Bill clarifies the Minister's powers concerning wrecks in section 25 of the Act. Currently, under the Act, the Minister does not have the express ability to destroy or sink a wreck and recover the costs of doing so.

The amendments make clear that if a person fails to comply with a notice issued under the section to remove a wreck, the Minister or port operator, with the Minister's approval (as applicable), may remove, destroy or sink the wreck and recover the costs of doing so as a debt from the person in default. Taking these actions would ordinarily be a matter of last resort and would likely involve circumstances where a wreck is creating a safety hazard.

Where the Minister is of the opinion that a particular wreck may be of historic significance, the Minister must first consult with the Minister responsible for the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981* prior to acting. Given the passage of time, the maximum Court penalty for failing to comply with a notice under the section has been increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Exclusions from the vesting of maritime property in the Minister

Section 15 of the Act is concerned with the vesting of property in the Minister, including certain structures, such as wharves and jetties, that are situated in a harbor or on adjacent or subjacent land. The section includes that all wharves, docks, jetties and other structures that are situated in a harbor, or outside a harbor, but on adjacent or subjacent land, vest in the Minister. While some exclusions are already provided for, the Bill clarifies that the vesting provisions do not apply to wharves, docks, jetties and other structures in private ownership that were constructed after the commencement of the Act, that is 24 October 1994.

Miscellaneous changes

The Bill makes a number of amendments to the Act to reflect the passage of time and to facilitate the effective operation of the legislation. This includes updating superseded legislation references throughout the Act, clarification changes to the offence provisions in section 66, being powers to prohibit the use of unsafe vessels, and enhancing provisions concerning the Minister's delegation power. The Bill deletes expiation fees for offences throughout the Act. This is to enable the expiation fees for the Act offences to be set out in the regulations, which will ensure that these fees can be updated more efficiently in the future.

I commend the Bill to the Chamber.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993*

3—Amendment of section 10—Annual report

This clause amends section 10(2) to require the Minister to cause copies of the annual report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament within 12 days after receiving it rather than the current 6 days.

4—Amendment of section 11—Delegation

This amendment updates the delegation provision in accordance with modern drafting standards.

5—Amendment of section 15—Property of Crown

Currently, section 15(1) sets out that certain property set out in that subsection is to be vested in the Minister. Subsection (3) lists property to which subsection (1) does not apply. This clause amends subsection (3) to insert a further category of property into the list, being all wharves, docks, jetties and other structures in private ownership that are situated in a harbor or outside a harbor but on adjacent or subjacent land, constructed after the commencement of this Act.

6—Amendment of section 18—Care, control and management of property

This amendment contains a technical amendment.

7—Amendment of section 18A—By-laws

This amendment updates an obsolete reference.

8—Amendment of section 20—Rateability of land

This amendment updates an obsolete reference.

9—Amendment of section 25—Clearance of wrecks etc

The amendments in subclause (1) and (3) update subsection (3) and add a new subsection (3a) to expand the powers of the Minister or the port operator in circumstances where a notice is given to the owner of a wreck to remove a wreck within the jurisdiction. The updated provisions allow the Minister or port operator (as the case may be) to remove the wreck or take the action specified in the notice. It also allows the Minister to sink, destroy or dispose of the wreck. The costs associated with taking such action are recoverable as a debt from the person in default.

The amendment in subclause (2) increases the maximum penalty for the offence in subsection (4) from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Subclause (4) inserts new subsections (6), (7) and (8). Proposed subsection (6) provides that if a wreck within the jurisdiction has no owner, or the Minister cannot, despite making reasonable efforts, identify, locate or contact the owner of a wreck within the jurisdiction, the Minister may remove, destroy or sink the wreck or take any other action the Minister considers appropriate in the circumstances.

Proposed subsection (7) provides that if the Minister is of the opinion that a wreck within the jurisdiction may be of historic significance, then before the Minister agrees to sink, destroy or dispose of the wreck as permitted under this section, the Minister must consult with the Minister responsible for the administration of the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981*.

Proposed subsection (8) provides that a decision, act or omission of the Minister under proposed subsection (3a) or (6) does not give rise to any liability of the Minister to pay damages or compensation to any person.

10—Amendment of section 26—Licences for aquatic activities

This amendment deletes the expiation fee applying in relation to the offence in section 26(2) of the Act, consequent on the proposal to set all expiation fees by regulation.

11—Insertion of Part 5 Division A1

This clause inserts a new Division into Part 5 as follows:

Division A1—Declaration and constitution of harbors and ports

27A—Declaration of harbor over area in private ownership

The proposed section provides that—

- a harbor may be declared in respect of a place, land or waters that is wholly or partly in private ownership; and
- no regulation declaring a harbor or part of a harbor over a place, land or waters that are wholly or partly in private ownership may be made unless the Minister has obtained the agreement of the private owner of the place, land or waters.

27B—Constitution of port comprising land or waters in private ownership

The proposed section provides that—

- land and waters constituted as a port may comprise land or waters that are wholly or partly in private ownership;

- no regulation constituting a port comprising land or waters that are wholly or partly in private ownership may be made unless the Minister has obtained the agreement of the private owner of the land or waters.

12—Amendment of section 28G—Power to appoint manager

This amendment updates an obsolete reference.

13—Insertion of Part 5 Division 2AA

This clause inserts a new Part 5 Division 2AA as follows:

Division 2AA—Harbor rules

29AA—Harbor rules

The proposed section gives power to the Minister to issue harbor rules by notice in the Gazette in relation to the operation of a relevant harbor. *Relevant harbor* is defined as—

- a harbor that is not a port; or
- a part of a harbor that is not within a port; or
- a harbor or part of a harbor that is not subject to a port operating agreement; or
- a harbor that is under the care, control and management of the Minister.

The proposed section further sets out the matters that may be addressed in a harbor rule and the process and requirements for the making, varying or revoking of such rules. An offence with a maximum penalty of \$10,000 applies for contravention of a harbor rule.

14—Amendment of section 30—Dredging or other similar work

This amendment updates an obsolete reference.

15—Amendment of section 30B—Application of *Development Act 1993*

These amendments update obsolete references.

16—Amendment of section 47—Requirement for boat operator's licence, exemption or permit

This amendment deletes the expiation fee applying in relation to the offences in sections 47(3) and (3a) of the Act, consequent on the proposal to set all expiation fees by regulation.

17—Amendment of section 47A—Requirements for operators of hire and drive vessels

This amendment deletes the expiation fee applying in relation to the offences in sections 47A(2) and (3) of the Act, consequent on the proposal to set all expiation fees by regulation.

18—Amendment of section 55—Registration

This amendment deletes the expiation fee applying in relation to the offence in section 55 of the Act, consequent on the proposal to set all expiation fees by regulation.

19—Amendment of section 65—General requirements

This amendment deletes the expiation fee applying in relation to the offence in section 65(2) of the Act, consequent on the proposal to set all expiation fees by regulation.

20—Amendment of section 65A—Requirement to have emergency position indicating radio beacon

This amendment deletes the expiation fee applying in relation to the offence in section 65A(2) of the Act, consequent on the proposal to set all expiation fees by regulation.

21—Amendment of section 66—Power to prohibit use etc of unsafe vessel

The amendment in subclause (1) is of a technical nature. The amendment in subclause (2) makes it an offence with a maximum penalty of \$5,000 applying for an owner or operator of a vessel to fail to comply with an order made under section 66(1).

22—Insertion of section 67A

This clause inserts a new section as follows:

67A—Safety direction

The proposed section provides power for the Minister, by notice in the Gazette, to issue a safety direction, that imposes restrictions in a specified area within the jurisdiction if the Minister considers it appropriate to ensure—

- the safety of the public;
- the protection of vessels or other property; or
- the safety of users of waters within the specified area or occupiers of land adjoining those waters.

The proposed section further sets out the matters that may or must be addressed in a safety direction. It is an offence with a maximum penalty of \$10,000 for a person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with a safety direction.

23—Amendment of section 75—Casualties to be reported

This amendment deletes the expiation fee applying in relation to the offence in section 75(3) of the Act, consequent on the proposal to set all expiation fees by regulation.

24—Amendment of section 91—Regulations and fee notices

This clause amends the regulation making power in the Act to allow for the regulations to set expiation fees not exceeding \$5,000 for alleged offences against the Act or the regulations.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Cowdrey.

Parliamentary Procedure

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:51): I move without notice:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable the house to sit beyond midnight.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: An absolute majority not being present, please ring the bells.

An absolute majority of the whole number of members being present:

Motion carried.

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (15:53): I move:

That the time allotted for all remaining stages of the North Adelaide Public Golf Course Bill be until 5pm.

Motion carried.

Bills

NORTH ADELAIDE PUBLIC GOLF COURSE BILL

Committee Stage

In committee.

(Continued from 17 June 2025.)

Clause 19 passed.

Remaining clauses (20 to 31) passed.

Title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (15:55): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would you like to speak to that?

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any other speakers?

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (15:55): I have resolved, after a good night having slept on this bill having seen it yesterday, that I intend to oppose its passage at this stage. It may be a bit tardy. It may have been a decision I should have reached yesterday. But having slept on it now, I have decided that I will oppose the bill at the third reading. The primary reason, in fact the only reason, is my inspiration for running for parliament in the first place was because I was sick and tired of seeing the city getting the lion's share of the investment from government, seeing redevelopments being done in the city, seeing improved facilities offered to city folk while we are left out in the cold.

As I see it, this golf course, which is located squarely in North Adelaide, will benefit the North Adelaide Golf Course and those people who can play regularly there, but it will leave us out in the cold with no improvements offered to us. So I have been seeking a pathway from government, as little as assistance or guidance but all the way up to an investment of funding, to try to make the Port Hughes golf course a completed project. I would like to think that that would be something that could have been included in this initiative. It would have been something that I would have pushed for if I had an opportunity to investigate this bill fully prior to its being presented to parliament, but it is certainly something that I think should have been considered and offered as a part of this redevelopment.

It is something that has been offered as part of other sporting initiatives that we have had around the state in recent years. As I have mentioned in my second reading speech, Gather Round is a tremendous example of how that benefit can be spread across the entirety of South Australia. We have Mount Barker with a new oval precinct, there is a new one in the Barossa, and these are communities that have benefited from the wonderful sporting events that have been attracted to our regions. So, I am going to oppose the bill on the grounds that it is a localised benefit for the City of Adelaide and there is no flow-on benefit for us in regional South Australia.

I undertake now in this place on the record that I will continue to work with the people at The Dunes Golf Course, of which I have to admit and disclose that I am a sponsor and member, but I will continue to work with them. The general manager, Rohan Bock, and the committee and all those people who do a wonderful job in keeping that course up and running for those of us who like to play there regularly, I intend to do as best I can to ensure that that course gets finished. Now is the time to do it.

Now is the time to do it: the property developer is conducting the next stage of the residential works in the not too distant future; we have Greg Norman and LIV Golf here conducting their work redeveloping the North Adelaide Golf Course, where the expertise and the experience and the corporate knowledge will be here to help; and now is the time to strike to make sure The Dunes gets finished.

So, on that basis that I would like to see more benefit for regional South Australia, primarily and particularly in my electorate, and primarily and particularly The Dunes golf course, I am going to oppose this bill at the third reading. I look forward to seeing how the vote plays out.

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:58): Look, the government has used its numbers today in the house to guillotine debate, to gag—

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order, sir: the member is reflecting on a vote of the house, a vote which he did not oppose.

Mr Cowdrey interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: You did not oppose it. There was no contest. You cannot say to the house that we forced this when you voted for it.

Mr Cowdrey interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: How can you? Did you vote against it?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr COWDREY: The minister is keen on semantics today, and let that be the case.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Colton, just hold up, please. I do not uphold the point of order, only because—

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni: It was not a point of order. He was not on his feet. He did not call a point of order. He interjected; you responded to an interjection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Unley will leave the chamber for 15 minutes.

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni: You are responding to an interjection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Unley will leave the chamber for 30 minutes for responding, and if you talk on the way out I will name you.

The honourable member for Unley having withdrawn from the chamber:

Mr COWDREY: I will move on.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me finish ruling.

Mr COWDREY: I will move on, sir.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, we will move on, then.

Mr COWDREY: Let's end this farce. We had the government come in here last sitting day and put a bill on the table, with no prior warning for the members of the crossbench—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Colton, the purpose of a third reading is to make comments on what is said in the committee stage. You must restrict your comments to that. Yes, you can read the book; that is what it says.

Mr COWDREY: I think you need to consult my contribution during the committee stage, sir, because I certainly touched on this during it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I suggest you be careful how far you wander? Go ahead.

Mr COWDREY: I think it is very evident, unfortunately, that the government has let their numbers go to their head in this instance. We have seen them put a bill on the table with next to no consultation, a bill that provides near unfettered powers to a yet to be determined minister. The minister responsible for this particular bill could not tell us who that was going to be; every answer that was provided during the committee stage of this debate was, 'Just trust us.'

During the committee stage we also heard admissions by the minister, despite his best efforts in saying this was not a bargaining chip in negotiations with the Adelaide City Council—no, it was a 'strong tool' in negotiations. That was the description, or near thereof, by the minister, and it was 'not a threat; it was an opportunity for the council'.

It is very clear, and the leader of the Liberal Party has made it very clear for everyone in South Australia, that the Liberal Party supports LIV Golf. We support LIV Golf in the city. But we do not support a bill rushed into this house to give unfettered powers to a yet to be determined minister. Go back to the drawing board, draft a bill that is considered and gives at least some semblance of checks and balances, introduce it to this parliament and we will support it.

The government knows that the vast majority of this parliament supports LIV Golf. The government knows that the vast majority of this parliament supports LIV Golf in the city. But it did not choose a path that was considered, it did not choose a path that was sensible—it chose a path where it could flex its muscles and show everybody who is in charge. Well, guess what? At a point in time there do have to be some grown-ups in the room.

If the minister had walked into this chamber and said, 'We have been in negotiations with the Adelaide City Council. Those negotiations have hit an impasse; they have hit a wall. We have irreconcilable differences in terms of things that we simply can't agree to,' then sure, come in here, introduce a bill of similar nature with some checks and balances, and we will get on and support it. But that is not what the minister has said.

He has said that all of the negotiations to this point have been helpful, have been fruitful, have been congenial, have been working in the same direction together. Apart from some loose reference to the fact that he has had 17 meetings over I do not know what timeframe, he still to this stage of debate has not been able to articulate to this place why this needed to be done yesterday.

In fact, it did not because we are here today and the government moved an adjournment to debate last night when we could have continued to debate the bill. But they did not. This is arrogance at its finest, and this parliament—not just the Liberal Party but clearly at least one member of the crossbench—will not stand for it.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:04): I am not sure why the member for Colton is so emotional about this. I am not sure what has happened in the last few days and weeks that has got him so agitated. I do not know if it is the Labor Party preselecting a candidate in the seat of Colton.

Mr Telfer interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for member for Flinders—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Move points of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please! If people want to stay in the chamber, I suggest they use the proper standing orders. If you have a point of order, stand up and move that. If you do not, I suggest you keep your views to yourself. The member for Flinders, the minister is commenting on comments made by the member for Colton. Given the member for Colton's comments, I assume, were reflecting on the debate in the second reading committee, the minister's comments are appropriate to respond.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: There are a lot of tired and emotional people in the chamber. It seems to me that the reflections on the debate have been hypocritical. The government passed a resolution just recently, which was supported unanimously by the house. There were no objecting voices at all, and then the first thing that comes out of the member for Colton's mouth is that they object to the limitation of debate. It just was not true. It is simply not true. I do not know how he can say that, knowing that all the comments are recorded, the votes are videoed, people can see exactly what happened. There was not a single dissenting voice—not one—yet the first words to come out of his mouth are that we are ramming this down people's throats.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Dissent—you are allowed to dissent. You are allowed to vote against it. There are no rules against voting against motions or procedures in the parliament. The idea that it is arrogant to use the parliament—this is a house of democracy. Everything we do here is in the open. It is recorded. We broadcast it. There are no secret meetings in parliament. They are all done in the open.

This is simply a childish tantrum. That is all it is, a childish tantrum. The childish tantrums continue, whether they target individual members of the government or whether they get up and blatantly say things that they know not to be true. It just shows you that members opposite are not fit to govern. They have not got their house in order. They are complaining about the government upgrading a golf course that already exists on public land. I bet you they are going to vote for the bill.

Mr Teague interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Good. Then vote against the guillotine. Why did you not?

Mr Teague interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Why did you not vote against it? Again, I do not know if they taught this at Bond University or not, but the truth is, when the government allocated time for this debate, if members opposite thought it was not long enough, they could have voted against it. Did they object? No, none of them.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: You can laugh all you like, the records do not change. I have to say they agreed with the time allocated.

Mr Teague: Silence is not acceptance. I was subjected to 15 of these in one day. Just sitting here and seeing this belligerence is extraordinary.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Heysen, I made it very clear about interrupting the speaker.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: It is interesting saying things like 'belligerence' while yelling across the chamber at someone while they are making a contribution. Who is being belligerent? Who is it? Who is the bully? Who is the one who just yells out—if you don't agree with me, I will just scream at you, if you don't just do what I want, I will scream at you? It is probably why you were removed as Speaker by your own colleagues, because of the impartiality that was just not there. If you do not agree with him, he will just yell at you. If you do not do what he says, he will just yell at you. If you do not agree with his worldview, he will just yell at you. What a great way to govern! Typical, is it not? He has no argument against it. We will see how they vote. We will see if they have the courage to get up and vote against bringing LIV Golf into the city.

The house divided on the third reading:

Ayes25
Noes.....15
Majority10

AYES

Andrews, S.E.	Boyer, B.I.	Champion, N.D.
Clancy, N.P.	Close, S.E.	Cook, N.F.
Dighton, A.E.	Fulbrook, J.P.	Hildyard, K.A.
Hood, L.P.	Hughes, E.J.	Hutchesson, C.L.
Koutsantonis, A.	Malinauskas, P.B.	Michaels, A.
Mullighan, S.C.	Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)	O'Hanlon, C.C.
Pearce, R.K.	Picton, C.J.	Savvas, O.M.
Stinson, J.M.	Szakacs, J.K.	Thompson, E.L.
Wortley, D.J.		

NOES

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

PAIRS

Brown, M.E.	Tarzia, V.A.
Bettison, Z.L.	Hurn, A.M.

Third reading thus carried; bill passed.

BIODIVERSITY BILL

Final Stages

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

Schedule of the amendments made by the Legislative Council

No. 1. Clause 3, page 16, line 38 [clause 3(1), definition of *infrastructure*, (d)]—Delete paragraph (d)

No. 2. Clause 3, page 21, line 3 [clause 3(1), definition of *SEB policy*—Delete '175(4)(c)' and substitute '175(4a)(a)']

No. 3. Clause 3, page 21, lines 14 to 18 [clause 3(1), definitions of *social infrastructure* and *social services*—Delete the definitions of social infrastructure and social services

No. 4. Clause 7, page 24, after line 36—After paragraph (c) insert:

(ca) to promote halting and reversing biodiversity loss; and

No. 5. Clause 7, page 24, after line 39—After paragraph (d) insert:

(da) to ensure that biodiversity management takes into account the importance of biodiversity in addressing climate change; and

No. 6. Clause 15, page 29, lines 22 and 23 [clause 15(5)]—

Delete 'may instead recommend for appointment to the Council any person who the Minister considers has the required skills, knowledge or experience' and substitute:

must request that the body nominate a panel of 3 persons or a panel of 3 different persons (as the case requires)

No. 7. Clause 15, page 29, after line 23—After subclause (5) insert:

(5a) If, after the Minister makes a request under subsection (5), the body fails to nominate a panel, or the Minister considers that none of the 3 persons on a panel nominated has the required skills, knowledge or experience, the Minister may instead recommend for appointment to the Council any person who the Minister considers has the required skills, knowledge or experience.

No. 8. Clause 16, page 29, line 40 [clause 16(d)]—Delete paragraph (d) and substitute:

(d) to make the SEB policy and a biodiversity policy relating to environmental benefit credits and to provide advice in relation to other biodiversity policies;

No. 9. Clause 16, page 30, line 2 [clause 16(f)]—Delete 'and the SEB policy'

No. 10. Clause 25, page 33, lines 2 to 4 [clause 25(1)]—Delete subclause (1) and substitute:

(1) The primary function of the Scientific Committee is to make final listing decisions and provisional listings in respect of the designated lists.

No. 11. Clause 25, page 33, lines 11 and 12 [clause 25(2)(c)]—Delete paragraph (c) and substitute:

(c) to review and provide advice on nominations and assessments in relation to listing decisions under Part 6;

No. 12. Clause 73, page 59, after line 31—After subclause (2) insert:

(3) Before recommending eligibility criteria to be prescribed for the purposes of subsection (1), the Minister must consult with the Scientific Committee on the proposed criteria.

No. 13. Clause 75, page 60, line 6—

Delete 'The Minister may make a *listing decision* in respect of a designated list, being' and substitute:

For the purposes of this Part, a *listing decision* in respect of a designated list is

No. 14. Clause 76, page 60, line 22 [clause 76(2)]—Delete 'decision' and substitute 'assessment'

No. 15. Clause 76, page 60, after line 30—After subclause (3) insert:

(3a) Before the Minister rejects a nomination, the Minister must seek the advice of the Scientific Committee.

No. 16. Clause 76, page 61, after line 4—After subclause (6) insert:

(6a) After the Minister has complied with subsection (6), the Minister must refer the preliminary listing decision to the Scientific Committee for a final listing decision.

No. 17. Clause 76, page 61, line 5 [clause 76(7)]—Delete 'Minister' and substitute 'Scientific Committee'

No. 18. Clause 76, page 61, line 5 [clause 76(7)]—After 'decision' insert 'in accordance with any requirements prescribed by the regulations and'

No. 19. Clause 76, page 61, lines 7 to 13 [clause 76(8) and (9)]—Delete subclauses (8) and (9) and substitute:

- (8) Before the Scientific Committee makes a final listing decision, the Scientific Committee must consider any submissions received in relation to the preliminary listing decision, insofar as the submissions relate to biodiversity conservation.

- (9) The Scientific Committee must cause a statement of reasons for the final listing decision to be published on the Biodiversity Register.

No. 20. Clause 77, page 61, line 18 [clause 77(1)]—After 'Minister' insert 'and the Scientific Committee'

No. 21. Clause 78, page 61, line 31 [clause 78(1)]—Delete 'Minister' and substitute 'Scientific Committee'

No. 22. Clause 78, page 61, line 34 [clause 78(1)(a)]—Delete 'Minister' and substitute 'Scientific Committee'

No. 23. Clause 78, page 61, line 36 [clause 78(1)(b)]—Delete 'Minister' and substitute 'Scientific Committee'

No. 24. Clause 78, page 61, line 39 [clause 78(1)(c)]—Delete 'Minister' and substitute 'Scientific Committee'

No. 25. Clause 78, page 62, line 3 [clause 78(1)(d)]—Delete 'Minister' and substitute 'Scientific Committee'

No. 26. Clause 84, page 65, line 6 [clause 84(4)]—Delete 'a listing decision under' and substitute 'the making of a final listing decision of a kind referred to in'

No. 27. Clause 100, page 74, after line 19—After subclause (2) insert:

- (2a) If the Minister appoints an officer of a local council to be an authorised officer under this Act, the Minister must reimburse the local council for any reasonable costs incurred by the local council in connection with the appointment.

No. 28. Clause 175, page 123, line 40 [clause 175(1)]—After 'Act' insert:

(other than policies relating to the matters referred to in subsection (4a))

No. 29. Clause 175, page 124, line 1 [clause 175(2)]—Delete 'The Minister' and substitute 'A designated entity'

No. 30. Clause 175, page 124, line 15 [clause 175(4)(c)]—Delete paragraph (c)

No. 31. Clause 175, page 124, line 16 [clause 175(4)(d)]—Delete paragraph (d)

No. 32. Clause 175, page 124, after line 21—After subclause (4) insert:

- (4a) The Council must make a biodiversity policy relating to each of the following:

- (a) significant environmental benefits (the *SEB policy*);
(b) environmental benefit credits.

No. 33. Clause 175, page 125, lines 1 and 2 [clause 175(8)]—Delete subclause (8) and substitute:

- (8) Before making the SEB policy, the Council must refer the proposed policy to the Minister and take into account any advice provided by the Minister.

No. 34. Clause 175, page 125, line 4 [clause 175(9)(a)]—Delete 'Minister' and substitute 'designated entity'

No. 35. Clause 175, page 125, line 5 [clause 175(9)(b)]—Delete 'Minister' and substitute 'designated entity'

No. 36. Clause 175, page 125, line 8 [clause 175(9)(b)(i)]—Delete 'Minister' and substitute 'designated entity'

No. 37. Clause 175, page 125, line 10 [clause 175(9)(b)(ii)]—Delete 'Minister' and substitute 'designated entity'

No. 38. Clause 175, page 125, line 11 [clause 175(9)(c)]—Delete 'Minister' and substitute 'designated entity'

No. 39. Clause 175, page 125, line 13 [clause 175(9)(d)]—Delete 'Minister' and substitute 'designated entity'

No. 40. Clause 175, page 125, line 15 [clause 175(9)(d)]—Delete 'Minister' and substitute 'designated entity'

No. 41. Clause 175, page 125, line 16 [clause 175(9)(d)]—After 'it' insert ', or causing it to be published,'

No. 42. Clause 175, page 125, line 17 [clause 175(10)]—Delete 'the Minister' and substitute 'a designated entity'

No. 43. Clause 175, page 125, line 18 [clause 175(10)]—After 'made' insert 'by the designated entity'

No. 44. Clause 175, page 125, line 20 [clause 175(11)]—Delete 'The Minister' and substitute 'A designated entity'

No. 45. Clause 175, page 125, line 24 [clause 175(13)]—Delete 'The Minister' and substitute 'A designated entity'

No. 46. Clause 175, page 125, line 24 [clause 175(13)]—After 'policy' insert 'made by the designated entity'

No. 47. Clause 175, page 125, after line 26 [clause 175(14)]—Before the definition of *minor amendment* insert:

designated entity means—

- (a) in relation to a policy referred to in subsection (4a)—the Council; or
- (b) in any other case—the Minister;

No. 48. Schedule 1, page 131, after line 34 [Schedule 1 clause 1]—After subclause (1) insert:

- (1a) The plan or plans deposited under subclause (1) must define the regulated clearance area so that it constitutes the area to which the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* applies at the time the plan is, or plans are, deposited.

No. 49. Schedule 1, page 131, after line 40 [Schedule 1 clause 1]—After subclause (4) insert:

- (4a) Before varying the Regulated Clearance Area Plan, the Minister must undertake public consultation on the proposed variation in the manner the Minister considers appropriate for a period of at least 30 days.

No. 50. Schedule 1, page 132, after line 2 [Schedule 1 clause 1]—After subclause (5) insert:

- (5a) A notice referred to in subclause (4) must operate so that the instrument referred to in that subclause takes effect at least 4 months after the notice is made.

No. 51. Schedule 2, page 133, after line 7 [Schedule 2 clause 1]—After the definition of *forest vegetation* insert '*infrastructure* includes social infrastructure;'

No. 52. Schedule 2, page 133, after line 21 [Schedule 2 clause 1]—After the definition of *SAMFS* insert:

social infrastructure means buildings or areas that facilitate the delivery of social services;

social services include health services, disability services, aged care, childcare, education, justice and emergency services, arts and culture, sport and recreation, social housing and any other service provided for community benefit.

No. 53. Schedule 2, page 145, lines 33 and 34 [Schedule 2 clause 29(1)]—Delete subclause (1)

No. 54. Schedule 2, page 145, lines 35 and 36 [Schedule 2 clause 29(2)]—Delete 'that is not pastoral land'

No. 55. Schedule 2, page 146, lines 1 and 2 [Schedule 2 clause 29(3)]—Delete 'that is not pastoral land'

No. 56. Schedule 5, page 173, after line 19—After Part 29 insert:

Part 29A—Amendment of State Development Coordination and Facilitation Act 2025

95A—Amendment of section 19—Interpretation

- (1) Section 19(1), definition of *protected area*, (e)—delete '*and Wildlife*'
- (2) Section 19(1), definition of *protected area*, (f)—delete '*heritage agreement under section 23 of the Native Vegetation Act 1991*' and substitute:

biodiversity agreement under the *Biodiversity Act 2025*

95B—Amendment of Schedule 1—Designated Acts

- (1) Schedule 1—after the item relating to the *Aquaculture Act 2001* insert:
Biodiversity Act 2025;
- (2) Schedule 1—delete the item relating to the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*

Schedule of the suggested amendments made by the Legislative Council

No. 1 Clause 98, page 72, line 1 [clause 98(7)]—After '*biodiversity agreement*' insert:

(the original agreement)

No. 2 Clause 98, page 72, line 2 [clause 98(7)]—Delete '*biodiversity agreement*' and substitute '*original agreement*'

No. 3 Clause 98, page 72, line 7 [clause 98(7)]—Delete '*biodiversity agreement applied*' and substitute:

original agreement applied that, in the opinion of the Council, offers the same or more protection for biodiversity on the land than the original agreement

Consideration in committee.

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

That the Legislative Council's amendments and suggested amendments be agreed to.

Motion carried.

DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT (BREEDER REFORMS) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

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

No. 1. New clauses, page 10, after line 25—Insert:

24A—Amendment of section 47—Court's power to make orders in criminal proceedings

Section 47(3), penalty provision—delete '\$5,000.' and substitute '\$10,000.'

24B—Insertion of Part 5 Division 2

After section 47 insert:

Division 2—Directions relating to management of dogs

48—Authorised officers may give directions

- (1) An authorised officer may, by notice in writing, give a person who owns or is responsible for the control of a dog or dogs such directions as the authorised officer considers necessary or appropriate—
 - (a) to prevent the commission of an offence against Division 1, or any other offence prescribed by the regulations; or
 - (b) to prevent or manage behaviour of the dog or dogs that would, if the behaviour continues or is repeated, constitute grounds on which an order under Division 3 may be made.
- (2) Without limiting the matters that may be the subject of a direction under this section, a direction may require a person to take, or to cease, such action as may be specified in the direction.
- (3) A direction under this section—
 - (a) must be made in the manner and form required by the Board; and
 - (b) must be recorded by the authorised officer in a manner and form approved by the Board; and
 - (c) takes effect when the authorised officer first gives the written notice to the person; and
 - (d) may be conditional or unconditional; and
 - (e) may relate to 1 or more dogs; and
 - (f) must comply with any other requirements set out in the regulations.
- (4) A direction under this section may be revoked by an authorised officer by written notice to the person to whom the direction was given.
- (5) A person who contravenes a direction under this section is guilty of an offence.
Maximum penalty: \$5,000.
Expiation fee: \$500.
- (6) If a direction under this section is contravened, an authorised officer, or a person authorised by the relevant council for the purpose, may take any action required under the direction.
- (7) The reasonable costs and expenses incurred in taking action under subsection (6) may be recovered by the relevant council as a debt from the person who contravened the direction.

No. 2. Clause 26, page 10, line 36 to page 11, line 5—Delete clause 26 and substitute:

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

- (1) Section 51(a)(ii)—delete 'in circumstances that would constitute an offence against this Act' and substitute:
(whether or not actual injury is caused)
- (2) Section 51(b)(i)(B)—delete ', in circumstances that would constitute an offence against this or any other Act' and substitute:
(whether or not actual injury is caused)
- (3) Section 51(c)(i)(B)—delete ', in circumstances that would constitute an offence against this or any other Act' and substitute:
(whether or not actual injury is caused)
- (4) Section 51(d)(i)(B)—delete ', in circumstances that would constitute an offence against this or any other Act' and substitute:
(whether or not actual injury is caused)
- (5) Section 51(e)(ii)—delete 'noise by barking or otherwise in circumstances that would constitute an offence against this or any other Act' and substitute:
an unreasonable amount of noise by barking
- (6) Section 51—after paragraph (e) insert:
or
(f) in the case of a Control (Wandering Dog) Order—
 - (i) the dog has, on at least 3 occasions, wandered at large; or
 - (ii) the dog is subject to an order made under a law of another jurisdiction that corresponds with a Control (Wandering Dog) Order.
- (7) Section 51—after its present contents (now to be designated as subsection (1)) insert:
 - (2) To avoid doubt, a council or the Board may make an order in relation to a dog under this Division—
 - (a) whether or not a person has been charged with an offence against this or any other Act in relation to the behaviour of the dog to which the order relates; or
 - (b) in circumstances where a person has been charged with an offence against this or any other Act in relation to the behaviour of the dog to which the order relates but is found not guilty of the offence (except where the court has made a finding that the dog did not, in fact, engage in the behaviour to which the order relates).

No. 3. New clauses, page 11, after line 5—Insert:

26A—Repeal of section 53

Section 53—delete the section

26B—Amendment of section 54—Application of orders and directions

- (1) Heading to section 54—delete 'and directions'
- (2) Section 54(3)—delete subsection (3)

No. 4. New clause, page 11, after line 23—Insert:

29A—Insertion of Part 5 Division 3AA

After section 59 insert:

Division 3AA—Control (Barking Dogs on Premises) Order

59AA—Control (Barking Dogs on Premises) Order

- (1) A council or the Board may, in accordance with this Division, make a Control (Barking Dogs on Premises) Order in relation to specified premises.

- (2) A Control (Barking Dogs on Premises) Order requires—
 - (a) all reasonable steps to be taken to prevent any dogs on the premises repeating the behaviour that gave rise to the order; and
 - (b) any dogs on the premises or each occupier of the premises or both to undertake such approved training courses as may be specified in the order.
- (3) A council or the Board may make a Control (Barking Dogs on Premises) Order if satisfied that—
 - (a) 1 or more dogs on the premises are a nuisance; and
 - (b) 1 or more dogs on the premises has created noise by barking or otherwise in circumstances that would constitute an offence against this or any other Act.
- (4) In making a Control (Barking Dogs on Premises) Order, it is not necessary for the council or Board to—
 - (a) be satisfied that more than 1 dog on the relevant premises is creating or has created the noise; or
 - (b) identify a particular dog on the relevant premises that is creating or has created the noise; or
 - (c) if more than 1 dog on the relevant premises is creating or has created the noise—apportion an amount of noise to each dog.
- (5) A Control (Barking Dogs on Premises) Order binds each occupier of the premises subject to the order.

59AB—Procedure for making and revoking orders

- (1) A council or the Board may make an order under this Division on its own initiative or on an application made in a manner and form determined by the council or the Board (as the case requires).
- (2) Before making an order under this Division, the council or the Board (as the case requires) must give the occupier of the premises at least 7 days written notice—
 - (a) setting out the terms of the proposed order; and
 - (b) inviting the occupier to make submissions to the council or the Board in respect of the matter within 7 days or such longer period as is allowed by the council or the Board (as the case requires).
- (3) An order made by a council—
 - (a) must be made in the manner and form required by the Board; and
 - (b) must be recorded by the council in a manner and form approved by the Board; and
 - (c) takes effect when the council first gives a copy of the order to the occupier of the premises to which the order relates.
- (4) An order made by a council may be revoked by the council by written notice to the occupier of the premises to which the order relates.
- (5) A note of the revocation must be entered in the register kept by the council under this Act.
- (6) An order made by the Board—
 - (a) takes effect when the Board first gives a copy of the order to the occupier of the premises to which the order relates; and
 - (b) may be revoked by the Board by written notice to the occupier of the premises to which the order relates; and
 - (c) must be recorded in a manner and form determined by the Board.

59AC—Contravention of order

- (1) If a Control (Barking Dogs on Premises) Order is contravened, each occupier of the premises subject to the order is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: \$2,500.

Expiation fee: \$500.

- (2) It is a defence to a charge of an offence against this section if it is proved that the defendant was not, at the time of the alleged offence, aware that the order was in force.

No. 5. Clause 32, page 13, after line 7 [clause 32, after inserted paragraph (g)]—Insert:

- (ga) if the dog is kept at premises that are the subject of a Control (Barking Dogs on Premises) Order under Part 5 Division 3AA and the authorised person reasonably suspects that an occupier of the premises has contravened the order;

No. 6. Clause 35, page 13, lines 34 to 37—Delete clause 35 and substitute:

35—Substitution of section 63

Section 63—delete section 63 and substitute:

63—Power to destroy cats

- (1) A person may lawfully destroy or injure a cat in the following circumstances:
- (a) if the person is performing functions under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* or the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* and the cat is in a reserve or sanctuary (within the meaning of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*) or a wilderness protection area or zone (within the meaning of the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*);
 - (b) if the person is performing functions under the *Crown Land Management Act 2009* and the cat is found in an area in respect of which the person is authorised to exercise powers under that Act;
 - (c) if the person is performing functions under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* and the cat is found while the person is performing those functions;
 - (d) if the person is the owner or occupier of a designated area, or a person authorised for the purpose by the owner or occupier of a designated area and the cat is found in the designated area;
 - (e) if the cat is found in a place that is more than the prescribed distance from any genuine place of residence (not including a place owned or occupied by the person);
 - (f) if—
 - (i) the cat is unidentified; and
 - (ii) the person—
 - (A) is a veterinarian acting in the ordinary course of their profession; or
 - (B) is acting for or on behalf of 1 of the following bodies or persons in respect of a cat that has been delivered to a facility operated by the person or body:
 - the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (South Australia) Incorporated;
 - the Animal Welfare League of South Australia, Incorporated;
 - a body or person specified by the regulations;
 - (g) any other circumstances prescribed by the regulations.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), an authorised person may lawfully destroy or injure a cat in the circumstances prescribed by the regulations.
- (3) Nothing in this section limits the operation of section 65 of the *Animal Welfare Act 2025*.

- (4) The Governor may, by proclamation made on the recommendation of the Board, declare land to be a designated area for the purposes of this section.
- (5) A proclamation under this section may be varied or revoked by further proclamation made on the recommendation of the Board.
- (6) In this section—
prescribed distance, from a place of residence, means—
 - (a) if the regulations prescribe a distance for the purposes of this paragraph—that distance; or
 - (b) if the regulations do not prescribe a distance for the purposes of this paragraph—1 kilometre.

No. 7. Clause 37, page 14, lines 4 to 8—Delete clause 37 and substitute:

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

- (1) Section 64D(3), definition of *prescribed person*, (b), (c) and (d)—delete the paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) and substitute:
 - (b) a person performing functions under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972, the Wilderness Protection Act 1992, the Crown Land Management Act 2009 or the Landscape South Australia Act 2019; or
- (2) Section 64D(3), definition of *prescribed person*, (f)—delete 'registered veterinary surgeon' and substitute 'veterinarian'

No. 8. Clause 38, page 15, after line 12 [clause 38, inserted section 69]—Insert:

- (1a) The Board must, before publishing or adopting, or varying or revoking, standards and guidelines under subsection (1)—
 - (a) call for public submissions in accordance with a scheme determined by the Board; and
 - (b) have regard to any submissions received during the period specified in the scheme; and
 - (c) undertake such other consultation as may be required by the regulations.

No. 9. Clause 39, page 21, after line 15—Insert:

- (1) Section 72(4), definition of *reviewable decision*, (a)—delete 'or 3A' and substitute ', 3AA or 3A'

No. 10. New clause, page 22, after line 14—Insert:

40A—Amendment of section 81A—Interference with dog or cat in lawful custody

Section 81A, penalty provision—delete '\$5,000.' and substitute '\$10,000.'

No. 11. Clause 45, page 23, after line 24 [clause 45, inserted section 88]—Insert:

- (aa) a specified animal was a dog or cat (as the case requires); or

Consideration in committee.

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

That the Legislative Council's amendments be agreed to.

Motion carried.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (HERITAGE) BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

APPROPRIATION BILL 2025

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 17 June 2025.)

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (16:18): I rise to continue my remarks from yesterday. Our 2025-26 state budget is also delivering targeted relief for students, families and small businesses because we understand that cost of living is at the forefront of the minds of many South Australians. We have permanently reduced the price of a student 28-day Metrocard from \$28.60 to \$10.00. This will occur from 1 July. This means that a local student in my community catching public transport to and from school every day will pay just 25¢ per trip, saving families up to \$240 per year, per child.

This is in addition to savings for South Australian families with the continuation of a \$200 reduction in the schools materials and services charge, and the recent doubling of the schools Sports Vouchers program to two times \$100 vouchers per school-aged child from reception to year 9. These measures could save a family with two children up to \$1,280 per year. Our Sports Vouchers Plus program is not just a cost-of-living measure, but one that also encourages our kids off screens to keep fit, active and connected to our community.

We also expanded the program recently to include music lessons, building on other extracurricular activities we have added in the past, including dance, Scouts and Girl Guides. I know as a kid learning piano how important that was, as well as sport. It gave you an opportunity when you got home from school to jump on the piano and practise your music. It was a really great way of coming down from the day, reflecting on the day, almost like a form of meditation for kids. Whether it is music, whether it is sport or swimming lessons, Girl Guides or Scouts, this program is not just saving families money from their wallets, but also making sure that we are contributing to really well-rounded kids that are spending time with their peer groups and connecting with their community.

We want the best for our kids and we also want the safest communities in which to raise them, and everyone in our state does have a right to feel safe. That is why the Malinauskas Labor government is making generational investments to strengthen our frontline services, improve infrastructure and introduce nation-leading reforms. We are delivering long-term solutions to keep our communities safe now and into the future, and the 2025-26 state budget will deliver almost \$400 million in measures designed to strengthen our police, the justice system, and correctional services.

Some of these measures include recruiting an extra 326 sworn officers to increase our force to a record 5,000 sworn officers by 2030-31. I think we all agree our police commissioner does an incredible job leading our police force to keep our state safe, and we are backing him in order to do that. We are doubling SAPOL's motorcycle capacity to patrol and enforce traffic laws, and respond to incidents and emergencies in our community. Motorcycle officers are an integral part of providing a really agile response to emergency management and critical incidents, while also supporting and promoting positive road safety outcomes, which I know is very welcome in my community. Due to their mobility and compact size, they can kind of weave through traffic for rapid responses to emergencies, as well as for traffic control duties.

We are investing in our courts to process more cases and reduce delays, including \$20 million to upgrade our justice and court facilities, and we are building 116 new prison beds and boosting prison security, helping to combat contraband and improve overall safety. These measures are building on our strong legislative agenda, including developing the toughest knife laws in the nation and expanding police search powers to crack down on sex offenders. Just last week we also proposed new laws that will give police greater powers to crack down on street gangs in South Australia, allowing authorities to deal with them in a similar way to outlaw motorcycle gangs.

We also know that we are a small business state and that they are the engine room of our economy. Small businesses account for 98 per cent of all businesses in South Australia. That's around 150,000 small businesses employing more than 300,000 people and generating more than \$49 billion in revenue. We understand that energy is a major challenge in whether a small or medium business in South Australia can grow, and that is why we are supporting small and medium businesses with our \$20 million investment in the 2025-26 Powering Business Grants. It will support eligible South Australian small and medium businesses and not-for-profit organisations to invest in energy-efficient equipment or improvements to reduce and manage energy use and cut costs. Our

businesses will be able to apply for a grant ranging from \$2,500 to \$75,000, subject to meeting eligibility requirements.

This builds on a very successful rollout of small business energy efficiency grants in the previous financial year, 2024-25, which supported more than 1,000 South Australian small businesses and not-for-profit organisations, including the Prospect Broadview Bowling Club, which received a grant to help them purchase new solar panels and batteries and which has made a significant difference to this wonderful sporting and community club within my and the member for Enfield's community.

Applications for this round of the Powering Business Grants will be opened in July 2025, with businesses able to register their interest in the meantime, so I very much encourage businesses and not-for-profits in my community to do that and it will provide financial assistance to invest in energy efficiency equipment, or improvements to reduce and manage their energy costs. These targeted measures, combined with easing inflation, and falling interest rates, will go a long way to help our community with tackling cost-of-living pressures.

Following the commonwealth government selecting Adelaide as its preferred city to host the COP31 Climate Change Conference—should our country win hosting rights—we have also invested within the budget \$8 million in early works, including significant planning for security and infrastructure. We know that this is one of the world's biggest summits, which would be held in November 2026. We believe that Adelaide, our beautiful city, has the capacity and the capability to play home to this significant United Nations event.

Such an event would see tens of thousands of people travel to our beautiful city, with a potential economic benefit back to our state of more than \$500 million. We see this investment as an opportunity to enhance our worldwide reputation and to build off our global lead in decarbonisation. We already have 75 per cent of our energy coming from renewable sources, with a target of net 100 per cent renewables by 2027. So I very much support this budget investment which builds on the progress we have made since coming into government and I look forward to, hopefully, our hosting that very exciting event in November 2026.

Health is an area I am particularly passionate about. My family has seen how important our health system is, particularly as a regional family who spent a lot of time in Adelaide at the old Royal Adelaide Hospital accessing cancer treatment. We know that to invest in our health facilities is so incredibly important for people all across our state. I am very proud that a further \$1.9 billion over five years has been invested in our health system to meet growing demand for services and improve our facilities and roll out new models of care and support for the community.

In fact, if you look at the last four budgets, we have invested an additional \$9 billion in our state's health system and, in particular, an important area of that is in the area of mental health, and that investment has included more than 130 new mental health beds that have been brought online across South Australia. An important part of mental health is making sure that we can reduce those emergency department presentations, particularly around mental health, because we understand that that is not always the best place for somebody experiencing mental health challenges. So a part of our new investment is \$13.9 million over five years is to support a program called the Mental Health Co-Responder program in northern and central Adelaide and then expanding the program into southern Adelaide.

That program pairs a police officer with a mental health clinician, so when you are responding to a triple zero call-out which is related to mental health you have that expertise by your side when you are dealing with that call-out. We understand that that has prevented around 2,500 emergency department presentations since its establishment. So not only is it making sure that we have people with expertise to deal with somebody who is experiencing mental health challenges but it also means it is taking pressure off our emergency department system as well. We believe that expansion into southern Adelaide is expected to prevent a further 800 emergency department presentations.

Another way in which we can ensure we can divert more people away from emergency departments is to make sure that they have access to other support, in particular using the resources we have, like our pharmacies. We also have \$2.2 million over three years to support the implementation of community pharmacies and expand their scope of practice, which will enable

South Australians to attend a local pharmacy for assessment and treatment for a range of conditions, really using the expertise of our pharmacists.

I am also very passionate about the arts sector in our state. My electorate really is the beating heart of arts and culture in South Australia, so \$13 million over four years for our arts and cultural policy, A Place to Create, is very welcome. I have had some fabulous feedback in our community in regard to this investment and focus. One of the areas I was particularly proud about—whilst it might not be in my electorate, it is in my home region of the South-East—was \$3.9 million over three years for essential upgrades to our regional arts centres in Whyalla, Port Pirie, Mount Gambier and Renmark.

It was in Mount Gambier at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre that my real love of music and the arts was fostered, whether it was participating in the piano eisteddfods at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre or watching my very first theatre production, Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, at Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre. You did not have access a lot to the arts, being a country kid, so those experiences were just so incredible and I will never forget them. I am very proud that our government is investing in these really important regional art centres.

It is quite remarkable that, just last year, almost 120,000 people attended more than 1,800 events at these four centres, with almost 14,500 people actually on stage and a further 2,300 people backstage. It is wonderful to see not just the people who are experiencing arts and culture in the audience but the people who actually get to be on the stage or backstage and be a part of the excitement and joy that you get out of being in the arts and culture industry.

In regard to housing, the Southwark Master Plan development is very exciting. Whilst on the border of my electorate, it will deliver significant housing into inner metropolitan Adelaide, up to 1,300 dwellings, including 20 per cent affordable housing. Another element of this project that perhaps does not get as much attention is there will be more than 15 per cent new public open space to revitalise that city fringe, expanding on that green space along the river and near the West End Brewery site.

It will be incredibly important because we know that we see increases in density in our city but we need to match that with open green space, as I was speaking about earlier. That is why I am very proud to have delivered those two new pocket parks in our community, because it is about identifying spaces where we can add more open green space and tree canopy to our community so that people who may choose to live in higher density areas can still access open green space and trees nearby.

Another exciting initiative is the Rent-To-Buy Affordable Housing Initiative, with 100 properties under construction as part of the Affordable Housing Initiative allocated to the rent-to-buy scheme for up to three years. These properties will initially be rented out to eligible households at 75 per cent of market rent, with renters pre-qualified and intending to purchase the property at the end of the lease.

So whether it is community safety or whether it is cost of living, huge investments in our health system and also in arts and culture as well as in our regions and housing, we do understand the key needs of people in our community. I am very proud that the 2025-26 state budget is speaking to those priorities. With those comments, I commend this bill to the house.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (16:34): I am pleased to have the opportunity to respond to the 2025-26 state budget. I want to particularly commend the Leader of the Opposition, Vincent Tarzia, for what I thought was an excellent budget response yesterday. It did not just highlight the failures that we see evident in the budget—a diminishing surplus year on year from \$458 million in operating surplus down to \$179 million, that the year just gone has had its surplus cut from an expected \$248 million down to just \$18 million—the Leader of the Opposition did not just highlight the extraordinary record \$48 billion debt, which is double that in the 2021 budget prior to the Labor Party coming to government, nor the impact of that debt being nearly \$7 million in day interest payments, an extraordinary achievement in the negative sense by this Labor government.

It is natural for any opposition to highlight these failures of governance and failures of prudent management of the public finances, and he did that very well. However, he also outlined some clear,

new paths forward that would improve the outcomes for people in South Australia. Some of the policy initiatives were very important.

I know that my family is one amongst thousands, if not tens of thousands, of families who would share with the Leader of the Opposition the experience of trying to get a GP appointment after 5pm on a weeknight or on a Sunday morning, only to find that very few GPs operate at such hours. The Liberal initiative to have a two year trial program sponsoring GP surgeries to remain open in those hours will be welcomed by thousands of families across South Australia. We urge the government to take up this suggestion, of course, but if they will not we will.

The Leader of the Opposition highlighted the Liberal policy to give first home buyers seeking to enter the housing market, to have a home of their own, the opportunity to have a head start, if you like, against the developers, against the people with large investments, by removing stamp duty for first home owners. So many of them, so many of those families, are telling us, when we are at their doorsteps, that they are unable to even get a foot in the door of their first home. The Premier responded to that yesterday, slamming the proposal and suggesting it was only going to be an advantage to the sellers of houses. I think that is nonsense; the Premier has his head completely in the clouds if he thinks that is going to be the impact.

What I see when I have talked to people who wish to be first home buyers is that they attend open after open after open only to find that they are priced out of the market by people paying cash for properties or by people who are not looking to buy a home to live in but to make money out of it. This Liberal policy will give those first home buyers a leg up; it gives them an advantage against those people they are competing with. I suspect it will not change the sale price of properties very much; however, it will give those first home buyers an opportunity to be in the mix.

It was a good speech. It highlighted a better way forward for the people of South Australia to consider a Liberal way forward, rooted in Liberal values and with strong Liberal policies articulated, and I him for that.

One of the things I noticed, as the member for Morialta, when the budget was read out just under two weeks ago was that despite the record debt, despite the significant deficits, despite the failure of the government to meet its election commitments—the promise to fix ramping having long gone by the wayside, and the promised hydrogen power plant having been abandoned; it was supposed to be producing electricity less than a year from now, and after the expenditure of tens of millions of dollars it is now in the dust as well—despite these broken promises and these significant debts, it was a disappointing budget that did not even provide any of the significant responses that we need in my electorate of Morialta.

There are longstanding issues such as the urgent need to improve the intersections of Moules Road, St Bernards Road and Arthur Street. That had no attention at all. This is an issue that is becoming increasingly problematic, and not just because of the longstanding urban infill in the Rostrevor and Magill area which the government is now seeking to further extend as a result of its desire to have housing in the old Magill campus site. That will presumably be a few years away yet if their proposal goes through—nevertheless, it is on its way.

There is also high school on that intersection that currently has just under 600 students. It is growing year on year with an intake of 200 students every year. It will have 1,200 students within three years. The growth in population—the school population in the area alone has doubled in the last 15 years—highlights the urgent need for attention to that intersection. The Liberal Party has promised synchronised lights at Moules Road and Arthur Street, moving the existing pedestrian crossing—nothing from the government. It is disappointing.

Equally, in Highbury, whether residents live near the Hope Valley Reservoir and Elliston Reserve or on the Highbury Aqueduct Reserve or near Silverlake Reserve, all of which have been decimated by the loss of pine trees as a result of giant pine scale infestation, those bodies that own that land—SA Water; the environment department; Tea Tree Gully Council, operating one of those reserves on behalf of state government—need to have a budget for replanting, for a restoration of amenity. That was not delivered here either—disappointing budget. I say, as member for Morialta and a South Australian, South Australians deserve better and I commend the Leader of the Opposition for his response.

In the budget appropriation of many billions of dollars, one of the appropriations is for a relatively modest sum of money for the History Trust of South Australia. Its operations are tremendously important, and I would like to use the remainder of my time today making some reflections on the History Trust of South Australia, as it is indeed a government appropriation.

The History Trust of South Australia, conceived by then arts minister, Murray Hill, in 1980 under Premier David Tonkin, was announced as a concept on Proclamation Day 1980. The legislation was written and indeed passed through the parliament, both chambers, within six months. It is now in its 45th year, and I particularly note that in the last decade the History Trust of South Australia has grown and matured, developed and delivered for South Australia.

In achieving that, I commend all of the board members, all of the staff, all of the volunteers and indeed donors of the History Trust, but I particularly note the stewardship of Chair Elizabeth Ho OAM and Chief Executive Greg Mackie OAM, who have led the trust throughout this period and who are now at the end of that period of service. I note and commend the Minister for Education, who shares my regard for the importance of this work and for the service that Elizabeth and Greg have provided our state. He hosted the Trust board for dinner in this building last night. I am grateful for the opportunity to drop in and say hello and mark their significant contributions. It was a most appropriate tribute. I am sure the minister would agree with the comments I proposed to make about them today.

I also commend the appointments of their replacements. Michael Neale is now the chair of the Trust and Justyna Jochym is the new chief executive. I know Michael well enough to say that he is an outstanding appointment. I have only met Justyna once, but from what I have seen and what I have heard and what I have read, I am extremely optimistic that she will also prove to be so. I look forward to seeing the way that Michael and Justyna make their own mark on this organisation for the benefit of the South Australian community in the years ahead. But on this occasion I particularly want to take a few minutes to acknowledge the service of Elizabeth Ho and Greg Mackie.

First, some context. Some people may not be familiar with the History Trust. It is almost uniquely South Australian, a standalone statutory authority responsible for maintaining the state's historical collection, separate from the South Australian Museum, from the art Gallery, from the State Library, and supporting the understanding of history in South Australia. It is supported by recurrent government funding, hence my discussion in the Appropriation Bill, and it generates its own philanthropic support to enhance its work. It is responsible for three of South Australia's key collecting institutions: the Maritime Museum, the Migration Museum and the National Motor Museum. It runs the Centre for Democracy in the Institute Building in the State Library. It is responsible for History Month, a remarkable festival that brings together annually hundreds and hundreds of South Australian institutions and businesses and councils and individuals, large and small, community and business, to celebrate all things South Australian history.

I said before that the growth in the impact of the History Trust has been significant over the last decade. In all of its activities it now reaches more students with its educational programs, more South Australians with its community outreach work and more community groups, history groups and other museums with curatorial support and grant funding than ever before. It fulfils its mantra that the History Trust seeks to give the past a future now.

All of the museums have seen improvements, some of which I was proud to be associated with as minister. The impact of their individual community education programs has also grown. In the context of the Appropriation Bill, I highlight that each of these museums, through the History Trust, has further suggestions for government for future works that could be considered favourably.

Perhaps nowhere has the growth and ambition and achievement been more pronounced than in the growth of the History Festival. It began in 2004—sir, you would remember—as History Week. It had dozens of events. Now, it is History Month in May, with more than 100,000 South Australians involved in attending at least one event every year. It began with several dozen events in 2021; in my last year as minister there were 620 events in every corner of the state.

I recall Greg Mackie encouraging me to go to a History Festival event in Farina. If any of the members present have not been to Farina or do not know where it is, I encourage you to book a

weekend there and see how it feels. It was tremendous that the people were able to look at the history of Farina and present an event there, which was no small undertaking.

I have always valued the History Trust and the History Festival. Their work helps bring us to a better understanding and appreciation of what it is to be a South Australian in the 21st century. Knowing where we come from informs us of where we are and who we are and, indeed, encourages us and inspires us and educates us to do better in where we are going. This is a mission I always felt was shared keenly by Elizabeth and Greg, and it was through their efforts and the efforts of the teams they led so well that this work has gone so well. For the record, I wish to share a couple of comments about each in turn.

Elizabeth Ho OAM had nine years as Chair of the History Trust. I am sure the minister would have sought her reappointment if it was not against the law to do so after nine years; she expired her term limit. Elizabeth Ho did an arts degree with honours in history at the University of Adelaide, along with professional library studies. She was the first newsletter editor for the Historical Society of South Australia. She was a Jubilee 150 education officer. She was the Mortlock Library Manager, looking after the state heritage holdings, and later Deputy Director of the State Library and a State Heritage Authority member. For 14 years she served as the inaugural Director of the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre at the University of South Australia.

As Chair of the History Trust, her stewardship spanned a range of achievements of which I will just list a few:

- the growth of the History Festival I spoke about earlier;
- the establishment of the Centre of Democracy;
- the shift from Arts to Education of the History Trust within machinery of government, and the full realisation of the opportunities for improved partnerships with schools and young people that that provided.

I know that was something that former Premier Steven Marshall was incredibly eager to see realised, hence his decision to shift the History Trust from Arts to Education, and it was something that was ably undertaken by some excellent public servants not just within the History Trust but also within Education: Rick Persse as the chief executive and Dr Peta Smith and the other people within external relations who did such great work.

Elizabeth led a major restructure of the organisation, along with Greg Mackie, restructuring the organisation for the future but managing to do so with no redundancies. She also led capital improvements and major maintenance programs for the National Motor Museum and the Migration Museum, and the increased profile overall of the History Trust, enabling it to better fulfil its mission.

Elizabeth is committed to history, to cultural capital, to humanities and to universities. In closing remarks at this year's History Festival, Elizabeth said of herself—I quote her, to be clear—that she might:

...be approaching fossil status—but we history tragics are hard to kill off. We live in a permanent state of curiosity and wonder and we believe in our discipline. We know that our society needs history to make sense of our times and to give us meaning.

She concluded that speech by saying, and again I quote:

Those who do remember the past—and choose to engage with it—can shape a future that's wiser, richer and fairer. Our young people need better access to this understanding. So let's all work to give the past a future now!

Elizabeth Ho has given service in spades to this state, and we are grateful to her. I am sure all members of the house would agree.

In the minutes remaining, I turn to Greg Mackie. Greg Mackie OAM is a cultural connoisseur, arts supremo, historical steward and Macks Factor—I hope Greg appreciates me saying that last part in the parliament. Greg's contribution to South Australia's cultural landscape over many decades has been profound, from Imprints Bookshop to Arts SA and many things beyond and in between. I will narrow the scope of my remarks today to the role he played as Chief Executive of the History

Trust, a role that is to conclude in about 10 days, and in particular the value-add that he has offered the organisation over that time.

Greg provided leadership for the History Trust over a decade and managed to be both stable and innovative, responding to some pretty extraordinary circumstances but ensuring the trust was always in a position to take advantage of any opportunities that presented. His achievements included, and this also is by no means an exhaustive list:

- pulling off that excellent restructure with minimal pain, as I mentioned before when referring to Elizabeth Ho's work.
- the half-million-dollar solar power upgrade for the National Motor Museum;
- the \$6.3 million upgrade of the Migration Museum, which has led to the commencement of master planning for the future, worthy of all of our consideration; and
- contributing to the development of the plans for and leadership within the work of delivering the Cultural Institutions Storage Facility.

It is a very important facility, an \$80 million project announced in 2021. We were hoping it would be operational by now, as indeed were all of our cultural collections facilities. Perhaps I should have worked harder when I was the minister and had the opportunity to give Greg a greater role in that, and we might be enjoying its work now. At any rate, he did important work in establishing the ground rules for it, and in the future our state is going to significantly benefit from that important work undertaken by Greg and all of the other people involved in that project.

I hesitate to mention the back-and-forth of the proposal to move the History Trust into Ayers House because I know it is a sore point for a number of people, but I feel like, in the context of these remarks, there are two points very much worth making, without commenting either way on the merits of the proposal.

First, had the former government's proposal gone ahead, I could not be more confident in saying that the History Trust under Greg and his team would have done an outstanding job as stewards of that important building. Secondly, with the new government having been elected with a clear mandate to go down a different path, retaining Ayers House in the ownership of the National Trust, Greg did do a marvellous job in stewarding the History Trust, its organisation, its members, its staff, into a different, positive future. It is in the best traditions of the Public Service that someone in a role like Greg's will work with whichever government the people of South Australia have elected to implement government policy in a way that best serves not just the government's policy but also the community's interests.

The History Trust and the National Trust have now signed a memorandum of cooperation and collaboration. I acknowledge the important work done by Greg and Elizabeth, along with the new leadership group within the National Trust, in enabling that to take place. Indeed, in the years ahead, I am very excited—already it has significantly begun—the number of National Trust-led events within the History Festival will return, and is now returning, to previous levels.

I will just finish with a few other highlights that had global news reach, as befitting Greg's and Elizabeth's statue. I commend Greg for his role in 2019 in the centenary of the Great Air Race and the epic flight of the Smith brothers. It was a year of festivities, film and community education and celebration, led by Lainie Anderson, with support from Greg and the team, which ultimately, amongst many other things, led to the \$7 million project our famous Vickers Vimy into its new home within the precinct of Adelaide Airport.

If you have not done, I encourage all members to do themselves a favour: next time you are in Adelaide Airport, put aside an extra 20 minutes and go and visit the Vickers Vimy, see what has been achieved through the collaboration of the Airport, the federal government and the state government. The South Australian government committed \$2 million dollars to that project, with particular curatorial support from the History Trust. It is a tremendous project.

There are people in aviation who talk about the Vickers Vimy, the first plane that went across the world, from England to Australia, in the same breath as they talk about the Wright Flyer. All South Australia should be very proud of that achievement. They are proud of the achievements of

the Smith brothers, and it is now presented in a way that looks after the needs of the plane not only to ensure it will last forever—or at least as long as these things can—but so that people can appreciate it.

Secondly, during the term of this government, Greg was instrumental in leading the History Trust's acquisition of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, the bus from the film which is now being restored and which is destined to shine brightly forever as a feature of the National Motor Museum up at Birdwood. Greg would not forgive me if I did not mention that there is an appeal available for anyone who is interested to support the restoration of that important bus.

Finally, the gift of the Flinders coffin plate. Matthew Flinders' coffin was discovered in the archaeological works for HS2 trainline recently. That plate was recently presented to Her Excellency the Governor and is now back in South Australia under the care of the History Trust. Thank you and congratulations to Elizabeth Ho and Greg Mackie on their service to South Australia.

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (16:54): I rise in support of the Appropriation Bill. I am really excited about many of the initiatives that are included in the 2025-26 budget and I would like to thank the Treasurer and his team for all the work that they have put into this budget.

There are so many items that I would like to talk about, but I will start with new loos at the Coromandel Valley Primary School. I have visited the school on numerous occasions and also took the minister there to have a look, and we were affronted by the condition of one of the school's toilet blocks—affronted mainly by the smell. The school has tried everything to try to rectify the smell coming from the boys' loos but nothing has worked, so I was very glad to be able to ring the principal, Rob Warncken, to let him know that the school has been funded to have those toilets replaced.

Coromandel Valley Primary School is one of the most popular in the Mitcham Hills and I am very happy that we have been able to get behind them and support them with this budget. Last night, their governing council joined me here in Parliament House for their meeting where we talked about the loos—not specifically—and also road safety and OSHC, and we were also joined by the Minister for Education to talk through some of their concerns. It was really lovely to have them here.

Staying on schools, I was really pleased to see the investment in lowering the cost of public transport for our kids. What a fantastic idea to get more kids on our buses and trains while at the same time helping families with cost-of-living pressures. If a child is to catch a bus or train to and from school every day, their fare is reduced to 25¢ a trip. From there, I know many of our young people use trains and buses on the weekends and at other times, so they are lowering that price per trip even more. With a monthly Metrocard now costing only \$10 for students, it is a huge support.

Not only does it make financial sense to put your kids on public transport but it helps in lots of other ways as well. It provides them with a sense of independence. As a young person, I caught the bus to and from school most days and I actually enjoyed it—well, maybe looking back on it with rose-coloured glasses I enjoyed it because I am sure there were plenty of days where perhaps I did not, but in general the memories are good. It gave me time for gossip on the way to school and debriefing on the way home with other students who caught the bus, and I can honestly say that it strengthened friendships. Now, as a 50 year old, I really only keep in contact with the girls I caught the bus with, so there is something in that.

Putting our kids on buses and trains also helps reduce traffic congestion. It is obvious that this is an outcome, as our main roads during school holidays show a marked drop in traffic. Even if 50 per cent of traffic is reduced by parents putting their kids on public transport, this keeps parents off the roads in peak hour and will make a big difference. Of course, fewer cars on the roads results in lower emissions, which is good for the environment.

As a side note, the 196/195 route that winds its way down the new Belair Road is now a much smoother ride with the completion of the retaining wall works helping to stabilise the road—work that was ignored previously and is now complete. From Windy Point down to Springbank Road, the road has been completely resurfaced and it is absolutely a smooth ride. I was very pleased to see three pull-out areas for our bike riders added to the works after I advocated for them. It is a challenging road to ride, but with limited other options, providing these bitumenised pull-out areas allows bikes to pull out to let bike riders rest and also to let cars go past, making it safer for our riders.

Cost-of-living relief continues for our families with the continuation of \$200 off the materials and services charge and the \$200 sports voucher scheme. These are excellent initiatives that help families. The sports voucher scheme is especially well received. As the member for Waite, I am acutely aware of just how active our community is, with kids playing sport all over the community on weekends and after school, and to be able to either have \$100 off a summer and a winter sport or \$200 off one of those sports does make it easier for families to be able to get their kids into sport. A special call-out to the Coromandel Valley Ramblers, who not only lower their fees so that the voucher covers the cost but also fundraise through various programs to meet the residual costs for all the juniors, making cricket truly accessible for all.

Still on our young people, I was very pleased to see the additional funding to Embrace Kids: \$1.5 million over a four-year commitment to support positive body image campaigns for young people. Earlier this year, I attended the Embrace Kids Symposium where I heard all about how their program was making real change, as well as the exciting plans they have to educate more of our kids and have them embrace their bodies. I was very pleased to meet Dr Zali Yager, along with past Australian of the Year Taryn Brumfitt, to hear about their funding challenges. I took the opportunity to introduce them to our Assistant Minister for Junior Sport Participation, and I am so pleased that through her hard work this outcome was reached.

The boost in this year's state budget will go towards rolling out Embrace programs that help young people build positive body image, develop resilience and reduce the risk of mental health issues and eating disorders, as well as increase participation in sport and learning. There is no denying the true and exciting impact this program is having and I am glad that we are continuing to support them.

Whilst we are talking about bodies, I was very pleased to hear about the \$300,000-a-year commitment from the Malinauskas Labor government, which will see more than 140 dispensers providing free pads and tampons installed in all our TAFE SA buildings in the female, unisex and disabled bathrooms on campuses across the state.

As the Chair of the Select Committee into Endometriosis, this is an excellent commitment, as we know that periods can impact students, causing them to miss class, whether it is because they have been caught out without the necessary pads and tampons, they cannot afford them, or they are impacted by very real symptoms of heavy flow suffered by our endo warriors. In previous years, we rolled this initiative out across our public schools and it is great to see it now in our TAFEs. I am hopeful that in the future our universities will also see this program as beneficial.

Back to public transport: I was pleased to see the investment of \$9.6 million in public transport safety with the establishment of the Transit Compliance Team with 19 new officers, increasing the total number of prescribed officers to around 200, which will ensure our trains and buses are a safer journey, with afternoon security patrols expanded across Adelaide's south, outer north and outer north-east bus networks, and ongoing presence of security officers on evening train and tram services, as well as new AI cameras at key stations and interchanges to detect antisocial behaviour and alert patrol teams. I know many in my community will be very pleased to see this rollout on our trains and more specifically, as we do have issues from time to time with antisocial behaviour.

Last year, I received many emails about the Koala Rescue Hospital and the incredible work that they do in caring for our wildlife and specifically our koalas. The two koala rescue services in my community, 1300KOALAZ and Koala Rescue, who do an incredible job at rescuing and rehabilitating our koalas, were very pleased with the news that the state budget included an investment of \$1.4 million over four years to support the Adelaide Koala and Wildlife Centre.

I recently visited the centre and met with some of the incredibly cute babies, including Sakura who was very excited with the attention. Our wildlife carers are true heroes and not just our koala rescuers but more broadly. A few weeks back, I was very pleased to join the Deputy Premier at the SOWFI annual picnic in the Belair National Park. Members and carers of the Save Our Wildlife Foundation are incredible. They look after our smallest pieces of fluff, such as little possums, up to some of our larger birds and kangaroos. They can be up multiple times a night to feed the babies and invest so much of their own time and money into looking after the animals.

Often the animals need veterinary care and as a part of this budget we are investing a further \$6.2 million to support conservation and the volunteer wildlife rescue and rehabilitation sector, including a new grants program to allow carers to access the vital veterinary services they need. I am so pleased that the budget is providing support to these carers and our wildlife, and a big thank you to the member for Badcoe and the Deputy Premier who worked hard to save our Koala Hospital.

As a CFS member, I was glad to hear about the investments in the budget to support our first responders with \$5.9 million to improve structural firefighting. Our CFS firefighters train hard and, in regard to structural firefighting, attend two different training sessions. This funding will go towards the employment of additional trainers with equipment delivered locally, as well as upgrades to training facilities. This is incredibly important to ensure our fires have all the training and equipment they need to attack structure fires, which can be the most dangerous with not only the threat of collapse of buildings but the toxic fumes that are released and the sheer heat that is emitted.

A reminder to everyone that, with the cooler months coming along, clean your flues and make sure that your fireplace is well serviced. We know in the winter months it can be dangerous, and structural fires can start because of dirty flues and also open fireplaces that have not been well maintained. So I encourage people to make sure that they check their fireplaces. I also remind people to check heaters and electrical heaters, making sure that they are not under curtains or near bedding. Make sure heating equipment is installed by qualified tradespeople and that manufacturers' instructions are followed. Of course, let's not forget electric blankets and remembering to switch them off when they are not in use.

In addition to this funding, something that is equally important to my community is our investment in improved bushfire mapping based on automated modelling for likely bushfire impacts. A \$2.8 million investment is well received. Knowing the terrain and how to attack a bushfire is absolutely time sensitive when a fire starts, especially in dense bush like we have in Waite. Having every piece of available information assists our firefighters to make informed decisions as to how and where to attack the fire. I am pleased we are supporting the CFS to carry out this important work.

Our SES did not miss out, though, with a \$2 million investment over four years for ongoing replacement of remotely piloted aircraft—drones—used by the State Emergency Service to provide reconnaissance, intelligence gathering and hazard assessments at incidents. Having witnessed the work that the SES do firsthand not only during storms but when they are called in for search and rescue, drones make sense. Being able to check the local area, especially in hard-to-reach areas, will assist them with this work. It is a good investment and I give a special call-out to the SES crews who help our community, both the Sturt unit and the Metro South.

Having just celebrated Thank a First Responder Day last week, a big thank you to all our first responders for the work that they do in supporting, assisting and educating our community. Speaking of first responders, this budget continues to invest in our health system. I was pleased to see the co-responder program will now be rolled out in the south. The state budget provides \$13.9 million over five years to continue and expand the Mental Health Co-Responder program.

Established under Labor in 2022 as a trial, the co-responder program pairs a mental health clinician with a police officer to respond to mental health 000 callouts. So far the co-responder model has prevented 2,472 ED presentations, and it is expected the expansion into the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network will further prevent approximately 800 more ED presentations a year. By teaming police officers with mental health clinicians, we are making sure individuals in crisis get the appropriate care when they need it the most. This often means helping people remain safely in their homes and connected to mental health services, avoiding unnecessary hospital visits that can add to their distress.

We are supporting our police as well, with this budget providing a funding boost of \$172 million over six years to increase the number of sworn officers by 326 by 2030-31 to reach the record target of 5,000 sworn officers. As well, a further \$29.6 million will fund an increase of 98 police security officers by 2028-29 to allow more sworn police officers to return to frontline duties. The budget investment will also enable an additional 33 sworn police officers to undertake motorcycle policing duties. These measures, as well as many more, will see South Australia continue in the right direction. I commend the bill to the house.

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (17:06): I rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation Bill. A pre-election budget is a good opportunity for a government to signal its priorities, its priorities for all South Australians. We can have a look at this budget and consider what the priorities are. Is it cost of living, with the price of everything from our groceries to utilities skyrocketing? Is that the priority of this budget? No, absolutely not. Instead, you have the Liberal opposition championing genuine cost-of-living relief through measures like scrapping Labor's GP payroll tax grab, reversing Labor's water bill hikes, and easing the cost of doing business by scrapping payroll tax for small business as well.

Is housing the big issue that is the priority of this budget, given that we live in the sixth least affordable city in the world in which to buy a home? On average, it takes 12 years to save for a deposit, I understand. We have the least affordable rental market in the world. Is that the priority? No. The government says there is nothing more that can possibly be done when it comes to housing. Instead, it is left to the Liberal opposition to keep the dream of home ownership alive for young South Australians, announcing in our budget reply yesterday a new important measure that will see stamp duty scrapped for first-home buyers.

This means first-home buyers on properties up to \$1 million will not have to pay any stamp duty at all, saving them tens of thousands of dollars. As a young person, I know how difficult it is to save for your first home deposit. It takes many, many years, lots of scrimping and saving, and that is just to get the deposit, let alone having to pay tens of thousands of dollars to the government in stamp duty. What we want to do is give those first-home buyers a leg-up, give them tens of thousands of dollars more that they can put towards that deposit for their first home because the dream of home ownership should not be a fantasy for my generation, for the generations that come after mine.

We can keep that dream alive by ensuring that housing is affordable in South Australia. We are going to have a lot to say on that, really launching that debate and leading that debate with our really important policy of removing stamp duty for first-home buyers. It will save young people tens of thousands of dollars as they save for a deposit for their first home. But it is not the priority of this government.

What about health? We might remember before the last election, only a few years ago, that was the apparent priority. It was a question of priorities. They told us that they would fix the ramping crisis. They told us to vote like our life depends on it. What have we seen since then? Well, 36 of the worst months of ramping in the history of the state. What we have seen since then is 140,000 hours lost on the ramp under the Malinauskas Labor government, the equivalent of about 16 years.

Is health a priority in this budget? No, it is not. Again, it is left to the Liberal opposition to announce policies, like we did yesterday, of investing in primary health care to ensure that GPs can stay open for extended hours. I think it is going to be a really important measure for people in my local community—perhaps families who might not be able to attend during working hours—to access primary health care at a time when they need it most: on a weekend or perhaps after hours. It would be really great for them. Importantly, it will also take a lot of pressure off our health system and ease pressure on emergency departments as well. It is not the priority of Malinauskas Labor.

Instead, we see the ostensible priority in this budget being crime and the police, a so-called law and order budget from the Labor government, as if it has taken them three years to realise that we have a bit of a problem with crime, and in particular youth crime, in South Australia. It is as if for the last three years they have not noticed the huge rises in assaults, thefts and property damage. You cannot open a newspaper or turn on the television without hearing another terrifying story of random assaults on our streets, violent home invasions in our suburbs, or shoplifting at record highs absolutely devastating small business.

All we have heard from Malinauskas Labor for the last three years is a denial of the problem. They have been running around with all sorts of spreadsheets trying to tell us that crime is going down. I think we have had three different police ministers now, with different copies of the spreadsheet, telling us, 'There's nothing to see here. There's no crime to see here. Everything is okay; we are very safe.' Only now, seemingly, have they woken up to this problem and we have seen a flurry of announcements ahead of the budget.

What did we see? We saw an announcement of new pistols for the police. I think that is excellent that we are going to replace ageing weapons that are not even being manufactured anymore with new ones. That is great.

The next day we saw another big announcement in the law and order space. We saw an announcement they are going to build higher prison fences to make sure that contraband could not be thrown over the fence. That also sounds great. This is from the government that brought you the prison bars that were wide enough to squeeze through. They are now going to bring us fences that are big enough to prevent contraband being thrown over the top. Well, that is a great thing. The next day we heard another announcement of some new motorbikes, as if moving some of our limited police from four wheels onto two wheels was going to be a really great revelation in fighting youth crime.

What I say is that all of these pre-budget announcements are the absolute bare minimum we should be seeing from a government that actually cares about what should be a primary duty of keeping South Australians safe. What we have always been saying is that there is no point in having new pistols if you have no new police. There is no point in having new motorbikes if you do not have new police to put on them.

What we have said over and over again is that if we really want to be serious about law and order we need to see tougher laws in South Australia, we need to see more of a focus on investment in crime prevention and early intervention and, importantly, what we have been highlighting for a long time now, is that we need to see a significant investment in South Australia Police, which has been hopelessly under-resourced by this Labor government over the last three years. We have been highlighting for a long time now the dramatic shortfall of police that we have in this state; indeed, the establishment number of police in South Australia has not changed since 2018.

The opposition absolutely welcomes an increased investment in South Australia Police in this budget. Finally, Labor is waking up to the fact that we do not have enough cops on the beat, that the number of police officers per 100,000 people has been falling dramatically over recent years. We welcome raising the establishment number of South Australian police officers. Unfortunately, though, what this budget does is says it is going to have more police but does not outline a plan for recruiting and retaining those police. In fact, some sections of the budget show that we are going to have even less expenditure this coming year on recruitment and retention than we did last year.

The effect of this budget is to turn a shortfall of nearly 200 police officers effectively into a shortfall of over 500 police officers, because if you cannot recruit the police that you are funded to have right now—and we have a shortfall of nearly 200 police officers—how on earth are you going to recruit these extra hundreds of police officers that you are promising us by next decade? Why, by the way, do we have to wait until next decade before we see these 500 police officers? We have a problem with crime now and we need more cops on the beat now. We need to see much more of a sense of urgency from the government when it comes to law and order issues, and we also need to see a really serious plan to recruit and retain the police that are now being funded.

In my remaining time, I want to comment on the budget from a local perspective for the constituents I represent in the eastern suburbs and the Hills. There are a few points that I want to touch on very briefly. The first is with respect to road maintenance, where we do see a very small amount of funding annually to road maintenance that will go a little way to eating away at that huge road maintenance backlog that we have seen grow under this Labor government.

We say it is not nearly enough, but can I urge the government to consider spending some of that amount on roads in my electorate, in particular Greenhill Road, which from Anzac Highway basically to Summertown has problems. It is in urgent need of some investment, some repair. I would urge you to spend it on Greenhill Road because we know road maintenance is not just a funding issue, it is a road safety issue as well. When our roads are not properly maintained, they are not just bumpy and uncomfortable, they can also be deadly. So I absolutely want to see an investment in road maintenance on Greenhill Road in my electorate and up into the member for Heyesen's electorate as well.

On school road safety, there is a rollout of some investment to improve road safety around certain school zones on main roads. Again, I would like to see some of this money spent at schools

in my electorate. My constituents are particularly concerned about road safety issues near schools. We of course had the horrifying incident at Marryatville High School a few years ago now. Since that time, I have been meeting with all the schools in my electorate quite regularly to discuss this issue of road safety, so I am pleased to see some funding in this budget for that very purpose.

It is unclear what sites will be chosen for this investment, but I would encourage the government to roll it out at some schools in the eastern suburbs: at Marryatville High School, at Loreto, at Seymour on Portrush Road and at Linden Park Primary School, where the school crossing on Portrush Road near that school has been named the most dangerous in the state. We really want to see this investment to make sure that kids can get to school safely.

Thirdly, the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass is something I speak about at nearly every opportunity in this house. We are at a really confusing and frustrating point of this project. We are now seemingly, finally, at the stage where everyone agrees that it is a good idea to get trucks off Portrush Road, because that has not always been the case from those opposite. We are now also seemingly at the stage where everyone agrees the best way to do that is with a Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass that will see thousands of trucks removed from Portrush Road. What we are not at the stage of though, unfortunately, is fully funding that project, which is really frustrating.

Frankly, the funding situation right now is a little bit confusing. To try to explain it a little bit, and to speak in very round numbers, this is a billion-dollar project. The federal Labor government has now committed about \$500 million, and the state Labor government, in this budget, has now committed about \$100 million. That adds up to \$600 million which, of course, is a long way from the billion dollars required to actually complete this project. We have a \$400 million shortfall. That contrasts with the \$800 million and \$200 million commitment respectively from federal and state Liberal parties ahead of the federal election.

Frankly, my community is sick of talking about this issue, we are sick of confusing funding arrangements and trickery, and what we want to do is just get on with it. We just want to get on with it because we do not want to wait for the next tragedy before we finally act to get trucks off Portrush Road. I urge the government to fix that funding shortfall so that this really important project can proceed.

Perhaps the greatest disappointment for me in this budget is the lack of investment in schools in my electorate. We have seen some of those opposite talk about various projects—toilets, or whatever else—at schools in their electorates. Well, we are crying out for the same investment in the eastern suburbs. We have some of the best schools in the state, but they are all bursting at the seams, and many of them have not seen any capital investment for a very, very long time.

I have already spoken in this place about the plight of Burnside Primary School, where I am advocating for new classrooms to replace very old classrooms, transportable buildings, on that site, as well as new toilets and a new covered outdoor learning area. I urge the government to fund Burnside Primary School so that they can have that pretty basic infrastructure up to standard at that school.

Since talking about Burnside Primary in this place I have had the opportunity once again to meet with the other schools in my electorate, and I want to highlight, in particular, two other primary schools that are similarly in need of very significant investment just to get up to an acceptable standard. Rose Park Primary School needs a bigger hall; that is their biggest priority. As the school has grown the whole school can no longer fit into the 30-odd-year-old hall that was built at that school. In fact, if they want to have a whole school assembly they have to do it outdoors. On a cold day like this, or in the middle of summer, it is really not a very good situation for those students to find themselves in.

It is currently having a bit of work done on it, that hall, because the flooring is full of mould, and we think the fact that the hall is having some works completed on it now might present a good opportunity to actually do something a little bit more substantial and create a larger hall on that site, to ensure that the whole school can meet for assemblies instead of having to do so outside.

Finally, Linden Park Primary School has essential infrastructure that has fallen very much below standard due to failure, over a very long time, to invest in capital infrastructure on that site. I

had the opportunity to tour that school with the principal and a member of the governing council only a couple of weeks ago, and what I saw was pretty poor, to be honest. Despite teachers doing their very best to literally cover over the cracks and create a nice environment for students to learn in, there are big problems that need focus and investment from this government.

I saw cracked and flaking internal walls that are currently hidden behind students' artwork, just to keep the classrooms and the corridors presentable. I saw outdated and poorly maintained toilets with fittings well beyond repair, frankly, and the finish is showing significant wear. I saw threadbare carpets in some of the learning areas and some of the common areas, creating trip hazards. I saw a transportable classroom that is totally lacking of acceptable air conditioning and that makes it very uncomfortable in the summer, and then in the winter there are roof leaks when there is heavy rain, which forces lessons in that classroom very often having to be relocated. I saw a covered outdoor corridor with literally corroded metal and peeling paint exposed, raising not only aesthetic concerns but again safety concerns as well.

There are nearly 1,000 students at Linden Park Primary School. Those students deserve a much better environment. We are not asking for the world, we are just asking for basic infrastructure to be kept up to scratch, and it has fallen well below an acceptable standard at Linden Park Primary School.

I want to see the government fund some capital investment. We have a whole forward works plan at that school that I will be talking to the minister about, talking to the government about, and I would urge them to make an investment in capital infrastructure at that school. As I say, we have some of the best schools in the state but they are all bursting at the seams and nearly all of them have not seen any capital investment in a very long time. With that, I conclude my remarks on the Appropriation Bill.

Estimates Committees

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police) (17:26): By leave, I move:

That a message be sent to the Legislative Council requesting the Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State (Hon. K.J. Maher); and the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries (Hon. C.M. Scriven); and the Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, the Minister for Autism, the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing (Hon. E.S. Bourke) members of the Legislative Council, be permitted to attend and give evidence before the estimates committees of the House of Assembly on the Appropriation Bill.

Motion carried.

Second Reading

Debate resumed.

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (17:27): I rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation Bill, which I would note from the outset is not my normal habit. Ordinarily I am quite happy to allow other members to make fulsome contributions to the Appropriation Bill without feeling the need to contribute myself, but this year, after the fourth budget of this parliament, I have decided to make a contribution of my own. I look forward to putting the priorities of the electorate in Narungga on the record in the lead-up to the election so that we can continue to pursue them and hopefully see some results in the not too distant future.

I would make the point from the outset as well that the budget can be confronting reading for some electorates. It might be an indictment on my intellectual capacity but I find myself turning to the glossy pages of the Budget Overview, the nice easy-to-read booklet with the headings and big numbers and turning to the final page where you would normally find the region summary where you can see different regions as well as the holistic initiatives that are designed to support all of country South Australia. I find myself turning to that page with hope and optimism that I might find an initiative or project funded under the Yorke and North headline where I can take something to my community and say, 'Look at this advocacy that we have engaged in and undertaken. It has sown the benefits and reaped the reward and, here we go, we have got what we are asking for.'

Alas, that has not come to pass in the last four budgets and, upon turning to that page in the glossy Budget Overview, we have not found a great deal listed under Yorke Peninsula. In actual fact, we have not found anything. There have been one to two initiatives each year, or in three of the four years at least, that relate to Port Pirie. Wonderful! Well done to the government and to the people of Port Pirie for securing those respective initiatives. But there is nothing specific to the electorate of Narungga or Yorke Peninsula where we can point to the glossy pages and show our constituents what we have secured. To add to the ignominy of all that, in one year in a recent budget we did not even benefit from having a headline for Yorke and Mid North, so we could not even find ourselves on the glossy pages to point to, to show our constituents what we had managed to achieve on their behalf.

So it has been rather disappointing reading for the four years. Unfortunately, I had held great hope for this year for a number of reasons that I will touch on in a second, but it was not to be and we found ourselves in a similar position that we had been in previously. But we shall continue to push for the things that we need in our electorate.

I would make the point, though, to my constituents who might be listening—the plethora of them who have tuned in online to follow this debate eagerly—that this is not the only part of the process at which we can influence outcomes. There have been some wins that we have had over the journey that have occurred outside of the budgetary process, and I think that we have by and large done quite well for ourselves in securing some outcomes, improvements and projects in our electorate.

I note that just last year, 13 or 14 months ago, we were able to secure significant funding for the Arthurlton to Kulpara road and the Bute to Port Broughton road to ensure that that road was brought up to a standard that will enable it to hold significant heavy traffic from grain movements to port. That work is almost complete and we are now pushing to have it gazetted for A-double road trains to enable it to become a part of the Yorke Peninsula freight route, making it more effective and making the whole Yorke Peninsula available to the road trains that are becoming more common on our roads with our farmers trying to get their product to port.

I would like to reassure my constituents that there will be other opportunities to influence the government's priorities. We will continue to push those buttons as they become available to us. The fact that this budget has not shown any great reward for us is not a reason to get disheartened by our community advocacy.

The other thing that I would point to for our electorate is that we do have some things that have been apportioned in recent budgets that are starting to come to fruition. I can think of three examples off the top of my head that I would like to touch on and I think are exciting for a great many people in our community.

The first of these is a co-located CFS and SES shed that will be built in Maitland in the not-too-distant future. This will be a tremendous benefit. The CFS shed and the SES shed, which are nearby to one another at the moment, are in a terrible state of affairs in Maitland currently and well need an upgrade. The CFS shed, for example, is not even aligned to the road so you near-on have to do a reverse parallel park to get the CFS truck back in the shed after you have taken it out. This will make it all that much easier for volunteers to get the truck out of the shed and take it to the fire where it is needed.

It think it is a tremendous use of taxpayer money to provide a co-located facility. It is a more efficient use of money by being able to consolidate resources and facilities and ensure that that site will be used no matter the emergency. It will be a wonderful asset for the town of Maitland and surrounding communities for a long time into the future. We have that coming in the not-too-distant future.

There is also money from the jetties fund that was announced previously that is coming and is not too far away. I am led to believe, if memory serves, that Edithburgh will be among the first tranche of jetties serviced with that fund. That will be a wonderful thing. As highlighted in a report by the Local Government Association recently, community jetties provide an enormous benefit for our regional coastal communities.

Without them, we would be losing significant tourism dollars to small coastal communities that rely on that input to survive and to have the services that they need to become a town within which people are willing to live. We have the jetty fund coming soon and I think, if memory serves, Edithburgh will be right up there with that. We look forward to seeing that hopefully expanded to include other jetties in my electorate, of which there are quite a few.

The other thing we eagerly anticipate where I live on the Copper Coast is the brand-new ambulance station and paramedics coming to Wallaroo. This will be another massive benefit. It is something that is desperately needed. The volunteer capacity of the ambulance service is on the precipice of failure. There is an enormous impost on the people who choose to volunteer in ambulances and give up their time to serve people in an emergency situation. These paid paramedics will be a wonderful benefit and have a wonderful supporting role for those people going forward.

So there are those things coming but, as I touched on earlier, we are a bit disappointed that there was not more in this budget for us. I referenced the reasons that we might have thought that would be coming, and chief amongst them is the work that my community did on signing a significant petition to demonstrate our dissatisfaction with the state of our regional health system. We had almost 11,000 people sign that petition, by and large from my electorate. They are expecting action as a result of that position and some improvements to their regional health system.

I note that the Economic and Finance Committee is still working on the report that is mandated by law for petitions that reach 10,000 or more signatures. They are still working on that report, and I hope the reason that none of those initiatives or ideas that came to light as a result of that process were funded in this budget is that the government is waiting for that report before committing to them. I am under the impression that the report is not too far away. The committee is working assiduously on it. It should be published relatively soon. I cannot see how it will be a report that recommends anything other than some significant new facilities for our regional health system.

The Wallaroo Hospital is a comically-sized hospital. It is a 21-bed hospital for a Copper Coast community that I estimate would be 14,000 to 16,000 people, notwithstanding the incredible influx of tourists we get every year, notwithstanding the fact that the rest of the peninsula relies on the Wallaroo Hospital for a significant portion of its emergency care. That is a significant population. It is a significant catchment area, and we have a hospital that is insignificant in size. I cannot see how that report will recommend anything other than that. I hope that the government will get that recommendation which I anticipate will be in there, follow it through with funding, and we can get to work on building a new hospital that is of a sufficient size at Wallaroo that it will serve our community well.

To a lesser extent—or in terms of lesser financial contribution, I should say—I hope the report will also recommend that the A&E facilities at the Maitland and Yorketown hospitals could also do with a rejig. These might not need a rebuild. They certainly will need a rejig to make the throughput more easily accessible, make the doctors more comfortable working in these spaces and, hopefully, it will make for a better facility.

We need a brand-new hospital at Wallaroo, we need to upgrade A&E at Yorketown and Maitland, and we also need the replacement of the services that were offered at the Ardrossan Community Hospital, which have since been shuttered by the community, which found it beyond them to run a hospital anymore. We also need for a replacement of those services.

I have been working very closely with the Health Ardrossan Action Group. Don Hosking and his crew have done a wonderful job in advocating for an improvement, and they presented quite strongly at the petition inquiry. I hope that the report that is eventually published on that front will cite their contribution and cite their evidence and provide for some sort of replacement of services in Ardrossan. It is, after all, the biggest town in the Yorke Peninsula Council area, and it is certainly deserving of its own services, particularly an after-hours emergency triage services at the least.

There was a community hospital in Ardrossan much like the one in Keith. The one in Keith, which has since been transferred into SA Health, has since become an emergency triage centre staffed largely by nurse practitioners who can help people decide where best to take themselves next—whether they can wait for a GP appointment, or whether they should duck off to an A&E straightaway.

There are plenty of other things that I would like to get on the record in regard to health, but I shall save them for another time. We are eagerly anticipating the publication of that report that has been such work for our community. Once again, I would like to congratulate them on the work they did in both procuring signatures and signing it themselves. It is a massive effort in a community of 25,000 voters to get 11,000 signatures on a petition, and we look forward to seeing it completed.

The other thing I would like to touch on, which is imminent in our community, is three-year-old preschool. The government has committed to providing three-year-old preschool around the state. My understanding was that the Yorke Peninsula was amongst the first regions—not the only region, but amongst the first regions—that would feature in the first tranche of that rollout. To date, I am not aware of any augmentation of existing childcare or preschool facilities that would allow for the increased supply that that will bring. I hope that it is in hand, ready for next year to provide for that service.

I know we have had a couple of new childcare centres built. There is one in Maitland and one in Minlaton which are providing good services. Those facilities might well be up to scratch and allow for it to occur there already, but there are plenty of other towns and plenty of other families that are looking for three-year-old preschool so that they can get back into the workforce, contribute to the community, contribute to their local economy. I hope that the government have plans or are aware of how that three-year-old preschool will be provided across my electorate. It is something I intend to follow up at estimates. I intend to seek answers about whether they have done any augmentation work to existing centres and, if not, how they anticipate that that demand will be supplied for across the existing infrastructure.

We heard in question time today from the member for MacKillop about the importance of phone towers. He asked a question regarding 27 phone towers that will be built in his electorate or around his community in the not-too-distant future. That is a problem that exists across regional South Australia, and I commend the three levels of government and the telco for combining their forces to do a bulk tranche of work in one region all at once.

Rather than the piecemeal approach we have had previously, where towers have been built here, there and everywhere, we have this wonderful initiative where we are building 27 in one area to try to solve the problem once and for all, and hopefully then we can move on to the next area after that. I would like for that next area to be YP in the seat of Narungga; I think it would be a wonderful thing. I am not sure that we would need as many towers as 27. I think that we probably, by and large, have better coverage than what they have over there, but we certainly do need quite a few.

I have a list in my office of people who have blackspots near their home and have reported these blackspots to me, and I have submitted it to Telstra to try to get some improvement there. We clearly need significant investment to improve our reception. It is not solely a government job; it is something that telcos need to come to the table on as well. In MacKillop, at least, it has been an initiative that has brought all three levels of government together to secure that outcome.

I would also like to commend the government on the 10 new homes that the Housing Trust has built in my electorate. They are a wonderful initiative and it is good to see work being done to improve supply, but there is a great deal more to do. There are a lot of people living rough in my electorate—an increasing amount. It is certainly a problem that is growing and we need to ensure that public housing supply is adequate and increasing, so 10 new homes is good. We have nine new key government worker houses that are coming online as well and it is good to see progress being made, but I would like to see that renewed and expanded so that we can continue that progress and ensure that there is more done.

This was an interesting budget in that, at least as I perceive it, there was significant expenditure on two major projects: the \$3.2 billion women's and kids' hospital and a \$15.4 billion cost for South Road. These are really significant allocations in two areas in which our electorate feels particularly needy: health and roads. It is very hard—notwithstanding the merits of those two projects—for people in my electorate to look at those costs and wonder how that money could have had a tremendous benefit in our electorate.

I talk to people regularly, without quoting a specific number, who wonder what \$15.4 billion could do for our roads in Narungga; likewise, we are in desperate need of improved health facilities,

and I am sure there are a great many people wondering what \$3.2 billion could do for our regional hospitals. It is wonderful to see things happening in the city. I am sure that South Road will have a wonderful benefit for many people in my electorate trying to get through the city unimpeded as well, but it would be nice to see some bigger numbers thrown around in regional South Australia and it would be really nice to see some big enough numbers in my electorate to feature in the glossy pages of the Budget Overview.

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (17:42): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill, a budget that, to me, demonstrates clear intent to invest in the services, security and support that everyday South Australians rely on. For my community in the northern suburbs, this is a budget that delivers on local priorities and reflects many of the conversations I have had with residents, families and students since I was elected over three years ago.

Today I want to speak briefly about three parts of the budget that will make a significant difference to my community: public transport safety and the new security patrols; the \$10 Metrocard and what that means for our school students; and the introduction of kindy care and its importance for working families. While there are lots of moving parts to the fiscal plans of the state, including the billions of dollars of revenue and spending, I want to home in on these as new spending initiatives, noting that there will be many programs carrying over that do a great deal of good and that I also welcome.

Just a few weeks ago, I sat down with a local constituent, Svetislav Krstic, who raised with me a very real concern: the safety of passengers on our public transport system. He spoke to me plainly about how the presence of security officers—uniformed, visible and proactive—makes a tangible difference in how people feel when they travel. At the conclusion of the meeting, we agreed that I would include the points from our discussion in my submission to the upcoming public transport study. But to be honest, Minister Koutsantonis has beaten me to it.

On the surface, this budget appears to have delivered what we had been discussing. The announcement of new security transport officers patrolling trains, trams and buses is a major win for our public transport network. As I see it, their presence will help to not only deter antisocial behaviour but rebuild confidence for the overwhelming majority of passengers who do the right thing.

This initiative is not just about immediate safety, it is about encouraging long-term confidence in public transport. Many in our community remember the disruption and the disengagement that followed the Liberals' decision to privatise our rail services. That decision did not just shift operations to private hands, it stripped away the support services that underpin a well-functioning, safe and accessible network.

Much of the confidence that people once had in the rail system evaporated. This budget continues to reverse that damage by reinvesting in public elements that make a system work for its people. This will be particularly welcome in the northern suburbs. We should be honest about the challenge. While most commuters use the system respectfully, it only takes a few troublemakers to sour the experience for others and to create a very real barrier to growing patronage.

We are fortunate in the north to be serviced by the Gawler line, something I would describe as one of the most important public assets we have within our community. It is electrified, efficient and in theory a backbone to northern connectivity, but uptake has not been as strong as it should be. If we want more people using our trains, we must get the fundamentals right.

I have within my office a framed print of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. It is something I studied in earnest at uni and probably to the disdain of my staff have drummed its importance into them. I say that whenever there are issues on how to prioritise things, look to the print and this will guide you.

So when an initiative like this comes along, it delivers a big tick in terms of getting the basics right. Just as the Hierarchy of Needs sets things out, if people do not feel secure, they will not travel. Therefore, these new officers are a direct investment in that foundation and in the future of our public transport system, which I hope will have a positive impact in getting more commuters back on our trains, trams and buses.

Still on public transport, another new initiative that will deliver significant benefit to the community that I am privileged to represent is the \$10 Metrocard for school students. I know this has been repeated ad nauseam, but we are stoked that this means local school students will now have access to public transport at effectively 25¢ a trip. Not only does it deliver greater freedom of movement for our students, particularly teenagers but it becomes one of the most meaningful cost-of-living measures in the budget for working families.

I am also hopeful that this initiative will help grow public transport uptake more broadly. By giving students affordable, everyday access we are not just cutting costs, we are hopefully shaping habits. If they become familiar with the network now and grow confident using it regularly and safely, that will then follow them into adulthood. With the added support of the new security patrols, families will hopefully feel more comfortable encouraging students to take the bus, train or tram independently.

In highlighting this element of the budget, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to someone in particular. Her name is Izabella Street, a year 11 student at Parafield Gardens High School. I first met Izabella a year ago when I was invited to attend the student representative council meeting hosted by the South Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Since then, Izabella has been relentless in the best possible way. She followed up with me more than once. She spoke passionately about young people in the community. She floated the idea of starting a petition and while I know and respect that others will rightfully acknowledge their own local champions in pushing for this decision, I want to be crystal clear. In my view, it was her voice and her determination that made all the difference. To Izabella I say this: 'You have already proven you can make change happen.'

When we talk about services like public transport, I think it is important to acknowledge that while we must always manage services sensibly and ensure we get as much value as possible from every public dollar, public transport is not a business. It is a public service. If done correctly, it complements so many other facets of our community and our local economy. It connects workers to jobs, students to schools, and families to one another. Good public transport is not just efficient, it is equitable, sustainable and essential. And, just like Izabella, we should be relentless in our quest to improve it further.

The final initiative I want to highlight is kindy care, a bold, practical and deeply needed investment in the early years of education and care. Kindy care recognises something that working families have known for years—that as with the school days, the preschool day does not always align with the typical work day, and that access to quality early learning and care should not depend on a family's income or suburb. It is about making sure all children, regardless of background, have access to the support they need to thrive, and that parents, particularly mothers, are not left making impossible choices between income and education.

With kindy care being rolled out initially at 20 trial sites across the state, I am incredibly proud to say that one of those sites is Lantana Kindergarten in Parafield Gardens. According to preschool director Kylie Millington, the service at Lantana is expected to be operational from term 3, and I know her dedicated team will throw themselves into making it a success. The program will provide extended hours of care before and after kindergarten. It is a crucial step that will complement the rollout of three-year-old preschool, which I am confident will shape up as one of the most transformative reforms in our early education system.

I should also say on a more personal note that I regularly meet with the team at Lantana and always have a lot of fun when I do. Just recently, I had the chance to read stories to the kids and, for the second year running, I was given the special honour of dressing up as the resident Easter bunny—but please do not tell the children. This week, I am looking forward to attending their art show, which I know will be as creative and heartwarming as the staff themselves. This is not just a win for education or for equity or for workforce participation; it is a win for the next generation of South Australians, and I am so proud that a fantastic preschool community like Lantana will help lead the way.

Before I conclude, I want to briefly address a recent announcement made by the opposition leader regarding their policy to exempt first-home buyers from paying stamp duty on existing homes.

While this may sound attractive at face value, the truth is that it does not add a single house to our housing stock, it does nothing to improve supply, it will create very few, if any, jobs, and risks fuelling greater demand pressures in an already tight market. Ultimately, policies like this tend to drive up house prices overall, making it harder, not easier, for the next wave of buyers. Our approach to limiting the stamp duty exemption to new builds is not just more responsible, it actively encourages construction, adds new houses to the market, and supports local jobs in building, trades and services. It grows the pie rather than just slicing it differently.

The opposition likes to bemoan rising debt levels, yet policies like these are expensive, and unless they plan to conjure up the funds from thin air, there are only two ways to pay for them: either cuts to frontline services or an increase in debt. You simply cannot have it both ways.

I also could not help but notice, especially on ABC radio on Monday morning, that the opposition leader was quick to rattle off that Adelaide is the sixth most unaffordable housing market in the world, citing the Demographia International Housing Affordability report. Now, I do not discount that we are facing a serious housing crisis, but I do want to gently point out that the Demographia report does not analyse all housing markets around the world. It focuses primarily on English-speaking countries and includes just 95 metropolitan areas.

Sitting extended beyond 18:00 on motion of Hon. S.C. Mullighan.

Mr FULBROOK: As I was saying, the Demographia report focuses primarily on English-speaking countries and includes just 95 metropolitan areas across eight nations: Australia, Canada, China, Ireland, New Zealand, Singapore, the UK and the US. The fact that Adelaide features on this list is not something to take delight in, particularly when the legacy of housing undersupply and infrastructure neglect is one that the Liberal Party shares responsibility for both federally and here in South Australia. However, I do want to politely stress that when you want to belittle our economy, you should place a higher degree on the accuracy of the reports that you quote.

That was a slight digression, but back on a more positive note: this budget does what a good budget should do, in that it listens, it responds and it delivers. Whether it is ensuring that people feel safe on public transport, helping students to get to school affordably or giving young children and working families the start they deserve, these are investments that will pay back many times over. So to the Treasurer, to the Premier and to the ministers who have listened and acted, I thank you and I commend this bill to the house.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:54): I rise just briefly in circumstances where I think a practical resolution to this second reading debate has been reached and we will get to a conclusion of that fairly shortly, so that we can actually get on with the business of the committee stage of this bill that will be conducted in the course of the estimates process commencing tomorrow.

This is in circumstances where we have all been here until late in the night last night with, frankly, a distraction to this process that the government brought on at no notice, and that is all on the public record. But, rather than be here again into the late hours and then risk compromising the service that we must undertake, as those responsible for scrutinising the budget in the course of the estimates process, by rolling up after a particularly late night, we will be now engaged in the scrutiny of this budget in its committee stage. Of course, the budget is going to pass with the support of the opposition.

There are all of us on this side standing ready to analyse and to bring to light what has been, and what I said immediately following the Treasurer's speech, a particularly disappointing budget which is lacking any vision and which has revealed again that agency upon agency has managed to blow its budget to the point where the government is presiding over now record state debt, that we will hear from the Treasurer is the result of compounding capital commitments, but, importantly, it is the result of year after year of budget blowouts. We are now accustomed to seeing \$1 billion or more in budget blowouts, just looking at the agencies.

The budget, as others have said, does precious little to relieve what is by far and away the key pressing issue for South Australians, being the cost-of-living crisis that people are living through. The day to day costs of electricity, of eggs, of bread, and the basic utilities continue to rise by

extraordinary amounts, with little, if anything, for the government to point to in terms of relief. As the leader said in his contribution just earlier this week, the telling situation in which we have seen electricity prices rise nearly \$800 per year is an indictment on the government.

There will be a lot more to say about the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass, where extraordinary sorts of mathematical callisthenics have been entered into in terms of the significant nearly \$400 million shortfall in the money necessary to complete that project, which has been sort of dressed up by this government as somehow committing to that project. Far from it. And those in my electorate of Heyssen will be watching keenly that process.

Of course, the ongoing crisis in child protection, combined with another blowout in both indicators and cost will be a matter of huge concern as soon as that process commences shortly. In terms of family violence we are waiting for the conclusion of the royal commission, conducted by Commissioner Stott Despoja. There is precious little in the budget to provide for the outcomes of what are no doubt going to be wideranging recommendations coming from that process. With those short words, in anticipation of the estimates process soon to be commenced, I indicate that that process this year will be perhaps more important than ever.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, deputy leader, and thanks for expediting things.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (17:59): I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill. It is a fascinating budget to try to unpack. We see record levels of debt, we see tax hikes, and we see the wrong priorities in this budget. It was interesting to try to unpack what the reality of the situation looks like for South Australians when it comes to debt levels. We are going to be facing nearly \$50 billion of debt by the end of the budget forward period, and that means there are going to be daily interest payments at that point of \$6.7 million per day.

Some of these numbers are truly eye-watering. It is hard for people to get context when we are talking about debt getting close to \$50 billion for us in South Australia. That number of \$6.7 million per day for interest payments is one that is especially stark. Think of what we could do with even just a portion of that \$6.7 million per day. We did see in the budget papers that the 2024-25 surplus was down to around \$18 million, down from a budget of \$248 million. Who did they blame? Who was the blame shifted onto? They blamed Whyalla and the drought.

For me, it is galling to blame those regional communities for their own budget failings rather than pointing the finger at themselves: a drop in projected surplus, from \$248 million down to just \$18 million. Instead of blaming regional communities like Whyalla or those who are having to deal with generational drought, have a look, perhaps, inwards. Point the finger at yourself, at \$1.6 billion of cumulative department overspend from your 2024-25 budget. These budget blowouts are truly worrying when it comes to the financial impacts on not just our current communities but future communities.

Instead of blaming regional communities, blaming Whyalla or blaming those drought measures that they have brought in, perhaps they need to point to their own ministerial mismanagement. The health budget was over \$600 million over. Child Protection had an over \$150 million blowout. Human Services had an over \$100 million blowout. Environment had an over \$100 million blowout. Altogether, there was \$1.6 billion of budget blowout. This is budget overspend from what they told us 12 months ago were going to be the parameters for their departmental spend.

Not only that, it is also on top of record revenue coming into government coffers: significant extra GST, significant extra stamp duty. In fact, we saw an additional \$239 million in stamp duty revenue on top of what was estimated just 12 months before, \$239 million more than they forecast at the 2024-25 budget. By 2028-29, stamp duties are forecast to reach \$1.8 billion in revenue compared to \$1.4 billion for financial year 2022. I was interested in looking at this statement in the budget papers:

State taxation revenue estimates have been revised up by \$370 million in 2024-25 compared to estimates in the 2024-25 Budget and are expected to grow by around 6.8 per cent during the year. The growth is mainly due to strength in conveyance duty and land tax collections reflecting strong property market conditions.

What we are reading between the lines here is that, instead of recognising the housing crisis for what it is, Labor are using that housing crisis as a cash cow. They are milking it for all they are worth. They

are taking in all these extra dollars but spending it before they even have it to cover up their own failings and their own budget mismanagement: \$1.6 billion of budget blowout on top of what they told us just 12 short months ago.

I am proud to stand here to support the Liberal Party policy for significant stamp duty relief for first home buyers. We hear from young people, in particular, all over our state on their challenge to achieve the great Australian dream of home ownership. We are hearing from parents and grandparents of their concern for their own children's and grandchildren's future.

No stamp duty for first home buyers buying a house up to the value of \$1 million is real help; it is real support for those who are trying to break into the housing market, those who want to get out of the rental cycle and put their capital, their hard work, and their time and effort into a property of their own. So much of the cost and barrier for new homeowners is driven by government taxes and regulation, so this is a significant measure, and I am proud to stand as a member of the opposition that is putting it forward for consideration at the next election. It is going to save tens of thousands of dollars for new home buyers.

When we look at the health budget lines they are truly eye-watering. We do remember the promise that was made, over and over at the last election, that they would fix the ramping crisis, that they would put in that effort, that promise they made; 'Vote Labor like your life depended on it'. There is the promise, but what have we seen? We have seen the worst 36 months of ramping on record.

The health budget has blown out over \$700 million after hundreds of millions of dollars last year. On this side we have long been calling for Peter Malinauskas to introduce incentives to attract and retain healthcare workers, like those on offer interstate. It does not matter how much cash you throw at a health system, the investment will not make a difference if there is not the workforce to staff it. This is why I am proud to support the Liberal announcement that if we were to be elected at the next election we would fund after-hours GP access to GP clinics that are willing and able to provide this service.

We know this is what GPs have been calling for. It is a real, tangible investment that will help families, that will help individuals, and it will circumvent the additional pressures on emergency departments from desperate families, parents and individuals who cannot currently get an appointment. This is a significant commitment and, if we are elected, it will provide real health relief.

There was nothing strategic in the health budget for regional South Australia, and especially my region. Health outcomes are getting worse and worse in my region under Labor, with some of the worst ratios of GPs per capita in the nation as well as, obviously, the significant distance we have to travel when seeking health care. There is no strategy to support regional communities with GP recruitment and retention. We have been forgotten.

We have a health budget that blows out by more than \$700 million on top of the hundreds of millions last year, yet there is no money in that budget for a boost to the Patient Assisted Transport Scheme. I regularly hear from constituents, and even just this week I heard from another constituent, frustrated with the PATS system, the bureaucracy surrounding it, and the real lack of significant support they are crying out for. There are thousands of claimants from all around the state, but especially in my region. There is no additional funding for PATS; the reimbursement rate from PATS to stay in Adelaide for a night if you are needing health care is still only \$44. What sort of support is that? Where are you going to be able to stay for \$44 in Adelaide?

Although there has been a significant blowout in the health budget, there has not been any strategic health infrastructure funding for my electorate. I hear from my community that there is a significant need for an upgrade to the Port Lincoln Hospital emergency department. That is an ED that is short on space, it is fair to say, and it is relied on by both the Port Lincoln community and the significant population that surrounds it. I know there has been design work done to look at future upgrade potential for the Port Lincoln Hospital emergency department, and this is exactly the sort of health project that should be invested in so it can continue to provide sustainable emergency health care for Port Lincoln and the southern Eyre Peninsula.

Once again, there is very little in this year's budget for regional road safety infrastructure across the whole state of South Australia, let alone within my region. It is so disheartening to see this

lack of investment into our regional road network. Our part of the state contributes so much to the state's budget bottom line, but we do not see adequate investment back into that enabling infrastructure, that infrastructure that can make sure that the communities are financially sustainable, not just now but into the future.

I am calling on the government to put funding into these key roads in my region, as well as important investment into regional road safety measures. In Port Lincoln, I am advocating for there to be a partnership with the City of Port Lincoln council to deliver an upgrade into the Le Brun Street-Verran Terrace intersection. Now those of us who know that very well know how many accidents and incidents there have been at this intersection, as well as the number of near misses.

I know the City of Port Lincoln have a design for an intersection upgrade, the work has been done, and I am calling on either the state government or the federal government or both—I do not mind who—to partner with the council to get this important intersection upgraded to make this safer for my community members.

I am advocating for there to be further investment into our regional highways and I am calling on the government to put more money into upgrading the Flinders Highway in particular. This is one of the more dangerous highways in the state, running from Port Lincoln all the way up to Ceduna. Significant investment is needed in key aspects such as road widening and shoulder sealing. It is a road that sees significant drop-offs on the side of the road and a narrow roadway and more and more vehicles which are using that road. There are more and more heavy vehicles, more and more caravanners, holidayers, and local road users of course. The Flinders Highway needs more ongoing investment into it for safer and more efficient outcomes for my community.

There is a budget line that I was interested in, the EP desal project at Billy Lights Point. Now within the budget papers, I see that the budget has remained the same, at the moment, with a budget of \$330 million. But the timeline for delivery has been pushed out by 12 months. Now in the budget papers it says June 2027.

Firstly on the budget line it stayed the same, but subsequent to the Budget and Finance Committee just recently, I do not have the same confidence in that budget line staying the same as I had hoped I might. The Hon. Ben Hood asked SA Water, 'Will the delay out to June 2027 now impact the total project cost of the desal plant at Billy Lights?' Mr Ryan, the CEO of SA Water said, 'Well, we are still working through it. We are literally in the final stages around some commercial negotiations around the final elements of the costs. So I would prefer not to talk about that today, given it is commercial-in-confidence.' That is hardly speak which adds any sort of confidence that this project will stay on budget or on time, not to mention that a delay is a massive concern for our underground water aquifers as well.

We know there is going to be massive pressure, we know that SA Water will have its capacity to extract water significantly curtailed. There are major environmental concerns, there are major community concerns, there are major project delivery concerns with this project. I have been airing these concerns for the past four years and, sadly, the government has been ignoring them. Is this project going to stay on budget? Well, Mr Ryan does not fill me with any confidence. Is this project going to be delivered on time or will the timelines keep getting pushed out? I have no confidence.

What does this mean for the people of Eyre Peninsula? We need better from this government. We need more strategy. We need them to be listening to the community and we need for them to fully understand what the impacts are going to be on the wider community on Eyre Peninsula.

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (18:13): I also take the opportunity to speak in parliament today about the Appropriation Bill before us, the budget basically for the state for the next financial year. That budget has been handed down by the Malinauskas Labor government. It just reveals a lack of vision. When you look at it, it is more about papering over cracks and some of them are pretty large. There is no new plan to solve the housing crisis, no plan to bring down power bills and no plan to alleviate the cost-of-living crisis.

What the budget also reveals, though, is spending that is still out of control. Just like South Australians witnessed last budget, and just like South Australians witnessed the budget

before, again we have massive overspending in departments, in just about every department across the government. Instead of curbing that wasteful spending—instead of having the riot act read to them by the Premier and by the Treasurer—that spending has just continued on.

Instead, the way around this has been to prop up that wasteful spending because of what amounts to record amounts of tax being brought in, a lot of it based off inflation that has been running really hard and really high here in the country for a good three years, with South Australia being the highest in the nation many times in terms of inflation. That inflation—whether it is on people's food, groceries or petrol—flows through to GST, of course. That record GST has been coming in, and everyday people's pain has been this government's gain.

At the same time as we are having record revenue, we are finding that debt is increasing and is on track to reach record levels. The budget reveals that debt in South Australia is going to grow to a mammoth \$48.5 billion by the 2028-29 year. That means that interest payments will be on track to reach nearly \$7 million a day just to pay that debt down, which is money that cannot be spent on services here that so many South Australians rely upon. The budget also reveals that there is no plan to pay this debt back.

The other major aspect to this budget is it reveals two major broken flagship election promises that this government made to the people of South Australia at the 2022 election. Of course, we can all remember the key signature election promise by the Premier that he was going to fix the ramping crisis. He told voters to 'vote like their life depends on it'. Instead, what we find in the latest ramping figures released in May is that the month of May had the third highest number of hours lost to the ramp on record.

The figures confirmed that 36 of the worst months of ramping in the state's history have occurred under this government and that over 140,000 hours have been lost to the ramp during this term of government. Compare that with the four years of the former Liberal government, in which it was 75,000 hours. When they said they would fix the ramping crisis, they did not say they would actually make it worse.

The other major election promise was that the government was going to deliver a hydrogen power station by December 2025. We can remember that promise that was made to the South Australian taxpayers. In previous budgets, that promise was pushed off into the future during questioning under estimates. But this last budget of the Malinauskas Labor government, which was meant to put the finishing touches on the government's flagship election promise of their hydrogen power plant, instead has revealed the full extent of Premier Malinauskas's hydrogen hoax.

The budget papers estimate that nearly a quarter of a billion dollars—over \$250 million—could have been spent on Labor's hydrogen plans; the fact is, the majority of this will not be recoverable. This includes over \$70 million in expenditure from the now-closed Office of Hydrogen Power South Australia and \$196 million in capital expenditure, incorporating significant engineering and contractor payments that were required to design the government's failed hydrogen power plant.

Labor's decision to shelve its Hydrogen Jobs Plan has left South Australians with nothing to show for it, ultimately, other than experiencing record-high power bills and no new energy plan in this state budget. The budget also reveals that Premier Malinauskas will be forced to fork out an extra \$3.8 million to privatise his own gas-powered turbines instead of spending that money on programs that could help bring down household power bills.

What you can read by looking through this budget is that it confirms that the Labor government has used a crisis at the Whyalla Steelworks to cover up their failure to deliver their hydrogen power plant. The Premier made a claim that all the \$593 million for his hydrogen budget was going to be recovered and allocated across the support package for the Whyalla Steelworks. This budget reveals the illusion for what it really is. The Premier really needs to take responsibility for the huge amount of time and money that has been wasted on his hydrogen fantasy over the last three years, while South Australian families and businesses pay the highest electricity bills on record.

If we cast our mind back to 2021 and what was promised next to a big picture of the now Premier, the promise was that Labor would build a hydrogen storage capacity of 3,600 tonnes or two months' worth of hydrogen power generation for \$31 million. They were going to build 200-megawatt

combined cycle turbines for \$342 million. They were going to build 250 megawatts of capacity of hydrogen electrolyzers for \$220 million and ensure that this plan to convert electricity to hydrogen and then convert it back to electricity again was all going to be operational by the end of 2025 for a total budget of \$593 million.

Of course, as we went along—as I said, we have had five budgets and this is meant to be the pinnacle of it—what we were finding was that those core promises were starting to be broken right from the get-go. Back in December 2022 when the government put out their request for tender for the project, they revealed that, instead of 3,600 tonnes of storage, it was only going to be 100 tonnes. That is about 3 per cent of what was originally promised. They also said that the turbines, instead of being combined cycle, would be open cycle. Instead of intending to run for long periods of time and to be efficient, they were just going to be peakers and open cycle. You have the first promise broken and then issues around their second promise around their turbines as well.

Going forward, by early 2024 we had it confirmed that they were going to be combined cycle turbines, so there were issues around that. Of course, in between time, the Budget and Finance Committee held inquiries into what was going on. It was revealed in 2023 that, in fact, the power station when it was ultimately built was not targeted at bringing down household power bills; it was targeted at industrial use. So we have all this spending going on, all these changes being downsized, the Premier having to make things up as he went along, all for no impact on household power bills.

In May of 2024, AEMO in one of their reliability reports notified us that the power station was not going to be, in their estimation, online until 2026 or even 2027. The government was forced to then concede that, no, their power station was not going to be running by December 2025. The claim was it will be running in early 2026, and how much of that you can believe I think will become apparent as time progresses. As we get closer to December 2025, you can see that even an early 2026 timeline is really pushing the realms of reality.

In September 2024 is when the sham really began to unravel, because a tender was put out to truck in gas to run these turbines, when they eventually arrived—trucking gas through B-double lorries. That really showed there was going to be no hydrogen available to run the things in the first place, so then we had diesel-powered B-double lorries trucking in gas to try to run what was supposed to be a hydrogen power station running on renewable energy, when now we see it being backed up by diesel. The reason for that, of course, is that it became quite apparent that there was a real issue in terms of the cost of the electrolyzers that produce the hydrogen.

The CSIRO then revealed that the electrolyzers would actually cost three times what the government said they would cost back in 2021. So instead of costing \$220 million, these 250-megawatt electrolyzers were going to cost \$675 million. All of a sudden, the cost of just one part of the plant exceeded the \$593 million budget. In fact, the overall combined budget would have sailed past \$1 billion, and more than likely there would have been cost blowouts in other parts as well. All four of the major promises making up the hydrogen fantasy were broken, and they were broken well before the crisis at the Whyalla Steelworks had escalated.

Of course, to try to save face with the people of South Australia, instead of being up-front and saying, 'Listen, this wasn't going to work. I have spent three years distracted and focusing on massive public sector resources, a massive workforce of over 55 full-time equivalents, trying to solve this problem and get it working before 2025,' the Premier said, 'We've had to cancel it because of the issues at the Whyalla Steelworks'—even though in parliament the Premier admitted that the steelworks running on hydrogen is probably not going to happen before the end of the 2030s or even the 2040s.

This is despite the fact that the Premier said in early 2024 that the hydrogen power station would not be reliant on Whyalla because they have a customer for their hydrogen and that customer is the power station. All of a sudden, he has had to start back-peddalling to save face and cover up to the people of South Australia. The ruse continued, though, because the Premier made out to the South Australian people, 'It's okay. That \$600 million we were spending, that fake budget which was really going to be \$1 billion, we're just going to pick it up and we'll sell the turbines and we'll recover that and send it across to the Whyalla Steelworks package.'

The truth is, and this is revealed in the budget, that all of that \$600 million is not going to be recovered and a fair chunk of it is going to be lost to the engineering and design works that have had to be undertaken and all the contractor payments that have had to be made—maybe even just to pay for staff to go on a cuttlefish tour as well. All those rats and mice and all those trips overseas: they all add up. There is a real issue there, and the budget reveals that.

We know that under Labor, South Australians are struggling with record high power bills, and the only energy policy that Labor took to the election has now been revealed as a hydrogen hoax. Under Labor, hospital ramping has reached record levels, and Adelaide's house prices have become the sixth least affordable in the world and the second least affordable in the nation. We cannot continue down this path.

This week, in his budget reply speech and even before that, the Leader of the Opposition unveiled his vision for the future of South Australia. It is based on core Liberal values: everyone who works hard can own a home, raise a family and live in a community that reflects their values. One of the key announcements made this week was that under a Tarzia Liberal government, a first-home buyer purchasing an existing home up to \$1 million will not pay a cent in stamp duty. That will save first-home owners \$40,000 on an \$850,000 house. It allows them to buy a house closer to where they work, closer to their family and closer to schools, and gives them an opportunity to get into the market quicker, rather than having to wait for a new home to be built.

A Tarzia Liberal government will also fund a GP after-hours increased access trial to support GP clinics and provide after-hours care to South Australians. The opposition will also commit to delivering a debt management plan so that South Australians can have confidence that state debt remains at a sustainable level and their money is managed wisely.

We also have a plan to reduce power bills for working South Australians. It includes reinstating the very successful home battery scheme. We will exempt apprentices and trainees from payroll tax and lift the payroll tax threshold from \$1.5 million to \$2.1 million to empower small business. They are just some of the suite of policies that will be put to the people of South Australia at the next state election to reward hard work and help South Australians raise a family and live in a community that reflects their values.

Bill read a second time.

Estimates Committees

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services, Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well) (18:30): I move:

That this bill be referred to estimates committees.

Motion carried.

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I move:

That the proposed expenditures for the departments and services contained in the Appropriation Bill be referred to Estimates Committees A and B for examination and report by 26 June, in accordance with the timetables distributed.

Motion carried.

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I seek leave to incorporate the timetables in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

APPROPRIATION BILL 2025

TIMETABLE FOR ESTIMATES COMMITTEES

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

THURSDAY 19 JUNE AT 9.00 AM

Premier

State Governor's Establishment

Auditor Office of South Australia

Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science

Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy

Department of State Development (part)

Administered Items for the Department of State Development (part)

Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

Department for Environment and Water

Administered Items for the Department for Environment and Water

Department for Energy and Mining (part)

FRIDAY 20 JUNE AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Energy and Mining

Department for Energy and Mining (part)

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

Department for Infrastructure and Transport (part)

Administered Items for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (part)

MONDAY 23 JUNE AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Education, Training and Skills

Department for Education

Administered Items for the Department for Education

Department of State Development (part)

Administered Items for the Department of State Development (part)

TUESDAY 24 JUNE AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Human Services

Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well

Department of Human Services (part)

Administered Items for the Department of Human Services (part)

WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Trade and Investment

Minister for Local Government

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Department of State Development (part)

Administered Items for the Department of State Development (part)

Department for Housing and Urban Development (part)

Administered Items for the Department for Housing and Urban Development (part)

Defence SA (part)

Minister for Housing and Urban Development

Minister for Planning

Department for Housing and Urban Development (part)

Administered Items for the Department for Housing and Urban Development (part)

Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B

THURSDAY 19 JUNE AT 9.00 AM

Treasurer

Department of Treasury and Finance

Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

Minister for Defence and Space Industries

Defence SA (part)

Minister for Police

South Australia Police

Administered Items for the South Australia Police

Department for Infrastructure and Transport (part)

Administered Items for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (part)

FRIDAY 20 JUNE AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Child Protection

Department for Child Protection

Administered Items for the Department for Child Protection

Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

Department of Human Services (part)

Administered Items for the Department of Human Services (part)

Minister for Health and Wellbeing

Department for Health and Wellbeing

Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health

Preventive Health SA

MONDAY 23 JUNE AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Minister for Forest Industries

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Administered Items for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Minister for Small and Family Business

Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs

Attorney-General's Department (part)

Administered Items for the Attorney-General's Department (part)

Department of State Development (part)

Administered Items for the Department of State Development (part)

Minister for Arts

Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

TUESDAY 24 JUNE AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Attorney-General

Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector

Courts Administration Authority

Attorney-General's Department (part)
Administered Items for the Attorney-General's Department (part)
Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)
Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)
Special Minister of State
Electoral Commission of South Australia
Administered Items for the Electoral Commission of South Australia
Legislative Council
House of Assembly
Joint Parliamentary Services
Administered Items for the Joint Parliamentary Services
Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)
Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)
Minister for Tourism
South Australian Tourism Commission
Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)
Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services
South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission
South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service
South Australian State Emergency Service
Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)
Department for Correctional Services
Minister for Autism
Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)
Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)
Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing
Department for Infrastructure and Transport (part)
Administered Items for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (part)

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I move:

That Estimates Committee A be appointed, consisting of Hon. A. Piccolo, S.E. Andrews, Mr Basham, Mr Dighton, Mrs Pearce, Hon. V.A. Tarzia and Hon. T.J. Whetstone.

Motion carried.

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I move:

That Estimates Committee B be appointed, consisting of Mr Hughes, Mr Brown, Mr Odenwalder, Mr Patterson, Mr Pederick, Ms Stinson and Mr Telfer.

Motion carried.

At 18:32 the house adjourned until Thursday 26 June 2025 at 11:00.