

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 25 November 2025

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

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

The SPEAKER read prayers.

Bills

RETURN TO WORK (PRESUMPTIVE FIREFIGHTER INJURIES) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (11:02): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I rise to introduce the Return to Work (Presumptive Firefighter Injuries) Amendment Bill 2024. Like all members of this house, I acknowledge the service that South Australia's firefighters perform for the community, often putting themselves in harm's way to protect the safety and welfare of others.

It has long been recognised, both in Australia and internationally, that firefighters face occupational exposure to certain carcinogens through their work, which makes it statistically more likely for them to develop particular cancers than the general population. Jurisdictions across Australia have recognised this by inserting presumptive liability provisions into their workers compensation legislation, which makes it easy for firefighters diagnosed with those cancers to have their claim accepted and obtain compensation.

While firefighting has traditionally been a male-dominated occupation, in South Australia we have seen a significant and growing number of women choosing to become firefighters. Women now represent around 11 per cent of paid firefighters and around 25 per cent of volunteer firefighters. An unfortunate by-product of the gender history of firefighting is that legislation designed to protect and support firefighters has not kept pace with the growing diversity of the profession. That is one of the matters that this bill seeks to address.

The effect of this amendment is that for those workers who meet the qualifying period, if they suffer one of the prescribed cancers, then the ordinary burden of proof is reversed and their injuries presumed to have arisen from their employment as a firefighter, unless proven otherwise. The other matters the bill addresses are a product of its legislative history.

This bill was originally introduced by the government in the Legislative Council and proposed the addition of three additional cancers predominantly affecting female firefighters. The bill was amended in the council to insert a number of additional cancers and changes to qualification periods. That amendment was supported by all members and was not opposed by the government. However, as the Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector made clear at the time, the effect of the amendments made by the Legislative Council was that the progress of the bill would necessarily be delayed while the government obtained appropriate advice on the impact of the additional inserted matters.

I am pleased to advise the house that since that time, the government has had extensive good faith dialogue with the leadership of the United Firefighters Union about the progress of this legislation. Given the parliamentary sitting year is shortly coming to an end, neither party wants to see this delayed any further. As a result of those discussions, we have reached agreement with the union on a pathway that will see the list of presumptive firefighter cancers under the Return to Work Act expanded to match the list of cancers covered under the equivalent legislation in Queensland.

The government has filed amendments to this bill to deliver on the first tranche of that agreement. With these amendments, the bill will extend presumptive liability to include primary site cervical cancer, primary site ovarian cancer, primary site uterine cancer, primary site penile cancer, primary site thyroid cancer, primary site liver cancer and malignant mesothelioma, and will reduce the qualification period for primary site oesophageal cancer from 25 years to 15 years.

These provisions will apply to employed firefighters as well as volunteers deemed to be employees of the Crown for the purpose of the act, such as the Country Fire Service. These provisions will also retrospectively apply to cover claims relating to injuries dating back to 1 July 2013, consistent with the other presumptive cancers covered by the legislation. These changes will come into effect immediately upon assent, rather than awaiting a separate proclamation.

As part of the government's discussions with the United Firefighters Union, the government has also committed, and places on the record its commitment, that should it be re-elected at the state election in March it will progress a bill within the first 100 days of the next term of parliament to legislate presumptive liability for the remaining four additional cancers: primary site pancreatic cancer, primary site skin cancer, primary site lung cancer and asbestos-related disease.

These remaining four items are the most financially complex to accurately model, and deferring them until the next term of parliament provides time to finalise costing work and ensures the impact of those amendments is properly accounted for before they come into effect. This approach will enable the government to immediately address our original goal of addressing cancers specifically affecting women, make significant and immediate progress on other cancers affecting firefighters, and allow us to finalise the significant costing work required on the remaining items before the next term of parliament.

These amendments follow significant commitments to additional medical support, screening and health monitoring services for all MFS employees as part of the new enterprise agreement that reached in-principle agreement between the government and the leadership of the United Firefighters Union last week. Together, these reforms will help detect and treat firefighting-related cancers as soon as possible and make it faster and easier for firefighters to have any workers compensation claims for firefighting-related cancers made and accepted.

This reform recognises the growing number of female firefighters in South Australia and the invaluable service they provide to the community. This will remove barriers to fair access to support and compensation for workplace injuries and is consistent with similar amendments introduced in other jurisdictions. We understand that the United Firefighters Union has written to all members urging them to support these amendments, and we commend these amendments to the house and look forward to the committee stage.

I wish to place on the record the government's gratitude to the leadership of the United Firefighters Union, particularly secretary Max Adlam and acting secretary Peter Russell, for their constructive approach to this issue. I commend the bill to the house and seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Return to Work Act 2014*

3—Amendment of Schedule 3—Injuries presumed to arise from employment as a firefighter

This clause amends Schedule 3 of the principal Act to reduce the qualifying period for primary site oesophageal cancer from 25 years to 15 years. This clause also adds to the list of injuries set out in Schedule 3 of the principal Act.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11:07): I rise to indicate I am the lead speaker for the opposition and indicate at the outset that the opposition supports the bill. I also note more particularly the minister's further remarks in relation to the amendments that we are

going to shortly deal with and that will exclude—for the time being, we are now advised—those four, and they are fairly glaring and I think illustrate the journey that this has been on for quite some time: asbestos-related disease, primary site lung cancer, primary site pancreatic cancer and primary site skin cancer.

As the minister has adverted, what has been happening for a little over at least the last year while this bill has sat on the *Notice Paper*—we have 31 October noted on the *Notice Paper*; I have just checked and I am advised that is 31 October 2024. It has been that whole last year that it has taken the government to get to grips with what was roundly supported in another place where the bill was introduced some considerable period of time ago now. In this regard I pay tribute, as I will on the merits to contributions of those in another place, particularly to the Hon. Frank Pangallo for his leading role in what was then championed also by this side of the house in the course of the debate in another place and since.

I also want to pay tribute, of course, to the work of the UFU under the leadership of Max Adlam, but more wideranging than that speaking up for the United Firefighters Union's membership in response to—and you have to be careful in this space. Obviously the expansion of categories that the government first brought to the house explained that this was being done in response to an increasing number of female firefighters, and you have a small group of cancers that are wholly women's cancers being added to the list. The flip side of that coin, of course, is that on an actuarial calculation those cancers are of very little prevalence and very little cost.

The light was shone, and appropriately, on the fact that if you are going to get serious about presumptive injuries, particularly cancer, then it is a bit rich to zero in on those that have an actuarial narrow limit and application. Even though, of course, it is to be celebrated that men and women and people of all ages are volunteering and making a contribution in firefighting.

What occurred in the course of the debate was that a light was shone on that, and the UFU has been on about this for a long time. In coming on now for debate in the final week, it was news just now to hear from the minister that the government has committed to deal with these remaining four because they are, pretty glaringly, those that are at the core of what the concern of the UFU and individual firefighters will be.

As a result of hearing that commitment from the government, I will temper what otherwise might have been some slightly more concerned remarks on behalf of the union and those who have been fighting the fight. As I say, I understand the union will take the win. I have been glad to hear from the union along the way. I am glad to hear the government is committed to including those remaining four. I might just ask for some more specific information about that process in a short committee stage.

I otherwise take the opportunity to thank those who put their lives on the line. Hopefully, we can improve the safety and circumstances of firefighters, who unfortunately still find themselves suffering not only the risk of their lives in responding to fire emergencies but also the risk of these awful diseases coming their way as a result of that work. I pay tribute to them one and all and I am glad on behalf of the opposition to commend this expansion and will now look forward to that work being completed without delay. I commend the bill to the house. Let's get on with it.

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (11:14): I rise today with a very personal sense of purpose. In my community, firefighting is not just something people do, it is a part of who we are. I represent many firefighters, both paid and volunteer. I am the parent of a firefighter, and I am a firefighter myself. I am part of the CFS family, one of thousands of families across South Australia who feel every pager tone not just as a call to action but sometimes as a moment of worry, pride and hope. Like every member in this house, I acknowledge the extraordinary service our firefighters give to this state. But for those of us who live inside this world, who share the frontline stories and who wait for loved ones to return home, that acknowledgement comes with a deeper understanding of the risks they face. It is why this is so important.

It has long been recognised, here in Australia and around the world, that firefighters are exposed to carcinogens that significantly increase their risk of developing certain cancers. This is not hypothetical. It is real. I have heard from local firefighting families who have faced that diagnosis, and I continue to stand beside firefighters who have developed other complex health issues, both

physical and mental. I know the fear families carry, and I know the strength it takes to keep serving despite it. Every time the pager goes to attend a call-out where there is thick smoke, be it rural or structural, car or hazmat, the risk is real. I think about it every time my son responds and every time I take a breath on the fireground. Whilst we have masks, either P2 or respirators, there are times, even when taking a drink or otherwise, where we know things are going into our lungs that we cannot control.

Across the nation, governments have responded to this risk by introducing presumptive liability laws so that firefighters diagnosed with cancers do not have to fight a second battle just to have their claims accepted, and today's bill continues that work here in South Australia. Importantly, it does so in a way that finally recognises the changing face of our fire services.

For generations, firefighting was seen as a male-dominated occupation, but that does not reflect today's reality. Women now represent around 11 per cent of paid firefighters and around 25 per cent of volunteers, and those numbers continue to grow. I see those women in my own community. I serve alongside them. I am one.

Yet our laws have not always kept pace with this change. Some protections were designed in a different era, built around a different workforce. This bill helps correct that. The amendments before us ensure that, for firefighters who meet the qualifying periods and develop one of the prescribed cancers, the burden of proof is reversed. Instead of asking sick firefighters to justify their illness, the law will finally acknowledge what we already know: these cancers are linked to the job.

This bill has travelled a long legislative path. It began with the government proposing three cancers predominantly affecting women, and the Legislative Council amended the bill to include more. The government did not oppose those additions but rightly took the time to seek further advice and engage in good faith discussions with the United Fire Fighters Union. Those conversations have now led to a clear way forward, one that expands our list of presumptive cancers to match the Queensland model.

The government has introduced amendments that will immediately add primary site cervical cancer, primary site ovarian cancer, primary site uterine cancer, primary site penile cancer, primary site thyroid cancer, primary site liver cancer and malignant mesothelioma and will reduce the qualifying period for primary site oesophageal cancer from 25 to 15 years. These protections apply to both the MFS firefighters and to volunteer firefighters deemed employees of the Crown, including our CFS members. As someone who has fought fires beside volunteers who give everything they have, often after a full day's work, this recognition matters deeply to me.

These provisions will also apply retrospectively, covering claims going back to 1 July 2013, and they will come into force immediately upon assent. Our government has also committed that, if re-elected in March, it will legislate presumptive liability for the remaining four cancers within the first 100 days of the next parliamentary term. These include primary site pancreatic cancer, primary site skin cancer, primary site lung cancer, and asbestos-related disease. These are complex to model and are taking a little extra time to ensure that the financial impact is properly understood. Importantly, they are not forgotten; they are part of the path forward. These legislative changes sit alongside improved medical screening, monitoring and support for all MFS firefighters through the new enterprise agreement reached in principle last week.

Together, these steps improve early detection, better support treatment and make it faster and easier for firefighters to have their claims accepted. These reforms are not just about policy. They are about people: people who leave their homes not knowing what they will face; people who stand shoulder to shoulder on the fireground, trusting each other with their lives; people whose families bear the emotional weight that comes with every siren and every long night.

Yesterday afternoon and overnight, I was one of the many family members who sat worrying about their loved ones, as my son jumped in a truck and headed over to Kangaroo Island, in your community, Mr Speaker, to help the local brigades with a fire that had started there. With very real memories of the last large fire on KI, where members of my own brigade were caught in a burnover and to this day carry the effects of that with them, the worry was very real.

Fortunately, on this occasion, by the time our crew reached KI the fire was mostly under control. My son and the other firefighters from our Upper Sturt brigade and across the Mount Lofty

group strike team worked overnight to help the locals and are now waiting to come home. The worry for families, though, is always there.

Sometimes it is the case that a firefighter answers the call and does not return home. I would like to take a moment to give my condolences to the family, friends and CFS and National Parks families who are mourning the loss of firefighter Peter Curtis, who lost his life over the weekend. I can only imagine the heartbreak and extreme sense of loss they are all feeling. Peter was a much loved and deeply respected member of the National Parks fire brigade and CFS member who had been fighting fires for over 30 years and, on Sunday, answered his last call. Again, my condolences to all who knew him. Our firefighters give so much and this bill acknowledges that. These amendments also recognise the diversity of today's firefighting workforce, the invaluable service they provide and the need for fair, compassionate support when their health is impacted by that service.

I also want to acknowledge the United Firefighters Union including secretary Max Adlam and acting secretary Peter Russell for their collaborative and constructive approach. Their advocacy has been determined, respectful and focused on outcomes that genuinely improve firefighters' lives. I also know, as a past VA rep, that CFSVA has been advocating for these changes as well and I thank them for what they do to support our CFS members. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the CFS Foundation and the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation who together support victims of fire by providing assistance to injured firefighters, and their families.

On Saturday night just gone, I was pleased to attend the Triple 0 Charity Ball where funds were raised to help these organisations to continue the work that they do. It was great to see so many of our first responders there, and their supporters, digging deep to help contribute, and a big thank you to all who were involved in organising this event. I would also like to thank the Attorney-General and his staff, particularly Patrick and Angus, who have taken my calls weekly as I have advocated and inquired as to what was happening with these negotiations.

As someone who has seen this world from many sides, as a firefighter, as a parent of a firefighter, as a friend of a firefighter and as a member of parliament for an electorate that faces the threat of fires every summer, and is so well protected by many men and women who answer the call, and as a member of a community bound together by this service, I commend the bill to the house.

The SPEAKER (11:22): Before I call the member for Light, I would just like to pass on my thanks to the member for Waite's son who went to Kangaroo Island yesterday to help with that very serious fire that was fought so well by CFS volunteers from the island and the mainland, and also the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's daughter, who is with the Bridgewater brigade, who was also there fighting. It just shows that CFS volunteering is full of wonderful people including this next generation that is coming through, the sons and daughters of people in here, who live and represent those local communities.

Kangaroo Island is a place that knows as well as any part of South Australia how bad bushfires can be, having gone through that Black Summer of 2019-20 and the devastation that some people are still coming to terms with, six years on. So a massive thank you to all of our CFS volunteers. I think this a great piece of legislation, and I now give the call to the member for Light.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (11:23): I would like to rise and speak in support of this bill today, and I think it fitting that we are debating this bill today which is the 10th anniversary of the Pinery fires. Most people would know about the Pinery fires. It was a major event. Sadly, two people lost their lives. Thousands and thousands of hectares of farmland was destroyed because it was in the peak of the season. Houses burned, buildings burned down and lives changed forever. So it is fitting that this bill today acknowledges the enormous contribution of firefighters, both those paid and volunteers, who keep our communities safe.

On Sunday, I was fortunate enough to be invited to attend a commemorative service held at the Freeling farm centre by a local committee which hosted this event to commemorate the Pinery fires. The event was held to honour not only those people who ended up giving their lives but also the work undertaken by the firefighters right across the board, as well as other emergency services workers, who obviously bring the fire under control but also protect life and property.

In addition to our volunteer and paid firefighters that this legislation covers, which is really important, it is important to note that there are other people who do firefighting work as well. These are the farmers and other people who live in those areas who use their farm firefighting units to also respond to fires. Often, because the fire is on their property or nearby, they are the first responders. I am proud to say that it was this Labor government that used funding to support these farm firefighting units.

That occurred some time ago, but that funding was used to make the farm firefighting units safer, not only safer in terms of the units themselves but also safer for the people who actually fight the fires. That was a recognition by this government that we understand, sadly, that fires and other disasters will occur but we need to do two things: we need to obviously reduce the risk of harm to those people who put their lives at risk but also we need to support people to make sure, when they are injured as a result of their contribution to our community, that they are looked after.

One thing we have done, through the farm firefighting unit program, is to financially support those farm firefighting units. That money is used in two ways. The first is to make the units safer by making sure that they comply with certain requirements. I recall many years ago seeing farm firefighting units where people literally just put a tank on the back of a trailer to go around the paddocks and fight the fire. It was quite unsafe. I think it was more by luck than by design that there were not more injuries. We recognised the important work they do, so we helped fund those units, but we also provided funding for protective clothing, which is really important.

As I said, it was the 10th anniversary of the Pinery fires. There was obviously a lot of damage done. I am aware that there are a number of other community-based events today throughout what was the old Light electorate, because at the time I was the member for some of those areas. Communities like Wasleys were affected. For example, the Wasleys Bowling Club burnt down, the Wasleys post office burnt down and a number of farmers lost not only their homes but often other outbuildings, etc. There was damage done by the fires to fencing, and then organisations like BlazeAid came in to support the community.

One thing we often overlook, which was made very clear to me as a result of the Pinery fires, is that when people lose their homes and their outbuildings, while those buildings can be rebuilt, what cannot be rebuilt or reclaimed are those personal items that they lose: photographs and all the artefacts that we collect through life, as well as all the memories we collect through the things we do through life. They are burnt and gone, whether it is a piece of furniture that has some significance, photographs or a whole range of other things.

Often, when I spoke to people, that loss was quite immense because they actually had lost a whole range of memories. Not only had they lost objects but they had lost a lot of memories. I think we need to understand that sometimes the recovery period or the healing takes some time. In fact, the theme for the event on Sunday was 'The healing continues', because fires and other disasters impact on other people in very different ways.

In terms of this bill, I would like to acknowledge the service that South Australian firefighters perform for the community, often putting themselves in harm's way to protect the safety and welfare of others, whether they be paid or volunteers. In my electorate of Light, I have both volunteers and paid employees of the fire service. In my duty role for Frome, there are a lot more volunteer brigades and there are paid officers there as well.

I have also been made aware that we are now undertaking an audit of the various infrastructure available for CFS stations, which is very important. I have been out to some of the stations in the country areas and some are a little shabby, to put it mildly. I was talking to a person who is actually engaged in the audit—he was a volunteer but has been recruited by the CFS and is on the payroll—and he was saying that the audit is working well and will hopefully identify those areas that actually need some more investment.

It has been long recognised, both in Australia and internationally, that firefighters face occupational exposure to certain carcinogens through their work, which makes it more likely that they could develop particular cancers than the general population. This bill also corrects another anomaly in the sense that it recognises that in the past most firefighters have been men, but there is now an increasing number of women joining the service, both as paid firefighters and also in the volunteer sector. In fact only a couple weeks ago I met a woman in Clare who has celebrated 50 years this week, I think, of volunteer work in the CFS, through both Watervale CFS and Clare CFS.

Women now represent about 11 per cent of paid firefighters and around 25 per cent of volunteer firefighters but unfortunately, because of policies in the past, women have not been formally recognised. This bill does that, and it also extends the presumption of certain cancers which impact on women. That is an important thing to correct.

As stated, it is really important to note that these provisions will apply to both employed South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service firefighters as well as volunteers deemed to be employees of the Crown for the purpose of the act, such as the Country Fire Service. If my memory serves me correctly, it was in my time as Minister for Volunteers that this Labor government actually introduced these presumptions about cancers being caused by firefighters' work. We then also extended that to the CFS as well. So again, this government has, through its actions, recognised the really important work they do for our community.

An important part of this bill is that these provisions will also apply retrospectively to cover claims related to injuries dating back to 1 July 2013, consistent with other presumptive cancers covered by the legislation. With those few comments, I commend the bill to the house.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (11:32): My thanks to all those who have made a contribution on this very important piece of legislation. As the member for Light pointed out, today is an important anniversary in terms of the Pinery fire, and it is appropriate that we can, hopefully, see carriage of this bill through this place on that anniversary.

I also acknowledge the contribution of the member for Waite and the work she has done in playing a role in contributing to how it is drafted and the form it now takes. I also thank the member for Heysen and the Deputy Leader for stating that it will be supported by the opposition. We welcome that support and look forward to getting this through—hopefully today.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clause 1.

Mr TEAGUE: Just so we are clear, the bill was introduced in the other place, it was amended in the other place and the amendments that we are dealing with in due course are government amendments in this house that will, now we have just heard, temporarily narrow the field so that some actuarial work can be done before including them within a hundred days or so, I think I heard the minister say. That is just to set the scene.

The CHAIR: He was quite right to correct me.

Mr TEAGUE: If that is correct—

The CHAIR: That is my understanding.

Mr TEAGUE: —then I might just be able to deal with it all at clause 1, because the government amendments can then be dealt with in one go, as far as I am concerned. I heard the minister say, and it is welcome, that there is more actuarial work to be done on these four headline categories. Is it as simple as what might appear: that these four are actually the most prevalent and most costly and, therefore, there is a complexity of work necessary that is associated with that before a relevant number can be provided to the government? If that is all happening in circumstances where the minister, as I have heard him, has just given a guarantee that these will be legislated in any event, why not now?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I am told that prevalence is just one factor. The other factors are just a complexity and actually doing a calculation based on what the scope could be and how wide that could be. So, yes, prevalence is a part of it, but the part that is more time-consuming is being able to do what would be a range of, as you say, actuarial calculations on what the cost might be.

Mr TEAGUE: In circumstances where we have just heard the government guarantee that it will legislate should it have the opportunity to within a hundred days after, in the next parliament,

how—given that posture—is it not reckless to give the guarantee? Again, I just ask the question: if there is a guarantee now, then why not legislate now and tell the house the cost is uncertain? We have to legislate. It is a straightforward question. Is there some particular form of budget and audit documentation that is actually required that has been completed in respect of all the other categories and that actually needs to be determined as a matter of machinery of government, and simply has not been physically possible?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: My answer is a simple one; that is, the government's position is not to legislate and then advise of the cost later. The prudent thing would be to foreshadow that if we are in a position to form government, and we can do so, we will legislate, and by that stage we will also have the necessary specifics in terms of costs that we do not have now. We think that is the right way of going about this policy change.

Clause passed.

Clause 2.

The CHAIR: Minister, I understand you have an amendment?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I do not want to put words into the mouth of the member for Heysen, the deputy leader, but I think he indicated that perhaps we could move amendments Nos 2, 3, 4 and 5 en bloc, if that is agreeable.

The CHAIR: My understanding is that we can do the first one separately and the rest en bloc, because they relate to the same clause. It is only an extra step.

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

Amendment No 1 [Police-1]—

Page 2, line 7—Delete 'This Act comes into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation.' and substitute:

This Act comes into operation on the day on which it is assented to by, or on behalf of, the Crown.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clause 3.

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

Amendment No 2 [Police-1]—

Page 2, line 19 [Clause 3(2), row relating to 'Asbestos related disease']—

Delete all of the contents of line 19 (being all of the contents of the row relating to 'Asbestos related disease' in the inserted table)

Amendment No 3 [Police-1]—

Page 2, line 22 [Clause 3(2), row relating to 'Primary site lung cancer']—

Delete all of the contents of line 22 (being all of the contents of the row relating to 'Primary site lung cancer' in the inserted table)

Amendment No 4 [Police-1]—

Page 2, line 23 [Clause 3(2), row relating to 'Primary site pancreatic cancer']—

Delete all of the contents of line 23 (being all of the contents of the row relating to 'Primary site pancreatic cancer' in the inserted table)

Amendment No 5 [Police-1]—

Page 2, line 25 [Clause 3(2), row relating to 'Primary site skin cancer']—

Delete all of the contents of line 25 (being all of the contents of the row relating to 'Primary site skin cancer' in the inserted table)

Amendments carried; clause as amended passed.

Long title passed.

Bill reported with amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (11:40): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (SUPERANNUATION AND OTHER PAYMENTS) BILL*Second Reading*

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (11:41): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

This bill seeks to amend a range of acts relating to the superannuation and remuneration amendments. It aims to modernise outdated provisions and ensure consistency between public sector superannuation schemes and address particular challenges affecting several superannuation schemes. Part 2 of the bill introduces amendments to the Electricity Corporations Act 1994, which continues the Electricity Industry Superannuation Scheme under a standalone trustee and rules. The EISS board acts as trustee of the scheme, which supports members and pensioners, primarily employees and former employees of the electricity supply industry. These amendments will enable the consideration of potential merger opportunities with other superannuation schemes should such opportunities arise.

Where a merger proceeds with the commonwealth-regulated superannuation fund, these amendments will facilitate the application of successive fund transfer rules, which are well-established mechanisms in the superannuation industry that allow the transfer of members and beneficiaries. Under these rules, members are transferred to the new fund on the basis that they will receive rights to benefits that are, on a holistic basis, equivalent to the rights they had in the original fundamentally prior to the transfer.

In the case of public sector superannuation schemes, alternative mechanisms may apply, supported by expanded regulation-making powers. The bill also seeks to simplify the process for participating employers to withdraw from the scheme. The bill also makes amendments to the Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990 and the Parliamentary Superannuation Act 1974. In general terms, the arrangements for members of parliament have not kept up with modernisations that are standard for other public sector superannuation schemes. In this way, the bill aims to rely on the Parliamentary Superannuation Scheme, with those other public sector schemes. It also introduces amendments to better reflect the ways in which parliamentary work differs from a standard public sector career.

Part 3 of the bill amends the Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990 to remove rules that currently limit salary sacrifice to the PSS3 superannuation scheme to 50 per cent. This part also ensures that additional salary will continue to be paid in respect of members of parliament who temporarily vacate a specified office due to ill health or disability. Again, this reflects the unique nature of a political career, where extended periods of sick leave and other absences are generally not available for senior office holders in the way that they may be in other workplaces.

Part 4 of the bill amends the Parliamentary Superannuation Act 1974, which continues the Parliamentary Superannuation Scheme for current and former members of the South Australian parliament. These amendments will modernise and update features of the PSS3 superannuation scheme to align with those currently available to public sector employees in the government's Southern State Superannuation Scheme (Triple S).

This includes the introduction of a facility that will enable members to nominate their estate as the recipient of their death benefits, the splitting of contributions with spouses, permit early access to superannuation on financial hardship and compassionate grounds in accordance with the commonwealth's superannuation rules, the ability to release excess non-concessional contributions from PSS2 and PSS3 to avoid penalty tax where balances exceed the applicable cap (as well as a

facility to assist the payment of penalty tax previously incurred as a result of there being no statutory power to release excess contributions), the ability to transfer a portion of accrued entitlements to a complying fund at any time (subject to conditions), the modernisation of regulation-making powers and the ability to withdraw a cash benefit from age 65.

The ability to credit superannuation payments that are not currently contemplated under the act to the accounts of eligible members has also been included to ensure eligible PSS3 members may receive new payments determined by the board that members of regulated funds may receive, such as the new superannuation payments on commonwealth parental leave payable from 1 July 2025.

The bill also revises the invalidity and death insurance formula to remove the requirement to deduct the balance of the member's government-funded contribution account from the final benefit, thereby enhancing certainty for invalidity and estate planning purposes.

Other measures have also been introduced for members who leave the parliament after the commencement day of the bill. This includes the continuation of death insurance up to age 70 and the introduction of an income protection-style benefit up to age 65 of 75 per cent of salary, provided PSS3 membership is maintained. Premiums will be payable by members of PSS3 in respect of the provision of such insurance and eligibility would be contingent upon maintaining membership in PSS3 with an adequate balance to sustain the payment of the premiums. Members would also be permitted to opt out of these insurance offerings at any time.

Finally, the conduct of meetings of the Parliamentary Superannuation Board will also be more flexible, with the ability to allow meetings of the board to be held by electronic means and decision-making by circular resolution, as well as an express power of delegation akin to that of the South Australian Superannuation Board.

Part 5 of the bill amends the Police Superannuation Act 1990, which governs the closed defined benefit Police Pension Scheme for officers and pensioners who commenced employment with SAPOL on or before 31 May 1990. To support the long-term sustainability of the scheme, the bill introduces a legislative mechanism that will enable future changes to its administration, should such changes be considered appropriate in the future. These amendments are enabling in nature and do not in themselves effect any immediate change. Transitional arrangements required to support such a change would generally be addressed through regulation, following appropriate consultation with relevant stakeholders as well as the modernisation of regulation-making powers.

Part 6 of the bill amends the Southern State Superannuation Act 2009 to address a funding inequity affecting the Super SA Flexible Rollover Product, a post-retirement investment product administered under the act. While members can transfer insurance from Triple S to the FRP, the act does not currently permit the transfer of associated premiums to the Retirement Investment Fund, which holds the FRP premiums. This results in the RIF covering the full cost of insurance claims from the FRP without receiving the corresponding premiums. The bill therefore seeks to amend section 10 of the act to allow the Super SA board to transfer amounts determined by an actuary from Triple S to the RIF to ensure Triple S contributes equitably to the cost of transferred insurance.

A further amendment is intended to support flexible and efficient arrangements if members from other superannuation schemes established under state acts or otherwise for the benefit of Crown employees are ever determined to be transitioned to Triple S in the future. To facilitate this, the clause builds on the existing regulation-making powers under section 19 of the Southern State Superannuation Act 2009, which provides a foundation for supporting such potential transitions. A similar amendment is proposed in part 7 of the bill which amends the Superannuation Act 1988 in relation to membership of the state scheme.

These amendments are intended to provide greater flexibility and efficiency in the legislative framework applying to members of defined benefit public sector superannuation schemes, established under state acts or for the benefit of Crown employees who are seeking to be administered by or merged with Super SA.

For consistency with section 19 of the Southern State Superannuation Act 2009, the amendment expands existing regulation-making powers under schedule 1A in the Superannuation Act 1988 to ensure there is sufficient legislative capacity should a change to scheme membership

arrangements be required in the future. Importantly, the amendment does not of itself effect any change to existing membership arrangements.

As part of this, the amendments also expand section 7 of the Superannuation Act 1988 to empower the board to administer other public sector superannuation schemes if approved by the minister. A technical amendment to section 10 also clarifies that departmental staff made available to the board may also be used to administer both board-managed and other public sector schemes (with the reference to those other schemes amended to ensure it covers all schemes administered by Super SA).

The bill also proposes to amend the process for filling casual vacancies arising from the resignation of elected members of the South Australian Superannuation Board, such that a further election would no longer be required, irrespective of the remaining duration of the resigning member's term. Nominations to fill the vacancy will continue to be made by the relevant unions prescribed in the act, extending beyond the current provision that applies only where less than 12 months remain in the term. The opportunity was also taken to modernise general regulation-making powers to align with the Triple S act.

Part 8 of the bill amends the Superannuation Funds Management Corporation of South Australia Act 1995 to align the process for filling casual vacancies arising from the resignation of elected board members with the simplified approach proposed under the Superannuation Act 1988, as outlined above. It also removes the requirements that regulations prescribing public authorities seeking to nominate funds for investment by Funds SA must not take effect until the disallowance period has expired. This requirement has been identified as an unnecessary procedural barrier that can cause significant delays in the commencement of investment partnerships with Funds SA. I commend the bill to the house and seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

This clause is formal.

2—Commencement

The Act will come into operation on assent. However, the operation of some provisions will be delayed until a day to be fixed by proclamation.

Part 2—Amendment of *Electricity Corporations Act 1994*

3—Amendment of Schedule 1—Superannuation

This clause makes amendments to the Electricity Industry Superannuation Scheme Trust Deed to facilitate the transfer of members of the Electricity Industry Superannuation Scheme to other superannuation schemes.

A new regulation making power is inserted authorising the making of regulations necessary or expedient to give effect to an arrangement to transfer the interests of a member or beneficiary to a public sector superannuation scheme under clause 20 of the Deed. Clause 20 deals with the transfer of members and former members to public sector superannuation schemes.

Provision is also made for the repeal of the Schedule by proclamation.

Part 3—Amendment of *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990*

4—Amendment of section 4AC—Additional salary

This clause amends section 4AC to provide that where a member of Parliament ceases to hold a specified office and the relevant presiding officer for the member certifies that they are satisfied that the cessation is due to the ill health, or a disability, of the member, the member continues to be entitled to additional salary as if they had not ceased to hold the office. The certification must be made on the basis of medical evidence provided by the member. The member will continue to be entitled to additional salary under the section until whichever of the following occurs first:

- the member is again appointed to an office specified in the Schedule;

- the member ceases to be a member of Parliament;
- the relevant presiding officer for the member is no longer satisfied that the member is unable to hold an office specified in the Schedule due to the ill health, or a disability, of the member;
- the House of Assembly is next dissolved by the Governor.

5—Amendment of section 4B—Salary sacrifice for superannuation purposes

Subsection (5) of section 4B of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990* imposes a limit of 50% on the amount of salary that may be sacrificed by a member for superannuation purposes. This clause repeals subsection (5) so that there is no limit on the amount of salary that may be sacrificed by a member. Consequential amendments are also made.

6—Amendment of section 5—Cessation of entitlement to remuneration

The amendment made by this clause is consequential.

Part 4—Amendment of *Parliamentary Superannuation Act 1974*

7—Amendment of section 5—Interpretation

This clause inserts a definition of legal personal representative, which applies in relation to deceased PSS 3 members. A person is the legal personal representative of a deceased PSS 3 member if the person has been nominated by notice in writing as the deceased's legal personal representative in accordance with the requirements of the South Australian Parliamentary Superannuation Board. The notice must have effect for the purposes of the Commonwealth *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993*.

Additional amendments to section 5 relate to the introduction of spouse membership of PSS 3.

8—Amendment of section 10—Procedure at meetings of Board

This clause amends section 10 so that meetings of the Parliamentary Superannuation Board can take place by way of telephone or other electronic means.

9—Insertion of section 11A

This clause inserts a new section providing the Board with a power to delegate.

11A—Delegation by Board

Section 11A authorises the Board to delegate any of the Board's powers or functions under the Act (except the power of delegation) to any person or body.

10—Amendment of section 13—The Fund

The amendments made by this clause are consequential on the introduction of spouse members to the PSS 3 scheme.

An additional amendment has the effect of requiring the Treasurer to pay into the Parliamentary Superannuation Fund from the Consolidated Account (or from a special deposit account) a percentage, to be determined by the Board, of any amount that is required to be paid to satisfy the payment of a disability pension.

In addition, proposed subsection (4a) will provide that the amount required to be paid by the Treasurer under subsection (4)(e) to satisfy the payment of a death insurance benefit in respect of a PSS 3 member who has ceased to be a member of Parliament is to be determined on the advice of an actuary, having regard to the amount of premiums paid by the member in respect of the insurance.

11—Amendment of section 13D—Co-contribution accounts

This amendment makes provision for the payment of the balance of a deceased PSS 3 member's co-contribution account to their legal personal representative. If the member has not nominated a legal personal representative, the payment will be made to their spouse or, if there is no spouse, to their estate.

12—Insertion of section 13E

This clause inserts a new section.

13E—Other contributions

Proposed section 13E provides that where a payment is made to the Board on behalf of a PSS 3 member, the Board may credit the payment to any account maintained by the Board on behalf of the member. This does not apply to co-contributions.

13—Amendment of section 14D—Government contribution accounts

Section 14D as amended by this clause will provide that a PSS 3 member's Government contribution account is to be debited with a disability pension premium of an amount fixed by the Board. This requirement will not apply in relation to a PSS 3 member whose insurance has been cancelled. A member's Government contribution account is also to be debited with any other payment that is to be charged against the account under the Act.

14—Amendment of section 21AC—Interpretation

This clause inserts a new definition of *co-contribution component*. The term is used in proposed section 21ACA.

15—Insertion of section 21ACA

This clause inserts a new section.

21ACA—Early access to superannuation benefits in case of severe financial hardship or on compassionate grounds

Proposed section 21ACA provides PSS 3 members with access to their superannuation benefits in certain circumstances. Benefits may be payable on application by a PSS 3 member under the section if, in the Board's opinion, the member would be taken for the purposes of the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Regulations 1994* of the Commonwealth—

- to be in severe financial hardship; or
- to satisfy a condition of release on a compassionate ground.

16—Amendment of section 21AD—Retirement at or above age 55

The amendment made by this clause is consequential.

17—Amendment of section 21AF—Preservation of components

The amendments made by this clause make provision for the payment of preserved components of a deceased PSS 3 member to their personal representative. If the member has not nominated a legal personal representative, the payment will be made to the member's spouse or, if there is no spouse, to the member's estate.

18—Amendment of section 21AH—Death of PSS 3 member

The amendments made by this clause have the effect of extending the payment to be made on the death of a PSS 3 member to PSS 3 members who have ceased to be members of Parliament. This does not apply in relation to a PSS 3 member—

- who ceased to be a member of the Parliament of this State before the commencement of new subsection (2a); or
- who is over the age of 70 years at the time of their death; or
- who has ceased to be a member of Parliament and whose insurance has been cancelled.

19—Amendment of section 21AH—Death of PSS 3 member

The amendments made by this clause make provision for a payment to be made on the death of a PSS 3 member to the member's legal personal representative. If the member has not nominated a legal personal representative, the payment will be made to their spouse or, if there is no spouse, to his or her estate.

20—Insertion of section 21AHA

Proposed section 21AHA provides for the payment of premiums (of an amount determined by the Board) in respect of death insurance cover by PSS 3 members who have ceased to be members of Parliament.

21—Amendment of section 21AI—Determination of invalidity/death insurance

This clause amends the formula in section 21AI for determining a PSS 3 member's level of invalidity/death insurance by removing the subtraction of GCA. GCA is the amount standing to the credit of the member's Government contribution account at the relevant time, less any amount credited to that account due to superannuation salary sacrifice payments under section 14C(2) of the Act.

22—Insertion of section 21AJ

This clause inserts a new section.

21AJ—Special benefit for PSS 3 members aged 65 or over

Under proposed section 21AJ, a PSS 3 member who has reached the age of 65 years can apply to the Board for the payment of a specified proportion of the balance of the member's eligible contribution accounts.

23—Insertion of Part 4 Division 2B

This clause inserts a new Division that sets out an income protection scheme for PSS 3 members who cease to be members of Parliament after the commencement of the Division and are not also members of PSS 2.

A PSS 3 member to whom the new Division applies who is incapacitated for work on account of a disability will be entitled to a disability pension. A member will be taken to be incapacitated for work on account of a disability if the Board is satisfied, on the basis of medical evidence provided by the member, that the member is incapable, because of ill health or a disability, of performing work for which the member is suitably qualified by training, education or experience.

The amount of the disability pension payable to a PSS 3 member will be 75% of the basic salary payable to a member of Parliament under the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990* at the time payment of the pension commences plus, if the member was at any time entitled to additional salary in respect of an office specified in the Schedule of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990*, the average of the additional salary paid to the member during the designated 4 year period. The designated 4 year period, in relation to a member who received additional salary under the Schedule of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990*, means the period of 4 years during which the member received the highest amount of such additional salary.

The new Division includes further provisions in relation to the eligibility for, and duration of, a disability pension. There is also a capacity for a PSS 3 member to apply to the Board to cancel the income protection to which the member is entitled under the Division.

24—Amendment of section 23AAC—Commutation to pay deferred superannuation contributions surcharge following death of member

The amendments made by this clause are consequential on other amendments enabling the possibility of a payment being made on the death of a PSS 3 member to the member's legal personal representative.

25—Amendment of section 23AAE—Payment of Division 293 tax

This clause corrects an outdated reference to Commonwealth legislation.

26—Insertion of sections 23AAF

This clause inserts a new section.

23AAF—Excess non-concessional contributions

Proposed section 23AAF facilitates the making of payments required under the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* of the Commonwealth in relation to the excess non-concessional contributions of PSS 2 and PSS 3 members. The section authorises the Board to pay to a member any amount the Board is required to pay pursuant to a release authority issued to the Board under the Commonwealth legislation.

27—Insertion of section 23AAG

This clause inserts a new section.

23AAG—Portability for PSS 3 members

Under proposed section 23AAG, amounts standing to the credit of one or more accounts maintained by the Board on behalf of a PSS 3 member may, at the option of the member, be transferred to another complying fund.

A complying fund is—

- (a) a complying superannuation fund; or
- (b) an RSA,

(both of which are defined by reference to Commonwealth legislation).

The combined balance of accounts maintained by the Board on behalf of a member for whom amounts are transferred under the section must, immediately after the amounts are transferred, be equal to, or greater than, the applicable minimum amount for the member. The applicable minimum amount is determined by the Board.

28—Insertion of Part 4AA

This clause inserts a new Part providing for spouse membership of PSS 3.

Part 4AA—Spouse members of PSS 3

23AAH—Interpretation

The proposed section defines a *prescribed payment* as payment of an amount that is a contributions-splitting superannuation benefit within the meaning of Division 6.7 of the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Regulations 1994* of the Commonwealth.

23AAI—Spouse contributions splitting

Under this proposed section, a PSS 3 member may apply to the Board to make a prescribed payment from the member's contribution account into a contribution account established for the member's spouse.

23AAJ—Other contributions for spouse members

This proposed section authorises a PSS 3 member to make monetary contributions to the Treasurer for crediting to a contribution account for the member's spouse.

23AAK—Spouse members and spouse accounts

Under this proposed section, the Board is required to establish a contribution account for the spouse of a PSS 3 member if the member makes a prescribed payment, or a monetary contribution for the benefit of the spouse. The spouse becomes a spouse member of the Triple S scheme by virtue of the section.

23AAL—Accretions to spouse members' accounts

Each spouse member's contribution account that has a credit balance is to be adjusted at the end of each financial year to reflect a rate of return determined by the Board in relation to spouse members' accounts for the relevant financial year.

23AAM—Portability

Under this proposed section, the whole or, subject to conditions determined by the Board, a part of the amount standing to the credit of a spouse member's spouse account may, at the option of the spouse member, be transferred to another complying fund. (*Complying fund* is defined by reference to the definition in section 23AAG).

23AAN—Benefits for spouse members

This proposed section sets out the rules for payment of spouse members' benefits.

23AAO—Early access to superannuation benefits in case of severe financial hardship or on compassionate grounds

This proposed section, which is in similar terms to proposed section 21ACA, provides that a spouse member may apply to the Board for the early release of an amount of the spouse member's benefit. This can occur if the spouse member is in severe financial hardship or on a compassionate ground.

29—Amendment of section 36A—Division of benefit where deceased member or spouse member is survived by lawful and putative spouses

The amendments made by this clause are consequential.

30—Amendment of section 40—Regulations

Section 40, as amended by this clause, will provide that regulations under the Act may—

- be of general application or limited application; or
- make different provision according to the matters or circumstances to which they are expressed to apply.

This amendment has the effect of modernising the regulation making power.

This clause further amends the regulation making power so that regulations of a savings or transitional nature may be made consequent on the amendment of the Act by another Act. A provision of such a regulation may take effect from the commencement of the amendment or from a later day. If a provision takes effect from a day earlier than the day of the regulation's publication in the Gazette, the provision cannot operate to the disadvantage of a person by decreasing the person's rights or imposing liabilities.

Part 5—Amendment of *Police Superannuation Act 1990*

31—Amendment of section 4—Interpretation

This clause amends the main interpretation provision of the Act to substitute a new definition of *Board*. A reference in the Act to the Board will, following the commencement of the amendment, be a reference to the South Australian Superannuation Board continued in existence by the *Superannuation Act 1988*.

32—Substitution of Part 2 Division 1

Part 2 Division 1 of the Act currently sets out provisions relating to the establishment, functions and membership of the Police Superannuation Board. This clause proposes the deletion of that Division and the insertion of a new Division dealing with the functions of the South Australian Superannuation Board.

Division 1—The Board

5—Functions of Board

Under proposed section 5, the Board—

- is responsible to the Minister for all aspects of the administration of the Act (other than management and investment of the Fund); and

- is to provide advice to the Minister about any matter referred to it by the Minister or any matter it sees fit to advise the Minister about in connection with its responsibilities under the Act.

33—Amendment of section 39—Review of Board's decisions

This clause amends section 39 of the Act so that a decision made by the Police Superannuation Board will, for the purposes of review proceedings, be taken to be a decision of the South Australian Superannuation Board.

34—Amendment of section 49—Confidentiality

The amendments made by this section are consequential on the dissolution of the Police Superannuation Board and the South Australian Superannuation Board becoming responsible for the administration of the Act.

35—Amendment of section 52—Regulations

Section 52, as amended by this clause, will provide that regulations under the Act may—

- be of general application or limited application; or
- make different provision according to the matters or circumstances to which they are expressed to apply.

This amendment has the effect of modernising the regulation making power.

This clause also amends the regulation making power so that regulations of a savings or transitional nature may be made consequent on the amendment of the Act by another Act. A provision of such a regulation may take effect from the commencement of the amendment or from a later day. If a provision takes effect from a day earlier than the day of the regulation's publication in the Gazette, the provision cannot operate to the disadvantage of a person by decreasing the person's rights or imposing liabilities.

36—Transitional provisions

This clause provides that a member of the Police Superannuation Board ceases to hold office on the commencement of the section.

Part 6—Amendment of *Southern State Superannuation Act 2009*

37—Amendment of section 10—The Fund

This clause amends section 10 of the Act in order to allow for payments from the Fund to be made to another fund or account established by the Board under the regulations.

38—Amendment of section 19—Membership of scheme

This clause amends section 19 of the Act, which deals with membership of the Triple S scheme, by inserting a new regulation making power that authorises the making of regulations that can—

- declare a group of members or former members of a public sector superannuation scheme to be members; and
- transfer all or part of the assets and liabilities of a fund established for the purposes of a public sector superannuation scheme to the Fund; and
- modify the provisions of the Act in their application to a declared group of members or former members; and
- provide for transitional matters on the making of a declaration.

Part 7—Amendment of *Superannuation Act 1988*

39—Amendment of section 4—Interpretation

This clause amends the interpretation section of the Act to insert a definition of *public sector superannuation scheme*.

40—Amendment of section 7—Functions of the Board

Section 7 is amended by this clause so that the Board may administer other public sector superannuation schemes. This is to be done with the approval of the Minister and in accordance with any directions of the Minister.

41—Amendment of section 8—Board's membership

Section 8 currently provides that if the office of an elected member of the South Australian Superannuation Board becomes vacant and the balance of the term of the office is 12 months or less, the Governor may appoint a person nominated by the Public Service Association of South Australia Incorporated and the Australian Education Union to the vacant office. This clause amends the section to remove the reference to the balance of the former member's term of office.

42—Amendment of section 10—Staff of Board

This clause amends section 10 to make it clear that staff of an administrative unit made use of by the Board may assist in the administration of other superannuation schemes established or administered by the Board and may also assist in the administration of other public sector superannuation schemes.

43—Amendment of section 20ABA—Co-contribution accounts

The amendment made by this clause corrects an error.

44—Amendment of section 59—Regulations

Section 59, as amended by this clause, will provide that regulations under the Act may—

- be of general application or limited application; or
- make different provision according to the matters or circumstances to which they are expressed to apply.

This amendment has the effect of modernising the regulation making power.

45—Amendment of Schedule 1A—Provisions relating to other public sector superannuation schemes

This clause amends Schedule 1A to insert a new clause that authorises the making of regulations providing that particular persons, or particular classes of persons, who are members or former members of a public sector superannuation scheme, are, or are not, contributors for the purposes of the Act. The regulations may also—

- provide that a specified provision of the Act does not apply, or applies subject to prescribed modifications, to a person who is a contributor by virtue of regulations made under the new clause; or
- provide for the transfer all or part of the assets and liabilities of a fund established for the purposes of a public sector superannuation scheme to the South Australian Superannuation Fund; or
- provide for transitional matters on the making of a regulation.

Part 8—Amendment of *Superannuation Funds Management Corporation of South Australia Act 1995*

46—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

Currently, a regulation declaring a public authority to be a prescribed public authority for the purposes of the definition of that term cannot commence until the time for disallowance of the regulation has passed. This clause amends section 3 to remove that provision regarding commencement.

47—Amendment of section 10—Conditions of membership

Section 10 currently provides that if the office of a member of the board of the Superannuation Funds Management Corporation of South Australia elected by contributors becomes vacant and the balance of the term of the office is 12 months or less, the Governor may appoint a person nominated by the Public Service Association of South Australia Incorporated, the Australian Education Union and the Police Association of South Australia to the vacant office. This clause amends the section to remove the reference to the balance of the former member's term of office.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (11:52): I rise to make a short contribution on the Statutes Amendment (Superannuation and Other Payments) Bill 2025. I thank the minister for some additional context provided to the house on this bill and recognise that, indeed, it is one that provides some consistency and cleans up a few different aspects around a number of different arrangements as put by the minister.

The opposition indicate that they are supportive of this bill and appreciate the government putting effort in to get this to parliament before the end of the parliamentary term, albeit we would not have minded a bit more time in the lead-up before the end of the term but certainly recognise there has been a lot of work done across the aisle to make sure that these arrangements are done in a conscientious and fastidious way. With that short contribution, I indicate that the opposition supports this bill.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (11:53): I thank the member for his contribution and note the support of the opposition. I commend the bill to the house.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clauses 1 to 3 passed.

Clause 4.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I move:

That clause 4, which is printed in erased type, be inserted in the bill.

Clause inserted.

Clauses 5 to 9 passed.

Clause 10.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I move:

That clause 10, which is printed in erased type, be inserted in the bill.

Clause inserted.

Clauses 11 to 17 passed.

Clause 18.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I move:

That clause 18, which is printed in erased type, be inserted in the bill.

Clause inserted.

Clauses 19 and 20 passed.

Clause 21.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I move:

That clause 21, which is printed in erased type, be inserted in the bill.

Clause inserted.

Clause 22 passed.

Clause 23.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I move:

That clause 23, which is printed in erased type, be inserted in the bill.

Clause inserted.

Clauses 24 and 25 passed.

Clause 26.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I move:

That clause 26, which is printed in erased type, be inserted in the bill.

Clause inserted.

Clause 27.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I move:

That clause 27, which is printed in erased type, be inserted in the bill.

Clause inserted.

Clause 28.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I move:

That clause 28, which is printed in erased type, be inserted in the bill.

Clause inserted.

Remaining clauses (29 to 47) and title passed.

Bill reported with amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (11:57): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

WORKPLACE PROTECTION (PERSONAL VIOLENCE) BILL*Second Reading*

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (11:59): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

Today, I introduce the government's Workplace Protection (Personal Violence) Bill 2025. Community safety is a top priority of this government, and we have demonstrated this commitment by a strong history of reforms that ensure workers and customers have strong protections in the face of workplace violence and harassment. Today, we are introducing yet another protection that sends a clear message that every person has a right to feel safe when they are at work and that abuse towards workers simply will not be tolerated.

Following extensive consultation with stakeholders, including business representative groups, employee representative bodies, industrial organisations, unions and the legal profession, the government is pleased to introduce this bill that will implement a workplace protection order scheme in South Australia.

Under the bill the Magistrates Court or Youth Court may, on application, make a workplace protection order against a defendant if satisfied that the defendant has engaged in personal violence in relation to a workplace and that they may engage in personal violence in relation to a workplace during the time the order is proposed to operate.

For the purposes of the bill, personal violence includes a range of behaviours by a person in relation to another person at a workplace, namely, physical violence or abuse; sexual violence or abuse; threatening behaviour; stalking; harassing, intimidating or offensive behaviour; and the damaging of property that causes reasonable fear to a person.

Under the bill 'workplace' means a place where the work carried out requires direct interaction with members of the public, irrespective of whether that interaction is in person or not, and any other work of a prescribed kind, but does not include work or a workplace that is prescribed by regulation. An application for a workplace protection order can be made by an employer, an owner or occupier of the premises in which the workplace is situated, the representative of an employer association of which an employer is a member, a health and safety representative for the workplace, or a union entitled to represent the industrial interests of workers at that workplace. The court must consider a range of factors in deciding whether to make a workplace protection order. They include:

- the objects of the act;
- any hardship that may be caused by the defendant or anyone else by making the order;
- any previous personal violence by the defendant in relation to an affected person or anyone else;
- any previous protection or intervention orders made in relation to the defendant, as well as any previous contraventions of those orders by the defendant; and
- the need to ensure the property is protected from damage.

The court may also consider anything else it considers relevant. A workplace protection order must be subject to a condition that, where relevant, any firearm, ammunition and part of a firearm in the

defendant's possession and any licence or permit authorising possession of a firearm held by the defendant must be surrendered to the Registrar of Firearms.

Other conditions that may be included in a workplace protection order are that the defendant be prohibited from entering the workplace, being within a particular distance from the workplace, engaging in personal violence in relation to the workplace, and causing someone else to engage in personal violence in relation to the workplace.

A workplace protection order may also state the conditions under which the defendant may be in the workplace or interact with a particular person. In determining the conditions of a workplace protection order, the court must give paramount consideration to the safety and protection of affected persons and must ensure that the conditions are the least restrictive of the personal rights and liberties of the defendant as possible that still achieve the objects of the act.

The court may make an interim workplace protection order before the application for an order is determined if it is satisfied that it is necessary to ensure the safety of an affected person from personal violence or to prevent substantial damage to property at a workplace. A final workplace protection order can only be made for a period of 12 months or less unless the court is satisfied that there are special or exceptional circumstances that justify a longer period. Under the bill, a workplace protection order may also be varied or revoked on application by the applicant, a protected person or by the defendant.

However, a defendant may only apply to vary or revoke a workplace protection order without the court's permission the first time, with any subsequent application to vary or revoke a workplace protection order requiring the permission of the court. The court may only vary or revoke a workplace protection order if it is satisfied that doing so will not adversely affect the safety of a protected person and, in the case of a variation to an order (including to extend an order beyond 12 months), the order as varied is one that could be made on the application of a workplace protection order.

It will be an offence under the bill to contravene a workplace protection order, which carries a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment if the commission of the offence does not involve personal violence, and five years' imprisonment if the commission of the offence involves personal violence.

As amended by the government in the Legislative Council, the bill now includes a statutory review provision requiring that this legislation be reviewed after three years of operation to ensure it is operating as intended. This government is proud to back workers and to act to ensure they feel protected in doing their jobs.

I would like to thank the stakeholders who have provided valuable feedback on the government's consultation bill, which has informed this bill. In particular, I acknowledge the Shopping Centre Council of Australia; SA Independent Retailers; SA Business Chamber; Australian Hotels Association; National Retail Association; Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association; and Woolworths for their collaborative engagement in getting this bill into parliament.

A workplace protection order scheme would bolster the protection of workers and deter the perpetration of antisocial behaviours that unacceptably put employees' safety at risk. I commend the bill to members of this place and seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

3—Objects of Act

This clause provides for the objects of the Act to include—

- to prevent and reduce personal violence in workplaces; and

- to facilitate the safety and protection of people who fear or experience personal violence at work by providing a legally enforceable mechanism to prevent personal violence; and
- to encourage perpetrators of personal violence to be accountable for their conduct; and
- to allow for the resolution of conflict without the need for adjudication.

4—Interpretation

This clause provides definitions for the purposes of the measure. Of note is the definition of *personal violence*, which when occurring in relation to a person at a workplace may form the basis of a protection order under the measure. *Personal violence* is defined to be any of the following in relation to another person:

- physical violence or abuse;
- sexual violence or abuse;
- threatening behaviour;
- stalking;
- harassing, intimidating or offensive behaviour;
- damaging property.

5—Meaning of *workplace*

This clause provides, subject to subclause (2) that a *workplace* is a place where prescribed work is carried out for a business or undertaking and includes any place where a worker goes, or is likely to be, while undertaking prescribed work. In this definition of *workplace*—

- *prescribed work* means work that requires direct interaction with members of the public (irrespective of whether the interaction is in person or not) or any other work of a prescribed kind, but does not include work of a kind excluded from the definition by the regulations; and
- *place* includes a vehicle, vessel, aircraft or other mobile structure, and any waters and any installation on land, on the bed of any waters or floating on any waters.

Subclause (2) provides that a reference to a *workplace* will be taken to not include a prescribed workplace or a prescribed class of workplace.

Part 2—Workplace Protection Orders

6—Application for workplace protection order

This clause provides for applications for a workplace protection order to be made to the Magistrates Court. The persons entitled to apply are:

- an employer at the workplace;
- the owner or occupier of the premises in which the workplace is situated; or
- a representative of an employer association of which an employer at the workplace is a member;
- a health and safety representative for the workplace; or
- a union entitled to represent the industrial interests of workers at the workplace.

On an application the Court must fix a date for a preliminary conference unless—

- an interim order is sought; or
- the Court is satisfied, on application or its own initiative, that—
 - holding a preliminary conference would create an unacceptable risk to a person's safety; or
 - a preliminary conference would be unlikely to achieve its objects,

in which case the Court must fix a date for the hearing of the application which, if an interim workplace protection order is sought, must be returned before the Court as a matter of priority, as far as is practicable.

The Court must, on fixing a date for a preliminary conference or for the hearing of an application, issue a summons for the appearance of the defendant on the date fixed.

7—Preliminary conferences

This clause provides for preliminary conferences the purpose of which is to—

- determine whether the proceedings for the order may be settled by consent without the need for a full hearing; and
- ensure the application is ready to be heard as soon as practicable.

The Court must not hold a preliminary conference if the Court considers, on application or on its own initiative, that—

- holding a preliminary conference would create an unacceptable risk to a person's safety; or
- a preliminary conference would be unlikely to achieve its objects.

The Court may refer the parties to mediation if the Court is satisfied that the application is likely to be more effectively resolved by mediation than by a hearing.

8—Interim workplace protection order

This clause provides that the Magistrates Court may, at any time during proceedings on an application for a workplace protection order, make an interim workplace protection order before the application for the workplace protection order is determined.

An interim workplace protection order may be made if the Court is satisfied that the order is necessary to do either or both of the following before the application for the workplace protection order is determined:

- ensure the safety of an affected person from personal violence;
- prevent substantial damage to property at a workplace.

9—Workplace protection order

This clause provides for the Court to make a workplace protection order against a defendant in proceedings if satisfied that the defendant—

- has engaged in personal violence in relation to a workplace; and
- may engage in personal violence in relation to a workplace during the time the order is proposed to operate if the order is not made.

In deciding whether to make a workplace protection order the Court must consider the following (in addition to anything else the Court considers relevant):

- the objects of the measure;
- any hardship that may be caused to the defendant or anyone else by the making of the order;
- any previous personal violence by the defendant in relation to an affected person or anyone else;
- any previous protection order or intervention order made in relation to the defendant;
- any previous contravention of a protection order or intervention order by the defendant;
- the need to ensure that property is protected from damage.

A workplace protection order may be made in the absence of the defendant if the defendant was required by summons to appear at the hearing of the application and failed to appear in obedience to the summons.

10—Protection orders by consent

This clause provides that the Magistrates Court may, if a defendant consents to the making of a workplace protection order or an interim workplace protection order, make the relevant order against the defendant—

- without receiving any further submissions or evidence as to the grounds; and
- whether or not any ground for making the order has been made out; and
- whether or not the court has considered any matters required to be taken into account under the measure before the making of the order.

11—Conditions of protection orders

This clause provides that a workplace protection order or an interim workplace protection order will be subject to the following conditions:

- a condition that any firearm, ammunition or part of a firearm in the possession of the defendant and any licence or permit held by the defendant authorising possession of a firearm must be surrendered to the Registrar of Firearms; and
- any other conditions the Court considers necessary.

In determining the conditions to be included in a workplace protection order or an interim workplace protection order, the Court must—

- give paramount consideration to the safety and protection of affected persons; and
- ensure the conditions included in a workplace protection order or an interim workplace protection order are the least restrictive of the personal rights and liberties of the defendant as possible (while ensuring the safety and protection of affected persons and achieving the objects of the measure).

The Court may omit, vary or revoke a condition of a workplace protection order or an interim workplace protection order relating to a firearm or ammunition if satisfied that—

- there are cogent reasons to do so; and
- the possession of the firearm, ammunition or part of a firearm by the defendant does not represent an undue risk to the safety and protection of an affected person.

12—Commencement of protection order

A workplace protection order or an interim workplace protection order comes into force against a defendant when served on the defendant, which occurs when—

- the defendant is present in the Court when the order is made; or
- the order is served on the defendant personally; or
- the order is served on the defendant in some other manner authorised by the Court.

13—Explaining order to parties present in court

This clause provides that the Magistrates Court must, on making a workplace protection order or interim workplace protection order, explain the order to the defendant and any protection person who is present in court when the Court makes the order.

14—Duration of workplace protection order

This clause provides that, on the making of workplace protection order, the order will remain in force for—

- 12 months; or
- if a shorter period is stated in the order—the period stated; or
- if the Court is satisfied that there are special or exceptional circumstances that justify a longer period—the stated longer period.

15—Variation and revocation of protection orders

This clause provides that the Magistrates Court may vary or revoke a workplace protection order or an interim workplace protection order. An order may be varied by—

- varying the conditions of the order; or
- reducing the period for which the order is in force; or
- extending the period for which the order is in force.

The Court may only vary or revoke an order if satisfied that—

- varying or revoking the order will not adversely affect the safety of a protected person; and
- in the case of a variation of the order, the order as varied could be made on application for a workplace protection order.

An application for the variation or revocation of an order may be made by—

- the person who applied for the workplace protection order;
- a protected person;
- the defendant (except for the first application, a defendant may only make an application for the variation or revocation of a protection order with the permission of the Court).

16—Offence to contravene protection order

This clause provides that a person commits an offence if the person engages in conduct that contravenes a protection order (including a condition of a protection order) applying in relation to the person.

The maximum penalty for an offence will be—

- if the offence is not committed in aggravated circumstances (where the offence involves personal violence)—imprisonment for 2 years;

- if the offence is committed in aggravated circumstances—imprisonment for 5 years.

17—Principal Registrar to give notice of protection order

This clause provides that the Principal Registrar of the Magistrates Court must, on the making of a workplace protection order or an interim protection order, give a copy of the order to—

- each party to the proceedings on the application for the order; and
- each of the following persons who was not a party to the proceedings:
 - a person who is a protected person under the order;
 - an employer at the workplace; and
- the Commissioner of Police; and
- the Registrar of Firearms; and
- any other person the specified by the Court to receive a copy of the order.

Part 3—Miscellaneous

18—Provision of information by police

This clause provides for the provision of the information by the Commissioner of Police to the Court and to a person who is entitled to apply for a workplace protection order in relation to the workplace. Information may only be provided to a person entitled to apply for an order relating to a workplace if reasonable grounds exist to suspect that a person has engaged in personal violence in relation to the workplace .

Information that may be provided under the clause is a person's name and address and the person's relevant history. The provision of information is subject to a provision of the *Young Offenders Act 1993* that prohibits or limits the publication of the information. Personal information relating to a person other than the person who is the subject of the application must not be provided to a person entitled to apply for an order unless the provision of the information is required or authorised by the Court or by or under another Act or law.

The clause provides that it will be an offence for a person who is provided with information under subclause (2) (being a person entitled to apply for an order) must not use the information for a purpose other than making an application under the measure or proceedings under the measure. A maximum penalty of \$10,000 will apply.

19—Costs

This clause provides that each party to a proceeding for a workplace protection order is responsible for the party's own costs of the proceedings. The Court may make an order about costs—

- against the applicant for a workplace protection order if the court is satisfied the application was vexatious, frivolous or in bad faith; or
- against the defendant if the court considers it appropriate to do so.

20—Power to arrest and detain for contravention of protection order

This clause provides that if a police officer has reason to suspect that a person has contravened a protection order, the officer may, without warrant, arrest and detain the person.

21—Burden of proof

This clause provides that, in proceedings under the measure, the Court is to decide questions of fact on the balance of probabilities.

22—Consequential and ancillary orders

This clause provides that the Court may, on making or varying a protection order, make any consequential or ancillary order it thinks fit, including, in a case where the protection order prohibits the possession of an article or weapon (including a firearm) or an article or weapon of a specified class, an order—

- providing for the surrender or confiscation of the article or weapon or such an article or weapon; and
- if the circumstances of the case so require, authorising a police officer—
 - to enter and search and, if necessary, use reasonable force to break into or open—
 - premises or a vehicle in which the article or weapon, or such an article or weapon is suspected to be; or
 - part of, or anything in or on, premises or a vehicle in which the article or weapon, or such an article or weapon is suspected to be; and
 - to take possession of the article or weapon, or such an article or weapon.

23—Regulations

This clause provides that the Governor may make such regulations as are contemplated by, or necessary or expedient for the purposes of, the measure which may—

- (a) be of general or limited application; and
- (b) make different provision according to the matters or circumstances to which they are expressed to apply; and
- (c) impose fines, not exceeding \$5,000 for offences against the regulations; and
- (d) fix expiation fees, not exceeding \$315 for alleged offences against the regulations; and
- (e) provide that a matter or thing in respect of which regulations may be made is to be determined according to the discretion of the Minister or any other specified person or body.

The Minister may prescribe fees for the purposes of the measure by fee notice under the *Legislation (Fees) Act 2019*. A fee notice may provide for the waiver, reduction or remission of fees.

24—Review of Act

This clause provides that the Minister must cause a review of the operation of the Act to be conducted and a report on the review to be prepared and submitted to the Minister. The review and the report must be completed after the third, but before the fourth, anniversary of the commencement of the Act and the Minister must cause the report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament within 6 sitting days after receiving the report.

Schedule 1—Related amendments

Part 1—Amendment of *Youth Court Act 1993*

1—Amendment of section 7—Jurisdiction

This clause amends section 7 of the *Youth Court Act 1993* to provide that the Youth Court has the same jurisdiction as the Magistrates Court to make a workplace protection order or an interim workplace protection order under the *Workplace Protection (Personal Violence) Act 2025* where the person who is to be subject to the order is a child or youth, and has power under that Act to vary or revoke such an order previously made by the Court.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12:06): I rise to indicate the opposition's support for the bill—we will not oppose it, anyway—and I indicate I am the lead speaker for the opposition. I will make a relatively brief contribution at this stage, with the bill coming as it does from another place where the debate has already aired some of the key concerns about the process by which these orders, subject to the bill, might be obtained.

I think the aspect that I emphasise for the purposes of my contribution is that the results of a process of being able to seek orders of this kind, where they have been applied in jurisdictions elsewhere, have yielded some positive statistics in terms of outcomes reducing recidivist criminal behaviour. The concern really comes to the practicality of it, and that may be able to be addressed once we have seen this in practice, the key point being that police are not going to be seeking these orders on the current bill and so it will be up to those affected to go ahead and seek the orders.

They will need to prove two steps: they will need to satisfy the court of the fact of the violence in the first place and, secondly, the likelihood that further violence will be engaged with if an order is not made. Interestingly, the burden of proof will be on the balance of probabilities, but it is nonetheless a matter of advancing evidence. That means coming to the court, bearing the costs of doing so, and all that goes with having to negotiate that process. In the circumstances of the realities of business, those representing small business in the state have rightly spoken up about how that is not necessarily going to be practical. You might see a situation where there is violent conduct being perpetrated on employees and, yet, that sounds in a fresh burden on businesses to take necessary steps to obtain the order.

We see that clause 6 provides for five categories of persons who may apply and that rather illustrates the point. First, we have an employer—so, there is no doubt about the eligibility—second, there is the owner or occupier of the premises where the workplace is situated, and then we get on to the categories of representatives, (c), (d) and (e) respectively: (c) the representative of an employer association, (d) a health and safety representative, and (e) a union entitled to represent the industrial interests of the workers at the workplace. We will see how that goes in terms of those three categories of representative working together with the employer and/or owner of the premises so that it actually does do the work without becoming a fresh burden.

A two-stage process needs to satisfy a court on the balance of probabilities and it is expected then, in light of what we have seen particularly in the ACT, to be steps that can have the effect of improving the safety of those workers. It is a shocking and intolerable thing for anyone employed in a workplace to be at risk of personal violence. Let's look to see that the processes necessary to secure the orders are practical and, if necessary, I hope we will have the capacity to be agile in this place to respond to any practical gaps in the process. With those words, as I have indicated, the opposition does not oppose the passage of the bill at this time.

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (12:12): I rise today in support of the Workplace Protection (Personal Violence) Bill which seeks to make public-facing workplaces safer for thousands of South Australians: violence, abuse, intimidation and harassment are not just part of the job for frontline workers. Everyone deserves to feel safe at work. On the rare occasion that someone is threatened, abused or assaulted at work, the law should be firmly on their side and empower employers with the tools to act quickly and protect their staff, which is exactly what this bill provides.

Not just in our own state but right across the country, we have seen escalating and deeply concerning behaviour directed at people just trying to do their job, particularly since the pandemic. South Australians have been appalled and disgusted by the reports of retail workers, healthcare workers and customer service employees, who are often younger workers, being subjected to shocking incidents of rage, intimidation and violence. These incidents can create ongoing trauma, making workplaces a place where people no longer feel safe. Passage of this bill will put an end to this by creating a simple, direct mechanism to prevent an offender from returning to a workplace and causing further harm.

This bill allows for an employer, premises owner, employee association representative, health and safety representative or a union representative to apply to the Magistrates Court or Youth Court for a workplace protection order. To make the order, the court must be satisfied of two things: first, that the defendant has engaged in personal violence at a workplace and, second, that they may engage in personal violence again, if the order is not made.

Personal violence is defined by the bill to include physical and sexual violence, threatening behaviour, stalking, harassment, intimidation, offensive conduct or property damage that reasonably causes fear. Importantly, this bill also recognises such behaviour in any workplace where the work requires direct interaction with members of the public, irrespective of whether the interaction is in person or not, and includes any place where a worker goes or is likely to be while undertaking their work. Whether you are serving customers in a shop, caring for someone in their home, staffing a call centre, delivering a service on the road or interacting online, this reform can protect you.

If the court is satisfied that a workplace protection order is necessary, it can impose a range of conditions, including barring the defendant from entering the workplace, requiring them to keep a certain distance, prohibiting them from approaching or contacting specific workers or preventing them from encouraging others to engage in violence. A workplace protection order must also include a condition requiring the surrender of any firearms in the defendant's possession and the surrender of any firearm licence or permit.

Should a defendant breach any condition of their workplace protection order, they face a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment if the breach does not involve personal violence or five years' imprisonment if it does. This bill also establishes a clear framework for interim workplace protection orders so they can be made quickly before the full hearing of an application when it is necessary to ensure a worker's safety or prevent substantial damage to property in a workplace. These interim orders can remain in effect until a final order is made, declined or its application revoked.

The reform before us today is based closely on laws successfully operating in the Australian Capital Territory, which have been effective in giving employers the tools they need to protect their staff. However, this bill is stronger, giving more representatives the ability to apply for a workplace protection order to reinforce the fact that workplace safety is a shared responsibility.

The bill before us today does not exist in isolation. It forms part of an extensive suite of reforms the Malinauskas Labor government has led to promote community safety and ensure that every South Australian is safe at work. We have already increased penalties for assaulting retail workers and empowered police through Operation Measure to crack down on retail theft. We have

introduced nation-leading knife crime reforms and authorised declared public precincts, which give police greater powers to prevent violence.

In closing, I would again like to thank our Attorney-General, his team and all of the key stakeholders who helped shape this bill through consultation in late 2024. I understand the SDA, the Master Builders Association, the AHA, the National Retail Association, SA Independent Retailers, the Business Chamber and the Shopping Centre Council all provided practical insights and advice on this bill to ensure it strikes the right balance between protecting workers and maintaining a fair, workable legal framework.

I would particularly like to acknowledge Josh Peak, President of the SDA, for his advocacy and support for his union's members. It was great to see a number of members celebrated on Saturday night through the Lyn Rivers awards, named after an incredible woman, who I was very lucky to have living in my electorate and who is very missed. The recipient of the Delegate of the Year award was my constituent Kirsty Lithgow, and I want to take this opportunity to congratulate her again.

I am really proud to stand here again today speaking in support of another piece of reform that directly speaks to the values of the Malinauskas Labor government and the larger trade union movement. It speaks directly to our values, to the dignity that work can provide and to the belief that everyone, from the high school student stacking shelves at the Cumberland Park Woolies, the bus drivers leaving the Morphetville depot and the baristas at the far too many brilliant coffee shops in my community—every single worker—deserves respect and protection. I commend the bill to the house.

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (12:19): I rise today to speak in support of the Workplace Protection (Personal Violence) Bill 2025. This bill is about nurses, retail staff, hospitality workers, and every South Australian who serves our public every day and who deserves to do their job without fear of violence or harassment. Too many workers have had their safety compromised simply for showing up for work, and we believe that no-one should have to risk their wellbeing to earn a living.

This government's workplace protection order scheme, the most extensive of its kind in the nation, will give businesses, employers, industry groups and unions the ability to apply to the Magistrates Court or Youth Court to bar individuals from entering or being within a particular distance of a workplace if there are concerns they will continue to engage in violent or intimidating behaviour in that workplace. This bill delivers real protection, giving courts the power to bar individuals for up to 12 months for serious penalties when breaching the bill, including up to five years in prison.

The bill builds on our record: tougher penalties for assaults on retail staff, Operation Measure tackling shop theft, nation-leading knife crime reforms, and stronger police powers in public spaces. We stand with workers: we do not just talk about safety, we deliver on it. This bill is fair, practical and inclusive. It protects workers in any public-facing workplace, whether in person or online.

Orders can be sought, as well, by health and safety reps and property owners. This can prevent dangerous individuals from entering workplaces, contacting staff, or even requiring the surrender of firearms or associated licences when safety demands it. Interim orders give immediate protection, and courts retain the discretion to vary or evoke orders where appropriate. We have consulted widely with unions, employers and industry groups to ensure it all works in practice.

This bill is about more than law and order: it is about standing up for working people, protecting them from harm, and sending a clear message that violence against workers will not be tolerated in South Australia. When workers are safe communities are stronger, families are safer, and our economy thrives. I commend the bill to the house.

Mr DIGHTON (Black) (12:22): I rise to speak about the Workplace Protection (Personal Violence) Bill, which creates a workplace protection order scheme in South Australia to better protect our frontline and public-facing workers from violence.

The bill would allow interested parties to make an application to the Magistrates Court to bar people who exhibit violent or harassing behaviour from a workplace for up to 12 months, and offenders who breach such orders could then face up to five years in jail. This legislation reflects or adds to the significant action the Malinauskas government has taken to improve the rights and the

protections for workers. Some of the others include lifting penalties for those who assault workers, a police crackdown on shop theft through Operation Measure, nation-leading knife crime reforms, authorising declared precincts to allow greater police searches, and move-on powers where they are required.

A workplace protection order can be made to a particular workplace if a defendant has engaged in personal violence in relation to a workplace or may engage in personal violence. It is important that we talk about what constitutes personal violence. It can include behaviours such as physical violence or abuse; sexual violence or abuse; threatening behaviour; stalking; harassing, intimidating or offensive behaviour; or damage of property that causes fear to a person within a workplace.

I also want to highlight who could make an application for a workplace protection order. That can be the owner or occupier, an employer, a representative of an employer association of which the employer is a member, a union entitled to represent the industrial interests of workers at a workplace, or a health and safety representative for the workplace.

I do want to highlight the work of our health and safety representatives in our workplace. These are representatives who represent the interests of employees within a workplace. They do such an important role in identifying hazards that may exist within particular workplaces, and they do so with that lens of making sure that a worksite is safe for all workers. It is a critical part of our industrial system that we have a Work Health and Safety Act that protects workplace safety, but health and safety reps provide that advocacy to make sure that all potential harm or hazards are pointed out.

In a former role, I was a trainer of health and safety representatives. In fact, I spent two years training representatives. There has been some adjustment since the very long time ago that I did that, but it involved five days of training, significant discussion around how the relevant legislation works and it also included a site inspection where health and safety reps were able to practise identifying hazards within a particular workplace. It is very important for them to gather or have a sense of how to do that job themselves and how they can go about working with SafeWork SA to support the needs of workers. I could probably talk about a few different stories about that, but I will not do that.

Suffice to say I did health and safety rep training in Whyalla and went to a part of the steelworks. That was a rude awakening for a retail worker in that particular space—a very different context—but it is important that they are able to do it. So I think it is important that health and safety reps have that ability to also bring about workplace protection orders as set out in this legislation, and I am sure that the training of health and safety representatives will incorporate this important legislation and provide guidance to health and safety reps about how they do it.

I also want to acknowledge the significant consultation that occurred and the various different representatives who were involved in the drafting of this legislation or involved in the consultation on the draft bill. That included the SDA—a former employer of mine—Master Builders Association, the AHA, the National Retail Association, Independent Retailers, SA Business Chamber and the Shopping Centre Council.

I do want to particularly talk about retail and fast-food workers, because I think they are absolutely frontline workers, and they deserve our protection. We saw, in particular during COVID, how important our retail workers are, and perhaps underestimated their importance. They faced significant workplace hazards and were victims of inappropriate and antisocial behaviour by customers, particularly during that time. That has continued, and I want to highlight some statistics about the impact on retail and fast-food workers in particular.

A survey in 2023 found that, in the last 12 months, 87 per cent of workers said they had experienced verbal abuse from a customer. What an incredibly high statistic—87 per cent. Workers also experienced an increase in the frequency of verbal abuse over a sustained period of time rather than just isolated events. Of those who experienced verbal abuse, 76 per cent experienced it on a more regular basis. A figure of 12.5 per cent of respondents said that they had been the victim of physical violence from a customer, and 9 per cent said they had been spat on. Repeat offending is still a significant issue for workers, with 52 per cent of workers reporting the same customer was abusive or violent towards them on more than one occasion—hence, the need for this legislation to ensure that repeat offenders can receive a workplace protection order.

Seventeen per cent of respondents reported that incidents of customer abuse and violence they experienced were of a sexual nature, and that prevalence is higher among female workers compared to male workers, with female workers at particular risk. It is important we remember that in these industries, in retail and fast food, they employ a large number of young workers and women who are disproportionately impacted by workplace violence. Younger workers often lack experience and confidence to manage aggressive situations, including psychological harm. They need protection, and this legislation goes about doing that.

The statistics show a clear pattern of violence and aggression in retail and fast-food settings, with young and vulnerable workers most at risk. The current systems are clearly failing to stop repeat abuse, which is why we need to introduce these orders, to reduce harm and physical stress and give our employers, our employees and our courts the tools to deter repeat offenders and restore safety in our public-facing workplaces.

As a former retail worker at Foodland and former union official at the SDA, I welcome the bill. I want to pay tribute in particular to the advocacy of the SDA union, led by secretary Josh Peak, for their work in advocating to the parliament and to the government for these important reforms. I also want to acknowledge a number of other association and industry groups that I mentioned previously, who were significantly consulted on this legislation. I commend the bill to the house.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (12:31): I would like to preface my contribution to the debate on this bill, which I support, with a quick story. I was recently visiting a country town, as I do at the moment, and I got to know where all the best coffee is, the best bakeries—and I think it is starting to show—and also a whole range of other key places where, when you are driving long distances, you like to stop to get a coffee or something to eat, etc. This particular country town is quite small, with probably less than a thousand people. I was surprised when I went into a shop and saw a sign on the bench which says, 'Please do not be abusive to our staff.' That really surprised me. I was aware, of course, of abusive behaviour. Often, in larger settings, metropolitan settings, it has unfortunately become more common, particularly around health services and a whole range of other services, including in big supermarkets, etc.

I was still shocked that a small business in a small country town would have to put up a sign, so I asked the staff how often this happens. A young staff member said, 'It happens more than we would like.' It was not a case of some people just getting a bit annoyed or that somebody is not happy with a product; it is full-on abuse, and it is appalling. To some extent, it reminds me of some of the worst things we import from America, some of the worst behaviours we import from America, because it is too common there. In America, it is appropriate to attack people's dignity, to make abusive remarks. When the leader of the nation exhibits those behaviours on a daily basis, it gives permission to other people in society to do the same. It is not acceptable.

We can disagree in a civil way. We can be unhappy with the service, but we will still show that in a civil way, in the sense that it focuses on the issue rather than the individual. When people hurl personal abuse against a person, it is not the issue that gets affected, it is the person who is affected. In the example I provided, in the small bakery and cafe in one of the country towns, the fact that they remember these cases indicates the impact it has on individuals.

We now see these signs increasingly in more places of work and retail and other places and it is a sad reflection on where we are going as a society. I understand that people generally are under pressure from cost-of-living pressures. People are under pressure from a whole range of things. But that does not give us the right to attack somebody else, attack somebody else's dignity. As I said, we should be able to have quite different views about a whole range of things but talk about what we are trying to convey, rather than through the person in front of us.

I was attacked at an event on the weekend. I will not go into the details because it might be seen as a political comment. I was attacked by a person, which I thought was quite rude and quite harsh. It saddened me, not because that person was rude to me or anything like that—I have copped a lot of that in public life—but because the person went right across the stadium to pick me out to hurl abuse at me and then take a photograph of me. I am not sure where that photograph is going to end up, but that is public life. It did not concern me a lot, but I thought that, if somebody had to put up with that sort of thing in a retail setting and they were not used to it or they were a young person,

it could be quite confronting and quite traumatic. I think sometimes it can be quite damaging to the individual.

The good thing about this bill, which I support, is that it not only supports employees but it supports the whole workplace. That is really important. In a lot of country towns, workplaces are run by owners/operators but they are technically an employee because they are probably run by a small company, etc. This proposal is designed not only to make it safer for workers, which is important, but it makes the whole workplace safer and I think that is really important whether you are a worker or the owner/manager or the operator, etc. I think it is really important that we provide that. I note this bill does provide an opportunity for an employer to also apply for a workplace protection order.

This scheme, which is a little bit different but basically modelled on the ACT scheme, is designed to better protect public-facing workplaces from violence, which I think is laudable. Everybody should be able to go to work knowing that, if they do a good day's work, they get a good day's pay, and they get certain benefits from that, not only in terms of money but a whole range of the well known social and psychological benefits that one gets from working.

Under the bill, interested parties make an application to the Magistrates Court or the Youth Court as appropriate to bar people who exhibit violent or harassing behaviour at a workplace for a period of up to 12 months. In extreme cases, offenders who breach an order can face up to five years' jail. I would hope that a person who has been barred would actually understand the gravity of their behaviour, but I think that some people who behave in that way often do not understand what they are doing.

This move significantly improves the safety of workers and we have done that through a whole range of other things in terms of lifting penalties for those who assault retail workers, a police crackdown on theft through Operation Measure, nation-leading knife crime reforms, and authorised declared public precincts to allow greater police search and move on powers when required.

When you read it you think it does reflect on our society. While introducing these laws and applying them to provide safety, which is important, I think there is a greater role as a society that we need to think about which is where we are going as a society and why we have behaviours like this. I am not suggesting that people were never rude to retail workers in the good old days, as people would say, but certainly the prevalence is greater and also the impact is greater.

A person can actually apply to the Youth Court or Magistrates Court for the court to make a workplace protection order in relation to a particular workplace if satisfied that the defendant has engaged in personal violence in relation to a workplace and that they may engage in personal violence in relation to a workplace.

It is important to note that there are two criteria to be met. It is also important to isolate the one-off person who actually redeems themselves in some way. This is for the people who are repeat offenders or 'frequent flyers', as we may call them, in terms of their behaviour.

The bill defines what personal violence is. I will not go into those details. They have already been covered by the minister in his speech and also by the member for Heysen in his contribution. Interestingly enough, a person of any age can be subject to a workplace protection order. While I see the need for that, I also share my concerns as to why young people would think it is appropriate to behave in such a way. I suppose they do because they see adults doing it.

As I said before, we see people in important offices and positions of power in our society in the world at large who behave that way. I do not use the example of President Trump lightly but the way he refers to reporters at media conferences is appalling. One should not talk to anybody like that—it is appalling behaviour. A leader of a nation should be setting the standard and, unfortunately, he does set the standard and that is why there is so much violence in America. I am hoping that we do not import that sort of behaviour here. It would be disastrous for our society if we were to import that.

For people who think President Trump is wonderful, I think they need to reflect very closely on the message he gives to other people about how you treat each other in a society. It is very important. Underlining this law are the values we need to live in a society. We need to learn how to coexist and we need to learn how to behave with each other and treat each other with dignity.

Who can make a workplace protection order? An employer can, as I mentioned earlier, which is really important. Particularly in those smaller businesses that might be owner-operated plus one or two employees, the employer themselves can often be attacked as well. A workplace protection order can also be made by an owner or occupier of the premises where the workplace is situated or a representative of an employer association, which is really good. An employer association can support their membership, particularly if they are smaller businesses that do not have the resources. A health and safety representative for the workplace and a union entitled to represent the industrial interests of workers at the workplace can also make an application for a workplace protection order.

What this shows is that the person who has been the victim of the offence does not have to do the heavy lifting to get redress. I think that is really important because a person can be traumatised by the event and this act empowers others to act on their behalf to make sure that the offence does not occur again. Workplaces are defined as:

work that requires direct interaction with members of the public (irrespective of whether the interaction is in person or not)...

There is also a range of quite severe penalties for people who breach the orders, somewhere between two to five years' imprisonment. A final workplace protection order can be made for up to 12 months or longer if a court is satisfied of special or exceptional circumstances.

What can a workplace protection order include? It can prohibit somebody from entering the workplace, being within a particular distance from the workplace, engaging in personal violence in the workplace and causing someone else to engage in personal violence in relation to the workplace, which I think is an important addition. A person who may be barred may decide to seek retribution and send somebody else in to do that for them, so I think that is an important addition.

A workplace protection order must state the conditions on which the defendant may be in the workplace or approach or contact a particular person. I think that is an important thing. There may be a case where a protection order says, 'You can only deal with this person in this workplace,' and that person might be happy to deal with the defendant because even though their behaviour might be inappropriate, they might be more experienced or perhaps an older person, etc. There is a whole range of different reasons why they might be able to deal with that behaviour.

A workplace protection order must also include a condition requiring the surrender of any firearms in the defendant's possession. That, I think, speaks for itself. Again, you just have to look at the examples in America in terms of the firearm violence people experience there. An interim workplace protection order can also be made if the court is satisfied it is necessary to ensure the safety of an affected person from personal violence and to prevent substantial damage to property at a workplace. So, while the legal process is being undertaken, an interim order can be made, and in some cases it may be required as a holding measure to make sure that a person does not return to the workplace and create more problems there.

A workplace protection order can be varied or revoked on application to the court. In deciding on the appropriate order to make, the court is required to consider the objects of the act, any hardship that may be caused to the defendant or anyone else by the making of the order, any previous violence by the defendant, any previous protection order made in relation to the defendant and any previous contravention of such order. It also needs to ensure that property is protected from damage and may also consider anything else the court considers relevant in deciding to make that order. I think these things are an appropriate balance. They also distinguish between people who may say something inappropriate in the heat of the moment and a pattern of behaviour towards individuals that is threatening and offensive.

Before the bill was introduced, there was extensive consultation that occurred late last year. Some of the various organisations that were consulted, and which I think are key, include the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association (the SDA), the Master Builders Association, the AHA, the National Retail Association, South Australian Independent Retailers, the South Australian Business Chamber and the Shopping Centre Council. These are all organisations with employees at the forefront of the retail industry, and it is appropriate that they be consulted.

Again, I return to my opening remarks on this bill: it is sad that we have to see signs put up in businesses saying, 'Please do not be abusive towards our staff.' As I said, there may be reasons

to complain about a service or a product, but the way you do it is really important, and it should not be done in a way that demeans a worker in that workplace.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12:48): I rise today to talk about the workplace protection order scheme. These laws are aimed at better protecting workers in a range of at-risk professions. It saddens me that we need to put forward this bill today because, at the end of the day, people should be able to get the dignity of work and go to work knowing that they are safe, they are respected and the interactions they will have with customers or clients are done in a positive way. It does not mean you cannot raise issues that you have, but, unfortunately, we have got to the point where this bill is necessary.

We know that people have had to face abuse. We know that can be of a physical or sexual nature, it can be threatening behaviour, stalking or being harassed and we need to make it clear to South Australians that that is not okay. Not only is it not okay but we see you, we hear you and the laws will protect you. This violence and aggression towards workers is unacceptable and we have had conversations in many different fields and across many different industries where people have experienced this when they are just trying to do their job.

This bill is a significant step to ensuring that staff can go about their business free from violence and harassment and, as we have heard from many of the other speakers, this continues the work of the Malinauskas Labor government in what we are doing to keep the community safe. It is a top priority for this government and we will continue to do the work, whether it be the union movement or industry associations when they come and talk to us about the concerns they have for people going about their work and doing their business. We are here to listen and we are here to support.

We have also increased penalties for assaulting retail workers. We have introduced the toughest crime laws in the country and now we are bringing in a law to ban abusive customers. We really saw an increase of this behaviour over COVID with people not wearing their masks, people blaming workers—particularly retail workers who were at the brunt of it when stocks were low. I remember pharmacy assistants saying people were very frustrated with them and demanded that they could deliver things that they wanted when they simply could not do that. I remember all the restrictions we had at the time—the distancing. It seems from that time we have seen this increased disconnect away from the respect we should provide to each other. Previously only abusive and violent customers could not be banned for more than 24 hours—we know they go away and just come back again—but this bill fixes that.

For many years I was a senior organiser with the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association (SDA) and I would talk to people working in retail who knew the people who were repeat offenders. They would say, 'We make sure that there is more than one of us at the desk when that person comes through.' This new bill would be able to stop people coming back and it is a vital support in keeping people safe and reducing these incidents. There is a real consequence now to this behaviour and that is what this bill does.

I particularly want to talk about the fact that young people often work in retail and hospitality as their first jobs. When I go to Parabanks Shopping Centre, to Woolies or Coles, or I am heading off to Saints Foodland in my electorate, I often see young people in their first job working there—maybe they are at Big W. They have said to their parents, 'I want to start to earn some money. I want to get some skills and experience.' But what I have also heard from those young people is, 'What I am most concerned about is getting abused.'

When a young person says, 'I want to work and I want to build the experience that I have in life,' the last thing we want for them to be worried about is the negativity or abuse that might come their way, recognising this is one of the reasons we have put this bill forward.

When we look at workplace protection we look at what has happened here and in other jurisdictions. We have seen in the ACT that these workplace protection orders have helped lower crime, which is down 23 per cent for this year compared to last year. So we do know that these workplace protections work.

I would like to take the time to thank Josh Peak, who is secretary of the SDA. He has been very vocal since those dark days during COVID when we had to speak out and say, 'Do not take your frustration out on retail workers.' Once again, it saddens me to say that we had to do this. I also

want to recognise the work of the Attorney-General: he is listening, he is out there and working to get the legislation right. This government has been very clear about where our focus is, and I am very proud to be part of the team that has increased these protections for workers. We want you to be leaving your home at the beginning of the day and going to your workplace knowing that there can be a real difference if people are behaving like this, not just a 24-hour ban but to actually have these protection orders that say to them, 'You can't do this. We have rights now to make sure that we are not subject to your behaviour again.'

We are seeing increasing commentary from people who believe they can say anything whenever they want, whether they be a keyboard warrior or they are shouting abuse at someone when they receive a service. We see increasing antagonism between people providing services and those people who are receiving them. It is a difficult thing to acknowledge that we are seeing this increase, but we have to be clear in order to say, 'Stop. How you are speaking to me is not okay.' Now there is a real consequence to that repeated behaviour, and I am really pleased to support this bill to enable that to happen.

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (12:56): I rise very briefly to speak in support of this bill. I feel it is something that I must say something about, particularly on behalf of my 14-year-old self. As a 14 year old I would have wanted my local MP to speak on a matter like this.

This goes back to a time when I was a very young boy and I got my first job working at Foodland—indeed, it was in the member for Heysen's electorate. It was a wonderful time, a time of a lot of excitement for me. Within a few years the Foodland was taken over by Woolworths. I enjoyed seven years there and made the best friends, but unfortunately I do have indifferent stories to recall. I will not go into any detail about them, but needless to say—even in a place like Stirling in the Adelaide Hills, which you would not necessarily consider to be a place that is ripe for this kind of behaviour that some of the members have so eloquently described—it does happen.

We are now talking about a supermarket that was savagely burnt down, and so a lot of things that would not necessarily be associated with that part of the world do happen, and I have seen it all. I was not necessarily the victim of any physical abuse, but my friends at the time and my colleagues were on occasion threatened with violence, and I do recall seeing it on a number of occasions. We are talking of seven years. I think the point to make about all of this is that, while we are talking about some indifferent sets of behaviour, it is worth pointing out that 99 per cent of people are wonderful and do a wonderful thing in treating people in retail with the utmost respect. It is just that when we unfortunately do encounter this kind of behaviour it leaves a very sour taste in people's mouths, and its impact can long be felt.

Not just to speak of personal experience, I also want to talk about the fact that I have an electorate where there is quite a number of large supermarkets. I see young people going out there, and I strongly believe that we should have laws in place to ensure they are given the utmost protection.

As I said, this is going to be a short contribution, but I do want to commend the SDA for their advocacy in this particular space. When I was in the Northern Territory I first started to see the No One Deserves A Serve campaign, and I must say that I was deeply impressed. I think it was long overdue. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12:59 to 14:00.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (DISCIPLINARY MATTERS AND FIDELITY FUND) AMENDMENT BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (RECIDIVIST YOUNG OFFENDERS) BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

GUARDIANSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION (TRIBUNAL PROCEEDINGS) AMENDMENT BILL*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW TRIBUNAL) BILL*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO) BILL*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

SPICER COTTAGES TRUST (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

CHILD SEX OFFENDERS REGISTRATION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

*Petitions***REGAL THEATRE**

Ms O'HANLON (Dunstan): Presented a petition signed by 275 residents of South Australia and supporters of the Regal Theatre requesting the house to urge the government of South Australia to allocate \$5 million in state grant funding to support the implementation of the Regal Theatre Precinct Masterplan, ensuring the theatre's long-term sustainability and continued contribution to the cultural life and economic vitality of our state.

BORAL LINWOOD QUARRY

Mr DIGHTON (Black): Presented a petition signed by 553 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to take immediate action to have crushing activities at the Boral Linwood Quarry monitored more stringently and enforcement action taken when safe operating guidelines are not met in the interest community health and safety, including that Boral be required to perform immediate upgrade to ensure that dust does not escape the confines of the crushing plant and that Boral communicate to affected residents when the crushing plant is operational and local atmospheric conditions are potentially hazardous.

*Parliamentary Procedure***PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Treasurer (Hon. A. Koutsantonis)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Harbors and Navigation—Temporary Fee Reduction

Motor Vehicles—

Disability Parking Permit Scheme

Instructors' License Exemption

Temporary Fee Reduction

Police Superannuation—Commutation Factors

Rail Safety National Law (South Australia)—Drug and Alcohol Testing—Approval of Apparatus

Southern State Superannuation—Miscellaneous (2025)

Superannuation—Commutation Factors

By the Minister for Energy and Mining (Hon. A. Koutsantonis)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—
Hydrogen and Renewable Energy—Miscellaneous (2025)

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

Ambulance Service, South Australian—Annual Report 2024-25
Health Advisory Council—
Mid North Annual Report 2024-25
Millicent and District Annual Report 2024-25
Northern Yorke Peninsula Annual Report 2024-25
Port Pirie Annual Report 2024-25
South Australian Ambulance Service Volunteer Annual Report 2024-25
South Australian Medical Education and Training Annual Report 2024-25
Whyalla Hospital and Health Services Annual Report 2024-25
Health Services Charitable Gifts Board—Annual Report 2024-25
Local Health Network—
Eyre and Far North Annual Report 2024-25
Flinders and Upper North Annual Report 2024-25
Limestone Coast Annual Report 2024-25
Riverland Mallee Coorong Annual Report 2024-25
Preventive Health SA—Annual Report 2024-25
Public Health Council, South Australian—Annual Report 2024-25
SA Health—Response to the Coroner's findings into the death of James Frank Sears
Report October 2025

By the Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well (Hon. N.F. Cook)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—
Retirement Villages—Codes of Conduct

By the Minister for Education, Training and Skills (Hon. B.I. Boyer)—

Aboriginal Children and Young People, South Australian Commissioner for—
Annual Report 2024-25
Children and Young People, Office of the South Australian Commissioner for—
Annual Report 2024-25
Early Childhood Development, Office for—Annual Report 2024-25

By the Minister for Trade and Investment (Hon. J.K. Szakacs)—

Coroner's Court—Annual Report 2024-25
Courts Administration Authority—Annual Report 2024-25
Electoral Commission of South Australia—Annual Report 2024-25
National Agreement on Closing the Gap—Annual Report 2024-25
Ombudsman SA—Audit of compliance with the Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures)
Act 2007 Report September 2025
Public Trustee—Annual Report 2024-25
Return to Work Corporation of South Australia—Annual Report 2024-25
Rules made under the following Acts—
Legal Practitioners—Legal Profession Education and Admission Council—
(No. 3) 2025

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

Local Council By-Laws—
District Council of Tumby Bay—
No. 1—Permits and Penalties
No. 2—Dogs

No. 3—Local Government Land

No. 4—Roads

No. 5—Moveable Signs

By the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water (Hon. L.P. Hood)—

Dairy Authority of South Australia—Annual Report 2024-25

Dog Fence Board—Annual Report 2024-25

Forestry SA (South Australian Forestry Corporation)—Annual Report 2024-25

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Veterinary Practice—General (2025)

Ministerial Statement

CONTAMINATED CHILDREN'S PLAY SAND

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (14:05): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Today I rise to update the house on the discovery of asbestos in imported children's play sand and the implications for South Australian schools, preschools and families. On 13 November the Department for Education was made aware of an ACCC product recall notice regarding certain coloured sand products due to concerns they contained a naturally occurring asbestos. As soon as the recall was issued, the department began working with SafeWork SA on our response.

After receiving SafeWork SA advice on 14 November, the department immediately issued a hazard alert to all schools and preschools providing information on what to do if the affected products were found on site. This advice included removing sealed products from classrooms and cordoning off any rooms where the sand was discovered loose. The department also alerted the non-government school sector about the recall, and the Education Standards Board communicated to all care providers.

The recall has triggered the largest decontamination effort South Australia has ever undertaken in our education system, with 501 government schools and preschools alone having reported having the products on site. Across government schools and preschools we have deployed specialist contractors to safely remove and dispose of the contaminated sand and undertake industrial cleaning of classrooms. Where the sand was loose and cleaning is required, air monitoring must be undertaken and clearance certificates provided to be able to reoccupy those spaces.

I am pleased to report that, as of this afternoon, of the 271 sites where sealed sand was reported 206 have had their sand collected by the licensed contractor. The remaining 65 sites are scheduled for collection this week. Of the 230 sites where the sand was loose or in artwork, 158 have been cleaned and, of those, 95 have been issued clearance certificates and are operating as normal. The remaining sites have work scheduled with contractors.

This is slow, meticulous and specialist work. It cannot be rushed and it cannot be done cheaply. The recall has led to costly specialised removal and cleaning in thousands of buildings across the country. It has affected schools, preschools, childcare centres, out-of-school-hours care services, and hundreds of thousands of families who bought this sand from trusted retailers like Target, Kmart, Woolworths and Officeworks to use in their own backyards and homes.

The bill for this cleanup will be significant, and the obvious question is: who should pay? I have already written to the federal government calling for an urgent national inquiry into how these sand products were allowed into Australia and distributed so widely. Today and over coming days I will be calling on the retailers to help fund the clean-up.

I would like to thank staff in schools and the department's corporate areas for their incredibly diligent and immediate response to this issue, and I thank students and their families for their patience as we work through this enormous task.

CURTIS, MR P.

The Hon. R.K. PEARCE (King—Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:09): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.K. PEARCE: Every day, our emergency services personnel put themselves on the line to protect our community. It is therefore with great sadness that on Sunday CFS firefighter Peter Curtis tragically passed away while fighting a fire in a remote part of Eyre Peninsula. I take this opportunity to pass on my deepest sympathies to Peter's wife, Jackie, and their family at this extremely difficult time for them.

Peter was an integral part of the National Parks and Wildlife Service brigade strike team, which had been deployed to fight a scrub fire in Pinkawillinie Conservation Park, about 60 kilometres west of Kimba. He was engaged in an operation aimed at protecting the park and surrounding communities in what were challenging conditions.

Peter began his firefighting career with ForestrySA in 1995 at Wirrabara and, in 2017, transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service within the Department for Environment and Water, where he contributed not only as a remote firefighter but also in senior leadership roles, serving as a strike team leader and sector commander. He dedicated his life to living and working in the Wirrabara Forest and surrounding areas. In recent years, he applied his wealth of practical knowledge and experience across the Southern Flinders Ranges and to other areas of the state. Peter attended numerous fire activities and incidents across South Australia and contributed to significant incidents in other parts of Australia.

Peter's work ethic inspired enthusiasm among his colleagues. His broad practical skills and ability to mentor others greatly strengthened both his team and individuals who worked alongside him. On a personal level, Peter was a caring and considerate person, deeply respected and loved by all who knew him. His loss will be felt profoundly across our organisations and the broader community. At this stage, the circumstances surrounding Peter's passing are still being investigated. We are unable to provide further details at this time, but we will share more information when it becomes available.

*Parliamentary Committees***ECONOMIC AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (14:12): I bring up the eighth report of the committee, entitled Interim Report for the Inquiry into Home Care for Children and Young People.

Report received and ordered to be published.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (14:13): I bring up the 51st report of the committee, entitled Inquiry into the Prevalence and Effectiveness of Programs in Preschools and Schools to Ensure Children and Young People Do Not Go Hungry During the Day.

Report received.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (14:14): I bring up the 161st report of the committee, entitled Eden Hills Inlet Control Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Ms SAVVAS: I bring up the 162nd report of the committee, entitled Gordon Street, Port Pirie: Rising Main Replacement.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Ms SAVVAS: I bring up the 163rd report of the committee, entitled River Murray in South Australia Constraints Measures: Chowilla Game Reserve Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Ms SAVVAS: I bring up the 164th report of the committee, entitled Glenelg Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Ms SAVVAS: I bring up the 165th report, entitled Affordable Housing: Direct Delivery Apartment, Lot 1002, Seaton.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Ms SAVVAS: I bring up the 166th report, entitled Prospect SASES Unit Facility.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Ms SAVVAS: I bring up the 167th report, entitled Ayers House Activation and Upgrade Works.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Ms SAVVAS: I bring up the 168th report, entitled Kangaroo Island Earth Bank Storage.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Ms SAVVAS: I bring up the 169th report, entitled Maitland, South Australia, Country Fire Service and South Australian State Emergency Service New Facility.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Ms SAVVAS: I bring up the 170th report, entitled Mount Gambier Prison Redevelopment.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Ms SAVVAS: I bring up the 171st report, entitled Struan Research Centre Rebuild.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Parliamentary Procedure

PARLIAMENTARY WORKPLACE REPORTS

The SPEAKER (14:16): Before we move to questions, I just wanted to touch on the past sitting week, when I tabled two reports into the workplace that is our parliament. The first report was a report by the new Executive Officer of the Joint Parliamentary Service, as required under section 9 of the Statutes Amendment (Parliament—Executive Officer and Clerks) Act 2024. That section provides:

(1) The Executive Officer must, not later than 10 months after the relevant day, provide to the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly a report that includes an assessment of the way in which the workplace of the joint parliamentary service is managed...

The report and assessment considered the Joint Parliamentary Service workplaces only, which include the following business areas: Parliamentary Reporting Division, which is Hansard; parliamentary library division; the catering division; and joint services division—Finance, People and Culture, Parliamentary Network Support Group and Building Services. The houses were not included in the workplace assessment, although people from each of the houses were invited to provide input into the report.

A significant challenge until now has been that, for many decades, the responsibilities and accountability for the Joint Parliamentary Service has alternated between the Clerks of the respective houses on top of their house duties, and it has been a big workload and an increasing workload, and added responsibilities. It is quite an interesting time to be in here. We actually have three former Speakers, as well as the Speaker—I do not think that would have happened too many times over the years—and I want to thank the leader, the deputy leader and the member for Kavel for the work that they have put in over the past eight years in trying to modernise and make this a more

contemporary workplace. There was also another report, which was based on the Equal Opportunity Commissioner's report to parliament back in 2021.

So there has been a lot of work done, but we still have to do more work and we have to modernise an act that goes back to 1985, and that was based on an act from 1945. So a lot has happened in the 80 years since then, and that has been recognised by the Joint Parliamentary Service Committee, which is made up of the presiding officers and the whips of each house. We are going to be sitting in January, February and March to continue to work on what those changes might look like so that, when we are back here with the new parliament after 21 March, we can present that new government, and members of parliament, with a blueprint of things that we can work on.

We know this is a workplace with three different workplaces within it. We know there was an EB process that dragged on for 20 months that caused some friction in the house. We need to repair those bridges, mend those bridges and repair the relationships. I think it is really important that we do that and that we all work together. I just ask all of the people who are on the Joint Parliamentary Service Committee that, even though people are going to be busy in the lead-up to the election on 21 March, we can all attend those meetings so that we have a quorum and we can get on with the job of making this an even better place for people to come to work.

Question Time

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier broken 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 election, the Premier promised to fix ramping but South Australia has now suffered through 41 of the worst months of ramping in our history with last month's figures, 2,426 hours, worse than the last four months of the former Liberal government.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:20): But very much down on the month before that. I make this point: the Leader of the Opposition asks about the government record on ramping and I am more than happy to address that. I have said this publicly in a number of forums, whether that be on talkback radio, this parliament, whether it be—I think I was down in the South-East at a forum that the *Advertiser* was hosting. In any number of different places, I have been the first to acknowledge that the state government would love to have seen lower levels of ramping than what we have seen thus far.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: But it is also true, for those people who are still listening to my response, that what we have done as a government is put in place a comprehensive suite of policies to make a difference to the health system, which is gaining traction. I would invite the Leader of the Opposition, if he was to remove a political assessment and apply an objective assessment, he would see—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my left will come to order. I can't hear the Premier. The Premier will be heard in silence.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Thanks Mr Speaker. What he would see is independent bodies, such as the Coroner of South Australia, making these observations—not my words, but the State Coroner's.

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The member for Schubert asks about when we are talking about. This is a coronial report that was handed down during the course of this year; in fact, only a few months ago. The Coroner said:

SA Health's response to ramping is extremely comprehensive and well thought through.

Again, quote:

SA Health's comprehensive attack on the root causes of ramping is an excellent use of public funds.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The Coroner goes on to say:

The efforts taken, in relation to ramping today, are commendable—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my left will come to order. The leader, you are on your final warning. The member for Schubert, you're on your final warning.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: He goes on to say:

The efforts taken, in relation to ramping today, are commendable, meaningful...a stronger, more robust health system in South Australia.

With respect to Dr Robyn Lawrence's contribution, the CEO of SA Health, the Coroner finds:

...appears to be well equipped to manage such significant work which is being carried out.

He made a whole range of points in this context. Because what we did wasn't just reference and identify the fact that ramping was a problem, but, in contrast, went to the fact that the former government was denying there was a problem. We acknowledged the problem and then administered a comprehensive plan and strategy to do something about it, which includes \$9 billion of new investment in both infrastructure and personnel: 1,400 extra nurses employed, over 600 extra doctors employed, over 300 extra ambulance officers employed, all of which is over and above attrition.

What does that stand in contrast to? Of course, those opposite weren't just not employing people above attrition, they were actively making them redundant. Over 500 health professionals were made redundant, including during the course of the pandemic. What South Australians know is that contrast is real, it is stark and makes a meaningful difference to the quality of services that South Australians get from SA Health.

The SPEAKER: The member for Flinders and the member for Hammond, you are on your final warnings.

POWER PRICES

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:24): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier broken his promise to reduce costs for South Australians? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: The pre-2022 state election Hydrogen Jobs Plan policy document claimed that Labor will ensure the hydrogen power plant will reduce wholesale electricity prices by 8 per cent. Instead, the average South Australian family is paying 43 per cent more on their annual power bill.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:25): Again, I think the best approach to the Leader of the Opposition's question is to look at objective data, look at independent research. These are not figures developed by a government agency or a political office but let's look at what Bank SA has said only this morning in their State Monitor survey, which looks at consumer confidence in South Australia, what they have found. Bank SA says that consumer confidence in South Australia, consumers, that is to say people at the front end of our economy who everyday have to confront the challenge of weighing up costs and household expenses amongst everything else, has surged with the latest Bank SA State Monitor survey reporting an increase of almost 7 per cent to 113.2 per cent, the highest result we have seen in consumer confidence in South Australia over the course of the last four years.

That is to say that notwithstanding the cost-of-living challenge, which most people understand represents a challenge beyond the immediate control of state government, but for the

things that are within our control, what we have been able to deliver is the highest level of consumer confidence we have seen in South Australia over the course of the last four years.

Now, why does that matter? It is higher than the 100 per cent benchmark that Bank SA use as a benchmark statistic of where confidence is at, and confidence matters because when consumers are confident they go into hospitality businesses throughout the state, retail businesses throughout the state, service providers throughout the state and transact. When they transact, they put more income, more revenue into the pockets of those businesses which in turn allows them to invest in the state economy and allows them to employ people in South Australia, which is why we have an economy that is ostensibly at full employment, an economy that has more people employed in South Australia than at any other point in the history of the state, an economy that increasingly is the envy of the nation.

Increasingly, we are seeing people from other parts of the nation looking to South Australia and not saying, 'What's going wrong down there?' but rather asking, 'What are they doing to get themselves in a position where housing growth is the fastest rate in the country, consumer confidence is high, where we see economic growth performing exceedingly well?' They are asking themselves, 'How can we replicate the policy settings we see being applied in the state of South Australia in our jurisdictions?' They are seeking to copy us, not us copy them.

At the heart of this is a government that is united and disciplined, with the capacity to be able to apply a degree of policy consistency on major economic questions rather than permanent internal warfare, where you are arguing with the feds on ideas such as net zero, while we are able to turn to our federal government and say, 'Let's work collaboratively on opportunities for the future.'

When you weigh all that up, what we as a government acknowledge is that where there are cost-of-living challenges we have a budget in surplus which allows us to deploy policies to make a difference to those who need it most. Whether it be people on low and fixed incomes, people raising families looking to services in government schools and the like, we are able to disproportionately look after them with a budget in surplus, and for everybody else who looks to the private sector, we have an economy that is going strong with record levels of confidence so that people can continue to be employed.

The SPEAKER: The member for Morphett and the member for Chaffey, you are on that final warning list now.

HOUSING SUPPLY

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:29): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier broken his promise to deliver enough homes for South Australians? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Over the past year, just over 12,500 dwellings were completed across South Australia, nearly 3½ thousand short of the approximately 16,000 homes per year needed to stay on track. Dwelling commencements for SA fell sharply in the June 2025 quarter, by around 13 per cent.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:29): I always enjoy when the Leader of the Opposition decides to talk about housing because it invites consideration of where we've come from, where we're at and where we're heading. Let's start at where we've come from. We have come from a situation where there were a range of policy decisions, which I don't—

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Well, if you would maybe—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The rate and pace of interjections from the Leader of the Opposition speak to a new level of desperation, but let's just look at it. What I was about to say before being interrupted by the Leader of the Opposition was that in terms of where we're coming from,

we—because we have the capacity to have objectivity of analysis—will acknowledge that there was a range of decisions taken across not just the former Liberal government but also the former Labor government before that that contributed to a constraint on supply that we think has held back housing growth. When we think about policy settings of land release and investment in water infrastructure, not enough has been done over the course of the last 10 and 20 years, which has led to the problem that we are now in. That is just the truth of it.

So how do we respond to that challenge? As a government, we have to acknowledge what has gone wrong in the past—not just the former Liberal government but the former Labor government before that—and seek to rise to the challenge. The first thing we have decided to tackle is water infrastructure, gross underinvestment in water infrastructure, because the former Labor government was taking dividends out of SA Water for the purposes of the budget and the former Liberal government decided to chase votes and cut water prices at the expense of putting pipes in the ground.

So what have we done? We've made the tough decisions to generate the revenue that is required for SA Water—from the budget, from developers and also from bill payers—to then get trunk water infrastructure in the ground. If you drive out into the northern suburbs, which I'm not too sure too many members opposite would ever do, you will see pipe going—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Human Services and the member for Florey are on their final warnings.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: I say to my friend the member for Florey that I don't think it's fair to go back over the hard work that the member for Hammond was doing at Glen Osmond on Christmas Day a few years ago. The water infrastructure going into the ground to make a difference, the land releases that we have delivered, planning reform activity that we make, code amendments being undertaken, acquisition activity, investment in strategic infill, the abolition of stamp duty for new builds—not demand generation, supply generation—these are the policies that have now got housing growth at the fastest rates in South Australia that we have ever seen, including the fastest rates of growth in the country. That's what we've delivered.

What will you deliver? You're going to deliver more demand. That's your plan: more demand. Our plan is more supply and we're very excited to prosecute that difference at the election.

HOUSING SUPPLY

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:33): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier broken his promise to fast-track his government's land releases, including the commitment that construction on the first homes would begin in 2024? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TELFER: In February 2023, official material promoting the government's fast-tracked land release outlined that construction would begin the following year. Nearly two years on, no homes have been built on the four sites, with SA Water evidence showing three of the four sites lacked funded water and sewer infrastructure until after 2028, and industry bodies warn South Australia is entering a 'valley of death' in housing supply.

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (14:34): The opposition keeps on referring to press releases and other things that occurred prior to the Housing Roadmap. As we have said before, you only have to look in the Housing Roadmap to get the updated timelines and everything else. The main point I would make to you is that your previous leader—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: Do you want to listen? The opposition's previous leader—who is no longer in this parliament—admitted on ABC radio that they didn't release enough land. We have not made that mistake because we have done the code amendments and the planning—

Mr Telfer interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Flinders, you asked the question. How about listening to it instead of yelling out.

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: —and the infrastructure on Onkaparinga Heights, on Concordia, probably the biggest amounts of land to hit the market since Golden Grove, the biggest amounts of land to hit the market in a generation, and with the funds for infrastructure attached to them. That's what we are doing.

If you go to the north, you will see the implementation of infrastructure—wastewater and water infrastructure—the likes of which this state has hardly ever seen. One of the things we have done as a result of that is being able to sign agreements with developers for 8,400 allotments in greenfield sites. All of that will mean that development-ready land—not just land, but land ready for market—will come online, and you can see that in the civil works.

Those opposite choked land supply in this state, they added to demand. Their federal colleagues added HomeBuilder, zero per cent interest rates, and what we saw was a flurry of construction followed by a whole lot of homes delayed, a whole lot of completions delayed. That is just the reality of what those opposite preside over.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Flinders can leave until the end of question time.

The honourable member for Flinders having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: What we are presiding over is record land releases, record infrastructure and record completions. This year there are a record number of completions for South Australia, and they are just the statistics which belie the sort of narrative that the opposition wants to build and talk about.

They insist on something that is palpably not true because you can see it everywhere—construction. It doesn't matter if you go to Southwark, it doesn't matter if you go to Playford Alive, it doesn't matter if you go to Seaton, it doesn't matter if you go to Noarlunga: what you see is government projects, government land, government infrastructure pouring into the building industry and pouring into the residential construction industry and the industry itself is responding, which is why we got number 1 on the HIA scorecard, because our policy settings are right.

That is why those opposite can't quote any industry association in this house because they all say that the government's got the policy settings right, and that is what we are doing. We are not, as the opposition did, just pouring kero onto the bonfire of demand, in the same way you wanted to do federally where you wanted to let people raid their super accounts. We are now seeing you give a stamp duty cut to existing and established homes. All that will do is transfer that money to the vendor's pocket—not to the first-home buyer's pocket, to the vendor's pocket, and it will cook the market and it will not add one jot to supply; whereas what we want to do is give a tax cut to encourage supply.

NARACOORTE OUT-OF-SCHOOL-HOURS CARE

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:38): My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the government step in to ensure that Naracoorte families can get access to out-of-school-hours care before the start of the Christmas holidays? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and the leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr McBRIDE: As you are aware, Naracoorte is without an OSHC service. This is particularly concerning as we head into the summer school holiday period and families are desperate to have some certainty for the care of their children.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (14:39): I thank the member for MacKillop, not just for his question but for his long ongoing advocacy to try to find a solution for his community in terms of finding an out-of-school-hours care service to take over from the one that unfortunately ceased operations. I have some very good news for the member for MacKillop today, and other people in this house. We have found a provider. They

are called Our Patch, and they run a number of services in government primary schools. We have been engaging with them for a number of weeks now, hoping that we can come to an agreement where they step in to provide not only that really valuable out-of-school-hours care service but also, as the member for MacKillop said, vacation care, which is equally important to many families. I know that, being in a family who uses that as well.

I want, before I answer the member's more specific question about whether or not we can have this new service up and running for Christmas, to thank the people in the out-of-school-hours care team from the Department for Education, who have been doing this work. That is a team that we put in place as one of our responses to the Hon. Julia Gillard's royal commission into the rollout of our three-year-old preschools—a recommendation that we actually created a team in the Department for Education, responsible for working and finding innovative solutions to problems like this, which we know we have not just in Naracoorte but in other places in the state, and they have managed to do that.

We are working diligently, I can tell the member for MacKillop, to try to have something in place for the Christmas holiday period. I will update him personally on that, but I am sure he would agree this is good news that we have been able to find something for the Naracoorte community. I think it shows our commitment and our dedication in trying to find solutions for regional areas where these gaps are. It gives me a lot of hope, too, I have to say, that in those other parts of our state—and there are many—where there is a shortage of things like out-of-school-hours care, vacation care and child care, we can, by working together, actually find really clever solutions that will work for the local residents.

ADELAIDE HILLS INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr BROWN (Florey) (14:41): My question is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer update the house on infrastructure investment the government is making in the Adelaide Hills and any alternative proposals?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:41): Yes, I can. It's fair to say that the South Australian government, with the commonwealth government, is spending over a billion dollars in the Adelaide Hills—a billion dollars—whether it's the Mount Barker hospital; the upgrade of the Adelaide Road, Alexandrina Road, Wellington Road and Flaxley Road roundabout in Mount Barker; or a new \$19 million park-and-ride in Crafers. We have even banned trucks, large trucks, from going down the Hahndorf main street. With the Australian government, we have invested in the South Eastern Freeway Managed Motorway \$350 million, we are building new interchanges at Mount Barker and Verdun at a cost of \$150 million, and we are delivering the \$100 million Adelaide Hills productivity package. A billion dollars—

The Hon. D.R. Cregan: It's not enough.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The member for Kavel, the lone voice of the Adelaide Hills, fighting for the Adelaide Hills, yells out 'It's not enough'. There has been another voice that has added calls for more infrastructure for the Adelaide Hills: the member for Heysen. The member for Heysen has entered the arena.

Usually, when the opposition are making spending announcements, it's in target seats. Nevertheless, I understand that the Liberal Party are making announcements for the seats that they hold. He has attempted to follow our lead and he has announced over the weekend that, if the Leader of the Opposition becomes Premier, they will fully fund a new park-and-ride transport hub in Verdun and add a third layer to the South Eastern Freeway between Hahndorf and Bridgewater. The cost—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Well, he can do all this for a measly \$23 million. Yes, he nods. He nods. Let's have a look at that: in 2019, when we weren't in office, when the members opposite were in office, they added an additional layer to the South Eastern Freeway from Crafers to Stirling. Back then it cost \$14.2 million, and that was for 900 metres—but the strategic thought processes over there. I asked the Department for Transport what the costs of this project would be—and of course it is complex; there are grades—and they tell me it's in the order of \$100 million. There is a reckoning coming. There is a reckoning coming.

Over the life of this parliament, members opposite have called on us to spend an additional \$2 billion and they have committed that, if they are elected, they will spend—and the campaign has not started—what has now ticked over to \$4 billion. With reckless abandon, members opposite are telling any community group that they will meet, 'Yes, we will fund that. Absolutely, yes, we can build that, no problem.' They are saying no to no-one. There is a reckoning coming. All of this is being costed. All of this is being tallied. All of this will be revealed. That \$4 billion is before they cut the lifeline out of the state's own revenue. They have shown us no way of how they are going to pay for this.

But we heard a vignette of what is coming from the member for Florey. We know what they did last time. What was the tax they focused on last time? Land tax. In the ACT, they abolished stamp duty—broad-based land tax. In New South Wales, they abolished stamp duty—broad-based land tax. In South Australia, they abolish stamp duty. What comes next? Land tax.

HYDROGEN POWER PLANT

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:45): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier broken his promise to deliver a hydrogen power plant? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PATTERSON: The pre-2022 state election Hydrogen Jobs Plan policy document claimed that Labor will ensure their hydrogen power plant would be operational by the end of 2025.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:46): We make no apology because Whyalla is one of the most strategic cities anywhere in Australia. Whyalla has had a very rough run of it over the last time or so since the administration of Arrium. Think of the counterfactual today: that we had let the blast furnace go cold and that we had listened to the Leader of the Opposition and just handed over more money to Gupta. What is the Liberal Party's policy for Whyalla? Do what Gupta says we should do.

Quite prudently, we suspended the Hydrogen Jobs Plan and invested that money into Whyalla because the idea of proceeding so we can tick a box on an election commitment, while we see the jobs we have in Whyalla go, would have been appalling. There is no-one else anywhere in Australia who thinks that our intervention in Whyalla has been anything other than a success.

I also point out the other counterfactual: imagine what would have happened to Whyalla had we not been in office. Imagine if it had been Rob Lucas or Steven Marshall sitting here, or even worse Treasurer David Speirs sitting over here, thinking about Whyalla. Contemplate that for a moment.

Hydrogen is something that not only has the South Australian government been very supportive of but other members have as well. I have done this to the house on numerous occasions, but I think it is timely that we remind the parliament about a few public comments about hydrogen. There have been lots of negative comments about hydrogen, but I want to give some positive comments around hydrogen. Apparently, hydrogen has emerged as an area of future growth. It is something that people think is very, very important. That person was the Leader of the Opposition and he said that when they were in government and they were investing in a hydrogen hub. Where? The Upper Spencer Gulf. He nods his head, yes, that's right, excellent.

Of course, on 5 May he talked about the importance of a successful investment in the Port Bonython Hydrogen Hub and about what a great initiative it was of the previous Marshall government. Who was that? That was the shadow energy minister who asked a question. So do I apologise for cancelling the Hydrogen Jobs Plan to invest in Whyalla? No, of course not, because what is more important? The entire reason we chose Whyalla for the location of the electrolyser is because Whyalla's future has led to decarbonising the steelmaking process.

There are two ways of decarbonising the steelmaking process. To move away from metallurgical coal, we should go to natural gas. You get dramatic reductions on carbon emissions, but you don't remove all carbon emissions. The next step is hydrogen, and when you use hydrogen

in the removing of the oxides to beneficiate the iron oxides to iron, the by-product is water, not carbon dioxide.

So this isn't a matter of politics, it's a matter of chemistry and physics. So, yes, we cancelled the Hydrogen Jobs Plan to save Whyalla. It was the right decision every day of the week and twice on Sundays, and if we had to do it again, we would. Of course we would. I would just point out to the shadow member that you voted for it. You voted for our intervention, so why criticise it now?

HYDROGEN POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:50): My question is again to the Premier. Has the Premier broken his promise to South Australians to purchase and operate hydrogen-powered turbines? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PATTERSON: The state government is currently privatising the turbines they purchased for the Hydrogen Jobs Plan at a further cost of \$3.8 million.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:50): There's a slight contradiction in the question there. The first part of the question is, 'Have we broken our promise in not purchasing generators?', but then going on to explain that we own the generators and they are being sold. Whatever tactics are going on opposite when you are writing these questions, perhaps read the first part and the second part.

Did we break our election commitment to buy the turbines? Read the second part of your question. Of course we purchased the turbines, but what members opposite have done again is the last couple of weeks they have criticised us for impairments that the Auditor-General has brought up about there being this potential cost to the taxpayer, but of course the matter that the Auditor-General raised in Budget and Finance and in his report and what no-one has accounted for is the sale of the turbines. So now what he wants is his cake and he wants to eat it too. What he is now saying is, if we sell the turbines, they can't run around during the election campaign and say we have wasted money.

Obviously, what we are doing is that the disposal process of the turbines would see the turbines operate here in South Australia, and by operating here in South Australia it gives us the opportunity to recover that money because we want to invest in Whyalla. There is over \$2 billion that is on offer for potential bidders to recapitalise Whyalla. That recapitalisation could include an electric arc furnace, it could include a direct iron reduction facility, it would need more gas, something that members opposite are opposed to. Whenever they get a chance to vote against it, they do, and they vote against gas, but then they complain about there not being enough gas in the state and gas being too expensive.

So we have all these contradictions about the questions that they ask us. On one hand, 'Have you bought the generators?' Yes, we have. On the second hand they say, 'Well, why is there this impairment by the Auditor-General?' Of course, what we are doing is investing in Whyalla. We have suspended a project, taken the money from that project and put it into Whyalla. The reason we are doing that is because we want to save the jobs we have there now. I urge members opposite to go to Whyalla and ask the locals. Go to Whyalla and ask the locals whether or not we should have ticked the box on the commitment for the Hydrogen Jobs Plan and let all those jobs go in Whyalla.

I don't think you would find a person in Whyalla, other than the Liberal shadow minister visiting up there, who would have said we should have proceeded with the Hydrogen Jobs Plan and not invested in Whyalla. Of course we should have. But, if we had taken the advice of members opposite, we would be handing more public money over to Sanjeev Gupta, which would have been a disaster, an absolute disaster.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Again, the member for Chaffey is misleading the parliament.

Mr Whetstone: Come on! Just look at the facts on the table.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The facts on the table. It wasn't us who appointed Sanjeev Gupta, it was the four Australian banks you are so passionate about. It wasn't us. It wasn't the South Australian government that appointed Sanjeev Gupta owner of these things, it was the administrators

on behalf of the banks that sold it to him. If you want to be the government of South Australia, the basic understanding of what occurred in Whyalla is important, so you are better off getting back on Instagram, going through the reels, getting your thrills and leave the governing to the grown-ups.

HYDROGEN JOBS PLAN

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:54): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier broken his promise to create jobs for South Australians through the Hydrogen Jobs Plan? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PATTERSON: The pre-2022 Hydrogen Jobs Plan policy document details more than 11,000 jobs unlocked as a result of the Hydrogen Jobs Plan.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:54): More people are employed in South Australia than ever before, but we also know that it is not just having more people employed. What we have seen during the life of this government are unemployment rates since our election that have never been seen before in the history of South Australia. In fact, since we were elected we have seen the unemployment rate have a three in front of it in South Australia. Before we were elected that had never happened—and I think we have had it somewhere in the order of 14 or 15 times.

We have more people employed, more people employed in full-time work, and we have the lowest unemployment rates we have ever seen in the history of this state. But here is the one I care about most, and that is what is happening with wages. In South Australia we have traditionally seen our median wage, or our average weekly wage, sit somewhere between 7 per cent and 8 per cent below the national average. We have closed that gap by approximately 250 basis points. So jobs are up, real wages are up.

The shadow minister, would-be champion of net zero and hydrogen and so forth, asks about a policy that pertains to Whyalla. Well, go ask the member for Giles; get in the car with the member for Giles and go up to the city of Whyalla, spend some time walking the streets in the way you haven't in a very long time, and ask them what they think about the government's policy on industrial standing in respect of Whyalla. On your way back home drive through Port Pirie and spend some time with the member for Stuart, and go visit and talk to workers at the smelters in Port Pirie and ask them about the state government's commitment to jobs in the Upper Spencer Gulf. You'll get a similar answer.

On this side of the house we are all too willing to use the power and responsibilities vested in us and to use our authority to intervene where we see it necessary to unlock economic opportunity, not to protect people like Mr Gupta—which the Leader of the Opposition was all too keen to see happen—but rather to intervene to unlock opportunities in the Upper Spencer Gulf. We believe in the economic opportunities around critical metals in Port Pirie. We believe in the opportunities to get green iron happening in Whyalla—

Mr Patterson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morphett can leave until the end of question time.

The honourable member for Morphett having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: We are willing to do what is required to unlock those opportunities. That includes collaborating with the federal government, that includes crafting a policy that allows us to embrace private sector capital coming into the city of Whyalla in a way that we know is necessary to see MEP1, MEP2, and hopefully MEP3—that is the mine expansion program to get more magnetite out of the ground—but also to see a big lop of private capital going into the steelworks so that we can potentially see DRI, EAF and green iron production. They are serious opportunities: complex policy requirements, yes; active intervention on behalf of government in collaboration with the federal government, sure—but working collaboratively with the private sector to make it happen.

At the election the people of South Australia have a choice. Who is going to do that hard work? Who is going to think about those policy settings appropriately? Us or them? Us or them—that will be the choice. Mind you, the electorate will also have a choice to make about who is going to be able to do that while keeping a rein on fiscal settings: those who delivered four budget surpluses during the life of the government or those who are out there trying to cut a third of state revenue with no explanation about how they are going to pay for it? Those are the choices that are shaping up, and we are looking forward to giving the people of South Australia those options.

PORT PIRIE STORM

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (14:58): My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. Can the minister update my community on the recent storm that hit Port Pirie on the weekend? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: Early Saturday night Port Pirie received a very large amount of torrential rain along with damaging winds over just a 10 or 12-minute period of time. In that time, in my area in particular, the hailstones were 5 inches deep on the ground itself—as I said, all in 10 or 12 minutes. I would just like to know the minister's response to that.

The Hon. R.K. PEARCE (King—Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:59): I would like to thank the member for Stuart for his question and, just as importantly, for all that he has done over the weekend and into this week to support his local community. I don't think it would surprise anybody that the member for Stuart was hot on the phone, from the very first moment, to the Premier, to myself, to the Minister for Energy and Mining, to SA Power Networks and to our emergency services crew. Even more importantly, the member for Stuart was knocking on people's doors in the community, where he knew there might be vulnerable people, just to make sure they were okay and had what they needed.

I thank you for everything that you have done on that as well as for taking the time to meet with emergency services personnel with me on Sunday and taking me for a tour through the township to see all the different locations of damage and the severity of damage in the area and also visiting local businesses to hear the impact that it has had on them. I was particularly pleased that Happy Birds was a part of that trip; it's the best chips in the state if anybody does not know that.

As the member mentioned, we saw some significant weather events over the weekend. Within a very short period of time, Port Pirie experienced significant wind gusts of up to 122 kilometres, some in the township would say much stronger than that. They saw rain, they saw hail, and they even saw ice form on the road. There were a lot of different dangers that arose as a result of that, but predominantly the damage was around trees and powerlines that were down as well.

I am really pleased to advise that the government acted extremely quickly in this situation. We had a total of 207 emergency services personnel that came into the township to provide as much support as they possibly could, and they responded to over 379 call-outs and jobs in the local community. That is the most significant number of call-outs that Port Pirie has received, as I have been advised by the SES.

It is a real relief that nobody was injured in that time. It was really important that we did what we could to clear up the damage that was done and also make sure that residents had access to power as quickly as possible. It was a real pleasure that the member for Stuart was able to join me for an all-agency briefing to discuss not only the immediate needs but some of the potential needs moving forwards in the community. We did know on Monday we were experiencing a heat wave, for example, so having a look at what we needed to do to ensure that residents were as safe as possible and were informed of those options for them as well.

It was really great to have the member there because he was able to provide his insights and knowledge about the local needs in the township to these agencies. It did include Transport and Infrastructure. It included Housing, it included Health and it included Optus and Telstra, just to name a few, to give a picture of how many people we were talking to at that time to make sure that we were able to provide this service to the community in addition to our amazing emergency services. I mentioned how many emergency services personnel helped to attend at this site, and I just wanted to make it known that it was not only local crews that we saw; they were from metropolitan and

broader areas as well. We did see members from Oakden, Salisbury, Wilmington, Campbelltown, Noarlunga, Whyalla, Napperby, Port Germein and Mount Barker, just as an example.

I would like to put on the record my deep appreciation for absolutely everything that they did through all hours of the night and all hours of the day to make sure that these jobs were actioned as quickly as possible. These emergency services personnel are incredible people who give up so much to keep us safe, and their work should be commended.

NURSE RECRUITMENT

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (15:03): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister please update the house on how this government has been recruiting nurses across the health system and any alternative approaches?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:03): I thank the member for Elder for her commitment to health, and in particular mental health and the work she does with our mental health nurses. The great news is that this government has been very busy recruiting extra nurses to work in our health system. We came to government with a commitment to recruit 300 extra nurses above attrition into our health system. People at the time said, 'This is an ambitious target. How will you be able to do that? Where will you get the nurses from?' These were all the questions we were getting.

I am happy to report to the house that not only have we met that but we have vastly exceeded our recruitment of nurses here in this state. In fact, we haven't just doubled it, we haven't just tripled it—we have more than quadrupled what we said that we would do at the last election. There are 1,462 more nurses now working for SA Health than was the case when we came to government. That's more nurses and midwives providing care right across the state, city and country to patients who need it. We have done this by bringing in extra graduate nurses, providing them the training and support they need; we have done this by recruiting from interstate and overseas; we have done this by bringing back nurses to the profession as well; and we thank those nurses for their incredible work.

I was asked by the member for Elder if there are any alternative approaches to nurse recruitment. Well, we did see one during the last term of parliament. We saw a government that had a policy of having terminations, of having redundancies of frontline nurses as part of their policy. In fact, during the course of the pandemic, 228 nurses were made redundant by the Marshall Liberal government—the government where the Leader of the Opposition sat around the cabinet table while nurses were being made redundant. It is absolutely shameful. It is a practice that we have stopped since coming to government.

The other alternative approach that we have seen in the past couple of days has been from the Leader of the Opposition with three announcements he has made. Very few people paid attention to them, but I paid attention to them and I am happy to update the house about those alternative approaches. The first one on the weekend was, he said, a \$90 million package. Actually, the sum looks like \$143 million that that one is going to cost you, so that's being added into the Treasurer's calculator. The result of that policy would be not hiring one extra nurse—not one extra nurse out of that policy on the weekend.

Yesterday, there was another policy that they announced. They said that this was going to mean \$72 million. The facts are that it's either \$100 million or \$172 million, depending on whether nurses who have worked for over 20 years are eligible or not. If they are not, then you are giving them nothing for those nurses who have worked for more than 20 years in our system. What's the result of that? How many extra nurses would that recruit to our system?

An honourable member: I will guess zero.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Absolutely zero—zero extra nurses to our system from that policy. And today—another policy. I say the word 'policy', but with all these there was no policy document, just a press release. The Leader of the Opposition in this one today didn't even bother to say how much this was going to cost. It wasn't even mentioned in his press release at all—but don't worry: we will be providing that costing. The Treasurer and I will be making sure this goes into the calculator, and we are all looking forward to that day coming up in the next few months. The member for Flinders

is going to have to come out and account for this cash splash: the Oprah Winfrey approach to economic management. Everybody gets a car is the approach that they've got, and you are going to have to account for it and say where the money is coming from.

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (15:07): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier deliver on his promise to act swiftly on the findings of the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence? With your leave, sir, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: The royal commission delivered 136 recommendations, yet the government has accepted only seven and allocated just \$1.5 million to respond. Advocates say implementation will require hundreds of millions. While Victoria committed \$3.86 billion following its inquiry, South Australia still has no comprehensive domestic violence strategy.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (15:08): I thank the member for Unley for his question. Between a team within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and an extensive piece of work being done by the Minister for Women in South Australia—not just the Minister for Women; the Minister for Women and also efforts against domestic, family and sexual violence in our state—there is a comprehensive response being developed.

We enunciated our intention to release that before the end of the year. We made it clear that we are going to work through our response to the royal commission in a very deliberate, iterative exercise, and we made some initial announcements when we responded to the report and mapped out the way we are going to deal with this over time.

I draw the member for Unley's attention to very specific recommendations in the royal commission report about the need to take time and to do this thoroughly. It actually almost explicitly says, and these are my words not the commission's words, but the commission almost makes very clear that rushing to accept recommendations is ill-advised, that we have to do the work to make sure that we are not just accepting a recommendation but thinking about how we are going to implement a response to that recommendation. I actually thought the royal commissioner and the commissioner's report in that regard was pretty well thought through and—I keep using this word—very deliberate in the way it went about it.

One of the things the member for Unley quite reasonably refers to is the Victorian experience. The royal commission also made sure that it sought to learn from the Victorian experience because there is a legitimate set of questions to be asked about whether or not, given the size of the investment made in Victoria, all of that money, they have indeed got the outcomes they were looking for. What our royal commission sought to do was learn from that experience in a way that someone else might learn from ours in the future, and make sure that our response in terms of the funds that we expend is able to best achieve the outcomes that we are looking for here, which are sustained and over the long term.

The commitments that we make—and this is something that the minister along with the Treasurer and I have met and spoken about, along with a range of officials. What we are also very conscious of is we don't want to see investments being made that then get undone again. The investments that are lasting and likely to make a difference are those that get put into the budget and then baked into the budget. Often in government we try to avoid expenditure being baked into the budget. I think if we're serious about this, given that it is a long-term problem and it requires a long-term effort, we have to make our decisions in the full knowledge, or in the full commitment, that many of the expenditures we make are recurrent, ongoing and they need to be baked in, hopefully with bipartisan support, which in turn demands of the government quite a considerable effort to make sure that where we are baking in recurrent expenditures, they are going to deliver us the outcome we are looking for.

On this subject of all subjects, I will avoid partisanship but suffice to say this: I can't stress enough that when policy commitments are made, people need to appreciate—and I know members opposite will be conscious of this too—there is a big difference between the capital, once-off infrastructure investment that has a capital hit on the budget versus an ongoing recurrent hit on the budget, the cost of which is astronomical in the long term. So that is what we are working through in

a great degree of detail. We look forward to honouring our commitment to announce our response before the end of the year.

DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (15:12): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier deliver on his promise to strengthen crisis responses for women and children fleeing violence? With your leave, sir, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Frontline reports show South Australia's crisis system is under severe strain. Dozens of families are being housed in hotels due to a shortage of crisis beds and 69 domestic violence crisis beds that previously operated are no longer funded. Sector data indicates around one third of calls to the DV crisis line go unanswered.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Women) (15:13): Thank you to the member for Unley for his question and the Premier also for his remarks in relation to our response to the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence. As the Premier said, the royal commissioner has rightly urged us to act with patience, purpose and determination (again my words) as we work through and deliberate on the road map that she and her team have provided for reform in this state around domestic, family and sexual violence.

We are deeply considering those recommendations with awareness that they are recommendations that are absolutely interconnected and require a whole-of-government, whole-of-community and whole-of-sector response. Of course, as the royal commission took its course from July last year until August this year, we have not stopped in terms of our efforts to help to prevent domestic, family and sexual violence and to support those who are surviving the horrific prevalence of domestic, family and sexual violence. One of the measures in our budget last year was to provide more funding for the Domestic Violence Crisis Line, funding of an additional \$880,000 to that service, and also additional funds to the personal protection app.

Since coming to government, as well as the significant legislative and policy measures and investments that we have undertaken, we have also in relation to housing reversed the terrible, terrible thoughtless and cruel cuts to Catherine House, cuts that were made by those opposite when they were in government, cuts that were devastating for that service and for the women who accessed that exemplary service. One of the things that we have done, one of the many things that we have done in relation to housing and support for those who are surviving domestic, family and sexual violence is to absolutely reverse that terrible, thoughtless, heartless cut to Catherine House.

We have continued to grow our housing offering across crisis accommodation, across transitional housing and across long-term housing for those who are surviving domestic, family and sexual violence. Just recently, I stood with the Minister for Human Services, the incredible staff from Catherine House, a number of their investment partners and representatives from the federal government as we announced the beginning of the new generation Catherine House, which will be built in addition to the reversal of that heartless funding cut, the funding that we restored to sustain those operations of Catherine House.

Since coming to government, we also reversed that terrible cut to the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service. We are growing the offering of housing again in crisis, transitional and long-term housing for those who are experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence and we have invested to grow, to build new hubs in the south and the north of Adelaide to support women close to home as they recover and heal from these terrible experiences.

MEMBER FOR MACKILLOP

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (15:17): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier intervene and request the Labor Party preference last at the next election Nick McBride, who has been charged with six counts of aggravated assault against his wife?

The SPEAKER: No-one on the government benches is responsible for the policies of a political party.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Point of order, sir.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

ADELAIDE AQUATIC CENTRE

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (15:17): My question is to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. Can the minister update the house on any significant milestones in the delivery of the new Adelaide Aquatic Centre?

The Hon. R.K. PEARCE (King—Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:18): I thank the member for Torrens for her question. I am so pleased to share that as the weather warms up it is time to mark your calendars because I am pleased to share with the house that the new Adelaide Aquatic Centre is on track to open to the public on Tuesday 27 January 2026.

With over 400,000 construction hours worked and over 1,500 full-time jobs supported during the construction phase, the new \$135 million Adelaide Aquatic Centre is shaping up to be a world-class facility. The community is ready to back in that pool. Memberships have been flying out the doors since they opened to the public on 19 November. As of yesterday, 24 November, 1,282 learn to swim memberships and 748 general pool and gym memberships have been sold. It is clear that South Australians are ready to make a splash in the new centre.

Last Sunday (Sunday week ago now) I was fortunate enough to be on site at the new Adelaide Aquatic Centre with the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport in the other place and the wonderful Minister for Environment and Water, who, as the local member for Adelaide—but even before her time in that role—has staunchly fought for a long-term solution for the ageing centre while the government at the time dragged their feet over what to do with a crumbling council-owned facility.

The member for Adelaide has helped shape the new centre as a hub not just for her beloved community but for wider Adelaide and South Australia as well. For their patience, we were able to provide local residents and former members of the old Adelaide Aquatic Centre the first opportunity to sign up for membership at the brand-new centre, and I am so pleased to see that they have taken full advantage of that offer. I thank the member for Adelaide for spreading the fantastic news and I know that she cannot wait to welcome her local community and previous users and groups back to the centre.

At the new Adelaide Aquatic Centre, there will be something for everyone: if it's not the 50-metre, 10-lane indoor pool, it's the lagoon outdoor pool; you could be watching the kids in the dedicated indoor learn-to-swim pool; just simply enjoying the leisure space, fully equipped with splash zones and some incredible waterslides; or working out in the gym and fitness facilities, followed by a relaxing visit to the sauna and steam rooms. This is truly a marvellous facility and I cannot wait for South Australians to witness for themselves just how much is on offer here at this incredible facility.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of Councillor Davina Quirke from the Yankalilla council—great to have you here, Davina—and John Quirke, former Senator for South Australia and member for Playford. Welcome to parliament.

Grievance Debate

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (15:21): Today, the Premier claimed to be a leader committed to reducing domestic violence. That commitment must be more than just words; it must be practically demonstrated through real action. This is an issue of integrity for the Premier and the Labor Party he leads. Allowing a candidate who is currently facing six charges of aggravated assault against his wife to receive Labor Party preference votes fundamentally negates any claim of standing against domestic violence.

Aggravated assault is not minor assault. It is a category of offence that is extremely serious. A party leader cannot credibly stand against domestic violence while simultaneously not taking action when he can in order to deal with it. In August 2022, the Premier intervened—

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Member for Unley, we have a point of order.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: My point is that I am not sure if any of these matters are before a court or not, and if they are, I ask you to consider that while the member for Unley may inadvertently be putting any court action at risk.

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley, from my reading of—

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Florey, we do not need your help, thank you. From my reading of the media, this matter is before the courts, and therefore sub justice does come into play. I ask you to maybe be careful in your comments.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Thank you for your guidance, sir. In August 2022, the Premier intervened in a Labor Party operational matter because of allegations by Master Builders that a couple of blokes' cars were vandalised by the CFMEU. Aggravated assault against women is much more serious than a couple of damaged company cars.

Public trust demands intervention. Political parties are not passive actors in elections—they are in it to win—but preferencing a candidate facing severe domestic violence charges signals to the community that political advantage is more important than the safety and dignity of women. It undermines the moral authority of the party and erodes public confidence in its stated values. By refusing to intervene, it effectively says that you believe allegations of violence against women are negotiable, tolerable and politically irrelevant. That is unacceptable.

The board of directors of AJ & PA McBride, the member for MacKillop's own family company, has acted, and the Premier must also act. In a letter to shareholders dated 13 November 2025, the company secretary advised that Nick McBride has stood aside as chairman, a position he held for just two years, and an interim chairman has been appointed. The previous chair was in the role for 16 years. This is a vital point. Even those closest to him, those with financial and personal ties, recognise the charges are incompatible with leadership of the company and the company's reputation and community trust. If a private company can take decisive actions to protect its integrity, public office demands at least the same standard, if not higher.

So if Nick McBride is not a suitable chair for his own family company, he certainly is not suitable to continue serving as the member for MacKillop. A political party cannot credibly hold itself to a lower standard of ethics than a private business. Preferences are not a neutral administrative action, they are an endorsement and substantially increase the candidate's chances of being elected, therefore placing them in a position of power.

Supporting Nick McBride's conduct is inconsistent with calling out domestic violence. Failing to act sends a dangerous message to victims and survivors of domestic violence. Domestic violence victims already struggle to come forward. Women are very often not believed or are challenged about the circumstances of the assault by their spouses and even asked what did they do to provoke him and questioning why they did not leave him. Domestic violence victims fear disbelief, stigma and retaliation.

If political leaders publicly support a candidate charged with repeated violence against his wife it sends a chilling message: 'Our politics matter more than you.' Intervening, however, sends the opposite message: we believe victims, we take allegations seriously and we prioritise women's lives and safety over political expediency.

Leadership requires courage, not silence. It is easy for politicians to speak at rallies, attend vigils and post statements online about ending domestic violence. It is far harder to challenge friends of political convenience, but real leadership requires precisely this kind of courage. Intervening to block preferences is not interfering, it is exercising the responsibility that comes with leadership.

JOHN PIRIE SECONDARY SCHOOL

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (15:26): Today I would like to talk about the recent John Pirie Secondary School Awards and in particular the Minister for Education awards, which are offered as part of Children's Week celebrations for students who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in any endeavour, including academic, community service, sports, arts and personal challenge. Two awards are given to secondary students across all of the state from those nominated. This year Bella Veal was one of the two recipients awarded for the whole state.

The path to winning began several weeks ago when on a Saturday morning the Urumbula team hosted a tour for a group of adults who had in the past won a Churchill Fellowship to study overseas. The group were highly engaged learning about Aboriginal plants and also bestowed many compliments to the student tour guides, of which Bella was one.

Just to explain, this area is an Aboriginal flourishing garden with significant cultural areas which uses traditional methods of growing indigenous plants. This garden was established in 2018 by a teacher at the time, Bruce Mules. He worked with Aboriginal students transforming a bare piece of land to flourish with Indigenous culture and plants. It has become a peaceful bush-like garden with a yarning circle, a fire pit and a connections mural, which was painted by the Aboriginal students some years ago.

While gathered in the yarning circle, the school treated the guests at the time to several short talks. One of those was from Bella herself who spoke about her struggle with autism and how important Urumbula had been for her finding her voice, her culture, her confidence and positive self-belief. Some of the key points Bella made were that Urumbula was her true safe place and that she thrived at the chance to learn more about the Adnyamathanha language, customs and her family connections. She spoke of her work experience at Wilpena Pound and how she learnt more about the Flinders Ranges' plants from family elders—knowledge which has since been shared with the garden team and our visitors. Sharing knowledge was an important part of the mentoring role she was chosen to provide this year on Operation Flinders.

Her story also included being part of the SAASTA program and giving a public speaking address. In the local Army cadets she was a company commander responsible for training and her role modelling for other cadets. Bella was able to very personally and passionately describe how the stress and the anxiety did not go away and the pain and struggle she still endures. After she completed her talk several of the guests present were so moved that they became emotional. One suggested that we nominate her for the award because of her ability to overcome personal challenges and because of her remarkable achievements.

Bruce Mules, who has been retired for some time but is still involved in this project, was delighted when he got the news that she had won, and he was lucky enough to be alongside her parents to see her presented with the award by the Minister for Education in Adelaide recently.

Sometimes it is easy to overlook the struggles that students face. Bella's award is recognition that there are many ways in which you can strive for excellence and achieve it. I had the great privilege, as I mentioned earlier, of being at the awards that night and to personally congratulate Bella on her journey and her honesty with others who may have the same challenges but are too scared to show their emotions or fears.

This program has been going for many years. It acts as a class project and it has been able to allow lots of students who have great challenges in sitting in a classroom for a long period of time to be able to actually achieve their goal and to actually pass some of the courses.

The garden, which is visible from the main road, Mary Elie Street, is maintained by not only the students but also the groundsperson there. It has Indigenous plants and a lot of history there. It not only teaches the Aboriginal people about their culture and their traditions but also teaches the non-Indigenous people about the cultures. I have been there many a time, and it is very peaceful and relaxing.

It is heartwarming to actually understand how students themselves can come out of their shells. I congratulate Bella tremendously on having the courage to be able to explain and make public her challenges with autism and other things. I am very privileged to have been able to be at that awards event last week.

*Parliamentary Procedure***VISITORS**

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Chaffey, I would like to welcome to parliament Mike O'Reilly, who was a senior journalist in 1984 at the *Adelaide News* when I joined as a copyboy. I then became a journalist in 1985, and Mike soon after left to work for the South Australian Brewing Company. He knew I did not mind a little cold frothy, so he would send media releases my way, sticky taped to a slab. Mike's greatest moment I think was when Pope John Paul II came to Australia on a papal visit. When he was here in Adelaide, Mike came up with an idea of producing the 'Vaticans'. They were cans of West End Export with the papal logo on the other side. I reckon I might still have a couple of empty cans at home, Mike.

I think after that you went to work for Dean Brown here in parliament, in the Liberal Party. It is great to have you back in the house today. I was sitting here and thinking, 'I'm sure that is either Mike or John Cleese,' and I had to get Janine Young, who worked with us at *The News* back in 1984 as well, to go and do a positive ID on you. Great to see you, Mike.

Also, we have John and Margaret George here, who are guests of the member for Chaffey, whom I now give the call to.

*Grievance Debate***WINE INDUSTRY**

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:32): I rise to talk about the South Australian wine industry that is staring at a generational crisis as I speak, particularly commercial wine and the machinations that it is currently going through after the last three years of extraordinarily low prices, well below the cost of production and well below the cost of winemaking. What the industry is now seeing is a financial tsunami that is about to hit not only the industry but particularly the Riverland, which is the engine room of the wine industry, not only in South Australia but nationally.

What I have seen, over the period of time since 2020, is government interference and Chinese trade tariffs since November 2020. We are seeing that consumption is down by 7 per cent, year on year. We have also had government and industry telling wine grapegrowers to plant red grapes—to plant Syrah—to cater for the growing demand, particularly into China. Those Syrah grapes are now looking at fetching \$80 a tonne. The cost of production is somewhere between \$300 and \$320, and so you can see why there is so much financial stress happening in the wine sector, most of all in the Riverland in the commercial wine sector.

What I must say is that the federal government is currently circling all those wine grapegrowers, hunting their water. That is a real concern because that water is the economic platform or the economic base for South Australia's food production economy. It is an economic base to what I consider to be the premium food bowl of South Australia.

I have written, as has industry, to the Premier and we have invited him to come up to the Riverland and visit. Come up and stare the wine grapegrowers in the eyes and understand the strain, stress, hardship and mental anxiety that it is causing a majority in the Riverland. Sixty per cent of the Riverland is reliant on the wine industry and it is really on its knees at the moment. There has been a 50 per cent increase in wine grapegrowers now receiving the Farm Household Allowance due to financial stress. That Farm Household Allowance is put there simply to allow those families to put food on the table and to allow them to get medical help or medical procedures if they need. It is a stopgap measure.

But what we are seeing now is that those growers, those irrigators, those wine grapegrowers are so financially stressed that they have sold their water entitlement. They have sold a lot of their equipment. They have sold anything to actually keep their heads above the waterline and that is of real concern. That is why today I make this grievance with serious consideration and the messaging to the Premier is to please come up and visit.

As I said, the Riverland is the engine room of the nation's wine industry. Seventy per cent of South Australia's wine is produced in the Riverland, 32 per cent of the nation's wine. Of that 20,000 hectares of vineyards, we are seeing large plantings now being removed to adjust to the

decline in demand. What we have seen since 2022 is that we are reducing the tonnage, reducing the volume. It is down 19 per cent, but what that means to South Australia's economy is a 21 per cent reduction in South Australia's crush.

So, again, I am calling on the government to provide further support for mental health services. I am calling on the government to introduce no to low interest loans. That is of no cost to the taxpayer—none. It is about giving them the ability to structurally adjust, to either transition away from the wine sector or to be able to make their farm profitable so that we can continue to grow our economy, create jobs, keep the Riverland alive and keep it on the map.

The structural adjustment is the critical part of what the wine sector needs. The government need to provide data. They need to provide the information. They need to provide the education. They need to provide the confidence for the sector to structurally adjust and there is no more important time than now. So I am calling on Premier Malinauskas to please come and visit the Riverland. Bring your economists and bring your staff to the Riverland and please understand the hardship and the financial stress that these people are currently under because the wine industry needs you.

BLACK ELECTORATE

Mr DIGHTON (Black) (15:37): Today I tabled a petition in this house relating to the concerns of residents about dust emissions from the Boral Linwood Quarry. The petition to this house reflects the concerns of members of my community in Marino, Hallett Cove, Kingston Park and Seacliff about levels of nuisance dust and community members have also raised concerns about the possible health impact of dust.

The petition calls for improved monitoring and enforcement, along with plant and quarry upgrades and improved communication by Boral. I want to pay tribute to the champion of this petition, Peter Melnyk. Peter lives in Marino and has been tireless in raising concerns about dust from the quarry and advocating for improvements. He has been responsible for the collection of the 550 signatures included in the petition. I have had a number of meetings with Peter throughout this year and I really appreciate his commitment to our community.

I would also like to recognise the efforts of Barbara Wake and Fran and Dennis Southern, who have been long-term community advocates, along with members of the 5049 coastal community residents' group. Working with these community members has been an important part of the work I have done as the member for Black, which has included letters and advocacy to the Minister for Energy and Mining; the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water; and the Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

I organised a meeting with the Minister for Mining, Peter, Fran, Dennis and Barb, along with some other residents, to discuss Boral Linwood. I initiated a community drop-in session with representatives from the Department for Energy and Mining, the EPA and SA Health. They were available to answer questions from members of the community who also raised concerns and provided feedback. The Department for Energy and Mining are using this information to assist with working with Boral on improvements, including community consultation improvements.

I have also met with Boral, and it is important that we recognise the importance of the quarry. I conducted a tour of the quarry earlier this year. The quarry is one of the most important sources of hard rock and it produces 1.2 million tonnes per annum. It has been providing aggregate for almost 130 years, and it is a critical and strategic resource in building and construction infrastructure across our metropolitan area. It is a significant employer, with 30 full-time staff, and it provides work for up to 80 contractors and transport workers.

The importance of the quarry to South Australia highlights why we need improvements to this quarry to help mitigate some of the impact of the quarry on the surrounding community. I look forward to continuing to advocate for my community and to work with the Minister for Energy and Mining to create a better community consultative framework so that improvements can be made which balance the concerns of the community with the strategic importance of the quarry.

I also want to pay tribute to the Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club and also, in particular, to honour the achievement of some club members. Seacliff is a wonderful club that makes an important contribution to our coastal community. I recently attended their open day and it was a wonderful opportunity to bring the club together to celebrate the start of the summer season activities and

patrols. One of the things that always strikes me in my catch-ups with the club is the resilience they display, particularly in the face of the impact of the algal bloom, which not only is devastating our marine environment but has also had an impact on the club with a loss of members.

Today, I want to particularly highlight the very significant achievements of some particular members: firstly, Derek Bawden. Earlier this month, Derek was announced as the National Surf Life Saving Australia Surf Lifesaver of the Year for 2025. This is a remarkable achievement. This followed Derek winning the South Australian Surf Lifesaver of the Year. Of course, unsurprisingly, he was the Seacliff Surf Lifesaver of the Year, an award I was honoured to present to him in May of this year.

I want to highlight some of the reasons why Derek was a worthy winner: he logged 286 patrol hours; he is the vice-captain of Seacliff; he mentors new patrol captains; he takes on essential operational tasks, including training, equipment maintenance and event logistics; he has also supported Goolwa in response to dwindling patrol numbers, so he has supported an additional surf life saving club; and he was the only South Australian lifesaver deployed interstate as a swift water rescue technician during the New South Wales flood emergency following ex-tropical cyclone Alfred.

I also want to quickly acknowledge the achievements of Taj Ward and Fletcher Luscombe, who won the national Surf Sport Team of the Year. The pair produced an extraordinary season, highlighted by a world record performance by 8.69 seconds in the open men's 12.5-metre line throw at the South Australian state titles, breaking their own previous record. Congratulations to Derek, Taj and Fletcher on their achievements at the Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club.

VOLUNTEERS

Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:42): Volunteering has been at the heart of many interactions I have had for the last four years, and I have developed an even stronger appreciation for the incalculable hours that go into good people contributing to their community for nothing more than the feeling of helping others. We have a national challenge to lift the profile of volunteering and boost the meaning and the purpose of altruism. I think that starts in schools with the teaching of student voice and civics and citizenship.

As I reflect on the anniversary of the Pinery fire, which took place 10 years ago, it has been my latest reminder to understand how lucky we are to have people who make time to volunteer today, so I want to tell the story of Lions Australia and their members. On Sunday, at the commemoration for the Pinery fire anniversary, it was clear that volunteering had been at the heart of the recovery.

Four Lions Clubs need a special mention for their efforts on the ground that day, that week and for the months and years that followed. Balaklava, Mallala, Gilbert Valley and Gawler clubs were all essential to the recovery effort. On Sunday, they came together again to provide catering for over 400 people. I must give special mention, of course, to the Freeling Netball Club, who supported with the afternoon tea, but back to the Lions.

The Balaklava and District Lions Club, with president Adrian Shepherd, was integral to the recovery effort, with fundraising and relief support ready and able, and I sincerely thank them for their contribution. Since then, they have continued to raise money for cancer by holding Biggest Morning Teas for the last 27 years; in fact, this year alone they have raised \$9,000.

The next club to mention within my electorate is the Clare District Lions Club. The president is currently Ken Bradford, but he has been ably supported by his wife and former president, Yvonne Bradford, in the past. I also mention Art Yandell, Rosemary Gale, Sue Mayfield, Marie Parker, Rob Royal, Ron Wurst, Greg Gibbs, Gareth Heron, Allan Mayfield, John Applebee and many more. I will often find these characters hanging out at the Clare Lions Furniture Shed, particularly on a Friday where, while they are very busy moving furniture around that supports a lot of locals, including myself, to find a spare office chair or a bedside table, it is the BBQ fun and laughs that I know they enjoy most of all.

Associated with the Clare group is also the Gonna Group—'we are gonna get it done'—and I cannot commend them highly enough for the assistance they provide to elderly people for those one-off jobs, certainly in the absence of a workforce for domiciliary care in regional South Australia. The Clare group also contributes to the Community Support Services Directory, a booklet that

promotes a one-stop hub of community services, and just recently they organised a 'Harmony Nook', which created a dementia-friendly community morning tea, and I thank them for it.

The Lions Club of Mallala and District, with president Vaughan Chenoweth—a hero and larger-than-life figure of the community—supported the Adelaide Plains FarmHers Day in the Dust experience, that allowed women on the land to lift their spirits during the drought, have a few laughs, kick the dust around on the Owen football oval, and focus on themselves for a while.

Since Pinery, the Lions Club of Mallala has raised awareness and funds to build the Mallala Community Complex, which was awarded Community Project of the Year. That Mallala Community Complex now exists as a purpose-built emergency relief centre. That is the innovation and progress we have seen since the tragic fire, an investment in our own recovery services. The meeting space also features a display about that Pinery fire and the disaster that prompted the club to build the centre in the first place.

I also want to mention the Lions Club of Gilbert Valley and president Mike Thompson, as well as other members like Stuart and Carmel Paxton, who I caught up with on Sunday. All those Gilbert Valley volunteers will often be cooking the cinnamon sugar doughnuts we love to savour.

All of that comes to the point I want to make; that is, it is time both houses support and establish a SA Parliamentary Lions Club. Meeting with proponents today, it is clear how meaningful that experience is for them. When I asked them why they joined, they said, 'Where there's a disaster, there's a lion ready to help.' So I look forward, in the next term, to working with my parliamentary colleagues to establish that club, given that next year the national convention will be held here in Adelaide.

PARAFIELD GARDENS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (15:48): I rise to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Parafield Gardens Primary School and to celebrate six decades of outstanding achievement, community spirit and all-round excellence. Back in 1965, seven staff welcomed 146 students through the school gates for the first time. Today, the school stands proudly with 74 staff and 575 students.

Across its 60 years teachers, students, leaders, volunteers and families have done an extraordinary job bringing the place to life. Their work endures today in a school that reflects not only its rich history but its admirable values of persistence, enthusiasm, acceptance, community and excellence. While we are coming to the end of a fantastic year of celebrations, the school community has been treated to some incredible events. This includes special assemblies, a talent contest, staff reunions, a 60s dress-up day, a walk down memory lane static display, and the unveiling of a celebratory mural, to name just a few.

Parafield Gardens Primary is a modern thinking, diverse, ambitious school, offering its students a world of opportunity. Its specialist curriculum is exceptional. In Auslan, students learn not only language skills but also the value of communication and belonging. In health and physical education, they are supported to be confident, active and resilient, guided by staff who bring enormous passion, including the outstanding Steph Ryan. Steph's work has opened doors for countless students, especially through accessible after-school-hours sports programs that have recently attracted the attention of the Public Education Awards.

In visual arts, students learn to express themselves through form, style, and context. The school's art room is a place of exploration and imagination, where students learn new techniques and discover new materials while opening their eyes to the world around them. In music and drama, students participate in rich, creative programs, singing, dancing, storytelling, playing instruments and performing.

The school's senior choir continues its proud involvement in the Primary Schools Music Festival. This commitment to opportunity extends well beyond the classroom. The school offers an impressive range of extracurricular programs that broaden students' horizons and strengthen its already vibrant culture. From participation in the Festival of Music and SAPPS Choir to the creativity of the Wakakirri Story-Dance Challenge, students are encouraged to explore their talents and develop leadership.

The school's Youth Environment Committee stands out as a shining example of student voice in action, driving sustainability initiatives, creating native gardens, promoting recycling and

representing the school at the state Youth Environmental Council. The acknowledgement as a sustainable school by Green Adelaide in 2023 speaks volumes about their dedication and the school's deep commitment to environmental sustainability. Equally important is the school's longstanding recognition as a United Nations Global Peace School. Since 2008, Parafield Gardens Primary has taught and modelled the principles of caring for ourselves, caring for others and caring for the environment.

In a community, where 40 per cent of residents were born overseas, these values matter deeply. They ensure that harmony, respect and understanding reach far beyond the school gate. As the local MP, I am profoundly grateful for this. Our ability to respect one another is one of our community's greater strengths, and I am indebted to the school for the lead it takes on this vital front.

During my time as the member for Playford, I have had the privilege of working with three exceptional principals, Rachel McLennan, Vicki Poulain and now Sara Broster. All have been dedicated leaders committed to their students and staff, and I wish to take the opportunity to offer them my deepest thanks. I also want to warmly acknowledge Aida Chapman, the much loved head of the out-of-school-hours service. In parliament last year, I congratulated her and her colleagues on being the only public school selected for the state OSHC showcase, a reflection of her inspiring leadership. Aida is admired across our community for her warmth, kindness and unwavering commitment to shaping young lives.

As we mark 60 years, we celebrate not just the past but also the future. The achievements of this school, academic, cultural, artistic, environment and civic, speak volumes. To all staff, volunteers, students past and present, thank you. Parafield Gardens Primary is one of many excellent local schools and an enormous source of pride for our community. Its first 60 years have been remarkable, and the foundations have been laid to ensure that the decades ahead will shine even brighter.

Private Members' Statements

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:53): It is an exciting time at Swan Reach. The Swan Reach telescope was opened on 13 November, exploring the gateway to the galaxy. It is an exciting time because Swan Reach is now the home to the largest private telescope and observatory in Australia. It is a small town with a population of around 300 people, but it has a big backyard. The River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve is one of the darkest places on the planet. And, how dark? Its score is 21.8, and the maximum darkness that is achieved is 22. It is a remarkable outcome.

The telescope is a US-built 28-inch aperture PlaneWave CDK700. The observatory standard telescope is of professional standard, fully automated, and it weighs over 500 kilograms. It is basically a Ferrari or a Porsche of the telescope world. There are incredible tourism and education opportunities that the observatory has as a science lecture area for teachers and students. It promotes citizen science and it does not matter whether you are an amateur or an expert.

It has taken two years of planning, and I want to commend the Swan Reach Progress Association for their vision. In particular, I want to thank the chair, John George OAM, and his wife, Margaret, for their dedication to this project. It really shows you what a small regional community is able to achieve, particularly under great leadership.

So, as I say, come and stay. Come and explore the gateway to the galaxy. Swan Reach has the largest telescope in Australia. Come and have a look and come and try.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Odenwalder): I will. Member for Stuart.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (15:55): Today, I would like to clarify a statement that I made on 18 September this year in a grievance on the Pirie Voices project. I can now clarify that the Port Pirie Regional Council voted on 18 December last year to fund this project for \$45,000. After discussion at the council, a motion was then moved to provide \$45,000 towards the project. It is interesting that this was at the last meeting of the council just recently. Councillor Kendall Jackson congratulated me on bringing it up, but also expressed some concern that I did not mention that the

Port Pirie Regional Council facilitated and paid for that, and I want to clarify that. The Port Pirie Regional Council clarified it and also paid for the project, and the project then went ahead.

On 18 December, the motion was moved. There was discussion and then there was a vote and the vote was lost. Councillor Jackson called for a division. At the original meeting, on 18 December, she voted against it and voted against a call for a division; however, that was lost. But I want to say that this project is a fantastic project and it is great that Councillor Jackson has this as a top priority at the moment. It is going very well, and I am looking forward to further community involvement.

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:56): The toxic algal bloom is continuing to devastate our coastal community. A Senate inquiry released their final report, which has delivered a damning verdict on the state Labor government's handling of the algal bloom disaster. Like many locals, I am fed up with the Labor Party's excuses.

The state Labor government has handled this crisis poorly. They were too slow to act when reports of the algal bloom first arose in March, they botched public messaging to at-risk members of our community, and they slow-walked relief. The Premier also gave our community contradictory advice on the severity of the algal bloom saying, 'It's not toxic.' Yet, respected experts have said that the algal bloom is undisputably toxic, and even the state government's own website said that it was toxic.

What we have seen unfold along our beaches in Morphett has been heartbreaking and shows how important targeted investment is to protect our iconic coastline. The Liberal Party will invest \$30 million into additional shellfish reefs. This will build upon the successful \$1.2 million shellfish reef off the coast of Glenelg North that I helped secure funding for in 2020. While Labor looks for short-term solutions to protect their reputation and buy their way out of mismanaging the algal bloom crisis, the Liberal Party is focused on saving our seas for generations to come. Only a Liberal Party has the long-term vision for saving our seas and waterways.

Mr DIGHTON (Black) (15:58): I want to talk about the Walk Beside Suicide Prevention Network, Marion, South Australia. I recently attended a Reynella neighbourhood centre to take part in what is called the Blue Tree Project. The Blue Tree Project is about painting trees in a vibrant blue colour to be the symbol of mental health awareness, to help spark conversations about mental health, to be open and to lead to the positive transforming of attitudes around mental health.

The Blue Tree Project is just one of the different things that the Walk Beside Suicide Prevention Network, Marion, South Australia do. They also provide education, they do a number of networking events and they provide care packs for the primary carers of those with mental health conditions. The coordinator, Beverly Emerson, a Hallett Cove local, is a force of nature—incredibly active—and I pay tribute to her and to the rest of the Walk Beside Suicide Prevention Network team.

I also just want to give a shout-out to the Hallett Cove and Districts Lions. They have been doing their annual Santa sleigh around Hallett Cove, Sheidow Park and Trott Park. It is fantastic to bring Christmas spirit to our community. I am taking part on Tuesday but what a wonderful organisation that does terrific things to build a stronger community.

Bills

WORKPLACE PROTECTION (PERSONAL VIOLENCE) BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (16:00): It is a privilege to continue my remarks. As I was saying just before we stopped for lunch, I was offering my praise to the SDA and homing in particularly on the No One Deserves A Serve campaign. I was up in the Northern Territory when I first saw this in action. It has obviously been quite some time since I worked in retail but when you do have lingering memories of the abuse that you have copped over the years, it does rekindle memories of things that you have encountered in yesteryear. My response to this is that this is long overdue and I must extend my praise, beyond this legislation, to highlight this campaign and say what a wonderful thing this really is. Josh Peak and his staff, Jordan Mumford, really do deserve a lot of praise for this.

I do not want to criticise or be seen to be disagreeing with the remarks of my colleague the member for Light, but I did note that he was commenting about signage in small towns and small businesses whereby people were politely asked to respect their staff. My perspective on this is that this is a good thing and it is long overdue. I have heard utterings, during the course of this discussion, that this is a sign of the times: I don't accept that. This is a reflection of something that is long overdue. We could talk about the time when I worked in retail back in the 1990s and 2000s, and we could say that they were the good old days, and while we do hear a lot of the extremities in terms of the reports of violence, I would just like to remind this chamber that abuse, particularly verbal abuse, has been going on for quite some time.

It is absolutely fantastic that we have an organisation that has been championing the message of just showing respect to people who work in retail and they deserve nothing but praise for that. Having said that, I am being very careful here: I am talking a lot about the SDA but, as my colleagues so eloquently put it, there was a lot of consultation and a lot of involvement from some other very well-respected organisations. Yes, I am homing in on retail but this particular bill is relevant in all manner of workplaces and therefore the involvement of some very reputable organisations needs to be highlighted and to be praised. I do not really want to go into the details of everything but I do want to say that your involvement, from my perspective, is really respected and valued and I am glad we could get such a broad consensus in getting this bill together, with so much valuable input.

Something else that I want to highlight about this is the mindset of young people. Yes, this will be relevant to people in all age brackets but I do want to highlight the fact that when I entered retail, I was 14 years old, I was shy, I was timid and I had this underlying desire to simply want to do my best for the people who were giving me a job. When you are verbally attacked, you do accept a sense of consequence in that you are made to feel guilty for something that perhaps you are not actually guilty of. Using this platform and the platforms that we have seen with No One Deserves A Serve, I think it is an underlying change that is really needed. With people so young, they are vulnerable. Unfortunately, there is a power imbalance and therefore I think it is ideal that we have signage around the place to show the 1 per cent of the population that abuse of any form towards workers is simply not okay.

I have noticed also that to tie this in and to draw in on the consultation, a lot of work was drawn from previous experiences from the Australian Capital Territory that has seen a lowering of crime. I note that there was some expression of doubt from the member for Heysen as to whether this would be an effective measure, but our experiences from interstate have shown that this measure will work and I am very much looking forward to the outcomes.

With all this in mind, I really want my name on the *Hansard* to say, 'Yes, the member for Playford is very much in support of this bill.' I support anything that will make life more pleasant and more dignified for retail workers and, indeed, workers from a broad scale of professions. With that in mind, I commend the bill to the house.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Women) (16:05): This Workplace Protection (Personal Violence) Bill is really important. I am very grateful to the Attorney and his team for their development of this bill. I am also really grateful for the advocacy of the SDA, its members, their secretary, Josh Peak, and their delegates. I am grateful to them for their advocacy around this bill and also for the advocacy undertaken by a number of other unions in this space, which I will come back to.

Like many of us, when we debate bills like this, I think about some of my early jobs, and I will come to my early job in retail. My first job was when I was about 12 or 13. At Morphettville Racecourse there used to be an absolutely enormous bingo game conducted there. There were hundreds of tables and my job was to stand with the bingo caller and when somebody called out 'Bingo', I had to literally run to their table and check their card to see if they actually had bingo and were going to win. It was a fun job but it was also hard sometimes to break some very excited people's hearts when I went through their card and they actually did not have bingo at all.

My second job was when I was about 14. I cleaned a local butcher shop on Marion Road at North Plympton and that was really hard work. I then started working at Coles Plympton. I had a short

stint on the checkout and then I started working in the deli. I loved working in the delicatessen. I loved the fact that about half my Plympton High School friends worked out the back restocking, worked on the checkout, worked on the floor, worked in the deli, worked in fruit and veg or the meat section. It was excellent. I absolutely loved being there. I loved serving customers and I loved having a chat.

There were lots of local people, as you can imagine, I knew from around our community and in some cases I knew exactly what they would order before they came to the deli. For some people it was 125 grams of savoury loaf, whatever that was. For others, it was half a kilo of chicken thighs and there were a lot of people at that time who liked to order really large pieces of bung fritz. It was an interesting time in the delicatessen, but I loved chatting with customers.

One of the other jobs that my friends (a couple of them also from Plympton High) and I had in the deli was cooking the chickens in the rotisserie. Early on a Saturday morning and then on a Thursday night we would put the stuffing in the chickens and then load the steel rods with chickens. Then we would take them off the rods and carefully put them on the trays to cool a little and then load them into the alfoil bags. We took a lot of pride in cooking 50 chickens at once. It was quite remarkable. We would then put on the next round to go around and cook.

The Hon. J.K. Szakacs: Did you get to mark it down for friends?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I loved it when I had the pricer and I could mark things down and felt really quite powerful—\$2, \$3—and also when I got on the microphone and let people know what the special of the day was. That was excellent. They were good times. I loved being there.

But there was something that happened each time I had the job of taking the chickens that had been loaded up from the rotisserie on a trolley to the front of the store at Coles Plympton, where there was a metal case where we put all the chickens in their bags for people to come and buy. Every time on a Thursday night when I went and loaded up the chickens, there was a really creepy man who would stand near the chicken warmer, and every time I or a particular friend of mine would put the chickens onto that warmer he would stand really close behind us and talk. He was so creepy. I felt really disturbed.

We had this happy time, and then as soon as we had to go and do that part of the job we felt slightly sick. We hated that moment when we had to go and do that part of the job and this particular man would just stand there. We were SDA members—of course we were, rightly—but we did not really know what to do and we did not know how to vocalise how this particular person made us feel. When I was getting ready to speak about this bill I remembered that time and that feeling, and how that impacted how we felt when we went to work and undertook that particular task at work.

Like many people here, we have gone through those experiences—not that experience, thankfully—and we have seen our young people, our children, traverse that journey of getting their first job. One of our sons did basketball refereeing and then worked for a long time at Boost at Marion. The other one worked in Macca's and then EB Games. All their friends have had those jobs as well, and I know that lots of people in Reynell's children and young people also have those jobs.

The reason that this bill is so important for all those young people, as we take it forward in this house and help it to progress to become law and provide those really important protections for mostly—not always, but mostly—young people undertaking those jobs in those particular industries, is that we can do something that means when those young people have that experience and feel that particular way, whether it is fear, apprehension or having to deal with particular sorts of violence, we now have a course of action through this legislation that can be taken to much better protect those young people.

We also now have a course of action for protection for other workers as well as those young people: not only for people who, at large, work in retail and who are obviously of a diversity of ages but also for workers who are ably and beautifully represented by the United Workers Union who work in hospitality, as well as those who are represented by the Australian Services Union who work in places like credit unions in shopping centres where there are public-facing positions in those particular environments.

Now, through the passage of this bill, we know we have laws so that when something is not right for a worker, we can act. We know that every worker absolutely deserves dignity, safety and respect at work, and when that is not there, when they are scared or when they are facing violence in all its forms, there is absolutely something that we can do, and rightly so. I am really pleased for

all the workers for whom this now provides that remedy for those situations, and it provides them with protection that we now have something that they can do that they can rely on.

I again wholeheartedly thank the Attorney-General and his team for their work toward this bill. I thank those unions that I mentioned, particularly the SDA who have championed this particular legislation and those other unions and industries who have also backed this really important step forward.

Everybody who goes to work deserves to feel and to be safe and when they are not, when members of the public display those aggressive, violent, intimidating behaviours, we can make sure that they are dealt with so that safe, positive environments can continue. I commend this bill to the house.

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (16:15): I am honoured to rise to support this important piece of legislation, the Workplace Protection (Personal Violence) Bill. It is an incredibly important bill.

I know that in the communities that I represent this will be warmly welcomed. I have my office in the major shopping centre in Whyalla, the Westland Shopping Centre. Unfortunately I have had several occasions to go and meet with retail workers who have been assaulted at the Westland Shopping Centre.

Just the other week, following the parliamentary sitting week when I returned to Whyalla, I went to one of our smaller shopping centres. When I arrived, three people had gone into one of the liquor takeaway stores in Whyalla at one of the smaller shopping centres. Those three people decided to help themselves to the alcohol and grabbed a whole heap of bottles. They were confronted by one of the workers—'confronted' is too strong a word; they were told, 'You cannot do that, you need to put it back.' The response from these three people was to threaten to smash a bottle across the head of one of the workers. Understandably they let those three people leave the premises with the shoplifted alcohol. There have been ongoing issues when it comes to threats, harassment and assaults of retail workers in the central business district in Port Augusta—and indeed at other locations in Port Augusta.

This bill, as I said, will be a very welcome initiative. It is a real improvement on what existed previously, both with more serious penalties and longer banning times and it is probably worth repeating—I know a number of people have mentioned some of the detail. Who can a workplace protection order be made against? The Magistrates Court or Youth Court may, on application, make a WPO in relation to a particular workplace if satisfied that the defendant has engaged in personal violence in relation to a workplace and may engage in personal violence in relation to a workplace during the time the order is proposed to operate if it is not made.

Personal violence includes any of the following behaviours in relation to another person at a workplace: physical violence or abuse; sexual violence or abuse; threatening behaviour; stalking; harassing, intimidating or offensive behaviour; and damage to a property that causes reasonable fear to a person at the workplace. A person of any age can be subject to a WPO. Unfortunately, it is not just adults who have been engaging in behaviour of this nature in some of the shopping precincts in my electorate, it is also young people as well. They just feel as though they can get away with it, and this might well change that dynamic. It is important.

Often, in responses like this, it can fall upon a person to take individual action, and the good thing about this bill is that a number of different people and organisations can apply:

- (a) an employer at the workplace;
- (b) the owner or occupier of the premises in which the workplace is situated;
- (c) a representative of an employer association of which an employer at the workplace is a member;
- (d) a health and safety representative for the workplace;
- (e) a union entitled to represent the industrial interests of workers at the workplace.

This goes broader than retail workers, but retail workers are often the ones at the shopfront, if you like. I would like to also acknowledge the role of the SDA when it came to pushing for a strengthening of the provisions around the protection of retail workers. They have been running longstanding

campaigns on a number of issues in order to ensure additional protection. Indeed, I think they have had a petition going around.

When it comes some of the bigger shopping centres we do have security officers, but, in comparison to some of the other states, the powers that those security officers have is often not sufficient. When I say it is not sufficient, if there is going to be any increase in the powers of security officers the necessary training will of course have to go with that. You are always better off if you de-escalate, if you can, but there are times when that is challenging. It is a source of frustration, both for security officers and indeed for people who work in shops, that the security officers often appear to be impotent to do what is necessary.

Which workplaces can a WPO apply to? It can be any workplace where the work requires direct interaction with members of the public, irrespective of whether the interaction is in person or not, and it includes any places where the worker goes or is likely to be while undertaking such work. That is fairly broad and it should be, in order to protect workers.

When it comes to the breach of any condition of the WPO, the penalty is a maximum of two years' imprisonment if the breach of the WPO does not involve personal violence, and up to five years' imprisonment if the breach of the WPO involves personal violence. When it comes to the banning order, it can be up to 12 months, but in particular circumstances it can go beyond 12 months. These are important changes. These are increases in penalties, and hopefully this is going to have a constraining impact.

The ACT has been mentioned as one jurisdiction where there have been changes in workplace protection orders, and the information that has been received is that they have had a significant impact in the ACT. When word gets out about what the consequences are of totally inappropriate behaviour towards workers, I hope that is going to have a real dampening impact.

I have flagged that there have been ongoing issues in Port Augusta. Those issues need to be addressed. This is just one strand, and there are clearly other things that need to be done. Indeed, last summer the CBD in Port Augusta was declared a public precinct, and I am on record as personally supporting the implementation again this year, or at least something equivalent, but preferably the implementation of what occurred last year. The feedback that I was getting was that it had a positive impact and I think it should be done again.

These things are not lightly entered into. It requires the police on the ground using their data to come to the belief that an order of this nature is needed. It is then considered by the police commissioner and, because of the enhanced police powers involved, it also requires the Attorney-General to give his or her assent in this case. As the member representing that area, I think we should move in that direction again this year.

I respect the police. Some people have raised this in relation to Whyalla, around Westland, but I will go on what the police believe is needed. It is not what someone on Facebook might say, or indeed what I might say. I do trust the police to be sensible about all of this stuff and I think the evidence is that they have been.

As I said, this is just one strand. There is a whole range of other initiatives that the government have undertaken, both in changes to laws around gangs and using a framework for outlaw biker gangs and adapting that to other gangs, which can sometimes be an issue in some of my communities, recognising it is a bit more complex and a bit more fluid when we are talking about organised outlaw biker gangs.

I want to flag that I have absolutely nothing against bikers, except the ones who engage in violence, drugs and all the rest of it. There are a lot of bikers in my communities and I think just about every male over the age of 50 seemed to be buying a Harley over the last few years. I was going to do the same thing, but my daughter gave me the stats on all the blokes who are getting Harleys and other powerful bikes and I thought I would give it a miss.

Of course, changes to bail laws are also going to have an impact, especially on those serious youth offenders. We just had yet another instance in Whyalla of stolen cars. I think the young offenders might have been from Port Augusta. The deep concern, given the age of some of these kids, is that they are either going to kill themselves or they are going to kill somebody else. This is not minor stuff. This is serious stuff.

I am full on in doing all we can when it comes to prevention. We need to be doing all we can when it comes to early intervention. The police know that often we cannot arrest ourselves out of the situation, but we still need that approach at the pointy end to keep the community safe. We also need a consistent approach over the years when it comes to early intervention in order to see if we can steer young people away from what will end up being not a good life for them because all of the evidence is that, when young people get involved with the juvenile justice system at an early age, the trajectory is usually not good, so prevention is incredibly important.

This is another bit of our legislation that is tackling the pointy end. When you speak to workers who have been assaulted you hear the trauma that it generates, the fear that it generates and that is why I think they will welcome this legislation.

The impact of this legislation is not just on workers in shopping precincts or workers who are facing the public in other circumstances. The other thing is that, by targeting those people who are causing the problems, it has a broader impact in that the population in general who use shopping centres will also feel safer. I think that is important as well.

We are protecting workers and, in protecting workers, we are creating a more positive atmosphere in our shopping precincts, wherever they are in the state. As I said, we have had particular problems in Port Augusta and we have had particular problems in Whyalla, in my electorate, so it is good to see some initiatives designed to improve that situation. The sooner we get this bill through the parliament and the sooner it is enacted the better, so I commend the bill to the house.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (16:30): I particularly want to thank members for their contributions. In saying that, I note the stated support of this important bill by the opposition, as noted by the lead speaker. I commend his contribution, as well as those contributions of my colleagues on this side of the house.

In doing so, it is evident that there have been two particular themes of support provided here. The first is the unshakable commitment of those on this side of the house to worker safety, and that would be no surprise to anyone seeing that the Labor Party is by and for working people, formed by trade unions over a century ago. That is something that brings many of us, including myself, to public life and public office.

The second part is the unique experiences that working in retail brings to all of us who serve in public life, not just on this side but across both sides of politics. That is something that I have reflected on often in the past. The best advice that I can provide young people, or even not-so-young people, who want to become more engaged in politics, if they seek to forge a career in public office or even want to work for one of us in support of our roles in public life, is to work in retail or do some work in hospitality. That means that you are getting to meet people and you are getting to interact with people.

In both of those roles, as demonstrated by the contributions of members on this side of the house but also through this bill's intent, you are often dealing with people who are disrespectful, who are violent or who are putting their own sense of place or purpose in a moment well and truly beyond and above any sense of dignity or workplace safety.

As members have reflected on, it should not be part and parcel of working in retail or working in any job that you should be putting yourself forth to cop this sort of flak and cop this horrible behaviour, be it from childish all the way through to criminal, but here we are. In reflecting on and hearing members' contributions, it is very clear that people bring a particular personal passion to this very important piece of law that the government seeks the support of the house on.

I feel like I cannot miss out on the opportunity to reflect on my own time working in retail. I did a lot of work through high school and into university, and I really enjoyed it. It was something that I thoroughly enjoyed, from selling mobile phones and phone plans, to pulling beers and pinch hitting for various rugby and footy clubs on their club nights behind the bar. I worked in retail at Flinders University when I was up there, all of which were great and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

I have to say that probably the abnormal experience, or massively off-trend experience, I had is that I cannot recall a moment where I was subjected to the types of behaviour we are genuinely seeking to protect against. I say that not because of a flippant reflection but as a genuine sense of how lucky I was. It may, at times, have had something to do with me being six foot three and a bit wider than most people I was serving; notwithstanding that, I was incredibly lucky and incredibly fortunate not to have copped that sort of abuse.

We are committed, through this piece of law and through other pieces, other bills, before this place, that any moment we are fortunate to be on the Treasury benches we will continue to ensure that law is fit for purpose and responsive, and to ensure there is no equivocation when it comes to workplace safety, no room for any worker to feel that the government or the law is not on their side, and never, ever do anything other than send a very clear message to the public, the community, that we are a government that stands on the side of working people and their sense of safety, with a genuine commitment to safety at work. In saying that, I commend the bill to the house.

Bill read a second time

Third Reading

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (16:36): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

UNCLAIMED GOODS (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 13 November 2025.)

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (16:37): I am pleased to recommence my second reading contribution in respect of this bill. This bill makes a number of changes to modernise the act and to ensure the processes prescribed under the act are reasonable, practicable and readily understood.

The language in the act is updated in the bill, including replacement of the term 'bailee' with 'recipient' to refer to a person who is left in possession of goods, and replacement of the term 'bailor' with 'provider' to refer to a person who leaves goods in the possession of another. The bill also refers to the 'owner' of goods, where that person is different from the provider. For simplicity, I will use the updated terms to explain the changes contained in this bill.

Under the act goods are classified as scale 1, 2 or 3 goods based upon their value. The act prescribes differing requirements for the sale or disposal of goods depending upon which scale the goods fall within. The bill provides that where multiple goods are unclaimed, the relevant scale is to be determined by reference to the cumulative value of goods in the bailee's possession. This provides clarity and is expected to achieve a fairer result where the individual terms, such as individual pieces of jewellery within a collection, are of low to moderate value but their cumulative value is considerable.

The bill increases the threshold for scale 3 goods to \$20,000 taking into account the onerous obligations placed on recipients before disposing of these goods, including the requirement to seek a court order. Conversely, the upper limit for scale 1 is reduced to \$200 to complement amendments in the bill which simplify the process for dealing with these goods. To facilitate a simpler and expedited process to dispose of unclaimed motor vehicles, which are destined for scrap metal, the bill sets a higher scale 1 upper limit of \$1,000 in relation to motor vehicles. The various waiting or retention periods prescribed in the act are also reduced. For example, the act currently requires the recipient to hold the goods for a blanket period of three months from the date on which the goods are classified as unclaimed goods before they are permitted to take any further steps in accordance with the act.

The bill instead prescribes differing holding periods, depending on the value of the goods. A mechanism is also introduced to enable a recipient to apply to the court to dispose of goods earlier than permitted under the act where compliance would be unreasonable in the circumstances. The bill modernises the notice requirements under the act, including updating the approved methods of service to include electronic forms of communication, abolishing antiquated public notice requirements and introducing a requirement to search the commonwealth Personal Property Securities Register in respect of unclaimed motor vehicles.

The bill also introduces a new requirement on recipients to give the provider of goods and, where known, any owner of the goods referred to in the bill as a relevant person, notice of their intent to dispose of the goods under the act. The holding period does not commence until such notice has been given unless the recipient is unable to obtain the person's contact details despite reasonable attempts to do so. Where the goods remain unclaimed after the holding period ends, the act authorises disposal of the goods through certain approved methods.

The bill simplifies these processes, particularly with respect to scale 1 and 2 goods. Under the bill, scale 1 goods are simply vested in the recipient at the expiry of the holding period, meaning the recipient can retain or dispose of the goods as they wish. Scale 2 goods may be sold by public auction, by private sale for fair value, or otherwise in accordance with any court order. The existing requirement to obtain a court order for disposing of scale 3 goods is retained. The bill makes special provision for the disposal of special categories of goods, including rubbish, perishable goods or goods that are likely to cause a risk to the health and safety of a person, personal documents and motor vehicles.

Where the goods are claimed by the provider or owner of the goods, the act permits the recipient to require payment of certain costs before handing over the goods. Similarly, if the goods are ultimately sold, the recipient may retain costs from the proceeds of sale before depositing the balance with the Treasurer. This existing right is revised in the bill to ensure the recipient is not left out of pocket significantly in relation to costs incurred prior to the goods being unclaimed goods in the act, but the act only permits the recipient to claim or retain the amount of any lien established over the goods.

As a result, recipients who cannot establish a lien over unclaimed goods may not be permitted to demand or retain all of the charges due to them in connection with the goods. An illustration as to how this may operate unfairly was provided by the Law Society in its feedback to the government during the development of this bill.

The Law Society highlighted that no lien is created in South Australia over animals which have been abandoned in agistment kennels, catteries and pet day care. As a result, a recipient left in possession of an abandoned animal would not be permitted to retain the costs of feeding and sheltering the abandoned animal from the proceeds of sale if those costs were incurred prior to the animal being classified as unclaimed goods. Nor would they be able to demand those costs before handing the animal back to the owner. Instead, the recipient would be required to pursue those costs as a debt.

The bill removes the requirement to establish a lien over the goods and instead permits the recipient to demand or retain the amount agreed (or in the absence of agreement such amount as is reasonable) as the charges due for any inspection, carriage, storage and maintenance of the goods, or for any repair or other treatment or work done in connection with the goods.

The bill also expands the rights of third parties, such as those with a security interest over the goods, to establish their interest in unclaimed goods. Currently, the only remedy available under the act to third parties who claim an interest in unclaimed goods is to make a claim with the Treasurer for payment from the proceeds of sale.

The bill introduces a mechanism for any person who claims an interest in unclaimed goods to apply to the court to declare their interests and determine how the goods should be dealt with. A number of other amendments are made to the act, including:

- making explicit that the act only applies to the extent that there is no existing agreement between the parties about how unclaimed goods may be disposed of—this will allow

businesses to set conditions regarding the disposal of unclaimed goods prior to agreeing to any goods being left in their possession;

- the introduction of record-keeping requirements;
- clear protection from civil or criminal liability for action taken in good faith in accordance with the act;
- new provisions which regulate how the proceeds from the sale of unclaimed goods are dealt with by the Treasurer for greater consistency with the Unclaimed Money Act 2021; and
- the inclusion of a declaration in accordance with section 73(2) of the Commonwealth Personal Property Securities Act 2009, to clarify the priority of rights as between the recipients and third parties with a security interest in the goods.

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

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Unclaimed Goods Act 1987*

3—Amendment of long title

This clause makes a minor consequential amendment to the long title.

4—Substitution of section 3

This clause substitutes new definitions for the purposes of the measure and clarifies that the Act does not apply to the disposal of unclaimed goods to the extent that an agreement or understanding between the provider and the recipient deals with the disposal of the goods.

5—Amendment of section 5—Unclaimed goods

This clause:

- changes terminology used (to replace references to a 'bailee' of goods with references to a 'recipient' of goods and to replace references to a 'bailor' or goods with references to a 'provider' of goods);
- makes changes to facilitate an expedited process for disposal of unclaimed goods that are perishable or rubbish;
- makes changes to ensure reasonable attempts are made to contact the provider or an owner of the goods and to shorten the time period before the goods become 'unclaimed' from 42 days to 14 days from the date of a request to collect the goods.

6—Substitution of sections 6 and 7

This clause substitutes new sections as follows:

5A—Special requirements relating to motor vehicles

If unclaimed goods consist of or include a motor vehicle, it will not vest in the recipient and may not be disposed of under the measure unless a search of the PPS register has been undertaken and registered interest holders notified.

6—Vesting of scale 1 unclaimed goods in recipient

This provision specifies when the recipient of unclaimed goods (other than personal documents) the value of which lies within scale 1 (ie not more than \$200 or, in the case of a motor vehicle, not more than \$1,000) will be taken to be vested with a good title to those goods.

6A—Disposal of scale 2 or 3 unclaimed goods

This provision specifies when the recipient of unclaimed goods the value of which lies within scale 2 (ie more than \$200 but not more than \$20,000 or, in the case of a motor vehicle, more than \$1,000 but not more than \$20,000) or scale 3 (ie \$20,000 or more) may dispose of the goods.

6B—Disposal of unclaimed goods that are personal documents

This provision imposes special requirements in relation to the disposal of personal documents.

6C—Disposal of unclaimed goods that are rubbish etc

This provision provides an expedited procedure for the disposal of goods that are rubbish or are perishable or likely to cause a risk to the health or safety of a person.

6D—Court may order disposal of unclaimed goods earlier than permitted under Act

This provision allows the Court (being either the Magistrates Court or the District Court, depending on the value of the unclaimed goods) to order that unclaimed goods vest in, or may be disposed of by, the recipient without compliance with a provision of the measure if it is satisfied that compliance with the provision would be unreasonable in the circumstances.

7—Claim by owner or provider before goods disposed of etc

This provision provides a mechanism for a recipient of goods to claim reasonable expenses where the provider or owner claims goods after they have become unclaimed goods under the measure but before they are vested in, or disposed of by, the recipient.

7A—Determination of claims by interest holders

This provision allows a person who claims an interest in unclaimed goods to apply to the Court (being either the Magistrates Court or the District Court, depending on the value of the unclaimed goods) for an order declaring their interest in the goods at any time before the goods are vested in, or disposed of by, the recipient.

7—Amendment of section 8—Proceeds of sale

This clause:

- updates terminology;
- makes some clarifying amendments;
- declares the costs and charges of the recipient in relation to goods sold under the Act to be statutory interests to which section 73(2) of the *Personal Property Securities Act 2009* of the Commonwealth applies (have to have priority over all security interests in relation to the goods);
- makes other provisions consistent with the *Unclaimed Money Act 2021*.

8—Insertion of sections 8A, 8B and 8C

This clause inserts new sections as follows:

8A—Treasurer may pay money to lawful claimant

This provision allows the Treasurer to pay money to a claimant who had an interest in goods that have been sold pursuant to the Act (or who have an interest in the proceeds of such a sale).

8B—Record keeping

This provision requires the keeping of certain records by a recipient who disposes of unclaimed goods under section 6A or pursuant to an order under section 6D.

8C—Protection from liability

No liability attaches to a recipient for an action taken in good faith in accordance with the Act.

9—Amendment of section 9—Purchaser's title to goods sold under this Act

10—Amendment of section 10—This Act does not affect bailee's remedy under other Acts

These clauses update terminology.

11—Insertion of sections 10A and 10B

This clause inserts a new provision specifying the manner of giving notices and a provision making it clear that the Treasurer can delegate functions.

12—Amendment of section 11—Regulations

This clause allows regulations to be made specifying what constitutes taking reasonable steps for the purposes of any provision of the Act.

Schedule 1—Related amendment and transitional provision

Part 1—Amendment of Local Government Act 1999

1—Amendment of section 237—Removal of vehicles

This clause makes a consequential amendment.

Part 2—Transitional provision

2—Application of Act as in force before commencement

The principal Act as in force before the commencement of the clause, continues to apply to any goods that became unclaimed goods before the commencement of this clause.

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (16:46): I rise to speak in support of the Unclaimed Goods (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2025, another example of this Labor government's commitment to cutting red tape, supporting small businesses and bringing our laws into the modern era.

This bill updates the Unclaimed Goods Act 1987, a law written almost 40 years ago at a time when fax machines were considered new technology. The act was well intentioned in its day, but it has become cumbersome, outdated and out of step with the way South Australians live and work in 2025. For too long it has imposed unnecessary regulatory burdens, especially on small and family-run businesses that do not have the time, money or resources to navigate a maze of red tape. This bill fixes that.

The call for reform came from the Motor Trade Association, representing mechanics and auto workshops right across the state. They told us about the growing problem of customers abandoning vehicles at their workshops, often as they are unable to afford repairs or simply walking away. Under the current law, those businesses are stuck holding onto the vehicle for months, forced to go through complex notice and disposal procedures that often cost more than the vehicle itself. It is unfair, it is inefficient and it is a perfect example of what happens when outdated regulation does not keep up with reality. This government has listened, consulted widely and delivered a practical, commonsense solution.

This bill makes the act clearer, faster and fairer. Firstly, it modernises the language, replacing old-fashioned legal terms with plain modern English. That might sound simple, but clarity matters when small businesses are trying to follow the law. Secondly, it recognises prior agreements between businesses and customers. If they have already agreed on what should happen if goods are left behind, that agreement will apply. It is a commonsense measure that gives businesses certainty and flexibility. Thirdly, it updates outdated value thresholds.

The upper limit for goods, which require a court order to dispose of them, will rise from \$2,000 to \$20,000—a long overdue change that reflects today's prices, simplifies the process for lower value goods and reduces waiting times. Goods can now be treated as unclaimed after 14 days if reasonable efforts have been made to contact the owner. Holding periods have been shortened to 14, 28 and 60 days depending on the value of the goods. These are small but significant changes that make the laws work for small business, not against it.

This bill also brings the law into the 21st century. At present, businesses are required to send notices by post or even publish them in newspapers, an expensive, outdated process that no longer serves any real purpose. Under this bill notices can be given by email or any other approved method. The newspaper requirement is scrapped. That is real red-tape reduction, saving small businesses time, money and frustration. The rules for disposal are now straightforward and fair. Low-value goods will automatically vest in the business after the holding period. Mid-value goods can be sold privately or at auction and high-value goods will still require a court order ensuring proper oversight where it is needed.

The bill also introduces special provisions for particular types of goods. Rubbish and perishable items can be disposed of quickly. Personal documents must be destroyed securely to protect privacy and motor vehicles come with added protections including mandatory checks of the Personal Property Securities Register to identify any financial interests. This ensures we maintain fairness and accountability while still cutting unnecessary delay. This bill reflects strong consultation across industry and government. Their feedback led to several important improvements including setting a higher \$1,000 threshold for low-value motor vehicles, expanding the right for owners to reclaim goods and clarifying how disputed ownership can be resolved through the courts. It is another example of this government listening, engaging and delivering balanced reform.

Small businesses are the backbone of South Australia's economy. They employ hundreds of thousands of people. They sponsor local footy, netball and cricket teams. They give apprentices their first start but they are also the ones, so often, affected by slow, outdated and overly complicated rules. We understand that. We are not interested in regulation for regulation's sake. We are interested in practical solutions that let people get on with running their business. The Unclaimed Goods (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2025 is a simple but important step in that direction, cutting red tape, supporting local jobs and modernising a law that should have been updated long ago. It is exactly the kind of commonsense reform that South Australians expect from a Labor government that backs small businesses and gets things done. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

SUMMARY OFFENCES (HIGH RISK MISSING PERSONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (HEALTH AND WELLBEING) BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

HELP TO BUY (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

LABOUR HIRE LICENSING (SCOPE OF ACT) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

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

No. 1. New clause, page 4, after line 13—After clause 6 insert:

7—Insertion of section 45A

After section 45 insert:

45A—Labour hire workers in public sector

- (1) If labour hire workers are supplied to a public sector agency to undertake work in a financial year, the agency's annual report for that year must include the following information:
 - (a) the number of labour hire workers supplied to the agency in that year;
 - (b) the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions filled by labour hire workers supplied to the agency in that year;
 - (c) the amount of money expended by the agency in connection with labour hire workers supplied to the agency in that year.
- (2) If a labour hire worker is supplied to a public sector agency—
 - (a) the worker must, at all times while undertaking work for the agency, observe the public sector code of conduct; and
 - (b) it is taken to be term of the contract between the public sector agency and the person who supplied the worker that the worker will observe the public sector code of conduct.

- (3) A public sector agency to which a labour hire worker is supplied must ensure that the worker is given the same induction into the workplace as employees of the agency in relation to—
- (a) work health and safety (including psychosocial risk); and
 - (b) the public sector code of conduct, conflicts of interest and information security; and
 - (c) the agency's bullying and harassment policies.
- (4) In this section—
- public sector agency* and *public sector code of conduct* have the same respective meanings as in the *Public Sector Act 2009*.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW - PENALTIES) BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

UNCLAIMED GOODS (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (16:56): I rise to indicate that the opposition supports the bill and that I am the lead speaker for the opposition. This is a bill that the Attorney introduced in another place back in August and it has made its way to the House of Assembly chamber in this final sitting week of the year, I hope with a view to its passage. I think that is the intent of the government. That ought to happen without delay.

There has been a fairly thoroughgoing airing of the ground that this covers. There is a bit of modernisation of terms along the way but essentially this is a bill that is responsive to industry feedback about the practicalities of holding, sometimes endlessly, items that have been essentially abandoned perhaps in circumstances where they have been left for repair and repairs have come in at a cost that is not able to be met and there is the sort of dysfunction of an item being then left. To take the example of motor traders and repairers, there is a concern because large items such as motor vehicles pile up pretty quickly and if there is not a means of efficient disposal then that becomes very disruptive indeed.

I am conscious, as is almost universally the case, of the very thoroughgoing contribution by the Law Society. I note in its letter to the Attorney dated 21 August last year—I think coincidentally just exactly a year prior to the introduction of the bill as it ended up—there is a very thorough treatment of the sorts of concerns and opportunities for legislation for improvement in this area that is set out there by the Law Society. I take the opportunity to recognise the valuable work it does that is of assistance to government but also very much of assistance to the opposition in these circumstances.

The then president of the Law Society, former president Alex Lazarevich, authored that letter, as he has done on so many occasions. I will expand just briefly when I next have the opportunity but for the moment I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Members

VALEDICTORY

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (17:00): When I reflect on the stages of my life to this point, often they are defined as being either side of important turning points: pre or post swimming, pre or post marriage, soon to be pre or post politics, and the most seminal of all, pre or post kids. For Lizzy and me, like most parents, having Fletcher and Macey in our lives has changed our purpose and challenged us in ways we never imagined, but has also provided us unimaginable joy and fulfilment. The decision to depart politics now is also for them.

Fletch and Macey never had the opportunity to see me swim competitively, doing what I loved and what consumed the early part of my life, but grandpa has from time to time been tempted, in a way that I never would, to show them some videos of past successes—successes that were shared in the same way that the dedication and sacrifice to achieve them were shared.

At this stage, as I prepare to leave politics, I would like to share some insights on the similarities that exist between elite sport and politics because, as it turns out, the two are more similar than most would think, and perhaps in ways that some would not expect. Firstly, finding purpose and enjoyment is important. Anybody who thinks that swimming is an individual sport is very sadly mistaken; after all, nobody gets up at 4am to swim by themselves. Without a clear idea of why you are looking down at a black line for hours and hours on end, it gets hard pretty quickly.

I have been lucky in politics to be surrounded by an amazing team. To the members of the Colton SEC, some of whom are here today, thank you, firstly, for the confidence that you had in me to take on the challenge of winning the seat of Colton eight years ago and also for your steadfast support, friendship and counsel in the years that followed. In particular, a thankyou to those who have served as SEC presidents over the years: Andy Giles, Narelle Hards and Graham Parry. The Colton SEC has always been an active and engaged group, and I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to represent you and our broader community in this place.

To my staff at the electorate office, both past and present, a sincere thankyou. To the current team of Jack, Tom and Kerry, you have served our western community in a professional manner each and every day. You are not just great at what you do, you are also quality people, and I cannot say thankyou enough for your loyalty and for standing side by side with me over the journey.

I found purpose in politics at the local level. I entered politics as an outsider who was passionate about making a difference, improving the outlook of our state, delivering improvements and supporting our local neighbourhood. I hope that my community knows that I did this to the best of my ability each and every day. I am incredibly proud of the work that my local team and I, in partnership with our community, undertook over my time as the local MP.

We worked hard to save the Western Hospital. The grassroots movement to save the hospital involved a diverse cross-section of the local community. The hospital friends group, advocates, volunteers and local businesses culminated in a near 23,000-signature petition being presented to the parliament. As I said at that time, I am incredibly pleased that the government took the course of action it did on that issue.

I have been pleased since to watch closely as the hospital transitioned to new ownership and I am pleased to say that the new management has retained, as best as possible, the community feel of the hospital by retaining a role for the significant volunteer group. The famous Western Hospital Christmas and Easter raffles have returned, care of The Friends of Western Hospital, and our local rotary group is still making thousands of sandwiches a year from the hospital kitchen to assist the KickStart for Kids breakfast program.

I have seen services at the hospital expand, and even as recently as last week we saw oncology services that were unfortunately lost in the transfer of ownership returned to the hospital with plans for future expansion. At the end of the day, my community, like many others, does not want to see political pointscoring, they just want to see both government and opposition work in the best interests of our local community. Serving your community in parliament should not be about sledging or overt partisan politics but about delivering outcomes for those we serve.

We fought for improved environmental outcomes on our coastline. The ongoing mismanagement of our coast and beaches is the one policy area that I wish I was able to reach a sensible conclusion on prior to me moving on from this place. Those opposite know that this has gone on for far too long and that further delay and obstruction will have more severe environmental and economic impacts. Given all the talk I have heard from the government over the recent weeks and months about being guided by science rather than politics, my parting message to them on this issue is to please heed their own advice.

Over and above these projects, we delivered upgrades at Breakout Creek, Henley High, local primary schools, kindergartens and sporting clubs and I believe I leave having made an impact, hopefully not just with physical infrastructure but also in the way I went about the job.

I will sincerely miss the unique level of interaction that being a local MP enables with our local clubs and community organisations, but I know that those friendships and connections will remain strong into the future as Lizzy and I continue to raise our children in the community that we call home.

Secondly, timing is everything and culture matters. Elite sport is based on four-year Olympic and Paralympic cycles and so are elections in South Australia. We can never choose when we make the breakthrough and debut on national teams. For some, the apex of your career involves two games. For others, you may only be in your prime for one. Most of the time, though, it is a coach or a leader who helps us unlock our potential and sets us on a path.

While I have been lucky to be surrounded and supported by a group who I can only describe as gold-medal standard, classy individuals—and they know who they are—I would like to highlight the role that two important people played, without whom I would not have had the opportunity to serve. The first is Steven Marshall. A lot has already been said about the skill and work ethic that Steven applied and does apply to everything he does. But I can hand on heart stand here today and say that Steven's vision for our party and for our state is the reason that I was motivated to enter politics.

The second is the member for Morialta, John Gardner. Without his friendship and support this journey would have been a little less full. While I am sad to see John leave the parliament, I am certain the significance of the loss will only be felt by our party in his absence. I am so very pleased about and proud of his decision and the time he can now commit to Trudi and the girls.

Finally, family is everything. You cannot be a successful athlete without unwavering support from those closest to you. Sharing success and failure with a wider circle makes the highs more enjoyable and the lows that little more tolerable. Being an elite athlete is an inherently selfish endeavour. You have to make decisions that best support performance, so saying no is often more frequent than it should be. Parents sacrifice sleep and sanity for early morning pool runs and full weekends on the pool deck.

In some ways, politics is very similar, with your direct family having to sacrifice for you to have the opportunity to do your job to the best of your ability and at a standard the community should expect. Collectively, our families are aware of the sacrifice required when we sign up for the job—although sometimes not fully aware, but still aware—but it does not mean that it is always easy. To the love of my life and my rock, Lizzy, and our two children, Fletch and Macey: I cannot thank you enough for your patience, for your willingness to sacrifice and for your unconditional love. I love you all very much. I am looking forward to you having dad available again on weekends and to better support baseball games, swimming lessons, basketball, Little Athletics and whatever sporting or other pursuits that you are inspired to pursue.

To finish, I want to share a couple of things that have centred my approach to politics and to life generally. One of the things I am really grateful for and that this job has allowed me to do is to continue to raise awareness and share the impact and importance of the Paralympic movement in Australia. Many of our local community groups and service clubs have heard me talk about many things, often not involving politics, over the years. In short, the importance of the Paralympic movement is far more than providing a platform for elite sport for people with a disability, although it is certainly that. It is about changing perception, showing the value of equality and ensuring we all understand our own personal responsibility to not limit ourselves.

Like others before me, it is now time to publicly air my non-socially acceptable obsession: the game of baseball. Many in the chamber would not have heard of Major League pitcher Jim Abbott, who had a successful 10-year career through the nineties, including pitching a no-hitter. He was born with a congenital hand amputation. I think one of his quotes succinctly articulates why the Paralympic movement is important: 'Never allow the circumstances of your life to become an excuse. People will allow you to do it. But I believe we have a personal obligation to make the most of the abilities we have.' This is what the Paralympics is all about: making the most of your abilities and the opportunity, whether that be in the sporting context or, more importantly, in everyday life.

To that end, I stand by my first contribution in this place, where I spoke about the notion of opportunity and how it underpins core Liberal concepts and the need for government to provide citizens with the opportunity to succeed and to put the economic and social settings in place that allow all South Australians the opportunity to forge their own successes through hard work. Much work has been done to this end, but there is still work left to do.

Only in the last few weeks have I fully appreciated the impact of the conversations and words that I use every day, understanding that they are indirectly being absorbed by my kids and how that is shaping them as humans. Both Lizzy and I could not be prouder of both Macey and Fletcher. Fletcher came home with a picture book that he had authored and illustrated at school a few weeks ago and seeing it made Lizzy and I smile and cry at the same time and really reflect and I want to share it today. The book was titled *The Question* and it began:

One day a little man lived in a house. He had three legs. One day, someone knocked on the door and said, 'Why do you have three legs?' He said, 'I was just born like this.'

It is simple, it is beautiful and it is exactly the outlook that we want our kids to have. As leaders, as a South Australian community, kids can teach us lessons that we did not even know we needed to hear. A society that is just a little more accepting and tolerant of difference, no matter if that is physical difference, differing political views or priorities, is important and it is one that we should strive for. Tolerance and acceptance of our differences has been the bedrock of the democratic system of government forever, and it must remain that way, but in the years ahead I suspect we will need to fight harder than ever to ensure that remains the case.

Finally, I never got into politics for a career. I have always seen my time representing my community as a period of service and an opportunity to return some of the phenomenal goodwill I received during my swimming career. With the number of MPs stepping away from politics ahead of the next election, I have also reflected on the changing make-up of this chamber. While novel, I think it is time that we appreciate that, no matter when we enter or leave this chamber, whether it be early career, perhaps having spent some time in a professional setting before entering mid-career, or finding one's way here prior to retirement, each has value and brings different perspectives.

As was announced in May this year, I will initially return to sport as Deputy Chef de Mission for the 2026 Australian Commonwealth Games team competing in Glasgow next year. It continues to be an honour to help and inspire the next generation of Australian athletes and I hope to continue making a contribution to Australian sport as we head towards an important milestone games in 2032.

Thank you again to the people of Colton for the opportunity to serve them. As Seattle Mariners superstar Ken Griffey said, 'To succeed in baseball, as in life, you must make adjustments.' And so it is time for me to make an adjustment. Thank you for having me.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (17:17): I take this opportunity to thank the member for Colton for his enormous contribution to his local community and his state and his party. I also thank the wonderful gallery who are here with us this afternoon, starting with Lizzy, Fletcher and Macey, who I know have been Matt's everything. It was such a heartfelt tribute to them for all their support. To his family, to people who have been involved in the party, staff, supporters, those who have stood with Matt and fought elections with him the whole time, thank you.

Matt is one of the good guys in politics. He is genuine, thoughtful, compassionate and professional and just as he has excelled in sport in another career he has excelled in politics for his community, for his state and his party and it has been a privilege to have him in our team. I know that the electors of Colton are very grateful for the enormous contribution that Matt has made, improving the lives of many throughout his community.

He has made an enormous difference during his time in this place and on behalf of the opposition I would like to take this opportunity to thank him and to wish him well in his best endeavours in his next part of the journey. To Lizzy, Fletcher and Macey: I know you are going to enjoy having Matt around for much longer. He is a dedicated father. I know that he loves his family and we are very sad to see him go, but I know he is going to love every minute being with you.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (17:19): Matt Cowdrey is a wonderful ambassador. He is a wonderful ambassador for his

sport, he is a wonderful ambassador for this parliament and, unfortunately for us, he was a wonderful ambassador for the Liberal Party.

We are in neighbouring seats and I saw firsthand his independent thought processes. It has been my experience in watching leaders that the first principle and characteristic most leaders have is the ability for independent thought, and Matt has that in spades. I will give two examples. There was a potential code amendment occurring in Lockleys while the Marshall government was in office being considered by the then planning minister and Deputy Premier. There was a very large public meeting, which could have been hostile to a government MP. Matt, classy as always, turned up, took people's questions and took their considerations back to the government. He always remained loyal to his party but remained independently minded about what he thought should happen.

The other was a very difficult vote in this parliament on the decriminalisation of abortion, where I thought Matt made one of the most telling and important contributions of the debate at the end, which I thought was moving. I will not do it justice, but I thought the way he spoke spoke for all of us in the minority, and for that I am eternally grateful. That day, he earned a respect that I do not give to very many people in this parliament, because he showed a vulnerability to the parliament that I think not many MPs do.

Matt will go on and do amazing things and be a great ambassador for our country and our Paralympians in Glasgow, and he will serve them well there. No matter what he does in the future, no doubt he will be an exceptional participant. The people of Colton no doubt will be very grateful for his service as well. I stood with him every day in the last election at a pre-poll, and it broke my heart the number of people he knew personally coming up to vote. He was well respected by his community and he was a great standard bearer for his side in the western suburbs because of his character, and it shines through.

I would like to personally wish Matt and his family all the very best for what he does next. He is held in high regard in the parliament by all sides, not just for his personal achievements in sport but for the way he carried himself when he was in this place, and that should echo. So congratulations on your service in this parliament and congratulations on what you do next. I am sure it will be a huge success.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:22): I rise perhaps on a slightly lighter note, and because Matt is so constantly and totally modest about his extraordinary achievements, I will put them on the record right at this moment. We had the joy of coming to the parliament together. In many of the same ways, Matt highlighted the extraordinary inspiration that was Steven Marshall in inspiring us as to what we could do and what we could bring in terms of a change, and it was a wonderful thing to come to government together.

Matt came to the parliament against a background of being the singular most successful Australian Paralympian, with 13 gold medals and 23 medals in total. He is the only person I can think of who, in all modesty, could reflect upon some of his favourite gold medals. That is something that I think he did without even thinking about that extraordinary context. In his final valedictory remarks in this place, that he drew parallels from high-level sporting achievement to what can be done in public service, including in the parliament, I think speaks to his commitment to that public service. I think we all, in South Australia, are the better for his having served these two terms, particularly those members of the community in Colton.

I want to pay tribute to you, Matt, and wish you, Lizzy, Macey and Fletcher (the author of that wonderful story) all the very best together over the years ahead.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (17:25): I was very struck by a lot of things Matt said today. It was a beautiful, humble, heartfelt and deeply intelligent speech from a beautiful, humble, heartfelt and deeply intelligent man who it has been a real privilege to serve with in this parliament. It is also a real privilege for me to have this opportunity to respond today, much as I had hoped—having announced my own retirement a bit over a year ago—that I would not have this opportunity: I had hoped that Matt would serve us for many years. As a South Australian, as a friend, I am grateful that I can now catch up with him without necessarily having to do so in this building.

I know this is absolutely the right decision for Matt and his family. He has always worked hard to prioritise family, and has always expressed his appreciation to his family and the role they played in his sporting career. However, ever since he has been in this parliament, and especially

since the children have come along, it has been Lizzy, Fletcher and Macey who have been central to everything he has thought about. Now he will have more time to put that priority into practice every day of his life.

Whatever happens professionally next for Matt, after the wonderful trip he is going to have as the Deputy Chef de Mission for the Commonwealth Games team, where he is going to serve our country proudly once again, there are not too many jobs in the world that are available that would not enable you to spend more of your own self being present in the moment with your children and your family when you are with them. I know that Matt will enjoy that.

Matt and I were introduced by a mutual friend by the name of Priya Pavri, who studied law with Matt. Priya actually spoke to me earlier today and asked me to put on the record a couple of her thoughts about the sort of person Matt is. She wrote to me:

It's so special to make friends when you're young with people who you can think with, share ideas with, and debate different approaches with—and who share a drive to serve our local communities. It's even more special to see them go on to represent their local community with integrity—never stuck in the past but always continuing to listen and grow their ideas!

Matt is somebody who has served that community with integrity and who has made everybody who has supported him on that journey extremely proud along the way.

Matt's campaign manager in his first election in 2018 was a woman called Bec Lynas, who subsequently went on to serve this house in my office when I was leader of the house and Manager of Government Business. She organised the business of the house for two years and went on to be chief of staff to the Minister for Education during the pandemic.

Now, campaign managers and candidates, as the Premier well knows, can have a unique sort of relationship—sometimes that can be a very challenging relationship and sometimes it can be a positive. If you are wondering how Matt Cowdrey's relationship was with his campaign manager, it is typical of his character that his campaign manager also got in touch with me today asking me to share a few words. She said:

Matt: it was an absolute privilege to serve as your campaign manager in 2018 and work side by side with you to win back Colton. We took an 'all politics is local' approach, kept it simple, and that's exactly how you went on to serve—logical, no fuss, and always focused on making local issues relatable and achievable.

Watching you grow and flourish as a genuine, smart and hardworking local MP (all while becoming a dad and everything that comes with that) has been an absolute pleasure.

Matt's legacy to his community and to this state is significant. Some of it has been touched on, but it is typical of his modesty that he did not talk that much about the role he played.

In regard to Health, I had some insight into that story of the Western Hospital, because on the day the news broke that there were challenges at the Western Hospital I was supposed to be travelling to Kangaroo Island with Matt, and was looking forward to two hours of music and banter—all the things you expect on a road trip. Instead I got two hours of Matt on the phone to what seemed like dozens of local community people, health officials, businesses, people in the media working to build that campaign that was ultimately so important in protecting health services in the west.

Apart from that, he was a strong advocate for achievements like the return of cardiac services and the rebuild at The QEH. As Minister for Education during the term of the last government, you can imagine Matt had strong engagement at local schools and preschools and, as minister, I recall Matt would always be expecting the minister to pay due attention to those sites. He was a strong advocate in a reasonable way on behalf of his community, and they did very well by his service.

What is perhaps less well known is the significant role Matt played supporting my office in a working group developing a strategy for early learning, which ultimately formed part of a budget bid that was successful in 2021 to support parents and families and particularly developmentally vulnerable young people who were so in need of extra support. Matt's strategic insight into that role not only helped shape that policy, which was so well funded and has since been expanded on and continues to be supported by the current government according to that strategic intent, but was also critical to supporting me in getting the then Treasurer across the line and actually funding the program, which was no small feat.

In environment, sport, transport, infrastructure, and many more areas, Matt left a mark in his local community and in our state. Most importantly, Matt, from my point of view, I want to thank you for your friendship, your counsel and your advice. You are somebody of extraordinary integrity and purpose. At the age of 36, you are now about to embark on your fourth career. Any of the first three no doubt would have been satisfactory or mind-blowingly impressive to most people that we would ever like to meet. I have no doubt that you are going to make a profound impact in the years ahead and you are going to do us all proud. To Lizzy, Fletcher, Macey and you, Matt, I wish you all the very best.

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (17:31): I was elected only in 2022, at the last election, and the member for Colton, from the very beginning of my first interaction with him, has always been incredibly kind and respectful and often very funny. I do not know if friendship is too far, but I have really appreciated his friendship since being elected. I do not know if anybody else feels this way, and I might be talking out of school, but, too late, I am halfway through the sentence. You know how sometimes you are standing at the lift in this building, and it has been a long day, and you just think, who am I going to be in the lift with because my patience is at a low level? When the lift doors open and it is Matt in there, I am so happy because I know that we are going to be able to talk about our families, and I know it is going to be lighthearted and it is going to be lovely and there is not going to be anything from here pulled into that.

You have always been so kind to me and you have always acted with such integrity. It has been a pleasure being on the Economic and Finance Committee with you. While I am very, very sad that I will not get to see you in these corridors anymore, it has been really lovely to see how happy you have looked over the last few months. It is like a weight has lifted off, and you knowing that you are going to be able to spend more time with your family is really, really special. Thank you very much for being such a wonderful colleague/friend over the last few years, and all the very, very best for what is next.

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (17:33): I would also like to pay tribute to the member for Colton and the work he has done for his community. Colton, of course, is the direct neighbour of the electorate that I represent, Morphett. In fact, with boundary changes that seem to happen every election, the most recent being that Glenelg North moved from Colton back to Morphett, there has been a real synergy between our two offices over the eight years that Matt has been the member for Colton and I have been the member for Morphett.

I first got to know Matt, of course, during the 2018 election. Like the member for Heysen, I was elected in 2018. Of course, I had seen Matt and knew of him as a Paralympic champion. Just getting to know him on the polling booths at pre-poll and just seeing how down to earth he is and how humble he is was a fantastic experience.

As soon as he was elected, we were sharing the coastline between Glenelg, Glenelg North and up to West Beach. The communities are very much interlinked, and I would oftentimes come across the community of Colton who were at Glenelg quite often shopping or at the surf clubs. They all spoke of Matt in the highest terms, and I just want to echo that not only was he respected in his community of Colton but he was certainly also respected in the community of Morphett.

As parliamentarians, we are there to represent our community, but you can see by Matt's contribution that it was more than just representing his direct community—it was about making sure that the overall western area was well supported. As you can see, with his passion for his future endeavours in terms of the Paralympic movement, it is more than that: it is making sure that South Australians are supported, and Australians are supported as well.

As he mentioned, his work with the Western Hospital has been really important for his community. Community hospitals are so important to a lot of the communities they are in. To see the passion that he has for the Western Hospital I think really sets up his community, but also sets up people in my electorate as well because many of them make use of the Western Hospital.

In terms of him talking about his family and how important they are, again the reason we go into politics is to make a better world not only for our family but also for other families. He has brought the experience of having a young family. The challenges that we all have as parliamentarians trying to represent so many families in our communities mean that our direct families have to make sacrifices. So to Matt, I wish you all the best. I am certain you will do just as well in your future career as you have done in your previous careers. To Lizzy, Fletch and Macey: enjoy having your dad back.

The SPEAKER (17:36): I would like to offer my congratulations to Matt and the recognition that, at 36 years of age, you have already put yourself on the world stage as Australia's most successful Paralympian and then served like a champion in your local area for your constituents, for sporting clubs and for community groups. I have not heard anyone have a bad word to say about the advocacy role that you have played for them in your time in here. I wish you all the very best for whatever the next chapters bring, because at 36 you have already achieved so much and I am sure you will continue to be a world-beater in whatever you do. Congratulations.

VALEDICTORY

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (17:38): Australia is a nation built on multiculturalism. Whether you are first, second, third, fourth or even fifth generation, you are new to Australia unless you are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and so I begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we gather, the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains, their elders past, present and emerging, as together we continue along the path of reconciliation.

It is with reflection on the past 12 years as the member for Torrens that I today seek the indulgence of the house. I stand here this evening on this side of the chamber where I have had the good fortune to be for eight of my 12 years in this parliament, having served in the Weatherill government and now the Malinauskas government. To hold government is what we all aspire to and work towards in the South Australian Labor Party to deliver on our policies, to make the best state in Australia even better and to do all we can to ensure a fair go for all, no matter what postcode you live in.

In the final year of my teaching degree, I joined the Labor Party. Over the years, I served on numerous committees and worked on numerous election campaigns, both state and federal, and have had the privilege to represent the Labor Party at both federal and state levels. Following my pre-selection for the seat of Torrens in 2013, I set straight to work campaigning, wanting to ensure the work carried out by Robyn Geraghty, who had won the seat from the Liberals in a by-election, was continued.

Torrens had a changing demographic, with new houses being built and many new migrants from the subcontinent making it their home. I was doorknocking in Northgate with Russell, the temperature soaring above 35 degrees, at which point we were going to call it a day. However, he had knocked on a door on Meadowbank Terrace and the Indian gentleman who answered whispered that his wife was sleeping and could not be disturbed. On the 'Sorry I missed you' card, I had written 'Please call me if I can be of assistance.' The following day I received a call from Monika Kumar and we arranged to meet. It was the beginning of what I am sure will be a lifelong friendship.

Through Monika and her family, Raj, Dhruv and Tarini, I learned of the many challenges facing new migrants in Australia. I was introduced to local Indian and Nepalese families and, as time went on, the broader community across South Australia including leaders in the Punjabi Gujarati, South Indian, Hindu and Sikh communities to name just a handful. The issues new migrants are often faced with can be overwhelming in number and my heart went out to the families confronting unplanned change to circumstances in a new country, not knowing what to do or who to turn to. As we all know, bureaucracy can be confronting, time-consuming and extra difficult, particularly when English is not your first language. I wonder how my father and his family survived at the time, when they were some of the issues that would have been facing them.

The plight of a local family was brought to my attention: struggling with the mother being diagnosed with terminal cancer, the father was working while trying to look after her and their two children, one at state primary school, the other at state secondary school. They were in Australia on the mother's visa. They were from India and not being Australian citizens, the school fees were around \$5,000 for primary school and \$6,000 for secondary school. To add to this worry, the reality was that with her passing, the family's visa would expire and they would be forced to return to India, even though their life was here, with other family members who were already citizens in South Australia.

I worked with our South Australian senators providing information for them to seek a special visa that could lead to PR. I also wrote to the then Minister for Education, the member for Mordialta, seeking an exemption from paying school fees for the son, as the father was on a basic wage and

had to contend with paying rent, medical expenses, funeral expenses along with everyday living expenses. The minister signed off on the exemption and I was able to relay this to the mother a few days before she died. She smiled with relief, happy knowing her boy was able to go to the same school as his sister and get a good education. And I cannot tell you how delighted I was recently to present the son with the Torrens School Spirit award at his year 12 graduation ceremony.

There are so many new migrant stories to tell: the nurse from India who completed her three-year Bachelor of Nursing at the University of South Australia, who then went on to work through COVID until she was seven months pregnant. Her son was diagnosed with autism and, as a result, she was not going to be able to renew her visa. I wrote to the federal minister seeking the support of both the Premier and our Minister for Autism. Her son is now in year 4 at the local school.

Back on the campaign trail in 2013, it became apparent to me that we had a growing population in Torrens with what was then a new housing development in the suburb of Northgate, which I later pursued, on behalf of residents, for an official name change from the suburb of Northgate to the suburb of Lightsview. It was a laborious process. Both Northgate and the new development residents were thrilled with the name change. I was concerned, though, that young families were moving in with little provision for general recreation and sporting. There was no central point. It was my view that a community sports hub was the answer but getting support for it was the challenge.

The first site I mapped out was SA Health land surrounding Adelaide City Football Club on Fosters Road which required cooperation and support from the state government, Port Adelaide Enfield council and the club. Unfortunately, after a number of meetings, it became evident this was not going to align.

A section of the former Ross Smith school site was my next choice, but convincing the Treasurer, the member for West Torrens, that the land needed to be used for that purpose was no easy feat, as many of you here would be aware. Knowing the important role a recreation and sporting facility can play in wellbeing and bringing community together and, importantly, providing a place for children and young people to engage socially and to participate in physical activities, I pushed on, knocking on the Treasurer's door. I am sure he was deliberately avoiding eye contact with me.

My persistence eventually brought dividends. First the land, then the Port Adelaide Enfield council coming on board, along with the North Adelaide Rockets Basketball Club president David Durant and the committee, and in November 2017 we were turning the sod on what today is known as The Lights Community and Sports Centre operated by the Port Adelaide Enfield council.

Opened in 2021, the \$21.7 million facility comprises two stadiums with five multipurpose courts, retractable seating for 1,000 people, function spaces, a community room and sporting viewing areas. This is a terrific example of state and local government working together. I place on record my thanks to the Treasurer for eventually seeing the light and the Port Adelaide CEO Mark Withers, then mayor Gary Johanson and councillors for their support, turning my vision for residents of Torrens into a reality. While the Electoral Boundaries Commission, in their wisdom, prior to the following election, moved Lightsview from the seat of Torrens to the seat of Enfield, it continues to service well the local community and is a place I have great delight in visiting.

As state members, we all work hard to deliver for our communities, whether it is addressing issues they raise or delivering on projects and infrastructure. I have truly valued the opportunity to meet with residents across our community to discuss important issues, at street-corner meetings, in my office, at local sports clubs, schools, shopping centres, community events or one of my community forums.

Locally, I am proud that as a government and community we have achieved together a new gymnasium at Hillcrest Primary School, which will be opened by the Minister for Education next week; the STEM centre at Hampstead Primary School; the establishment of the B-12 Avenues College and the new and upgraded learning and study areas; the major improvements to Wandana Primary School; the Oakden Ambulance Station; safer roads with new pedestrian lights, refuges, turning lanes, resurfacing; synthetic pitches at Adelaide City and MetroStars soccer clubs; the reopening of the swimming pool on the Royal Society for the Blind site; the Gilles Plains and Hampstead RSL weather shelter; the recent upgrade and delivery of the program for Girls and Women at Gaza Sports and Community Club; and numerous facility upgrades for organisations including the Molinara Social and Sports Club and Sicilia Social and Sports Club, and that is just to name a few.

Working together with local government, particularly the Port Adelaide Enfield council, in addition to The Lights Community and Sports Centre, we have delivered significant projects, including new facilities for MetroStars; the upgrade to Greenacres Reserve; numerous bus shelters; the Regency Community Men's Shed; Greenacres Community Garden; and the little free libraries in Oakden, Klemzig, Windsor Gardens, Vale Park and out the front of Hampstead Primary School and Avenues College.

As a parent, former teacher and a member of parliament, for me, the education of our children and young people is a high priority and I am so very pleased it has been high on the agenda of our government and that considerable progress has been made on education. It is my view that education is a window to the world and that through education comes knowledge and opportunity, that it is only right that all people should have the opportunity to access good-quality education at all levels, as children, as youth and as adults, an education that will enable them to develop and to fully realise their potential throughout their lifetime. This is delivered through quality school leadership, teachers and support staff, along with the necessary infrastructure to support learning.

I am particularly pleased about the recent proposed legislation regarding bullying in our schools and the two-day reporting turnaround. It is an issue often raised in our community, as there is no other issue that impacts more on families with school-age children and it can lead to lifelong consequences. I have valued my position on each of the six state school governing councils, a seat that meant I could hear firsthand of school successes, concerns and needs and act accordingly. I thank the Minister for Education, the member for Wright, for the times he has signed off on issues brought to his attention.

There was probably no more complex situation for us as members of parliament than the one we found ourselves in through the COVID pandemic. Our community reached out to us when they were confused, when they needed support, and when they were afraid, angry, sick and even stranded at the border. We did all we could, delivering groceries, having prescriptions filled, and writing to and calling departments.

There are two examples in particular that I want to mention. There were a couple of women from Hampstead Gardens in my electorate who were stranded in Western Australia. They had been on a cruise ship and they really wanted to come home. The cruise ship had no COVID, but when they came into port they were put into isolation for two weeks. The nurse was desperate to get back to the RAH and their mental health really suffered as a result. I would ring them every day to speak with them. I wrote to the Western Australian Premier, who said he was not concerned about whether they liked their food or being caught up in there, but he had a job to do and he was going to keep his state safe. The women still come and visit me in the office, and it is really terrific that we have people who appreciate what we do as members of parliament.

Another one was a couple in their 80s in my electorate, whose children would normally do their grocery shopping but on this occasion both of their children had COVID. The gentleman rang me and told me that he was desperate for me to do some shopping for him. He gave me a list of things he needed and he kept on pressing, 'Kale. Don't forget the kale.' I did his shopping, delivered it to his house and rang to say it was on his doorstep. We got into a conversation and I said, 'I bought kale; in fact, I bought two bunches of kale. Obviously you really love it,' and he said, 'No, I know it's not really crucial to you but the kale is for our rabbit.' I asked him what the name of the rabbit was and this gentleman—who was probably in his late 80s—said, 'We gave it a name, but we kept forgetting what it was, so now we just call it Rabbit.'

A significant amount of time in this place is dedicated to committee work. I have served on many committees; however, today I want to touch on a couple. One is the Social Development Committee's inquiry into the implantation of medical mesh in South Australia, established on motion by me in this place in opposition on behalf of the hundreds of people impacted by the failure of medical mesh devices in South Australia. The first time I heard about mesh was from a constituent, Tracey, who left a message with my trainee. She wanted me to return her call. A couple of days later, I knocked on Tracey's door. She opened it, grabbed my hand and said, 'You have to hear what I have to say. I'm a woman who was just 29 years old when mesh ruined my life.'

The inquiry heard that for years women in South Australia were going to doctors and specialists with all sorts of symptoms, suffering ridicule and frustration and not being listened to about the pain they were experiencing through failed mesh devices. Some had numerous tests searching for the cause of their symptoms, and some were told their symptoms were in their head, given medication and diagnosed as hypochondriacs or suffering from anxiety.

I thank again all those women and men who contributed evidence to the inquiry. Your courage and your bravery has driven systemic change, and your voices will continue to guide the response. I acknowledge and thank the ministers for health who took this seriously and established the mesh clinic at the RAH, and I acknowledge the recent apology by the Minister for Health, the member for Kaurna. It meant so much.

Two other committees of which I was a member were the Select Committee into Stillbirth, chaired by the member for Newland, and the Select Committee on Endometriosis, chaired by the member for Waite. Both committees have had recommendations accepted by the government that will deliver life-altering outcomes.

While we like to highlight our achievements as members giving valedictory speeches, I leave at a time when there are still more things to be done, for which I have strongly advocated in government and in opposition, and I want the residents of Torrens to know these have not been forgotten.

Firstly, Fosters Road: governments of both persuasions have made commitments to provide a solution to the growing problem of Fosters Road for local residents. The heavy flow of traffic along Fosters Road, inadequate access at the North East Road end for incoming and outgoing motorists, traffic congestion, and the Fosters Road/Sir Ross Smith Boulevard/Folland Avenue roundabout are a daily challenge for residents.

Secondly, access to a swimming pool for recreation, swimming lessons, water education and aquatic therapy is a must for our side of town. Of course, I acknowledge and congratulate the government on the new Adelaide Aquatic Centre, which I think the minister said during question time is going to be opened in January.

Sitting extended beyond 18:00 on motion of Hon. A. Koutsantonis.

Ms WORTLEY: With the closing of the Strathmont Centre and currently no public access to Hampstead Centre and with a growing population, the need has become even greater. While I was able to secure a Malinauskas government election commitment of \$150,000 to re-open the pool at the Royal Society for the Blind on Blacks Road with then CEO of Royal Life Saving South Australia, Jayne Minear, and general manager Jake Culkin running programs providing access to some of the most vulnerable in our community, it really does need more.

Labor's candidate for Torrens, Meagan Spencer, has been joining me out in the community, meeting with our community organisations, schools and small businesses and hopefully will be elected as the next member for Torrens in March 2026. I wish her every success in having these ongoing issues addressed for the benefit of our community.

To my staff: to Naomi, Rosemary and Donna, thank you. Thank you for all you have done for our residents, following up on queries on the Housing Trust, Health, council issues, citizenship, schools—the list goes on. Importantly, you reach out to our residents and you treat them as individuals with respect, welcoming them to our office, a place they know they can come to or contact where they will be listened to with empathy and understanding.

I thank my trainees, some of whom received regular advice from me about completing their university studies and took that advice and have gone on to follow successful career paths. To those who listened and learned about the important role of our electorate office and have been successful in securing positions in other offices, well done to you too.

I would like to thank Hannah, who worked with me for eight years, coming into the office as a 21 year old with little knowledge of the operation of a political office but who learned quickly and embraced the importance of the role in our local community. It is without doubt that the Torrens community has benefited through our joint advocacy. You excelled in your role as EO communications and office manager and as councillor and deputy mayor for Port Adelaide Enfield. You were always principled and always acted in the best interests of our shared community.

To my communications and office manager, Naomi: thank you so much for coming on board at a particularly busy time. Your expert skills, knowledge, ability to learn quickly, and caring and calming manner are greatly appreciated and no doubt will serve you well into the future.

I thank also staff in Parliament House: the catering staff, led by Creon—thanks, Creon, for your patience with menus for our multicultural communities—and the Clerk and chamber staff. A special thank you to Will whose assistance at a recent medical emergency at an event was greatly appreciated. I thank Dr Weste from our library: I am forever grateful for the wonderful way you embrace our visitors, your sometimes wicked sense of humour, your eye for detail and your passion for our historic state Parliament House.

No-one gets to be here without the support of many, which I detailed in my first speech in this place. Thank you again to the South Australian Labor Party and SA Unions, which continue to fight the good fight.

Now to my family. Thank you for your support over the past 12 years and the six years I served in the federal parliament. My dad is sitting in the Speaker's Gallery, 90 years young. He still bowls twice a week, he follows me on Facebook and has become quite good at using his iPad. Thank you for your understanding of the demands my work has had. Never let anyone tell you you need to be a digital native to get a good grasp of new technology.

My sister Angelique and nephew Cale, thank you for always being there at the end of the phone and all that you do for our family. My sister Toni listening online, thank you for the times you drove the 30-plus kilometres to come back to the Torrens EO where you had worked as an EO officer for Robyn at only a few hours' notice to provide JP services, on a voluntary basis. My brother, Tyrone, you are a legend. Your community work over the years makes me so proud.

Che', thank you for your support, not just for the thousands of letters you have delivered with your cousin Cale to letterboxes across Torrens but for your sharp scrutineering ability and your outstanding knowledge on everything political. Whether it was the explanation of a sporting event, the names of the captains, the rules or the legal ramifications, the member of a state or federal seat or the margin by which it was held, a quick description of a recent political event, or the government of a country when I had just left an event and was heading to another multicultural community event, you have been a wealth of knowledge, often at the end of a quick but urgent phone call.

Che', I know having parents as members of parliament, both state and federal, has not always been easy to wear. I recall a conversation with you on day one of year 7, when the class had to introduce themselves and say something about their families. You stood up and said, 'I live with our dog, Summer; my mum, who is the union secretary for the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance; and my dad who is a union secretary for the gas branch of the Transport Workers' Union.' Yes, we had been, but at that time I was a senator and Russell was a member of the Legislative Council. Love you to the moon and back.

The Hon. Russell Wortley—well, what a journey we have had. It is quite a unique situation, serving for the past 12 years with you in the same parliament, albeit different houses. When it was first announced those opposite had a field day. They may be pleased to know that I did not actually take that car. How fortunate was I to have you by my side, so willing to assist. I lost count the number of times I heard you say, 'You've only got 27,000 constituents but I've got the whole state.'

Thank you for your support and assistance with the many events in Torrens, for organising what seemed like endless letterbox deliveries weekend after weekend with the stand-out being 72,000 hand-delivered letters, more than half of which were direct mail delivered by our wonderful multicultural community in the lead-up to the 2022 state election. I would like to thank Dhruv and Sukhman as well for organising everyone. It saved an incredible amount of money that was able to be redirected to other areas.

Finally, my heartfelt thank you to the constituents of Torrens. It has been an honour and a privilege to be elected as the member for Torrens on three occasions and to be your representative in our state parliament. To my colleagues, thank you for your camaraderie. My very best wishes for all that you do for your electorates and for the upcoming election.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (18:03): I rise to thank and applaud the member for Torrens, firstly on her heartfelt address and certainly on some of her remarks, which I will speak to in a moment, particularly regarding the work that she has done with multicultural communities in our state. Her remarks were heartfelt and well spoken.

It takes a pretty tenacious and committed individual to serve in the two parliaments she is capable of serving in: her home state of South Australia and, of course, in our nation's federal parliament.

Dana's history in contributing to the labour movement actually goes well before she started contributing in parliamentary politics. Dana first cut her teeth on engaging with the labour movement as a teacher, which resulted in her becoming the union delegate and then participating in the UTLC only a few years ago, because Dana is quite young. She made a contribution that was formidable in the trade union movement, starting out in the teachers union and then rapidly ascending and growing from there, highlighted of course by her contribution through MEAA.

Dana made a contribution through teaching, then was seconded to *The Tiser* and then ended up being engaged by MEAA, before of course becoming secretary of the South Australia-Northern Territory branch, where she led some pretty important work in advocating the case against non-union agreements that would otherwise erode the conditions of journalists, who of course are essential for the functioning of our liberal democracy.

It was when Dana got preselected for No. 3 on the Senate ticket at the 2004 federal election that she was provided the opportunity, which was more than well deserved, to be able to contribute in our nation's parliament. Being preselected for position No. 3 federally does not always result—in fact, I think up to that point, or thereabouts, had never resulted—in ascension to our federal parliament. But of course Dana was able to achieve that milestone in an election that otherwise did not go too well for federal Labor nationally. Over the course of those six years, Dana was able to earn a reputation for an extraordinary work ethic and a genuine commitment to multiculturalism in our country, and she was also a powerful and tenacious advocate for causes that she took up as her own.

Through no fault of Dana's, of course, at the 2010 election she missed out, by an absolute whisker, on being re-elected to the Senate. There was not much in it at all. But in 2014 the opportunity came to be preselected for the seat of Torrens in what was set to be a very hard-fought election, which is not lost on those of us who bore witness to that campaign. In 2014 the state Liberal Party put up a high-quality candidate and also put a fair bit of effort into the seat of Torrens. I remember there were some pundits predicting that this would be a very close-run thing. In fact, there were some who were predicting that potentially Labor would lose the seat of Torrens. Of course, since then Dana has been re-elected and re-elected again, resulting in her substantial contribution to parliament.

I only mention the electoral dynamic because I think people in some quarters have underestimated just how much Dana works for her local community. Every time I have had the opportunity, as leader of the party, to spend time with Dana in her electorate, her presence is well known. I do not mind saying that she is adored by her community. Everywhere you go in that part of our state they know Dana—and that is particularly true for anyone who is connected to the public education system or the education system in the seat of Torrens, writ large.

Dana has had a number of causes that she has contributed to over the years, but education has been one of the most profound. I remember that one day we were at Avenues, and there was not a teacher or a parent, let alone a student, who did not know Dana well. That speaks to her commitment. I think even when the Hampstead Primary School fire happened, which was sometime around 2019, and it was a bit of an issue, Dana was the first on the case to make sure that the school was being attended to. I think she took up the matter with the then Minister for Education, and eventually there was a response which the local community was genuinely entitled to.

That was not just true for Hampstead Primary School: there is a whole range of different examples of Dana going in to fight, including with the now Minister for Education, to ensure that her schools get the resources they require to look after the next generation, done in the way that the member for Torrens, Dana, has always been an advocate.

Regarding the pelvic mesh implants advocacy, I knew nothing about this issue until the member for Torrens took it up. In fact, I think that would be true for a lot of South Australians. It was a pretty special day when the apology occurred, and that was almost exclusively because of the member for Torrens's advocacy.

As I referred to earlier, I hate to think how many multicultural events the member for Torrens, along with the Hon. Russell Wortley from the other place, have attended between them over the course of their parliamentary careers. That number would be incalculable; it would blow people's minds. They are at anything and everything to show support to multicultural communities throughout the state in a way that is valued, I know, both in your electorate but also more broadly throughout the state. Their advocacy for multiculturalism is heartfelt, sincere and consistent, even when the politics of multiculturalism and migration has not necessarily been running their way. That is something to be acknowledged but also celebrated, and we thank you for it.

You should be very, very proud of the contribution that you have made across both parliaments but particularly proud of the contribution that you have made in the South Australian parliament. Between yourself and your husband, your legacy in the labour movement will be rather profound. But you are also an extraordinarily committed family person, Dana. Sorry, Che', to raise it, but we all in the labour movement have borne witness to Che'. I remember when I first met Che' as a young fella at various events, and now he is a fully grown man and a successful adult in his own right, but this has been a labour of love to the movement that your whole family has contributed to.

That was a really nice day in parliament last week as well, but we are here to acknowledge and celebrate your contribution, Dana—yours and yours alone. Anybody who has spent any time with you in the seat in the Torrens knows all too well how steadfast and enduring your commitment has been to your community. It is something that I know that they will miss, and your successor has big shoes to fill. Hopefully, you can provide them guidance, from whatever party they come from—I have a preference—because they will be well served by your stewardship and your advice hopefully over many years to come.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (18:12): In rising on behalf of the Liberal Party to put on the record our respect and appreciation for the service of Dana Wortley as the member for Torrens, I reflect on the engagement that I have had with Dana over the years. There are three real areas: our neighbouring electorates give us the opportunity to engage in community things, particularly multicultural communities; our neighbouring electorates also provide an opportunity for me as a sitting member to help out the Liberal candidates in those areas; and also as Minister for Education, as has been identified, Dana's particular interest in education.

First, in relation to multicultural South Australia, in the Indian community, as I think a couple of people have reflected on, Dana is held in high regard. The number of times I have seen her speaking at events and being welcomed warmly by crowds of people who have had personal engagement with her is testament to her hard work in that area and also her clear support over many years for the issues that have confronted many Indian Australians. Also, there is her support in the Italian community, where there are potentially a lower number of people in Torrens compared to Morialta—it is sort of vice versa with the Indian community. Nevertheless, at two strong Italian community clubs, the Molinara club and the Sicilia club, Dana's personal presence has been regular and appreciated. We were at a function the other night where Seb Galipo expressed to me the strong appreciation that he and many of the other members of the Sicilia club, for example, have had for Dana's particular energies there.

That feeds into the second point I want to make, which the Premier also alluded to. I have been involved in three losing campaigns in Torrens, so I for one am very grateful that Dana is retiring from politics. After Robyn Geraghty announced her retirement ahead of the 2014 election, we thought we were in with a real crack. We raised a lot of money and we had a very articulate, very capable person as our candidate. Through Michael Manetta's campaign, through Therese Kenny's campaign and then through Ursula Henderson's campaign, from our point of view, we had great candidates. I mean, these are three substantial South Australians who have run against Dana and not been able to win.

More than that, in 2014 we could feel there was a tide in many seats coming. We did not win enough seats to get over the line, and Torrens was one of the seats that outperformed expectations from the Labor Party's point of view. Then in 2018 we felt that the time had now come and we had a great candidate, which the Premier alluded to, and a great campaign, but it was not enough. Last time, I had high hopes that Ursula Henderson, a high-quality person, might withstand some of the challenges against us. However, on each occasion Dana Wortley performed admirably for the Labor Party and I hope—actually, I do not hope. Nevertheless, the Labor Party should appreciate the personal popularity and work of the member for Torrens in securing that seat for the Labor Party.

The third area is on education, and I will not dwell on it because in her speech Dana has already spoken of a couple of things. There were quite a number of complicated issues at a local level that arose in some of the schools and preschools in the member for Torrens' electorate during the time that I was the Minister for Education. On each occasion, her approach would first be to me as the minister on a personal level to try to resolve the issue rather than to try to take political advantage.

The good faith that that fostered and generated meant that I had confidence, when I became aware of an issue, even potentially before it had been brought to her attention, that I could reach out to her knowing that she would play a constructive role in creating a solution. The way in which she behaved as a member of parliament, putting her community ahead of the politics, led directly to her ability to productively improve the quality of outcomes that we had in subsequent cases. I put on the record my appreciation for that and I hope that she enjoys her retirement. To Russell and Che'—well, to Che' perhaps—it will be great to have more of Dana at home, I am sure. I wish you all the best.

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (18:16): I thought I might take the opportunity as well to place on the record my thanks to the member for Torrens not only for her friendship but for her mentorship over a period of time, and not just while I have been in this place as the member for Newland. I was elected to the Tea Tree Gully Council in 2018 at the tender age of having just turned 22, and the majority of my council ward was in the seat of Newland, which had recently been won by the Liberal Party. The rest of my ward was, of course, in the seat of Torrens.

It was a great support to me, as a newly elected councillor with the state government against me, to have not just a Labor person but a Labor woman and a Labor friend in Dana supporting me as I took on that journey. She involved me in a lot of her community engagement, including her regular street corner meetings, where the councillors were always not just invited but expected to come along.

Since I have been in the parliament, that relationship has deepened and I have had the great pleasure to get to know Dana on a more personal level as we have held neighbouring seats. I always very much enjoy our time together, whether it be at my old school, Kildare College, which is in the electorate of Torrens, or at various multicultural events, particularly Italian events, where I get to spend time with Dana. That is not just because she gives excellent advice—and she is one of the fiercest campaigners that our party knows and her advice is always correct—but also because we get along really well. We always love a chat about whatever it may be, but usually it is clothes. We have developed a really genuine friendship and relationship, which I have been really grateful for.

One opportunity that I had to get to know Dana, Russell and Che' even better was when I accidentally ended up on a family holiday to Kangaroo Island, when we ran into each other multiple days in a row when on the island, in your electorate, of course, sir. It was a reminder for me, or maybe a realisation for me, about the welcoming nature of the Wortleys. They are so welcoming, so generous and so kind with their time, and I very much have been grateful for that in different ways over a period of time.

I would also like to take a moment to mention the incredible advocacy that Dana has been responsible for over a period of time in both parliaments. I was very lucky to be witness to that as Dana took up a role on the Select Committee into Stillbirth this year. I was incredibly grateful for not only the way that she listened but also the way that she engaged with bereaved parents. It was not an easy committee to be part of. A lot of the time I found myself quite emotional and not always necessarily knowing the best path to take. Dana showed strength of conviction, she showed purpose but she also showed incredible empathy for the families that were affected, and strength for me in times when I found it a little bit overwhelming. I was very grateful to have her there as a support.

Another thing that she did, which not everyone always does necessarily, was to show me a lot of support and encouraged me as a leader in that opportunity. I am really grateful for that. Dana always told me when I was doing a good job or told me the way that she was impressed by something that I had done. To someone coming through who is very new to politics—compared to the long dynasty of the Wortleys here in the South Australian Labor Party—that means a lot to have someone who knows advocacy, who knows the party, who knows the systems to lift you up. I have always found Dana to be someone who lifts me up, and I am really grateful for that. Whether that be in the committee that I mentioned, whether it be pool advocacy in terms of safety, whether it be road traffic advocacy or whether it be the pelvic mesh issue, Dana is fierce in her values, she is fierce in the way that she advocates.

Dana and Russell as a duo are people who have some of the strongest Labor values that I think I will know. There is never a question about where their values lie. They are Labor to their core and, as someone who is a born-and-bred Labor person, someone who just adores our party and our movement more than anything, I always really value in Dana and in Russell the strength of their commitment to being Labor. They really hold themselves true to what we believe in and who we are as a party in everything they do, and I think that they should be acknowledged for that. I will certainly remember Dana's service for that, though I am sure we will catch up well and truly after we are not in this place.

I do also want to acknowledge, of course, Dana's incredible work in the multicultural community. I am sure, I have no question, that she will continue to be involved in the multicultural community moving forward, though she did just offer me some of her saris as we were sitting there a minute ago. Maybe someone else is going to have to take on that work. I am sure we do not quite understand the level that both Dana and Russell have taken on I guess, on our side, in terms of that multicultural event attendance and/or advocacy, and that will be a gap that will have to be filled.

So I just want to put on the record my sincere thanks to Dana. She has been a real mentor to me, a support to me, always there with advice whether it be about the seniors forum, campaigning or whatever it might be. She is well and truly one of the best campaigners that we have had in this parliament and I am really grateful to have had her here as a colleague and a friend. So I am very excited for you in your retirement Dana—and for Che' to get mum at home, perhaps. Russell will still be here for the next 30 years, so I will not get to speak at his valedictory! But again I want to thank Dana, and also Russell and Che'. We all know that, where Dana is, the other two are around and they do everything as a team. We are all the better for that, so thank you.

The SPEAKER (18:22): I would like to also congratulate Dana. Thank you for your friendship and the great work that you have done in this place. So often you have brought subjects up that I had no idea about and then they have resulted in select committees, and the parliament is richer and the public of South Australia are better because of the work that you have done in this place, not just for your local community but for issues that are really important to so many who do not always have a voice.

I would also like to put on the record my thanks for being my union rep. I am still a member of the Media—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Well, we had a few run-ins at the ABC with management out there. Change did not come easily for them, but we got there in the end. For the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance, thank you for all the work that you did there too.

Bills

STATUTES AMENDMENT (ENERGY AND MINING REFORMS) BILL

Final Stages

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

No. 1. Clause 16, page 11, line 25 [clause 16, inserted section 30AAB(2)]—Delete '5 years' and substitute '2 years'

No. 2. Clause 16, page 12, after line 21 [clause 16, inserted section 30AAB(4)]—After inserted paragraph (c) insert:

- (ca) be accompanied by an agricultural impact statement, prepared by an independent entity, which details the effect of extending the exploration licence on agricultural resources and activities in the area to which the licence relates and surrounding areas; and

No. 3. Clause 16, page 12, after line 24 [clause 16, inserted section 30AAB]—After inserted subsection (4) insert:

- (4a) The Minister must, in considering an application under this section—
 - (a) have regard to the agricultural impact statement that accompanied the application; and
 - (b) consult with the owner or owners of the land to which the agricultural impact statement relates.

No. 4. Clause 16, page 12, lines 39 to 43 [clause 16, inserted section 30AAB(7)]—Delete subsection (7)

WAITE TRUST (ACTIVITIES ON AND USE OF CERTAIN TRUST LAND) BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (SUPERANNUATION AND OTHER PAYMENTS) BILL

Final Stages

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

At 18:25 the house adjourned until Wednesday 26 November 2025 at 10:30.