

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 26 November 2025

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

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

The SPEAKER read prayers.

Bills

NATIONAL ENERGY RETAIL LAW (SMALL COMPENSATION CLAIMS REGIME) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 20 August 2025.)

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

That this order of the day be postponed.

The SPEAKER: Is that seconded? All those in favour say aye, those against say no. The ayes have it. To be taken into consideration, member for Narungga?

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (10:32): Wednesday 3 December, Mr Speaker, the optional sitting week, because I would very much still like to debate this bill.

The SPEAKER: Is that seconded? All those in favour say aye, those against say no. The ayes have it.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES (ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 10 April 2024.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:33): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

While the division was in progress:

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Chaffey will come to order. Can we have some quiet and a little less yelling out across the chamber? Thank you.

Ayes25

Noes.....16

Majority9

AYES

Andrews, S.E.

Bettison, Z.L.

Brown, M.E.

Clancy, N.P.
Dighton, A.E.
Hood, L.P.
Koutsantonis, A.
Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
Piccolo, A.
Stinson, J.M.
Wortley, D.J.

Close, S.E.
Fulbrook, J.P.
Hughes, E.J.
Michaels, A.
O'Hanlon, C.C.
Picton, C.J.
Szakacs, J.K.

Cook, N.F.
Hildyard, K.A.
Hutchesson, C.L.
Mullighan, S.C.
Pearce, R.K.
Savvas, O.M.
Thompson, E.L.

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.
Cowdrey, M.J.
Gardner, J.A.W.
Patterson, S.J.R.
Tarzia, V.A.
Whetstone, T.J.

Batty, J.A.
Cregan, D.R.
Hurn, A.M.
Pederick, A.S.
Teague, J.B. (teller)

Brock, G.G.
Ellis, F.J.
McBride, P.N.
Pratt, P.K.
Telfer, S.J.

Motion thus carried.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10:38): I move:

That debate be postponed until the nearest possible Wednesday.

I am with the member for Narungga on that, so let's continue in the optional week.

Order of the day postponed.

Motions

PREMIER'S COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:51): On behalf of the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, I move:

That the report of the Premier's Commemorative Committee be tabled in the House of Assembly and be ordered to be published and posted to the Parliament of South Australia's internet site.

Motion carried.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (10:52): I move:

That this house—

- (a) notes 25 November 2025 is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and that globally, one in three women have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both, at least once in their life;
- (b) notes internationally every 10 minutes a woman is murdered by their partner or family members and at least 78 women were killed in Australia in 2024;
- (c) acknowledges the work of royal commissioner Natasha Stott Despoja who led South Australia's Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence;
- (d) notes the legislative reforms the Malinauskas Labor government has introduced to make South Australia safer for women; and
- (e) thanks our domestic violence services and other support services for their work to assist survivors of domestic violence.

I move this motion to note the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, held on 25 November, and to recognise the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism, a global UN-led campaign running from 25 November to 10 December uniting countries worldwide to end violence against women and girls. This day, and these 16 days, are a solemn reminder of the human toll of gendered violence.

Globally, one in three women will experience physical or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence or both at least once in their life. Internationally, every 10 minutes a

woman is murdered by her partner or family members. Here in Australia, at least 78 women were killed in 2024. Behind every statistic is a woman who should still be with us and families and communities forever marked by grief. In South Australia, our government is determined to play its part in preventing domestic, family and sexual violence, not only during these 16 days but every day.

This year's theme, Unite to End Digital Violence against Women and Girls, calls much-needed attention to the growing harms of image-based abuse, cyberstalking and AI-generated deepfakes. These are forms of violence that can terrorise victims, damage reputations and invade every corner of a person's life. They are not virtual problems; their impacts are real and they are happening here in our state.

Yesterday Parliament House and the Adelaide Town Hall were illuminated in orange, a bright, powerful symbol of our commitment to creating a future free from violence. Throughout this period the government is also proud to support the *Elephant in the Room* exhibition featuring Elly the Elephant. Developed by the Women's Safety Services South Australia and created by women with lived experience of violence, Elly represents what is too often hidden, minimised or silenced. I encourage all South Australians to visit, reflect and sign the pledge board in support of ending domestic, family and sexual violence.

This house also acknowledges and thanks royal commissioner Natasha Stott Despoja for her leadership of South Australia's Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence. We are facing a horrific epidemic of gendered violence. On average in Australia one woman is killed every four days. These numbers are unacceptable; the gender inequality and disrespect that fuel them are unacceptable. The establishment of the royal commission was a clear demonstration of this government's resolve to prevent violence before it starts, to provide the best possible support for women, to help them build new and safer futures, to better understand children's experiences of violence, and to address the drivers of inequality.

The commission's final report, handed down in August this year, makes it clear that this is a shared responsibility. The causes of domestic, family and sexual violence are multiple, complex and deeply embedded across society. No single action or agency can solve it alone. The report calls for a cohesive and effective system; increased awareness and visibility of domestic, family and sexual violence; safe help-seeking pathways and strong crisis responses; a strengthened focus on people who use violence; holistic long-term support for survivors; and a solid foundation for prevention that shifts harmful gender norms and structural conditions.

Our government has initially accepted seven recommendations that build the framework to drive long-term systemic change. This royal commission provides us with an opportunity to empower our whole community—government agencies, service providers, schools, workplaces and individuals—to act together. It is an opportunity we embrace wholeheartedly.

Shifting culture is essential if we are to succeed. A recent survey into community attitudes found that while 91 per cent of Australians agree that violence against women is a problem, only 47 per cent think it is a problem in their own suburb or region. In South Australia that number drops to just 38 per cent. This is alarming and it does tell us that too many still view this as someone else's problem affecting someone else's neighbourhood. We must change this.

Violence does not discriminate; it occurs across all ages, all communities and all socio-economic groups. Even if someone may not have personally witnessed domestic, family or sexual violence, they almost certainly know someone who has survived it and they may also know someone who has perpetrated it. Every conversation we have must deepen understanding. Every action we take must reflect our shared responsibility. Preventing domestic, family and sexual violence is not solely the job of government or frontline responders; it is everyone's responsibility.

Finally, I offer my deepest thanks to the domestic violence services and support organisations across South Australia and their union representatives at the Australian Services Union. Their tireless work, often undertaken in emotionally challenging circumstances, saves lives and supports survivors in their darkest moments. We recognise their dedication, compassion and professionalism.

The path toward a South Australia free from violence is complex, but with collective action, community understanding and unwavering resolve we can and we must create a safer future for women and girls. I commend the motion to the house.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Women) (10:59): Firstly, I thank so very much the member for Gibson for bringing this really, really important motion to this place. I also thank the member for Gibson for her enduring resolve to tackle the scourge of domestic, family and sexual violence and its drivers. Her resolve constantly strengthens mine, and I am honoured to deeply engage in all that we can do in this space, alongside excellent leaders like the member for Gibson.

I am also constantly strengthened, as the member for Gibson mentioned, by those extraordinary workers who, day after day, year after year, often for a really long time—decade after decade—work to walk alongside those women experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence. These workers are incredibly resilient, they are compassionate, they are highly skilled and they are the difference between women feeling as if they are walking alone and feeling that they are supported and can envision a safer future for themselves. I thank those incredible workers and I thank, also, the union—the ASU—that represents them so well. It is only together with focused, collective attention and action that we can, indeed, drive change, and drive change together we must.

I am really proud to stand here again and speak to the importance of the 16 Days of Activism—the UN-led campaign that unites countries worldwide to end violence against women and girls. We know the heartbreaking reasons why we mark the 16 Days of Activism year after year, and why doing all we can to drive change together is so very important. We share, across our communities, the understanding of the importance of this period. We also share the utter frustration, devastation and profound grief about the women we have lost and the need to shift harmful attitudes about women and all that creates misogyny and its debilitating impacts.

This year's 16 Days of Activism is a significant time to spread awareness about violence against women and to bring attention to this issue as a fundamental violation of human rights. While, horrifically, anyone can experience domestic, family and sexual violence, overwhelmingly it is women who are more likely subject to violence and control. As the member for Gibson articulated, one in three women experience violence at some point in their lives at the hands of a partner or former partner—the equivalent of almost a third of the female population in South Australia.

The health, wellbeing and economic consequences for those surviving violence are often lifelong. As many of us know, the impact on children of the violence, the shame, the fear and the embarrassment is something that can be carried on into their adult relationships and across generations. We know that new, terrible forms of violence are growing, including online, with the likes of Andrew Tate spreading harmful attitudes about women, sometimes faster than we can convene respectful relationship education sessions.

Absolutely tragically, the reality—the persistent reality—is that in this country more than one woman is killed every single week. Our government is deeply committed to tackling gendered violence. Our actions have been strong and relentless. We have passed legislation to electronically monitor, as a condition of bail, those who seriously breach domestic violence intervention orders, to include the experience of domestic violence as a ground of discrimination in our Equal Opportunity Act and to enshrine 15 days' paid domestic violence leave for those workers employed pursuant to the state industrial relations system. We have invested in and built our southern and northern domestic violence prevention and recovery hubs. We have introduced our Raiise program and taken a number of other actions.

One element of domestic, family and sexual violence that we as a government and parliament have made great progress on is the recently passed legislation to finally criminalise coercive control, a topic I and many others are deeply passionate about. Coercive control is that insidious form of abuse that, whilst not always visible, is deeply damaging. It involves a pattern of behaviours designed to dominate, manipulate, control and wear down a person's sense of self-worth over time. This form of abuse creates an environment of fear and dependency and wears down a person's capacity to resist, making it really hard to move forward from.

In 2020 I first introduced a bill to criminalise coercive control and over the past five years I have worked relentlessly to see it criminalised. This work was spurred on by an incredible group of advocates, including survivors, who generously came forward to share their stories and contribute to

the call to criminalise coercive control. This group included, of course, Sue and Lloyd Clarke, founders of Small Steps 4 Hannah. The tragic, utterly abhorrent murder of Hannah and her children in a horrific act of violence is a story, a reality, that stays in my mind and heart, as I am sure it does for each person here.

Following this absolutely devastating tragedy, Hannah's parents, Sue and Lloyd, have become fierce advocates for the criminalisation of coercive control which Hannah had experienced in her relationship prior to the terrible incident that took her life. Their tireless advocacy continues to inspire us all. For decades, legislation and associated penalties have contemplated single incidents of physical violence. This legislation ensures that we understand and respond to behaviour which forms parts of ongoing patterns of abuse that may not be physical but are so utterly damaging.

I have met people who have been deeply emotional about this legislation passing. I do not share this, of course, in some vain attempt to self-congratulate or congratulate our parliament as a whole but to emphasise how insidious coercive control is and what it means in people's lives to have this law as survivors. We will continue to undertake our work to raise awareness and understanding of coercive control in our community.

We have taken these steps that I have just outlined but we know we need to do more. In August this year we were handed the findings of the royal commission, a royal commission which was precipitated by a horrific week in November 2023, when four women in the space of that one week were allegedly killed by men known to them, a week that sat in a year when we saw the highest number of breaches of domestic violence intervention orders since records began. This was a week that absolutely demanded further action.

I am so grateful that former diplomat and Senator Natasha Stott Despoja accepted the invitation to be our royal commissioner. Her work and the work of her team is extraordinary. The royal commission's report and the accompanying Voices report is harrowing and it is again a call to action—action that is set out very clearly in the royal commission's recommendations.

We are deeply considering the remaining 129 recommendations of the royal commission and we will provide our response before the end of the year. Those recommendations cover a broad range of interconnected themes—rightly so—and again set out that road map for change. What is absolutely clear is that underpinning every single one of those recommendations is a call to action for everyone in our community, in every sector and in every arm of government to be part of driving change. Indeed, ensuring that everyone steps up and plays their part is the only way that we will. I commend the motion to the house.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (11:09): I also join voices today to speak in support of the motion that has been brought by the member for Gibson. I thank her for bringing attention to the fact that 25 November this year is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and that, globally, one in three women have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both, at least once in their life. The motion also notes that, internationally, every 10 minutes a woman is murdered by their partner or family members, and at least 78 women were killed in Australia in 2024.

We acknowledge the work of the royal commission and the royal commissioner Natasha Stott Despoja, who led South Australia's Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence. The motion notes the legislative reforms that the current Labor government has introduced to make South Australia safer for women. We certainly acknowledge and thank our domestic violence services and other support services for their work to assist survivors of domestic violence. While significant reforms have passed through both houses in this current term, it is work in progress.

I make note of endeavours by the former Liberal government to also sincerely address the scourge that is gendered violence, with recognition of two female warriors in that Liberal government, namely the Hon. Vickie Chapman and, in the other place, the Hon. Michelle Lensink, who have never strayed from their determination on behalf of all South Australian women and men to address the failures that we continue to see that allow such shocking ratios as one in three, one in four, women experiencing sexual violence at the hand of an intimate partner, boyfriend, or even on a date. I thank them sincerely for their advocacy. It is a legacy that lingers through the legislation that we now know

as laws in this state. I also want to recognise the work by our current minister for the endeavours and the concerted effort to reform and deliver legislation that addresses coercive control.

In my own electorate of Frome, the coercive control bill was of great interest because it remains of great concern, mostly to women, that we continue to experience that because it is so difficult to identify, and so the passing of that bill was very important. In fact, I note the contributions made by the member for Unley specifically on that bill. He and I felt that there is in fact more work to be done in that space. My own reflections, through this term, on coercive control and the specific bill are that it does not capture it all. I think there is room to consider in the context of gendered violence, beyond the intimate partner and the family and domestic setting, the non-domestic setting because we see and know of occasions of great harm or fatality where women have lost their lives in a non-domestic capacity but it is still gendered violence.

I had the privilege last night to return to my electorate, which is uncommon in a sitting week for country MPs to get that opportunity. I was honoured to be able to join my own community to sit vigil in recognition of the 16 Days of Activism. Members of the government were able to attend and we were honoured by the minister accepting an invitation to support the call put out by the deacon, Reverend Louise Lang, who established this—I do not want to say routine or habit—very important community event last year that I suspect will continue to be something that we attend with growing numbers over the years to come, and growing numbers they are.

The numbers that were in attendance last night demonstrate the community interest and concern in equal measure that comes with recognising gendered violence. It was clear from the conversations I had with a number of people that it was not localised to Clare and in fact people, whether through their faith in connection to the Uniting Church, the Anglican Church or other denominations, travelled from Balaklava, Riverton and towns further away from Clare because they knew they needed to be there to demonstrate their and our commitment to battling gendered violence.

While it was a lovely, poignant, sombre service where we remembered those who have been impacted or lost to gendered violence, it was also uplifting in many ways. I am sure the minister will agree that we did not leave empty-handed. We were reminded of a number of things, certainly that it takes courage to name the harm and to call it out, but that when we do not we are bystanders. To coin another phrase, or mishandle it for this purpose, the standard we walk past is the standard we accept.

A service or a vigil as we experienced last night is a practical way and a safe way that community members can come together, share experiences, perhaps in silent reflection, but be another number in the army that fights gendered violence. They were the words I have taken away from the deacon's sermon. It did not feel like a sermon, but she challenged us to do these three things: to name the harm, to pursue justice and to reimagine what it is like to love and love our neighbour well. I think it is a worthy pursuit for any of us here in this chamber that we should always be looking for opportunities on behalf of our communities to name the harm and pursue justice.

In reflecting on last night's vigil in the Barbara J Long room in Clare, walking distance from my house, I knew without hesitation that I could walk out my front door, down the main street and attend something like this with no question or reflection of any harm that might come my way. That has not been the case for many women who have found themselves in very serious, dangerous straits in our country's history.

This motion is extremely important to challenge the chamber to address International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and it is particularly important that we take every opportunity not just to pass laws in this chamber but to take those laws back into our communities and embody them, live them and honour them. With those remarks, I thank the member for Gibson for the motion and I support the motion.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (11:19): I would like to make a contribution in support of this motion. There are a couple of things that I would like to acknowledge: the contribution made by the government, particularly our current minister, when dealing with gendered violence in our community. I do not think I have seen a minister work so hard in this area, not only in terms of new legislation and new laws to protect women but also in the area of getting resources for various services to support women who are affected by family and domestic violence. So I would like to acknowledge that. I also acknowledge the whole-of-government approach that we are taking to do this. There are

still gaps in the system—we have to acknowledge that—but it is not for the want to do better, and we certainly need to do better.

One of the reflections I would like to make is that despite the enormous amount of attention and the enormous amount of resources from not only the state Labor government but also federally, it is still on the increase. I just do not understand why it is still on the increase given the resources we have put into this area of public policy.

We need to keep thinking about how we can do it better. We need to not only think about providing important services to support people affected by family and domestic violence but also work out ways to reduce it in the long run. We cannot always be the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. We need to keep people safe and we need to work out new ways to prevent domestic and family violence.

We invested in a royal commission and I know the government is working through those recommendations. We need to change community attitudes towards how people in relationships, particularly intimate relationships, see each other and treat each other. I went to an event last night, which I will talk about a bit further, and it was clear that—and this is from a Christian point of view—we are all born in God's image and therefore we have the inherent dignity given by that. It is important, irrespective of our gender, race, etc., and it is quite clear that we all have the right to live safe, meaningful and prosperous lives—and violence stops that.

We now have the 16 Days of Activism, which is addressed in this motion, and I would like to acknowledge the various women's organisations in my current community of Gawler who work very hard at this every year. I think the minister has been to some of the events in the Light electorate to support women to raise awareness about how domestic and family violence has a very strong negative impact not only on those directly affected but also the wider community. Any violence in our community diminishes us all, and that is quite clear.

Last night I had the privilege of joining the minister in Clare at a vigil event called Holding the Light run by the deacon, Reverend Louise Lang, but also supported by the Christian churches, eternal ministries and also the Christian church outreach service in Clare. It was a very eye-opening and very thoughtful event. On a regular basis you hear about issues and sometimes you learn to switch off, but you hear new perspectives and the way the new perspectives are delivered make you sit up and think, 'I've learnt something new here tonight. I actually did things I haven't thought about and they are really, really important.'

One thing that caught my attention last night was the Acknowledgement of Country. It was an incredibly beautiful Acknowledgement of Country. I will quote from the words that were spoken last night. They are not my words and I cannot improve upon them so I will quote them:

The Ngadjuri First Nations people chose what we now know is the Clare Valley and in particular, the valleys and creeks around Watervale, as the place to give birth to their children, every year for tens of thousands of years.

Every Ngadjuri mother needed to return to where they were born. They chose to give birth when the rest of their biome—birds and animals—gave birth. By giving birth in the same place, they ensured that the young were born in a consistent energy and environment. Their bodies became attuned to the unique frequency of Watervale.

So, for tens of thousands of years Watervale was the women's camp of freshwater springs, the birthing place, the sacred place of Women's business. Each year men would go first to this place to prepare it by lighting fires and then leave the women to their business, retiring to nearby ridges. There was no threat to the women, so they stood back at respectful distance.

Then it goes on to say:

Sadly, when the pioneers arrived the Women were exposed and unprotected during the birthing time.

That was a perspective I had not thought about previously. It was very beautifully put last night. It was not put in a way to lecture us, but just to help us understand what has happened and what we can do and what we can learn from First Nations people.

We also heard the story of the purple benches, and the history of the purple benches. I had seen them, but I must confess I did not fully understand them. The deacon gave us a bit of background on the purple benches. They talk about a person called Barb Baillie, a Canadian. Long

Lake Park was a special place for Barbara. She enjoyed being in nature and walking her dog, often pausing to sit and enjoy the calm of the water.

To some, park benches are simply a place to stop while on a walk, but to Barb they were a refuge from the abuse she endured from her husband, the father of her five children. A comfortable bench in a peaceful public place offered physical rest but also assurance that she would be safe in the line of sight of unknown passers-by.

On 19 October 1990, Barbara's husband of 25 years strangled her to death in their home. This tragedy shook the lives of her children, family and friends, who continue to mourn the loss of their giving and caring daughter, mother, sister and friend. In 2015, with the 25th anniversary of Barb's death approaching, her eldest daughter set out to start a memorial project to honour Barb. With the help of a local parliamentarian, she was able to start Barb's Bench Project, starting with the first purple bench placed in Long Lake Park.

This bench is now across the world and spreads the message from this sad but simple story, which actually makes a difference and reminds us. Importantly, these benches are not only purple but they have engraved on them numbers people can ring for support and help and to reach out. One was blessed last night and put out by the council near the Barbara Long Room.

The other thing which I also learned last night was from Deacon Lang. She is an Anglican priest and she gave us her interpretation of various passages of the Bible, which to her credit she did in an extremely educative way, to say people can interpret the Bible to support patriarchy or to talk about equality. Then she went back to say God made it clear that we are born equal in his eyes and therefore we must actually, then, from a feminist theology point of view, talk about equality between men and women.

I found it very helpful the way she did that. I have been a Catholic boy. I found the reinterpretation or alternative view logically made sense to me, how as Christians we are called to be equal and we are called to stop this violence. That was her strong message last night as well, that we all have a duty to do that.

A number of hymns were sung. I would like to acknowledge the impromptu choir, who sang beautifully and who added to the event. As mentioned, it was obviously an event which reflects on the great sorrow, but it was also one of great hope. The hope was that we will come to a place soon where we acknowledge our equality and treat each other with dignity. On this occasion, I would like to acknowledge the day and thank the member for her motion.

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (11:29): I would like to acknowledge everyone who rose to speak in support of this important motion today, firstly the Minister for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence as our leader in this space. Her commitment and her resolve to create positive change is incredibly impressive. I would like to also acknowledge the supportive comments made by the member for Frome and her reflections on the experience of those in her community, and also the member for Light, particularly his comments about his experiences last night and the Welcome to Country that he had the honour of witnessing. I commend this motion.

Motion carried.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the house.

A quorum having been formed:

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (11:32): I move:

That this house condemns the Malinauskas government for failing to fix ramping.

I rise today to speak on this very important motion, condemning the government for failing to fix ramping and the ramping crisis. We know that politics is built on trust and trust for the electorate that promises made are promises kept. At the end of the day, if we cannot keep the promises that we make, then what are we doing? We know it is the cornerstone of a thriving democracy.

At the last election this Labor government made a very, very clear promise to the people of South Australia; we saw it on the corflutes. This campaign erupted about six weeks out. It was a promise that was plastered on our Stobie poles. It was in letterboxes. It was on street corners. It was

on our TVs, on our phones and on the radio. It was a promise made time and time again in speeches, at press conferences, in debates, whatever it was. It was a promise by this now Premier and his team that they would fix this ramping crisis.

Since that time the reality is that it has been anything but a promise kept. In fact, since this promise was made and Labor was elected, we have now seen not one, not two, not five, not 10, but 41 months of the worst ramping in South Australia's history. This is not just a broken promise but an astronomical failure: over 160,000 hours stuck outside our hospitals, on the ramp, since Labor was elected, the equivalent of something like 18 years I am told.

How can South Australians trust a government that has spectacularly misled the people of South Australia and failed to deliver on what was their key election commitment? Why will the Premier not apologise to the people of South Australia for this crisis? Has he taken responsibility for it? No, he has not. Has he admitted that his government has not fixed it? No, he has not. In fact, they continue to do quite the opposite.

Yesterday in parliament, we gave him every opportunity to talk about this. When asked if he broke the promise to South Australians on fixing ramping, all he had to say was something like, 'Well, it's better than last month.' The last time I checked that is not what the corflutes said, not what they said at all. What a cop-out. What a cop-out to the South Australians who spent thousands of hours being ramped at our hospitals last month and the 40 months before that.

To give the house context, last month's ramping figures were actually well over 2,000 hours worse than the last full month of the former Liberal government and worse than any single month under the Liberals—any month that we were in power—and, of course, also in the middle of a global pandemic for much of that time.

South Australians expect a level of integrity and they expect a level of truth from their politicians. We know that. What they do not want is the spin and the PR—they want substance. They do not want people to talk down to and gaslight the people of South Australia. They do not want people to talk down the severity of this ramping crisis. We have seen along the way residents, such as one in my own electorate, who have passed away waiting to get the care that they deserve.

South Australians are sick of the taxpayer-funded ads, this Orwellian PR machine, saying things such as they will build a bigger health system, flyers that they are getting in their letterboxes, that actually are not addressing and are not fixing the core part of the problem. South Australians want solutions. They want results. They want to know that if their children, their parents or their grandparents go to hospital, they will receive the high level of care they deserve. What they do not need or want is a glossy brochure telling them about how great their healthcare system is when the reality is that is just not the case.

Time and time again, this government has said one thing but actually delivered another: whether it is their promise to fix ramping or whether it is their promise to build a hydrogen power plant to reduce power prices. It is clear that this government has failed to deliver the vital services that South Australians rely on to keep them healthy and to keep them safe, and they have failed to keep an important promise that they made. So why should the people of South Australia believe anything that Labor promises in the lead-up to the next election?

I urge the Premier to apologise to the people of South Australia for this broken promise because we have now seen 41 months of the worst ramping results in South Australia's history. Do you know what is also galling? Every time that the ramping results are delivered, this Premier goes missing in action. Usually it is on a Friday afternoon and the Premier is just unavailable. Such is the courage of this Premier. He cannot even front up to admit that he has failed to deliver on this promise. What does he do? He sends out his disciple, the Minister for Health, to deliver the bad news that again they have failed to deliver on their ramping crisis.

What he should do is apologise to the thousands of South Australians who are left for hours on our hospital ramps and he should apologise to the entire state for the promise he has broken. Politics is built on trust and it is about time that this government starts to repair the trust that is broken with South Australians.

I have been out with my good friend, the member for Schubert, shadow minister for health, not only critiquing the government but we have also been out every single day since the weekend, every single day, coming up with a positive alternative. A new Liberal government, if given the opportunity in March next year, will build not only a bigger healthcare system but a better healthcare system. We also have a plan to do it.

We have a plan to do it because we know that this Labor government has delivered 41 of the worst months of ramping in South Australia's history. We have seen that elective surgery waitlists continue to be out of control. We have heard recently that people coming from the country at great expense—both emotional trauma and also financial expense—are having their surgeries cancelled time and time again, which is absolutely outrageous. We have seen that emergency departments are struggling to cope, despite the government's core promise. They have not delivered on their core promise to fix it.

SA Health has acknowledged that there are also workforce shortages right across the system. We have a plan to address it and fix it. We know South Australia is experiencing a shortfall in the healthcare workforce, and we have announced several packages in the last week to deliver real and competitive attraction and retention benefits to help grow the healthcare system. Today, we have been able to stand up with the Royal Australian College of GPs. During the week, we also stood up with the head of the ANMF. They understand that our health workforce needs to grow into the future. They understand that we need to value and support people such as our experienced nurses, and that we need more doctors here. We want to deliver a better health system here for South Australians, but to do that we need a strong workforce pipeline.

We have also announced several other policies, which we will continue to remind South Australians of in the lead-up to the election. We are not only holding this arrogant, out-of-touch government to account but we are doing the work to put forward our positive plan when it comes to health.

As the member for Schubert and I announced a while back, when it comes to our pledge in terms of GPs after hours, we have said that we will green-light a GP after-hours increased access trial. We have committed that up to 80 GP practices could apply to receive a grant of up to \$150,000 per practice to meet the additional costs of operating after hours, such as wages, on-call allowances and facility costs. We know that some families at the moment would do anything to get in and see their GP, but sometimes that is not able to be done, so we want to address that. We want to support GP clinics. We want to support them to extend their opening hours during the week and also to open on Sundays.

Then, of course, there is the GP payroll tax grab. We will reverse this government's decision to penalise GPs, because we know that it has had a huge impact on the number of GPs that practices can employ, and one way or another those costs get passed on in the form of increased costs to patients.

Whether it is in relation to the nurse and midwife recruitment scholarship program we have announced this week, the retention and re-entry bonuses for nurses and midwives we have announced this week, the relocation payments we have pledged this week, or the plan to grow our GP workforce that we announced today, we will continue to advocate for a better healthcare system—not just a bigger healthcare system—to ensure that the growing health needs of South Australians are met by a growing health workforce.

We put that policy package out. We have done the work. We have been busy in opposition. While those opposite want to chase vanity projects, we are doing the work. We are doing the work as His Majesty's Loyal Opposition. We have announced our packages to do several things, such as the scholarship program; the retention bonuses; the incentives to return, for those who are able; the international attraction grant that we announced today; and making existing payments for interstate and overseas health professionals relocating to SA, but also making sure they get those reimbursements up-front. If you are a young person and you want to do the right thing and you want to play your part and you especially want to go into a regional area or a remote area—we have some of the most remote parts of our country—you have to be paid to do that.

At this time, like never before, there is a race on for the best and brightest minds. We are competing with all the different states and territories. We are competing with overseas. But if you have a government that continues to put vanity before results and that continues to waste money

before allocating it properly and professionally, then you end up with the types of things that we see at the moment. They are really big on the promises. They are really good at making the promises but they are not so good at keeping them. We have seen that with respect to cost of living, we have seen that with respect to housing and we are seeing that with respect to ramping.

In summing up, we will continue to grow our workforce and we will continue to hold this government to account for their main policy commitment. In spite of them saying that they would fix the ramping crisis, we know that they have not fixed the ramping crisis. They have gone on to deliver the 41 worst months of ramping in South Australia's history. We all know what they said at the last election. They purported that people should vote a certain way as if their life depended on it—how disgusting to whip fear into the community. We were all there. For those of us who survived, we will remind people of how they were lied to, how they were misled and how this government cannot be rewarded for lying to the people of South Australia. I support this motion.

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (11:46): I rise to indicate that—shock horror—the government will not be supporting this motion. Once again, the Liberal Party has come into this place seeking to condemn a government that is doing the serious structural work required to fix the health system that those opposite left in crisis. Let us be very clear: the ramping crisis did not begin in March 2022.

Members interjecting:

Ms CLANCY: No, that is when South Australians sent a clear message for a serious, grown-up government that would actually do—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my left will listen in silence, as the Leader of the Opposition was afforded when he spoke.

Ms CLANCY: Children. No, that is when South Australians sent a clear message for a serious, grown-up government that would actually do the work, not swan about with meaningless one-sentence motions. When we came to government the situation was dire. Priority 2 ambulance response times were just 31 per cent, which is less than one in three lights-and-sirens ambulances arriving on time. For the most urgent, life-or-death priority 1 cases—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

Ms CLANCY: I gave your leader silence. I would appreciate the same respect, member for Chaffey.

Mr Whetstone: Concentrate, just concentrate.

The SPEAKER: The member for Chaffey can leave the chamber for 10 minutes. I asked for silence and you continue to interject.

The honourable member for Chaffey having withdrawn from the chamber:

Ms CLANCY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. For the most urgent life-or-death priority 1 cases the figure was 47 per cent, meaning less than half of the most critical call-outs reached patients when they needed them. We were left to rebuild a system at breaking point. While we do have a long way to go, the work is paying off.

As of October this year, priority 1 response times have improved to 67 per cent and priority 2 to 61 per cent, and they continue to trend upward. This means that people are getting medical treatment faster. At the election we promised 300 extra beds. We are now on track to deliver more than 600 new beds—double what we committed to. This includes more than 130 new mental health beds, many of them opening recently or in coming months; a \$498 million expansion across Flinders Medical Centre in the nearby electorate of Davenport, as well as in my electorate at the Repat; and also additional beds across The QEH, Lyell McEwin, Modbury and Noarlunga. We reversed the Liberals' sale of Hampstead and are establishing a new 70-bed complex care facility. There are also major expansions in Gawler, Victor Harbor, Mount Gambier, Keith, Whyalla and Port Pirie.

My community has been incredibly impressed and happy with the new Edwardstown Ambulance Station, located at the Repat. This is just one of the 24 new, upgraded or rebuilt

ambulance stations we are delivering, in addition to a brand-new SAAS operations centre. Importantly, we have smashed our workforce targets. Since 2022, we have hired more than 2,800 extra health workers above attrition. That is more than 1,460 nurses, over 640 doctors, over 300 allied health workers and over 300 additional paramedics on the road. We have expanded alternative care pathways: SA Health Urgent Care Hubs at the Repat, The QEH and Lyell McEwin; greater support through the SA Virtual Care Service; and a new dedicated State Health Coordination Centre within the SAAS HQ.

We have delivered on our commitment to support three 24/7 community pharmacies, including our very own in Clovelly Park. As I have already shown, we are pretty clearly into delivering even more than we committed to before the election and we have opened another one—a fourth—in Hallett Cove. We have increased weekend discharge, expanded Preventive Health SA and secured mental health community services, including the Co-Responder model with SA Police, which is now expanding into the southern suburbs.

We all know that ramping is not just a South Australian problem. It is a national symptom of more than a decade of neglect and cuts from Liberal-National Coalition governments—governments that failed to invest in aged care and Medicare. The collapse of primary care has meant that many people cannot see their GP for weeks, bulk-billing plummeted forcing people into emergency departments instead and South Australia has the highest aged-care occupancy in the nation at around 98 per cent. With nowhere else to go, older South Australians are stuck in a hospital bed when they should be receiving more appropriate care elsewhere.

Unlike those opposite, we have been brave enough to make demands of the commonwealth government even when they are wearing the same colours, and we will continue to do so. We will continue to advocate for the commonwealth government to increase their investment in the aged-care sector as a direct measure to address ramping.

This motion does nothing to improve emergency care for South Australians, it does nothing to reduce ramping, it does nothing to acknowledge the genuine structural work underway. This opposition has failed to show South Australians that they are meant to be an alternative government. They are all opposition—they've got no ideas, no vision. They have no real plan for our healthcare system. They do have a plan to cut \$1.6 billion from the budget in one fell swoop though, with the one policy, and where do we think those cuts will happen? Do we think that the public can really trust that they will not happen in health? While the Liberals play politics, this government is delivering the beds, the workforce, the infrastructure and the system reform required to fix the health system they broke.

The opposition leader spoke about trust, so let's talk about trust. If you cannot even trust an opposition to write a motion more than one sentence long, how can you trust them to build a better healthcare system?

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (11:53): Where to start, really? First of all, of course I support the motion that has been put forward by the leader, and it is a really important one that this house debates—but more than that, it is a really important one that the people of South Australia need a real conversation about. I thought it was interesting that the member for Elder referenced this playing of politics, and yet this was the same member who promised her community that she would be part of a team that would fix ramping. It was not about response times and it was not about building a bigger healthcare system. It was not about improving access to aged care and it was not about acknowledging that this was some national crisis that every single jurisdiction right across Australia was dealing with. In fact, this is something that the former Marshall Liberal government was at pains to speak about publicly. We were well aware of the challenges in the health system.

And what better test of strength to our health system than how we dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic? All of these things which the then Liberal government were talking about were not good enough for those opposite. The Labor Party went out and made a political promise which was to fix ramping and they did so because they wanted to run the biggest scare campaign that our state has ever seen—and they did, they scared people. I see the member for Elizabeth nodding when I say they ran the biggest scare campaign in South Australia's history. He is nodding because he knows that it was effective. But guess what? At the next election people will see in true form the real results that this government has been delivering.

Had the Labor Party had some backbone and gone to the people of South Australia and said, 'What we are seeing at the moment isn't good enough and these are the policies that we put forward to try to turn the dial,' maybe—just maybe—there would be some leniency in the community.

The reason why the spotlight is so transfixed on this promise to fix ramping is because that was the type of emphasis that the Labor Party put on it when they went to the election. It was not a throwaway line that the Premier made at one press conference. It was not a throwaway line that the shadow minister for health made. Every single member of this now Liberal government went to the election promising their communities that they would fix ramping.

The leader has already spoken and waxed lyrical about the fact that Labor has now delivered 41 of the worst months in South Australia's history. That is bad, not just because they failed on their political promise, it is bad because it is the people of South Australia who ultimately suffer. We see no remorse from the Premier about his promise. All we see is mealy-mouthed excuses from this government. They are desperate to try to play politics.

There are a few quotes that I would like to bring to the attention of the house. This is after the election and after we saw the ads of Ash the Ambo urging people to vote Labor like their life depended on it, because one day it just might. This was after the Premier had his face on the Stobie poles with the promises about the right priorities and he was going to fix ramping. After the election, FIVEaa asked a series of questions of the Premier and here is one that I quote:

The commitment that I made and deserve to be held to account over was to get ramping back down to 2018 levels.

He then went on to say:

And the objective there is so that we can start having ambulances roll up on time.

Only, that last bit of the sentence was not there before the election. Before the election it was all about ramping.

What were the ramping stats in 2018 to get down to the 2018 level? There are a few numbers here that have been floating around. At the end of 2017 and the start of 2018, it was 482 hours, 516 hours, 652 hours and 749 hours and there has not been a single month of ramping under this government that falls anywhere near that. In fact, the last month alone was more than 2,000 hours worse than the very worst month under the former Liberal government.

What do we see from the Premier and the minister? We see them just trying to point the finger and have the blame game against Canberra, pointing to the exact same issues about the lack of investment into aged care that existed before the election that they are now using as their reason why they have not delivered on their major promise to fix ramping for the people of South Australia.

What were ramping hours in the last full month of the Marshall Liberal government? In February 2022—a month out from the election—1,500 hours. That is how many hours South Australian patients and paramedics spent stuck on the ramp. That was the very month that the Premier swanned across the stage at his convention talking about how he was going to fix the ramping crisis for the people of South Australia, when ramping was at 1,500 hours. What is it now? A lot worse than that. It has more than doubled under this government and they have delivered 41 of the worst months of ramping in South Australia's history.

There are a number of policies that we have announced over the course of the last few days, and I have been really proud to stand with the leader to release them. They have been backed by a number of peak bodies, a number of the health stakeholder groups here in South Australia, which we have been really grateful for.

First up, on Sunday, we stood with Molly. Molly is a second-year nursing student at the University of South Australia, and she is part of the next generation of nurses and midwives that we need to see here in South Australia so that we can really grow not just our workforce into the future but our services. As our population grows—and of course we know that there are population growth ambitions of the state government—we need more services, not fewer. To make sure that the people of our state have a much better healthcare system, we need to have a much better pipeline of nurses and midwives in South Australia.

We were really proud to announce a \$90 million package about growing the next generation of nurses and midwives. Part of the reason that we are doing that and stumping up that money is not just because we believe on this side of the house that our nurses and our midwives should be supported through their placement, where they work 160 hours per placement without any pay, but because it is a national and international competition to get the best and brightest healthcare workers in South Australia.

And guess what? Just across the border we have a government in Victoria that recognises that it is a national and international competition; we have a government in New South Wales that recognises that, and they are stumping up the cash with these exact types of initiatives. If we do not do that in South Australia, then we will literally watch the next generation just pack their bags and head across the border, so much so that Molly was speaking to the leader and me about her sister, who is seriously putting under the microscope what is on offer in Victoria. There are people who are looking across the border, where they know that they will get the financial support to start a career in a health system that is struggling, and they want that financial incentive.

On Monday, we stood with Elizabeth Dabars and the ANMF, who supported our retention and re-entry policy. Every meeting that I have with Elizabeth Dabars—and there are many—she speaks to me about the need to keep experienced midwives and nurses in the health system. This is something that we have to focus on on this side of the house, and it is not the only thing required. Of course, the system itself needs to be improved, they do need a pay rise and they do need better conditions. I do hope that the Labor government go back with a fair deal for nurses before the election so that they can see real change.

We have sent a really strong signal to our experienced nurses and midwives that we back you. We understand how difficult it is. We spoke with Toni, who is a nurse who has been working at the RAH for a long time. She said she is just exhausted, and there are lots of people who are leaving the system. Elizabeth Dabars made reference to the fact that experienced nurses are so worn out that they are now going to get jobs at the Airport or at Bunnings because that is how valued they feel under this government. That is why we need to change that. We have a policy to do so.

Of course, as the leader said, we spoke with the Royal College of GPs today and we back their proposal, an \$11 million proposal to make sure that we get the best and brightest GPs to South Australia so that families can have easy access to their GP. If it is hard for people to get in to see their GP, where do they end up? In our emergency departments, and that exacerbates ramping, and that is exactly what this government has failed to show action on.

I support this motion. I urge the Premier and the minister to stop with the mealy-mouthed excuses. It is no longer cutting the mustard. Stop blaming Canberra. A state Labor blaming federal Labor—everyone is getting a bit sick of it. Just own up to your promises and go to the next election with a suite of policies that will generally assist the people of South Australia. People see through the mealy-mouthed excuses of this government and so do we.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (12:03): I rise to speak on this motion, and it is a very important motion. What we have seen over recent times is that South Australia is headed down a path that might almost be irretrievable. I am very worried that this current government continues to be in denial. They continue to walk away from their responsibility and they continue to absolve themselves of their responsibility to fix ramping. I do not know how many hundred or thousand corflutes were on poles before the 2022 election. I do not know where Ash is. Ash has disappeared—

Mr Pederick: And her chalk box.

Mr WHETSTONE: —and her chalk friends because it was 'vote like your life depends on it' and that sent a very, very scary directive to the voters, to the people of South Australia that this government was going to go to fix the ramping crisis and yet we have seen exactly the opposite.

The government have overseen the worst ramping in the state's history and the people of South Australia need to be reminded every day that not only have they not fixed it but they are not even heading in the right direction. They are not even putting their shoulder to the wheel and dealing with the issue. They are just too busy spinning. They are putting the spin out there that they are putting more money into different areas, more money into health, but it is not fixing the problem. If I were running a business and continued to pour other people's money into an area that was not working, I would definitely change tack. I would definitely look at ways to seriously fix the issue.

Since they were elected, we have had patients who have spent the equivalent of 18 years and nine months stuck outside of our hospitals. That is 18 years and nine months stuck outside of hospitals. In comparison, in the former Liberal government's entire term patients spent nearly half that amount of time off the ramp and getting the care they needed. Paramedics spent the time doing their jobs, what they are paid to do, instead of being stuck outside of EDs.

Ramping is a symptom of a broken health system, which is exactly what Labor have delivered right across the state. As I have said, and I will continue to say, we are continuing to slide. We are not even gaining ground on the number of hours being ramped. We have a health minister who gives us spin every day. We have a Premier who is in denial and continues to detract from the issue and that is to fix ramping. I want to reiterate that we were given a pledge by the government, by the Premier, by the Labor Party of South Australia that they would fix ramping and they have not even got close.

If I look at regional health, particularly up in the great electorate of Chaffey, healthcare access and economic hardship are ongoing issues, especially in my home region. In Labor's last budget, no certainty was provided for regional health care. There was no specific funding to ease pressure on our local hospitals or to bolster mental health services. As an example, we saw a large amount of funding that was put into helipads, and we are nearly two years on. We have a couple of helipads that are operational, but now we find that there are major issues with these helipad upgrades. Not only are we now seeing Health and Treasury looking to acquire homes but they are looking to acquire real estate and they are looking to move infrastructure so the helipads can be compliant. It really does beggar belief that there was not more planning put into place.

I have two facilities in Chaffey: the Loxton hospital and the Berri regional hospital. We have one helipad with an aged-care facility right next door. They are almost going to have to put high voltage fencing around this helipad so they do not put aged people at risk. We also have the helipad at Berri. There is an awning that comes out of the hospital over to the helipad. There is no protection there, should they have to use that in inclement weather. I know they have had issues with the windsocks. They have had issues with compliance. It has just been night tested and it looks like they are going to be able to open that helipad sometime soon.

We continue to talk about the limited access to specialist services in regional and remote communities. Those people seeking health care have to go and fill out onerous paperwork under PATS (Patient Assisted Transport Scheme) because they have to endure a six-hour round trip from the Riverland down to Adelaide. Not only are they away from their family and friends but they are away from their workplace.

They are away from a support mechanism that some people would understand if they had been through health hardship, having treatment or going down there for surgery. It is a time when you need to have the comfort of being around your loved ones, or take comfort in knowing that you will not be financially burdened or crippled by undertaking some of those health procedures.

It does come at great cost: time, stress, accommodation and travel expenses. I say to people who live in the metropolitan areas and the urban areas in Adelaide, 'Please understand what it is like to live in a regional setting.' Yes, we decide that we are going to live in the regions because we love living in the regions and it is a way of life and it is where we are, and a lot of those people are providing great frontline services. A lot of them are providing food for people and a lot of them are providing an economic stimulus to South Australia's economy, and that is why regional South Australia is so important.

I must say that the important work done under the former Liberal government was putting those vital health systems in place and with new infrastructure, but there is more to be done—there is much more to be done. As I said, the transparency, has been a real issue. For nearly four years now the opposition has continually asked the Premier and the health minister about fixing ramping and we continually get spin over and over again.

One of my concerns is that the government are absolving themselves of responsibility. The government have walked away from their key messaging and their key promise to South Australians that they would fix ramping. I am sure that there is a warehouse full of corflutes telling South Australians that they will fix ramping. It is a very large warehouse, not just a small one. It would

have many, many thousands of corflutes in it because every South Australian was absolutely bombarded with that messaging, up on Stobie poles and anywhere they could get a tie strap to hold one of those signs up.

Over time, we have seen generational change. People's expectations of the health system has seen the closure of some of our mental health institutions and some of our other healthcare institutions, and now we are seeing people, rather than being serviced and dealt with in those facilities, turning up at emergency departments.

They are part of the problem because the hospitals were not designed to take every concerning medical issue. There were institutions that used to look after mental health. There were institutions to help with domestic violence. There were institutions that did run-of-the-mill health and after-hours health care. What we are seeing now is that this government has centralised so much of the health system. What it has shown us now is that it has clogged the system, and the system is now bursting at the seams, particularly in being able to accommodate, deal with and treat people who turn up at emergency departments.

If you were to visit the page about ramping, the format of that page has now changed. Once upon a time it was easily accessible, easily definable as to how much ramping there was, and what the dashboard would say. All of a sudden, it has become quite difficult to understand the messaging, what the numbers are, and just exactly what the current situation is. It now needs a trained eye to be able to undertake and assess where the ramping is and just how quickly you can be treated.

In conclusion, the government has failed South Australians. The 'fixing the ramping' pledge by the Premier, by the South Australian Labor government is nothing more than a hoax, and people should recognise that at the coming election.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:14): I rise to support this motion by the leader:

That this house condemns the Malinauskas government for failing to fix ramping.

The response from the government about this motion here today is interesting because the Malinauskas Labor government has dismally failed to fix ramping. As has already been stated in this house, coming into the last election there were thousands—literally thousands—of corflutes that said that the Malinauskas Labor government, if elected, would fix ramping. What a joke—what a joke!

Now we hear all the spin that we have hired so many doctors, hired so many nurses, opened up so many hospital beds. That is all great, but guess what? It has not fixed ramping—nowhere near it. Ramping is as bad as it has ever been. In fact, it is worse than it has ever been. We have had 41 of the worst months of ramping on record. This does not help people in the city and it does not help people in the country.

We have a government that tries to defend its spending on health and its policies on health. This is the government that shut the Repatriation hospital at Daw Park. It is outrageous, especially in light of the service that that hospital had provided for veterans over decades. They were certain that they could centralise services. It was completely outrageous, and we saw veterans campaigning for many, many months, literally living on the front steps of Parliament House, to turn that around. Thankfully, we turned that around when in government.

Look at these policy positions. Look at EPAS, which turned into Sunrise, which is the electronic patient management system that the Labor government introduced into the system. That system would have cost a billion dollars—a billion dollars—to implement, and it is still being implemented in country hospitals across the state. It is sad that when you go and visit someone in hospital, you wonder why the nurses—no discredit to them—are on an electronic machine out in the corridor for maybe quarter of an hour of every hour, punching information into this recording device that was not particularly designed for working in the health system.

It is just so much money gone down the drain. It is hopeless. Talking about hopeless, look at the money that the government has spent on helipads. Helipads and airstrips for the Royal Flying Doctor Service are vitally important in country areas. There are 13 helipads that have had \$23 million spent on them. The government, in the full light of day, knew that there were going to be compliance issues. If they did not, that shows how bad they are, because the compliance issues had been around for a while and they should have known about them.

They built these helipads. They had fences in the wrong place. They upgraded the ones next to hospitals like mine at Mannum and Murray Bridge. They had to lower the fences—and then what? Just in my electorate, there are two of the six helipads out of the 13 that are not operational. I do not know when these helipads will be operational at Mannum and Murray Bridge.

These helipads are situated directly outside the emergency access to the emergency departments at both hospitals and they are vital for not just country people but people who are travelling through, people who are touring, people who are using facilities and touring through the great area of the Murraylands. Whether they are enjoying motor racing down at The Bend, whether they are going out to Monarto Safari Park, or whether they are part of the \$500 million economy per year, up and down the River Murray people have accidents. Stuff happens, and it is not just regional people that the failure to have these helipads in place affects.

The truth is that after the government invested this \$23 million, for over 12 months—close to 14 months now—we have not seen helicopters land at Mannum or Murray Bridge. My office is in Murray Bridge, and when I am there I know that roughly on average, back in the day, a MedSTAR helicopter would come in about once a day. That has just disappeared. What is the cause and effect of that?

It may be subjective but I have had people say to me, constituents say to me, 'How do we know people haven't died because of the lack of that access?' And how do we know? I know of a baby that had to be stabilised and then taken to Adelaide in a land ambulance where that baby's health would have been so much better if they could have been put in that life-saving helicopter. There are other stories about patients who have not been able to move out to the alternative site from Murray Bridge out to Pallamana, which is at least a 15-minute travel time for the 15 kilometres from the emergency department out to Pallamana Airfield. It is just outrageous.

To top it off, instead of the MedSTAR crews flying out to Murray Bridge in their helicopter, they will come out in land-based ambulances. This is tying up ambulances at each end—but again, no discredit to the workers, the MedSTAR pilots, the paramedics, the nurses and all those who assist with our vital emergency care. It is just not operating as it should for the safety and the survival of people who rely on this vital life-saving service. It is no different to how the Royal Flying Doctor Service got set up because we had to have quick access to medical treatment for people who were, essentially, in a life or death situation. It is just completely outrageous. Now we know due to this poor planning that they are putting up signs at some helipads, I think it is the one at Victor Harbor, about what needs to happen when a helicopter might land.

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia: Stay in your car.

Mr PEDERICK: Yes, 'Stay in your car', is what it says—and then at Murray Bridge they have to buy four houses. At what cost? The department will have to compulsorily acquire four houses, because you know what? They forgot about the compliance issues and they have not admitted to it with downdraft to the helicopters landing, with the new rules and regulations that were coming into place. The stupidity of it is that they have placed the liability on the pilots, and I get it: they do not want to take the liability of landing at a helipad and potentially injuring someone on the ground.

This is where the stupidity comes in. These helicopters, these vital life-saving helicopters, luckily, can still land next to a crashed vehicle on a road or in a paddock next to a road or on an oval, because those areas are exempt from the downdraft issues. This is some of the ridiculousness around the lack of these vital health services, not just in my area but right across country areas in this state.

In regard to the ramping crisis, we were told coming into the last election that people should vote for Labor and that their life depended on it. Look what they have got: they have got hospitals overfull, emergency departments flooded with patients and the ramps clogged up with ambulances. We had Ash the Ambo and her friends chalking ambulances. Where are their thousands of corflutes now? It is completely outrageous.

In October this year, it was revealed that patients and paramedics spent 3,958 hours stuck on the ramp outside hospitals. The latest October data shows patients and paramedics have now spent more than 164,218 hours stuck outside our hospitals on the ramp since Labor was elected,

the equivalent of 18 years. For comparison, there were only 75,000 hours lost during the entire four-year term of the former Liberal government.

It was a completely outrageous statement made at the last election by this Peter Malinauskas Labor government, that they would fix ramping 'like your life depends on it'. Well, that has not happened. There are so many other issues out there in the health scene, including the lack of use of helipads' life-saving service in regional areas. It is completely disgusting, and they need to pay at the next election.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (12:24): I commend the motion to the house.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes12
Noes.....24
Majority12

AYES

Basham, D.K.B. (teller)
Ellis, F.J.
Pederick, A.S.
Teague, J.B.

Batty, J.A.
Gardner, J.A.W.
Pratt, P.K.
Telfer, S.J.

Cowdrey, M.J.
Patterson, S.J.R.
Tarzia, V.A.
Whetstone, T.J.

NOES

Andrews, S.E.
Brown, M.E.
Close, S.E.
Fulbrook, J.P.
Hughes, E.J.
Mullighan, S.C.
Pearce, R.K.
Stinson, J.M.

Bettison, Z.L.
Champion, N.D.
Cook, N.F.
Hildyard, K.A.
Koutsantonis, A.
Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
Picton, C.J.
Thompson, E.L.

Boyer, B.I.
Clancy, N.P.
Dighton, A.E.
Hood, L.P.
Malinauskas, P.B.
O'Hanlon, C.C.
Savvas, O.M.
Wortley, D.J.

PAIRS

Pisoni, D.G.
Hurn, A.M.

Michaels, A.
Szakacs, J.K.

Motion thus negatived.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (12:29): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises that 3 December 2025 is International Day of People with Disability;
- (b) notes that this is a day to celebrate people living with disability, to promote public awareness of the issues people living with disability face, and to consider how we improve access and inclusivity in our communities;
- (c) acknowledges the one in five South Australians who identify as living with disability; and
- (d) congratulates the Malinauskas Labor government for its commitment to improving inclusion and access in South Australia.

Wednesday 3 December 2025 marks International Day of People with Disability, a day of global significance observed by the United Nations since 1992 and a day that calls on every one of us to not just reflect and celebrate but also to act. It is about how we as a community and as a parliament choose to build a South Australia where every person can participate with dignity.

The theme for this year, Fostering Disability Inclusive Societies for Advancing Social Progress, is a powerful reminder that inclusion is not an optional extra, it is fundamental to progress. None of us can claim a truly fair society while attitudes, as well as physical and technological barriers, still prevent people from moving through this world with the same ease and opportunity that others take for granted.

Here in South Australia, one in five people identify as living with disability—one in five people. They are our neighbours, our colleagues, our children, our parents and our friends, and far too often these South Australians encounter barriers they did not choose and burdens they should not carry alone.

I am proud to be part of a government that understands that inclusion must be more than a slogan. It needs to be visible in budgets, in legislation, in the design of public places and public services, and in the everyday experiences of the people we serve. Since coming to office, the Malinauskas Labor government has invested around \$100 million in additional supports for people living with disability. Those investments include:

- \$50 million for 100 new mental health and learning support specialists in our schools;
- \$28.8 million for autism inclusion teachers in every public primary school;
- \$9 million to support people who fall through the NDIS eligibility cracks because of residency rules;
- increased funding for the Community Visitor Scheme;
- more Changing Places facilities so that people can participate in community life with dignity—I am excited that one of those new locations is in my own electorate of Davenport, at Glenthorne National Park, and has been warmly received by our community; and
- the establishment of the Office for Autism, alongside campaigns like See Me For Me that challenge the stereotypes that still shape too many interactions today.

Beyond funding, we have taken meaningful steps to change systems—the kind of change that lasts. We have introduced new construction standards that will make homes more accessible and more adaptable. We have amended the Disability Inclusion Act to strengthen co-design and to better reflect people's lived experiences. We now have a new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategy across the public sector, including stronger employment targets for people with disability. We have legislated for phone voting for people with vision impairments or mobility limitations. We have modernised the disability parking permit scheme. We have launched the State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029, a plan built on real priorities and real voices.

We have also brought a new level of focus to neurodivergence in South Australia, appointing the nation's first ever Minister for Autism, delivering our state's first Autism Strategy, introducing quiet hour at Service SA centres, and taking the Sensory Bus to events and festivals so that inclusion meets people where they are, not the other way around. In my electorate of Davenport, I have held forums for the autistic community, and I am excited to be co-hosting next month a session alongside legendary local social worker Amelia Wright, which will be specifically for girls and women navigating ADHD and autism. Most recently, this government stepped in to save Australia's second largest disability employment provider, Bedford, safeguarding the jobs, dignity and futures of around 1,250 workers and clients.

On a personal level, many in this place would know of my advocacy for people living with motor neurone disease (MND). MND sits painfully at the junction of the health and disability systems. In the past, many would not receive care until it was too late. I am proud that this government has invested in specialised care and has stood firmly with advocates to ensure timely access to the federal supports that people with MND desperately need and absolutely deserve.

When we remove barriers we unlock potential, not only for individuals but for our entire community. Inclusion benefits all of us, and a more accessible South Australia is good for everyone. Today, on this International Day of People with Disability, I ask this parliament to reaffirm our

commitment to creating a state where every person is valued and heard and every barrier is dismantled. We should commit to being a state that fosters social progress through inclusion, not just in words or on days of recognition but every single day in the decisions that we make.

Finally, I am proud that next Wednesday the people's house—this parliament—will shine blue to mark this important day and to stand visibly with South Australians living with disability. I commend the motion to the house.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (12:36): I rise to make a contribution to this motion on International Day of People with Disability. There has been a conversation between myself, the minister and the member for Davenport over my contribution. It was going to be an amended contribution, and I think it has been now. I think we have come to a compromise where we can partially leave politics to one side, particularly for the very sensitive issue of disability and it being the International Day of People with Disability.

It needs to be recognised that this is about the people; it is not about the politics. Too many politicians over time have grandstanded about what they have done for disability. My view is that there is never enough. How much is enough? As I said, there is never enough.

As part of this motion I want to again recognise the State Disability Inclusion Plan. It is an important commitment to improving the inclusion and access of South Australians living with a disability. It rings quite true that we here in this chamber represent all of our constituents, but I think there is always an ability for us to put a focus on those who are less advantaged and those who are living with a disability. Some are living with more severe issues. I think it needs to be highlighted that some people are less fortunate and do not have the lives that others have. But having a disability does not mean that a person is any less; what it means is that they have other challenges in life.

This morning I had the great pleasure of meeting with The Disability Divas, a couple of ladies who are great ambassadors for the disability sector. They are a couple of women who are passionate about giving a louder voice to those with a disability, particularly in the education system. They are mothers who have children with quite severe disabilities who are at the Adelaide North Special School. They continue to advocate strongly for a fairer outcome for their children and advocate for all children with disabilities attending an educational institution.

Bri and Tori are parents of children with severe and complex disabilities, and they are drawing on lived experience, their advocacy background and ongoing collaboration with local schools. They have come together and founded The Disability Divas. They consider themselves as a parent-led initiative, dedicated to fostering truly inclusive, supportive and neuro-affirming school communities.

We understand that raising and educating children with additional needs can be rewarding and challenging. Many families face isolation and frustration as they navigate through the complex systems, as they navigate their way through the bureaucracy—some more caring than others, some more compassionate than others. Sadly, there is always more to be done to give them the help and assistance to make their life more streamlined. It is also about these two women sharing their experiences with people like me and the Hon. Heidi Girolamo, the shadow education minister, who was part of that meeting this morning and, from what we have seen, there is a lot more to be done.

The inclusion plan is great, but my experience this morning gave me the opportunity to better understand how we live, how we deal with and how we best manage—whether that be children with a disability or whether that be an environment that enables those with a disability. It is not just children with disability; it is adults and the like. It needs to be recognised that they have special needs. They need more attention, they need more care; they need specialised attention and specialised care to give them a quality of life.

I have learnt this morning that it is the mission of The Disability Divas to bridge the gap and to work along with schools, educators and parent communities. They have both been on governing council and they are both passionate about making the disability community a better community. They came to me this morning to establish a mentor parents and carers support group within schools, helping them as a valuable part of the school structure; to provide parent-to-parent guidance and lived experience insight to staff and leadership teams; to seek to better understand and engage with families of children with additional needs; and to promote neuro-affirming and inclusive practices that strengthen relationships between families, schools and the service system.

As they said, 'Our approach is grounded in empathy, collaboration and practical solutions delivered from one parent to another, and we believe this model could be an effective, low-cost way to enhance inclusion and wellbeing outcomes across the education sector.' I use that as part of my contribution today because it was a very powerful meeting; it was a very powerful message that they sent to me this morning to better understand.

I have a very good grasp on the education system, and particularly with special schools, and I believe the current education minister has been up to the Riverland Special School. I visit there twice yearly, not only for end-of-year activities but to give the school support—those teachers, those care workers, those support workers, particularly in the Riverland. Natalie Coote is the principal at the Riverland Special School. She is an outstanding person, an outstanding educator and an outstanding leader. You can see the way that she embraces the school, the way that she leads and gives that school a bounce in its step. She gives those teachers, those educators, those support staff the help that they need, making sure that that school is front and centre for those students with a high level of need.

Along the way, as an elected member, we have to make sure that we get that message out there: one in five South Australians live with a disability. By improving accessibility and by improving inclusion, every South Australian benefits. That really does speak volumes on how South Australia should be stimulating our economy. It has flow-on effects to our health sector and makes a contribution to the workforce. There are business and job opportunities, particularly in the area of volunteering. I am now noticing—because I have been made aware—how important it is to engage those with disabilities. To be part of a volunteer sector cannot be understated. It is a really important motion that needs to have a brighter light shone on it. It is the responsibility of every MP here in this chamber and in the other house to ensure that they make a positive contribution to the disability sector.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Did you wish to move an amendment?

Mr WHETSTONE: I move to amend the motion as follows:

Remove paragraph (d) and replace with:

- (d) recognises the State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 as an important commitment to improving inclusion and access for South Australians living with disability.

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (12:45): I thank the member for Chaffey for his contribution and also his request for the amendment. I just indicate that we will be accepting his additional point as an addition rather than instead of. So the member for Chaffey's addition becomes paragraph (d) and then we also have paragraph (e) which is the current (d). So the new paragraph (d) recognises the State Disability Inclusion Plan.

Mr WHETSTONE: The amendment to the motion is to delete the original paragraph (d) and replace it with a new paragraph (d).

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: My understanding is you are indicating there was some agreement. The mover of the original motion suggested slightly different wording, with yours being an additional paragraph. At the moment, unless there is another person who can move an amendment to the amendment, I will have to put the amendment first and then the original motion and you will not get agreement. So what is it that you wish to do? You would like to stay with the amendment? Minister, do you wish to move the further amendment?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (12:47): I am glad I have an opportunity to be involved. I am moving an amendment to the amendment, I understand, which is to strike out paragraph (d) and replace with 'recognises the State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 as an important commitment to improving inclusion and access for South Australians living with disability.'

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are seeking to put back in the original wording and add the additional wording which the member for Chaffey has; is that correct? Yes. I understand what has been moved and amended. My understanding, under parliamentary procedure, is that if you move an amendment to remove some words, which the member for Chaffey wishes to do, you cannot move a further amendment to put it back in. The solution will have to be that you just vote against

the amendment. The further amendment is disallowed. I will give the member for Davenport an opportunity to speak to her original motion and close the debate.

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (12:50): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Obviously, the processes are not set up for us to agree with each other. As I was saying, I appreciate the member for Chaffey's addition and contribution to the debate. I think the member for Chaffey's story about his visit with The Disability Divas this morning is a perfect example of a member of parliament going out and seeking to learn more about this matter and how it impacts people. That is what this motion is about today. I commend it to the house.

Amendment negated; motion carried.

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (12:52): I move:

That his house urges the Malinauskas government to take urgent action to relieve cost-of-living pressures on South Australian families and businesses.

I rise today to move that this house urges the Malinauskas government to take urgent action to relieve cost-of-living pressures on South Australian families and businesses. The phrase 'cost of living' has become all too familiar, unfortunately. We know that there has been much government inaction, which has been unfortunately quite predictable from this government. We have seen a significant decline in various standards of living, as everyday expenses, we know, are unfortunately choking our state.

Today, for a Premier who likes to party—and he does not mind saying that himself—my fear is that this government has already, after nearly four years, lost touch with the common South Australian. It has completely lost touch, if I am honest. It is just absolutely outrageous to see the Premier stand up and gloat about the latest glossy report week after week, shake hands and smile for the cameras, celebrities, while literally throwing away public money to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars, doing things like bragging about how the health system is somehow getting better, when we know that this government has delivered 41 months of the worst ramping in South Australia's history.

Let's dive into cost of living and start with the fundamentals. There is some recent data and it spoke about the true economic situation in South Australia. When you look at gross household disposable income per capita for 2024-25, what it showed—and this was only a few days ago—is that, under Labor, South Australia is the poorest state in the nation—the poorest. New South Wales is \$65,200. We are much behind that. It is \$61,600 in Queensland, \$58,400 in Tasmania, \$56,300 in Victoria and \$54,800 in South Australia. When you have a government that continues to literally gouge South Australia on a whole range of measures, there is only so much that taxpayers can take. It is no wonder that, under this government, we are becoming literally the poorest state in the nation.

Let's dive back into another cost-of-living measure. Let's start with a fundamental. We are the party of Menzies. We believe in people being able to have their patch of dirt. We are about rewarding aspiration and encouraging home ownership and we understand the benefit of home ownership, which is that, if someone has a place to call home, they are more likely to stay in South Australia. What have we seen under this government? Net interstate migration going backwards not one quarter, not two quarters, but more than eight quarters.

Coming to the point about having a roof over your head, a place to raise a family and a place to effectively form community, what has happened to the housing crisis, the cost of housing, under what is becoming a complacent, lazy, arrogant government? But do not just take my word for it. We looked at some of the reports where little old Adelaide unfortunately has jumped to the sixth least affordable housing market in the world in 2025. Some are actually labelling it as 'impossibly unaffordable'. Those opposite do not want to talk about that we were in government for four out of the last 24 years. This is a situation that did not just creep up on us. This has come from years of neglect by Labor governments in this state. It does not seem to worry party Pete.

However, look at where we are now. It takes the average family not one year, not two years, but something like 12 years just to save for a house deposit in Adelaide. That also does not seem to worry the government at the moment. What about the rental market? How did we end up this way where the rental market is now the least affordable in the country. I urge the government to give

hardworking South Australians, first-home buyers and renters alike, the decency of at least acknowledging the problem and admitting the fault.

What we do not need is what I saw not that long ago, where people are rushed into the Convention Centre, a bit like a TED Talk: PowerPoint, chicken and beef alternate drop, everyone is in there, sold a bit of a yarn. The problem is that this government is very big on promise, not so much on delivery. These stats show this because it now takes 12 years to save for a house deposit just in Adelaide. Not that long ago, this number was more like four or five years and the rental market, as I said, is the least affordable in the country.

So whatever they are doing, it is not working, and unfortunately the cost of living is biting. I urge the government to give hardworking South Australians, those first-home buyers, those renters alike, the decency of acknowledging it. They talk about things like stamp duty. Not that long ago, there may have been a Treasurer on the other side of the chamber who saw this evil, inefficient tax. Who was that? They eradicated this tax and did the sky fall in? No, it did not. Did property prices rise to a level immediately that were unsustainable? No, they did not. I think at the time we backed it because we are about inefficient taxes being able to be removed where we are able to do so.

We want to be bold and we want to be ambitious in respect of making sure that we offer a policy alternative. We are proud to say that we think South Australians should have more money in their pockets and they should be paying less tax, not more tax, but as soon as we offer that policy alternative, what do we get? We get the usual manipulation and fearmongering. We can see where it is going. You know what? We are up for the fight. Let's have the fight. I look forward to the fight.

We are at the election. We will want to lower taxes for people in this state and they will want to increase taxes for people in this state. We can point to the housing crisis. We can point to how long it takes people to save for a deposit now and how we have one of the worst affordable crises in our history. We want to make it easier for people to own a home, not harder. If they want to reject that, I look forward to the fight. I seek leave to continue my remarks at a later date.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.

Parliamentary Procedure

ANSWERS TABLED

The SPEAKER: I direct that the written answers to questions be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Auditor-General—Update to the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025
Report 10 of 2025
House of Assembly Annual Report 2023-24 [Ordered to be published]

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

Chief Psychiatrist, Office of the South Australian—Annual Report 2024-25
Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health—Annual Report 2024-25
Health Advisory Council—Annual Report 2024-25
Barossa and Districts
Berri Barmera District
Coorong Health Service
Gawler and District
Keith and District
Kingston Robe
Lower North
Loxton and Districts

Port Augusta, Roxby Downs, Woomera
Southern Fleurieu
Yorke Peninsula
Health Performance Council—Annual Report 2024-25
Local Health Network—Annual Report 2024-25—
Barossa Hills Fleurieu
Central Adelaide
Southern Adelaide
Women's and Children's
Yorke and Northern
SA Health—
Government Response to the Economic And Finance Committee report into
delivery of health services on the Yorke Peninsula Government Response
November 2025
Response to the Deputy State Coroner's Findings into the Death of Kathleen Ethel
Salter Government Response November 2025

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

Children's Education and Care Quality Authority, Australian—Annual Report 2024-25

By the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science (Hon. J.K. Szakacs)—

StudyAdelaide—Annual Report 2024-25

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

Behavioural Standards Panel—Annual Report 2024-25
Local Government Grants Commission—Annual Report 2024-25
Outback Communities Authority—Annual Report 2024-25

By the Minister for Veterans Affairs (Hon. J.K. Szakacs)—

Veterans SA—Annual Report 2024-25

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

State Development, Department of—Annual Report 2024-25

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

Government Response to Select Committees—Select Committee on Matters Relating to
the Timber Industry in the Limestone Coast and Other Regions in South Australia
Government Response November 2025
Premier's Commemorative Committee—Report—November 2025

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water for taking the photo of the school group behind you just before question time started. You still have those journalistic skills. I would like to welcome to parliament today students from Willunga Waldorf School in my electorate. It is great to have you in here and I really enjoyed the chat. I will drop in and see you before the school year is out. Thanks again for coming in. I hope you enjoy question time and that everyone is as well behaved in this part of the chamber as you are in the gallery.

Parliamentary Committees

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:03): I bring up the 75th report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received.

Mr ODENWALDER: I bring up the 76th report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received and read.

Ministerial Statement

H5N1 HIGH PATHOGENICITY AVIAN INFLUENZA, WILDLIFE PREPAREDNESS

The Hon. L.P. HOOD (Adelaide—Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (14:05): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L.P. HOOD: Just over 12 months ago, the Hon. Dr Susan Close rose to speak in this place on the work underway to prepare our state for the arrival of the H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza, which I refer to as H5 bird flu. Today, I rise to update the house on the status of H5 bird flu and the preparatory work that has been undertaken to date to best manage its impacts if it arrives.

Across all continents other than ours, this virus continues to have significant impacts on wildlife. Overseas, it also continues to impact heavily on commercial poultry. Since my predecessor's statement, the list of species affected by H5 bird flu has sadly grown. Unfortunately, there are now nearly 560 species of wild birds and around 100 species of mammals known to be affected. Late last month, Australian Antarctic Program scientists visiting subantarctic Heard Island observed signs of unusual levels of mortality in elephant seals, consistent with H5 bird flu in wildlife. Sadly, the presence of the virus on Heard Island has now been confirmed by laboratory testing.

Heard Island is extremely remote, and located around 4,000 kilometres from mainland Australia, more than 5,000 kilometres from South Australia, the equivalent distance of Adelaide to Singapore. While this detection does not substantially increase the risk of the virus arriving on mainland Australia, the news reinforces the ongoing need for Australia to remain focused on preparing for a potential outbreak of H5 bird flu.

Unfortunately, the virus cannot be prevented from arriving and, in many cases, mortality events in wildlife will likely be unavoidable. Many Australian native species are endemic and found nowhere else in the world. Consequently, the best way for us to prepare our native wildlife for H5 bird flu is to act now to ensure strong, healthy populations across the geographic range. This means continuing and, where possible, increasing efforts to support species recovery and reduce the impacts of threats other than H5 bird flu.

What is immediately important is taking action to build resilience in species that are likely to be susceptible to H5 bird flu by addressing existing threats. Here in South Australia, the Department for Primary Industries and Regions is leading a collaborative effort with the Department for Environment and Water and other government agencies, notably some landscape boards, to expand the existing disease surveillance programs and prepare for the likely impacts of H5 bird flu.

More broadly, South Australian government agencies are working with the Australian government, government agencies in other states and territories, and a range of non-government organisations, particularly Wildlife Health Australia and Animal Health Australia, to establish coordinated preparedness and response plans.

Given the threat that H5 bird flu poses to Australian sea lions, on-ground conservation actions to improve resilience in some sea lion populations prior to the arrival of the disease are currently underway. On 3 October, I announced \$1.4 million in joint funding with the Australian and South Australian governments to enable conservation actions to be undertaken at sea lion colonies on Kangaroo Island, Eyre Peninsula and the West Coast. These conservation actions, which address existing threats to the species, involve treating pups for hookworm, mitigating thermal stress by installing pup shelters, and managing feral cats, which are known carriers of H5 bird flu and parasites such as toxoplasma.

We are working with the federal government to prepare for the H5 bird flu, with the following investments boosting South Australia's efforts: \$300,000 to support species and site preparedness planning and more than \$130,000 to protect captive populations of threatened species in facilities across the state. Today, the Minister for Primary Industries and Regions announced a new mobile biosecurity lab, which will improve the state's ability to respond to emergency animal disease, including H5 bird flu. The state-of-the-art lab enables rapid processing of samples and can be directly deployed to impacted areas and is a significant boost to the protection of our primary industries. While I focus today on wildlife, it is important to recognise that H5 bird flu is also causing significant impacts on poultry industries overseas and it is likely to be similar if it arrives here.

Given these issues, it is reassuring that PIRSA has plans in place to manage the incursion of H5 bird flu as it does for other pests and diseases, as particularly of national agreements between Australian governments and livestock industries. PIRSA also recently held bird flu preparedness workshops with the poultry industries and will continue to keep the industry informed of the latest developments.

I conclude today by highlighting how important it is that the general community is kept informed and aware of the threat posed by H5 bird flu. To help mitigate this impact I encourage members of the public to learn more about the disease's impacts that it might have by accessing information on websites such as PIRSA, Department for Environment and Water, SA Health or equivalent Australian government websites. These websites share useful, trustworthy and contemporary information about H5 bird flu.

Members of the community can also assist by undertaking activities that help to build the resilience of our native wildlife. These activities can include pest and animal weed control, habitat creation or restoration. For anyone looking to join in these activities, joining a friends of parks or local landcare group or contacting your local landscape board would be a great place to start.

I also encourage the community to remember simple advice if they are enjoying our beaches, local parks or national parks and encounter sick or dead birds or mammals: avoid contact with sick or dead animals if they encounter them; record the time, date, location and any other relevant details such as the species and number involved; and, importantly, report those observations to the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888. Reporting this information is vital to enable investigation of any suspicious circumstances so we can take prompt action to protect our environment, local communities and industries.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Some other people have just joined us in the gallery. We have David Ridgway, former tourism minister in South Australia, former member of the Leg Co, now the Agent-General in London, home just in time for the test. Good to have you back in Australia. Who are you barracking for, now that you are based in London? A foot in each camp? I suspect you will always be on the Aussies. I see Graham Ingerson is also with us today, former Deputy Premier of South Australia. Always great to have you back in here, Ingo, and you have your better half here, Jude. Great to see you too.

Sitting behind them there are a few people—I was probably a little pesky journo when they were Ingo's chief of staff—in David Travers and we have Leanne here as well, who was the long-suffering media adviser to Graham when we were chasing up all sorts of stories. I think 30 years ago that probably was. It is great to have you here Ridgy, great to have you back as well, and you will probably notice that not too much has changed.

Question Time

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:12): My question is to the Premier. Does South Australia have enough nurses and midwives to grow health services into the future? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: In response to the release of the Liberal Party's nurses and midwives scholarship policy, the Premier stated that every nursing vacancy in the state is filled, yet the CEO of SA Health told the Coroners Court during the inquest into ramping deaths in South Australia that there are workforce shortages across the entire health sector.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:13): My remarks were in respect of graduate positions and it is true. More than that, yesterday I made clear everything that the Coroner said with respect to their report on ramping where they gave a very thoughtful, clear dissertation on the worthwhile elements of the government's investment in ramping. In fact, I am happy to read the quotes out to the Leader of the Opposition from yesterday, because obviously he wasn't listening.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: He might have had other things on his mind, and I get that. I forgive the Leader of the Opposition for that. There's a bit going on and he can be forgiven for being distracted. If we focus on the Coroner's report just for a moment, I quote:

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

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

No wonder he is not familiar with these remarks. The report continues:

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

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The shadow minister for health interjects. What I would say to the shadow minister for health is her interjection is insightful. She says, 'That's not the political commitment' which speaks to the fact that all she is focused on is the politics. All she's focused on is the politics. What we are focused on is the politics being married up with a comprehensive policy, a policy, given the Leader of the Opposition's question, that has delivered over 1,400 extra nurses over and above attrition.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The member for Chaffey interjects.

The SPEAKER: The member for Morphett, the member for Flinders and the member for Chaffey!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The member for Chaffey's interjections are only slightly less desirable than the member for Unley's, who is not here at the moment. We welcome the member for Chaffey's interjection. He asked about what was on the Stobie poles. What we put on the Stobie poles is our commitment to recruit extra nurses. The number we committed to was over 300 extra nurses. We have delivered 1,400 extra nurses, plus some, over and above attrition. We committed to over 300 extra ambos—tick; over 100 extra doctors: we have delivered over 600 extra doctors.

While the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow minister for health are running around doling out cash while complaining about debt, while reducing government revenue and coming up with more expenditure, while they are doing that, their latest contribution to the public policy debate in this state was to try to fix a problem that doesn't exist.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert will come to order.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The challenges in recruiting nurses—we've got over 1,400 extra nurses. The challenges in recruiting ambos—we've got over 300 extra of them. The challenges of recruiting doctors—we've got over 600 extra of them over and above attrition. Where there are challenges are in discrete areas like police, like teaching. They're areas that we are putting effort into where there are genuine issues associated with recruitment. In more specific specialties, such as psychiatry for instance, we acknowledge there is a challenge, why this minister is delivering a comprehensive workforce plan in regard to psychiatry.

But your plan, running around handing something out to everyone with money that you don't have, is a foolish exercise that the people of South Australia will hold you to account on at the election.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the leader, the members for Morphett, Chaffey and Schubert are on your final warnings. We just need to keep it down a little. I know it's the second to last day, unless we sit that optional sitting week, which I know everyone is really keen on, but the students from Willunga Waldorf School would like to see a little bit better behaviour than what they have seen in the first four minutes of question time.

SA HEALTH WORKFORCE

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:17): My question is to the Premier. How does the Premier respond to the comments made by the CEO of SA Health to the parliament's Budget and Finance Committee? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Chief Executive of SA Health, Robyn Lawrence, said to the parliament's Budget and Finance Committee:

I think we are very similar to other jurisdictions. Certainly, when I talk to my colleagues across the country we are all in a very similar position. I don't think any of us would say we have full workforces.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:18): I just identify to the Leader of the Opposition my previous answer that there are pockets of specialties in the system where we would like to see more people coming through. That's why we developed comprehensive workforce strategies for those people. You're running around offering cash to people we've got. That's not a thoughtful, well-calibrated policy.

The Leader of the Opposition refers to remarks from the CEO of SA Health, Dr Robyn Lawrence. I want to take this opportunity to thank her for the work that she is doing. She has a massive program. SA Health employs over 50,000 people in this state, a number that has grown astronomically during the life of this government. SA Health has one of the biggest capital investment programs at the moment that we have seen in the history of health in this state. Just go to Flinders, QEH, Modbury, you name it, we are doing work there; Mount Barker, massive program, Women's and Children's, all being rolled out at the same time, big effort, at the same time seeking to address a range of challenges that we are seeing in the health system that she referred to in the Leader of the Opposition's remarks around the country.

But I will note this: the last time I recall a Leader of the Opposition commenting on Dr Robyn Lawrence was when your predecessor stood up, presumably next to the shadow minister for health, and personally attacked and called into question the integrity of the CEO of SA Health in a way that was an absolute disgrace. It turns out the former Leader of the Opposition might have been on a comedown that day or something to that effect, and now we see that former Leader of the Opposition liken this Leader of the Opposition's circumstances to the ones that he had to endure.

So we have this unvirtuous cycle within the state Liberal Party that seems to be on repeat over and over again, and the victims of that seem to be highly qualified dedicated public servants like Dr Robyn Lawrence who are out there every single day getting the work done and executing one of the most comprehensive policy efforts we have seen in the history of SA Health. We ask her to keep on with that job: keep on with that job and you keep the work up, along with everybody else working in SA Health. It is a sustained program of dedicated effort that will ensure that we deliver better health outcomes to so many more South Australians, particularly given we have a growing population and an ageing population.

It is within our means to always strive to do better. That is what we are doing in SA Health. It is what has delivered response times and the dramatic improvement we have seen within the state ambulance service, and continues to see almost everybody who walks through the doors of our hospitals getting a positive experience as a result of the extraordinary work that is undertaken by all those extra nurses and doctors, along with the residual ones who we employ. We are going to keep up that effort for as long as it takes to make sure we continue to strive for improvement within public health service delivery in this state.

NURSES AND MIDWIVES

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:21): My question is to the Premier. How does the Premier respond to Molly, a third-year nursing student at UniSA? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Molly said this week that her sister is a midwife and she is looking interstate in places like Victoria for better opportunities and more incentives.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:21): I would say to Molly: under this government we have a job for you. Under this government we are employing more nurses and midwives than ever before. Under this government—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —we have employed over 1,400 extra nurses and midwives into this state above attrition, full-time equivalent. If you are looking at the actual headcount, it is far in excess of that. We are bringing in huge numbers of graduate nurses. Our graduate nurse intake is full. We are able to recruit the graduate nurses that we want to into our program.

The Leader of the Opposition is out spraying the cash. He is out in this massive cash splash which he says has cost \$170 million this week—according to our sums, it is over \$370 million this week—and he hasn't said where the money is coming from.

Members interjecting:

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

The honourable member for Morphett having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: You are splashing the cash, you are supposedly going to cut the debt and you are cutting state revenue all at the same time. It is this magic pudding economics of the Leader of the Opposition. I know we are all counting down the days until the member for Flinders is going to have to get up and present the costings—whack the proverbial on the table—and we are all going to scour through it and see how the sums add up and how the magic pudding has been concocted. He looks a little stressed at what he is going to have to do.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer and the Minister for Human Services will come to order.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: He is increasing spending, now there is a cash splash, he is cutting debt and he is cutting taxes. Easy, sure. If there is anybody who can pull that off—why didn't we think of that? The member for Flinders has it all sorted. And I know our friends up in the media are looking forward to that press conference when this is all going to be revealed, how this is all going to unfold in great detail.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Imagine the sweat.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Well, every day the Leader of the Opposition is out there with his cash splash, fixing problems like recruiting graduate nurses where we are already fully subscribed. The Treasurer here has got the calculator out and we are adding that up, and we will be holding the member for Flinders and the Leader of the Opposition to account—

The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas: And the deputy leader.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —and the deputy leader and the shadow health minister—for their Oprah Winfrey style everybody-gets-something approach to managing the state's finances. We are very much looking forward to that.

The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas: Wait until Batty gets started.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the leader: Premier, you are warned; Treasurer, you are on your final warning; and there are a couple others getting very close to their final warnings—it was very rowdy. The Leader of the Opposition.

NURSES AND MIDWIVES

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:25): Thank you for your protection, sir. My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier commit to a nurses and midwives scholarship program to attract more nurses and midwives to South Australia and, if not, why not? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Our party has announced that we will grow the next generation of nurses and midwives with a recruitment scholarship program as part of our plan to build a better health system.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The interjections and the noise have started before the minister has even had the call. Can we please just quieten it down on my right? The Minister for Health.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:26): On this side of the house, we love our nurses and midwives here in South Australia, and that's why we have been employing so many more of them—over 1,400. We have recruited above attrition, full-time equivalent, working as part of our health services and that stands in stark opposition to the situation we inherited.

What was the situation we inherited? The government had a program of targeted redundancies for nurses: 228 nurses and midwives made redundant under the government where the Leader of the Opposition sat around the cabinet table—the government where the shadow health minister was the chief spin doctor for the Premier—and they made 228 nurse jobs in this state redundant during the midst of a global pandemic. So we will not be taking lectures from the Leader of the Opposition, who made nurses redundant, on how to grow our nursing workforce when we have been recruiting extra nurses. We value our nurses and midwives in this state, we have legislated for nurse-to-patient ratios for the first time in this state, and we will continue to do so.

We will continue to see those nurse recruitment numbers rise, as opposed to the proposition where we had a government previously that was making them redundant, and now an opposition that is proposing a massive unfunded cash splash without even saying that this would recruit one extra nurse. There wouldn't even be one extra nursing job under what they are proposing. We will keep recruiting extra nurses as we have done so over the past 3½ years.

FIREARMS LICENCES

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (14:27): My question is to the Minister for Police. Can the minister please clarify the current process and expected timeframes for applying for a permit to acquire a new firearm licence and renewals in South Australia, given reports that wait times have increased up to 62 days and, in some cases, up to nine months? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain further.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: I understand that previously, applications for a PTA (permit to apply) for a firearm licence in South Australia can be completed in approximately 20 minutes. Recent reports indicate that wait times have now extended very significantly, commonly exceeding 62 days, and in some areas reaching up to nine months. This delay is causing considerable concern among pastoralists or licence holders, and in particular pastoralists in the northern areas of my area.

The delays are creating operational challenges, including the inability to manage feral animals, which impacts livestock and land substantially. Firearm dealers are also affected as prolonged processing times disrupt business operations, stock turnover and customer confidence. Similarly, shooting clubs face difficulties in maintaining memberships, engagement and compliance as new members and renewals are waiting.

The SPEAKER: The start of that question was so long ago I have forgotten who it was asked to. I think it might have been the Minister for Police.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (14:29): I thank the member for Stuart for his question. I am aware, because I have had a number of pieces of correspondence and representations from members of parliament—other than the member for Stuart—that there are some delays in terms of approvals for PTAs, or permits to acquire.

The data I have that I can give to this place is that the current wait time for a PTA is 46 days. It is important to remember, too, that within the Firearms Act—and it is there for a very good reason—there is a legislative requirement that SAPOL cannot approve a PTA until 28 days after the point of application. I am confident that this current 46-day wait will continue to drop.

One of the reasons that we have previously seen an increase in the number of days is due to a pretty substantial increase in the number of PTAs since 2019. There has been a 55 per cent increase in applications for permits to acquire since 2019, which obviously puts more pressure on SAPOL to assess those applications and do all the kinds of checks that we would expect and people outside this place would expect as well.

There are also some pretty senior staff who I understand have retired. There is a fair bit of training required. Some of the requirements actually around the training and skills those people need to have to be able to approve has also changed, which has made that process of bringing more staff on to replace the ones who have gone a little bit slower as well.

I do, however, accept the points, particularly that the member for Stuart made, around the need for pest control and things like that. In so many cases these are examples of where firearms are being used legally and for important purposes. I will seek more information from SAPOL, but because I have had other people contact me we have been seeking pretty regular information around what is being done, what the current wait times are and what is being done to see if we can't get those wait times down in the future. I am confident that we can. I thank the member for Stuart for his question.

SOCIAL STATEMENT

Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (14:31): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house on South Australia's social statement?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:31): I thank the member for Badcoe for her question. Frequently in recent years the government has been fortunate to be able to acknowledge and celebrate significant milestones or indicators that have been released publicly outside of government on the state's relative economic performance. There have been some very strong economic developments in this state in recent years and economic growth remains strong.

We are also alive to a couple of things as a government. The first thing is that although the economy in South Australia is performing well relative to the rest of the country, although there is genuine growth within our economy coming from a range of sources, it's also true that that growth and that experience does not necessarily translate to improved living standards for everybody. One of the jobs of government is to make sure that in economic times such as these, we are trying to include as many people in being a beneficiary of improved living standards by sharing wealth and opportunity the best way we can.

The government has a range of policies that seek to address this challenge, not just in terms of cost of living but more structurally in the way we set up society, particularly when we think about young people. It is also true that this effort has to be sustained and ongoing, no different to economic development policy, where you can't say 'job done' at any point. In a competitive world you've got to keep the effort up, which is why earlier this year I announced the government's intention to deliver a social statement.

I appreciate the member for Badcoe's interest in this subject matter—that has been enduring for as long as she has been involved in public life—and now as a mother herself I know she has a particular interest in making sure that young Quinn grows up in a fair and equitable society.

I am pleased to report today that the government intends to hand down its social statement at the beginning of the new year in advance of the caretaker period. There has been a lot of work that has been undertaken across the government in the preparation of this policy statement. DPC has been leading the work, not just in coordinating government but also through active engagement with the not-for-profit sector and other civil society institutions. I want to thank all those organisations outside of government, and also inside government, that have helped contribute through the consultation process. It helps illuminate the acuteness of some of the challenges in communities throughout the state that exist in all our electorates.

Almost every electorate in this state will have pockets of disadvantage—some more than others, clearly—and all of us would be alive to the fact that there are cohorts of people who do turn to government to try to make a difference where we can. We are not naive to the fact that many of these challenges are structural and intergenerational, and that means that no government has a single silver-bullet policy solution, otherwise a government somewhere would have deployed it by now. But you can try to make a difference. You can try to make change.

One example that we are very pleased with how it's going thus far is the Children in the North program that is quietly just going about doing its work in the northern suburbs of Adelaide. A number of agencies are contributing to it and it's working well. So, to the extent that the social statement outlines a framework for work like that to continue in the future, we believe it is important and we look forward to releasing it early in the new year.

NURSES AND MIDWIVES

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:36): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Does South Australia have a retention problem for nurses and midwives, and, if so, why? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas: We've got 1,400 above attrition.

Mrs HURN: You get up and answer the question, then.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Can everyone stop with the interjections. Leave is sought; is leave granted? Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: The ANMF have warned that 50 per cent of nurses and midwives will leave the system over the next 10 years.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:36): I thank the shadow minister for finding the time to ask this question amidst her other calculation measures that she's got underway at the moment. There certainly was a time when we had an issue underway, a concern, in terms of nurse retention in South Australia, and that was a time when there was a government in place in South Australia that had an active policy of making nurses redundant.

It's hard to retain nurses when you are making an active decision to make them redundant, and that was the policy of the previous Liberal government in office only 3½ years ago. That was the policy during the course of a pandemic when the shadow minister was the chief spin doctor to the then Premier. You made 228 nurses redundant across South Australia; that is a retention problem. What we have seen since then is a government that is investing in our nurses and hiring extra nurses. We have brought on over 1,400 extra nurses—full-time equivalent, above attrition—since we have come to office and we are continuing to recruit more nurses into the future.

Despite the policy pronouncements that the shadow minister has made over the course of the past three days, there is not one policy that they have announced to actually create even one more nurse's job—not one more nurse's job out of what they are proposing. It's just cash splash, spread it out—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: It's all about one job.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: The Treasurer said 'it's all about one job' for the shadow health minister. That's the main focus of the shadow health minister at the moment. But we have a program that is about continuing to recruit more nurses. We have been very successful in increasing the number of graduate nurses we bring in to our state and increasing the number of nurses that we have been attracting from interstate and overseas, particularly countries like the UK, and we are going to continue to do so. We are going to continue to create more jobs as we expand our health system and as we create more beds. That means we are adding more nurses to our system. We have been successful in doing that and we are going to continue to do that into the future.

NURSES AND MIDWIVES

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:39): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. How does the minister respond to the comments of Elizabeth Dabars, who is the CEO of the ANMF, regarding retention of nurses and midwives? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: Ms Dabars told Channel 10 this week that experienced nurses and midwives have left the system and are now working at the Adelaide Airport or looking for jobs at Bunnings.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:39): I would refer the shadow minister to the fact that this government has recruited, above attrition, 1,400 extra nurses. I would also refer the shadow minister to the fact that, when the shadow minister was sitting in the State Administration Centre advising Steven Marshall on his really successful political strategy, they had a program of cutting nurses, of making 228 nurses redundant during the course of the global pandemic. That is a policy that we opposed.

I ask the shadow minister to rule that out for the future and I ask the shadow minister to say that the previous approach of the Liberal government in doing so was wrong and to apologise for it because that has meant that we were—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: You've apologised, have you? I look forward to the apology being issued by the shadow minister for her role in the Marshall government of cutting nurses. I look forward to her apologising for that because she should do that because that was a detrimental decision for the future of our state.

NURSES AND MIDWIVES

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:40): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the government commit to retention incentives to keep experienced nurses and midwives in our health system? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: The Liberal opposition has announced that we will introduce a retention incentive to keep experienced nurses and midwives in our health system, and that's something which has been unilaterally backed by the ANMF.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:41): I am developing a degree of concern about a basic understanding of arithmetic from those opposite. The shadow—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Elder and the member for Flinders! The member for Flinders, I think, is already on your final warning; you definitely are now. I am not chucking you out just yet, but you're close.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The shadow treasurer, the member for Flinders, obviously has access to a different type of calculator or Excel spreadsheet. He has his own brand spanking new formula that every single politician, every single accountant in human history has never been able to master. He's got a unique formula that says you can cut revenue, increase spending and reduce debt. No-one's ever been able to do it before, but you can. You can, and we can't wait to see

how that all adds up. The countdown clock—I've been on the eighth floor—the countdown clock is there counting down the days for your costings release.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Flinders, take a rest for 10 minutes, okay. That was a lot.

The honourable member for Flinders having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: So there's the arithmetic there. And then we've got the shadow health minister asking questions about retainment of nursing staff in the state of South Australia. If you have grown the number of staff that you have employed by 1,460 over and above attrition, clearly you are recruiting more than you're losing—you are recruiting more than you are losing. The second thing is this: I, like the health minister himself, along with a range of others, including the Minister for Human Services, a former nurse herself, when we go out there and speak to nurses about what matters to them in order to be able to retain their ongoing service to the state as a nurse, what they want to see is an expanding health system that acknowledges the fact that we've got a growing and ageing population.

They don't want a government putting their heads in the sand, pretending that patients one day are going to stop coming into the system or that somehow we have found a new youth elixir that means that people are not going to get sick when they become older. They want a government that is actually investing in the capacity of the system. More beds, more nurses, more doctors, more allied health staff, more ambulance officers—they want to see those investments take place.

Your strategy is, well, let's try and do more for the people who we have already. We have to actually do something for the people we have already by ensuring they are working in a system that acknowledges the growing level of demand that we have in society, and to do anything else is a path to failure.

You have to invest in capacity, because we do have a growing population and we do have an ageing population and at some point during the course of their life journey they will become ill, which means they will need to have access to a bed that is serviced by an employee. That is what we are committed to and it stands in stark contrast to your cash splash, which you haven't explained how you are going to pay for, while at the same time reducing the revenue base to the tune of a third by the state. This is a serious issue. It deserves a serious government with a serious policy and the capacity to be able to deliver it.

IPAVE ROAD SURVEY

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:45): My question is to the Treasurer, representing the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport in the other place. When will the results from the iPAVe road survey be made public? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and the leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr McBRIDE: It has been 12 months since the iPAVe completed a road survey across MacKillop and the regions. The minister said it would be released in the second half of this year, but we are still waiting.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:45): We are still in the second half of the year. I accept that the member for MacKillop is very keen to get the iPAVe data. It was an excellent program, initiated by former minister Brock, who is passionate about regional roads. He wouldn't have given that contract out in the South-East that has seen really poor maintenance in the South-East inflicted on people by members opposite when they were last in government, thinking they could get \$4 billion worth of servicing for five. But I can assure the house that in the second half of this year that data will be released.

PROPERTY TAXES

Mr BROWN (Florey) (14:46): My question is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer inform the house of any recent real estate industry comments regarding unintended consequences of changes to property taxes?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:46): I thank the member for his question and his keen interest in property taxes. It was

to my great surprise that I saw an article on a property website—I am a big fan of realestate.com; I am constantly on the lookout—

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia: Buying or selling?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Who knows? I saw an article cited and it stated there were mixed reactions across the property sector to the state opposition's plan to cut nearly a third of the state's revenue in abolishing stamp duty. My young friend is confused: we do not apply the GST. The GST is a commonwealth tax that is given to the states. I am talking about the state's own tax revenues that we have and that is a third of it by cutting stamp duty.

We have been told by our friends opposite that they have a plan to phase this out by 2041, but they have yet to explain how this measure will be funded and it hasn't gone unnoticed by the real estate sector, which is concerned. Those opposite are quite happy about it. The Real Estate Institute of South Australia's Chief Executive Officer, Andrea Heading, encouraged the opposition to define how and where they would fill the shortfall. She goes on to say:

REISA supports a re-balanced, forward-looking taxation model that treats the property sector fairly...

So that's one tick for the Leader of the Opposition because he is thinking about getting rid of this tax, like they did in the ACT when they abolished stamp duty and replaced it with a broad-based land tax on the family home. In New South Wales, where Liberal Premier Dominic Perrottet wanted to abolish stamp duty on residential properties, he also was going to replace it with a broad-based property tax on people's homes. So this is what REISA is awaiting. She goes on to say:

...while ensuring the state has the revenue needed to deliver on South Australia's priorities.

So they have raised the alarm. Hang on a second, there is one part of this puzzle that is missing. We get that you want to abolish stamp duty, but where is the tax to replace it? Where's the tax on the family home? Where's the tax on the family home, Mr Speaker?

The Real Estate Buyers Agents Association of Australia is also concerned. Matt O'Donoghue is at pains to point out that the financial shortfall will be hard to replace, but more concerning are his comments about the impact on prices of family homes. He says:

To abolish stamp duty will create more impetus for buyers to jump into the market, which will no doubt put pressure on current pricing on units, apartments and housing.

He goes on to say:

If demand increases in an already high-demand market, it could potentially push prices even higher, which would basically counteract the move to abolish stamp duty.

These are the people who sell houses for a living. These are people whose business it is to sell houses. Those opposite need to think about this more carefully. Everywhere we have seen this tax abolished, a broad-based land tax has been brought in on family homes that have no land tax. That is a conversation that is coming to the South Australian community courtesy of members opposite. New South Wales and ACT, everywhere this tax has been proposed to be abolished, they have replaced it with a broad-based land tax. If you are talking about commercial properties, they already have a land tax.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Frome, the Leader and deputy leader are becoming increasingly rowdy, and I just give you your first warnings.

REGIONAL HOSPITAL HELIPADS

Ms PRATT (Frome) (14:51): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister confirm for the house who owns, operates and is responsible for country hospital helipads? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Ms PRATT: According to the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority does not regulate the design or operation of hospital landing sites if they are not an integral element of an aerodrome certified under Part 139 of CASA Regulations 1998.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:51): I thank the member for Frome for her question. I will certainly check the specific CASA Regulations that she has referred to, but certainly my advice is that our helicopter operator—which at the moment is contracted to Babcock, which will change into the future to Toll—has to be compliant with CASA. We have to convince them in terms of each helipad, in terms of their ability to operate it. We have done that in terms of seven of the upgraded helipads that we have now opened, and we are working through the remaining six with Babcock and I will certainly check the specific regulations that the member referred to.

REGIONAL HOSPITAL HELIPADS

Ms PRATT (Frome) (14:52): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. What advice, if any, has the minister received about risk to public safety from helicopter downwash at South Australian country hospital helipads? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Ms PRATT: A report from September 2023 by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau states:

Of the 18 helicopter downwash incidents reported in the last 5 years, 9 were reported to have occurred at hospital [helipad landing sites] HLSs.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:52): I don't have particular advice in terms of issues that are helipads. I think what the member is referring to would have been across all of Australia, but this is obviously an issue that CASA has been concerned about and that's why they have strengthened the regulations in terms of the downwash issue, in terms of helicopter operation, and that is an issue we have to deal with for these helipad sites whether they were upgraded or not.

Obviously, helicopters have been landing at them for some time but with the triggering of upgrades to the helipads we need to go through a process of making sure that our helicopter operator, which is currently Babcock but will soon be Toll, is confident in terms of making sure that they can safely meet those new requirements, including the downwash at those sites.

For each of those sites obviously helicopters have been landing there for many, many years and that has been an issue forever, but we are navigating the strengthened standards that have been put in place to make sure that ultimately people are safe.

REGIONAL HOSPITAL HELIPADS

Ms PRATT (Frome) (14:54): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. What advice, if any, has the minister received from government-appointed coordinator, Wayne Champion, about any likely acquisition of private property to commission the remaining hospital helipads? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Ms PRATT: Minutes from my Lower North Health Advisory Council from 18 November 2025 state that for the Clare Hospital:

Helipad—progressing through issues; CASA changing regulations after the upgrade process had taken place, private property too proximate to helipad.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:54): Specifically in terms of the Clare helipad, there is certainly, to the best of my knowledge, not an issue in particular with the helipad itself. It's about the neighbouring properties that we are working with Babcock on. Certainly, Wayne Champion, on behalf of the health system and all the local health networks, is leading that process and is in discussions with one or two neighbouring property owners about making sure that we can work with them to be in a position where we can make sure that Babcock is comfortable in terms of resuming services at that site, which of course would have been an issue at that site whether or not the helipad had been upgraded, given the proximity that those locations have always had to the helipad site at Clare Hospital.

YORKE PENINSULA HEALTH SERVICES

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:55): My question is to the Minister for Health. When can we expect a government response to our health petition inquiry? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr ELLIS: The inquiry into the delivery of health services on the Yorke Peninsula was tabled on 18 September, 11 sitting days ago, and my understanding is that it should have been tabled within six sitting days.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:55): I am very delighted to inform the member for Narungga that I tabled it about 45 minutes ago.

ADELAIDE AQUATIC CENTRE

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (14:56): My question is to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. Can the minister please 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) (14:56): I am happy again to promote the amazing work that is happening at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre. We have been pleased to share that this is opening on 27 January next year. The build is well underway and on time and looking absolutely fantastic, so I hope you come and bring your kids to enjoy a great day out there. This is certainly a place where you can come and play and train and recover. We have incredible gym and activity facilities.

I understand it is going to be three times the size of the original aquatic centre, with slides and training pools and the like. This is a place where people can come, they can catch up and you can easily spend the day—very easily—which is so important in helping to encourage strong, connected local communities. So everybody, please put the date in your calendars. Sign up now. Memberships are currently open, and we look forward to seeing you all very, very soon.

ANGASTON DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:57): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Has the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency been formally approached by the Barossa Hills Fleurieu LHN to add the Angaston District Hospital to the SAVES program? If so, when was that formal approach made?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:57): I will have to check the details in terms of the specific communication that has happened between the Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network and the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency, but we have been very clear that the government's intention is to have the SAVES program, which operates across dozens of country hospitals in South Australia, installed at the Angaston hospital. We are, between Barossa Hills Fleurieu and SA Health, working that through to make sure that can be established.

SAVES PROGRAM

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:58): My question is again to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing: is the rollout of SAVES at the Angaston hospital and the Tanunda hospital fully funded through SA Health? If so, when will it be implemented?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:58): Yes, it will be funded within our significant SA Health budget that we have across the state, and we will have it up and running as soon as possible.

PELVIC PAIN CLINICS

Ms PRATT (Frome) (14:58): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. How many pelvic pain clinics do we have in South Australia and when will that service increase? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Ms PRATT: On radio last week, the director of the Kadina Pelvic Pain Clinic said: 'It's a shame South Australia will not receive another service in the state.' Of the 20 recommendations from this parliament's endometriosis committee accepted by the minister, number 3 states that the state and commonwealth governments will work together to establish more health endometriosis and chronic pain clinics.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:59): Thank you. I have to say that I am disappointed that the federal government, as part of its program of these clinics across the country, announced recently a new batch of clinics that will operate didn't include South Australia on the list of those clinics. I had advocated to Minister Butler to include another clinic in specifically the area based on the advice we had from our health planners, which was that we wanted to see one in the northern suburbs of Adelaide to meet significant need in that growing community. We will continue to keep advocating for additional federal pelvic pain clinics. The ones that we have currently at Kadina and Glenelg are appreciated but we know that there is significant need out there for those as well.

At the same time, we are implementing the recommendations from that select committee of the parliament, and I really want to thank the member for Waite for her work on this area of public policy and for her strong advocacy, and also for speaking bravely about her lived experience in this area. She is being very persistent in terms of making sure that the pressure is on our officials to make sure that those recommendations are implemented. There is a working group that is being led by the chief executive officer of the Women's and Children's Health Network, on behalf of all of SA Health, to work through all of those recommendations to be implemented.

Some of those recommendations sit outside SA Health and recently, the Minister for Women and the member for Waite and I were part of a broader discussion that happened with a number of government and non-government partners about how we can make sure that we are addressing pelvic pain issues in the workplace. This is an area not just for government but for our community and our economy as a whole. We will keep working through those recommendations and we will also keep advocating for our fair share of those federal funds for those federally funded primary care clinics.

FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (15:01): My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. Can the minister update my community as to the current number of full-time and also retained firefighters currently employed at the Port Pirie Metropolitan Fire Service? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain further.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: I am led to believe that the majority of the full-time firefighters at the Port Pirie station are from out of town and, in the latest recruitment, many were from interstate. Local part-time or retained firefighters are missing out on the opportunity of full-time employment due to this.

The Hon. R.K. PEARCE (King—Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:02): I thank the member for his question. I would also like to place on record again my appreciation for the incredible work of the local MFS firefighters who helped out in the township over the weekend. They worked around the clock to help keep the community safe and they also did an absolutely incredible job at the command centre as well, so their efforts are truly commendable. The MFS station has been in Port Pirie for as long as I can remember; it has been in the heart of our township. The firefighters have responded to countless calls for help for a variety of different needs in the community and they play such an important role.

In response to the member's particular question, I can advise the house that there are currently 20 full-time firefighters who are employed at the Port Pirie site. Six of these firefighters reside in Port Pirie and another seven reside in other regional locations, by their choice. This means that the majority of full-time firefighters at Port Pirie are regionally based and understand intrinsically the needs of the regional community.

For the benefit of members in this house, I can clarify that retained staff are employed by the MFS to do firefighting on a part-time, on-call basis. That allows them to register their own availability. This means that retained firefighters will often have alternative primary employment but we are exceptionally grateful to have them to step in as the need presents. With regard to retained firefighters, I can advise that the MFS is currently undertaking recruitment in Port Pirie, with 13 retained firefighters currently employed at the Port Pirie site. Further, all retained firefighter staff live within ten minutes of the Port Pirie station, which is quite impressive. I was in Telowie growing up, and that was 15 minutes, so it's incredibly close to the township.

All regional staff have the opportunity to apply to become full-time firefighters via the full-time recruitment campaign, and I would strongly encourage any of these staff with an interest to consider putting up their hand. Indeed, the MFS actively undertakes recruitment activities for both retained and full-time staff and recruitment is open to all Australian citizens. The MFS periodically reviews recruitment strategies and they regularly recruit from retained staff to full-time staff across South Australia. This option will continue to be promoted in all future recruitment processes.

Again, I thank the member for his question. If anyone within the community is interested in taking up this really important role of servicing the community they live in, I strongly encourage all to apply, to put up their hand. We are so grateful for all the important work that they do.

CHINA EASTERN AIRLINES

Ms O'HANLON (Dunstan) (15:05): My question is to the Minister for Trade and Investment. Can the minister advise the house on how a new direct China Eastern Airlines flight between Adelaide and Shanghai from mid-2026 will boost South Australia's exports, trade and tourism industry?

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) (15:05): I thank the member for Dunstan for her question and particularly for her keen interest in this. I know that the member for Dunstan has been particularly focused on what increasing flight connectivity can mean for the constituents of her electorate of Dunstan. I know that there have been particular members of her community who have advocated very strongly for greater connections.

It is a great pleasure that a couple of weeks ago I had the ability to announce a brand-new direct flight between Adelaide and the world's third largest city. Shanghai is the financial capital of our largest trading partner. It is the first time that Adelaide has ever seen a direct flight connecting to a city of this size and a city of the profound economic importance that Shanghai has, both within China and with our two-way trading relationship.

China Eastern is one of the world's biggest airlines, with a fleet of nearly 800 aircraft. This new route will not only be running a significant number of passengers to facilitate this growing two-way connection between China and South Australia but 15 tonnes of cargo every single flight. That means more of our premium rock lobster, more premium fruits and more premium vegetables going to the single biggest destination of all, China, every day on one flight, getting onto dinner plates and into restaurants on the same day. One of the greatest impediments to growing our premium food exports is timeliness. What this flight will do, working directly with exporters, is facilitate this significant growth into the most substantial and important market for South Australian exporters.

It represents more than just a flight route. It represents a strengthening of ties between South Australia and China. Next year, we celebrate 40 years of our sister state relationship with Shandong, a state in China of over 120 million people, an innovator in respect of the green transition and the home of China's largest port. This flight will, for the first time, connect into the north and north-east of China where much of our cultural and economic ties are.

The more we can open up these flights, the more South Australian businesses can grow, and the more South Australian businesses can grow, the more South Australian jobs will thrive. There are over 200,000 South Australians who work today because their employer exports. Those businesses are more resilient, their jobs are better paid and those jobs are more secure. For those of us on this side of the chamber, that's exactly the sort of work and jobs that we stand up for.

China is a \$3.6 billion export destination and as we continue to grow out, whether it be in the ASEAN region, which is now at \$3.5 billion, or into the EU, which is well in excess of a billion dollars, we come back to the fact that Adelaide is now a global city. We are a government that proudly puts ourselves forward not only as a global city but as a global policy and thought leader. The more we export and the more we grow our South Australian businesses, the more local jobs will thrive.

MOUNT GAMBIER HOSPITAL

Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:09): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Is the minister concerned that the Mount Gambier hospital has recorded 188 Code Black incidents and, if not, why not? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Ms PRATT: In recent FOI data, the Limestone Coast had already recorded 188 Code Black incidents in the first eight months of this year, up from 170 for the whole of last year and just 50 in 2023.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:09): I thank the member for Frome for her question. It is an important issue in terms of the safety of our staff but also other patients, specifically here in terms of the Mount Gambier hospital and the Limestone Coast Local Health Network. I am concerned that we have seen an increasing number of Code Black incidents in that hospital. It is one of the reasons why this government has brought in additional security since we came to office, firstly at Mount Gambier but also at other regional hospitals across the state. Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, Wallaroo, Berri and Murray Bridge hospitals all now have in place 24/7 security guards for the safety and wellbeing of our staff and other patients.

It is also why the state government has launched a significant campaign to the public about the risks and making sure that we send a message to the community that violence against our health staff—whether they be doctors, nurses or paramedics—is completely unacceptable. That is a campaign that has been jointly sponsored by the health unions across the state as well. No doubt, it would be on the chopping block from what we have heard from those opposite in terms of their desire to halve campaigns.

We think that that is an important campaign; in fact, we have relaunched that in recent days to send a very clear message. I understand that campaign actually won a national award recently for the impact that it has had. We think it is important to keep that campaign going as well.

The other thing that I would say specifically in terms of Mount Gambier hospital is that we have recognised that this is a hospital which has needed further investment. It was only last week that I was able to visit Mount Gambier hospital again and to this time see the opening and the completion of a number of new facilities that have been funded through our election commitments—election commitments that we funded from the fact that we cancelled the \$662 million city basketball stadium and committed to investing at least \$100 million of that into regional health.

Those facilities included what we have already opened at Mount Gambier: an additional short stay unit in the emergency department, boosting the number of beds in emergency at Mount Gambier hospital. I was also able to see the completion of the building of a new mental health short stay and rehabilitation ward. Similar in many ways to what we have been building in the city at QEH, Noarlunga and Modbury, we are now going to see a facility of that quality in the Limestone Coast region. Also, importantly, there is a new detox facility, having alcohol and drug detox services available outside the city for the first time. This is important to make sure we have the full suite of those drug and alcohol services available.

So: additional mental health, additional drug and alcohol, and additional emergency department services to boost the services; additional security going in as well; and campaigns to send the message clearly to the community. This is something we are taking seriously and we want to keep our patients and our staff as safe as possible.

Parliament House Matters

CHAMBER PHOTOGRAPHY

The SPEAKER (15:13): Before we move to grievances, I sent out an email earlier today. Tomorrow just before question time, at two o'clock, we are going to take a photo of this house. The

photographer is going to stand right there on a small ladder in the Speaker's Gallery. He reckons it will take about 40 seconds, so if we all come in and face that way we should be able to get that. We will start that tradition and every four years we can take a photo.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I am going to wear the wig. Is everyone happy with that? Thank you for your cooperation.

Grievance Debate

LEWIS, MR B.J.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (15:13): I rise to speak about a great man in our community, Brenton John Lewis, who sadly passed away last year. It is not just Brenton John Lewis but Brenton John Lewis OAM. I knew Brenton for many decades. I dealt with him when we were farming. He was a great manager of farm tech and IAMA, selling chemicals and farm supplies to people in the Murraylands region. He was a very fair businessman and did a great, great job.

Going on from that, Brenton got involved in regional development and was the chief executive officer of the local regional development board. He did an amazing job developing projects right across the Murraylands and Riverland, and really excelled at his work. I was on that board previous to entering this place. After that, he became Mayor of the Rural City of Murray Bridge, served for two terms and did great work brightening up Murray Bridge. He had a motto, 'Proud, safe and progressive'. I want to just acknowledge the entrance statements that he made—and we assisted with funding in the Marshall Liberal government—through Swanport Road into Murray Bridge, and down Adelaide Road as well.

Certainly, one of his biggest passions was the Murray Bridge Racing Club relocation out to Gifford Hill. This was something that he and the racing club had on the agenda from 2003. It has had its issues along the way. I know we had about \$20 million in grant funding between federal and state Liberal parties going into the 2014 election, but eventually that project got up and running. The sad thing is that one component of that project did not happen because one person interfered. There was the Johnstone Park proposal to sell that land where the Imperial footy club is to get \$5 million to go into where the old racing club was to develop a sports precinct. One person caused that to fall over, so we were at real risk of the project not going ahead at all. Thankfully, it went ahead and then money was found, and we invested as a government \$7.5 million to assist in getting that racing club moved out to Gifford Hill.

In the latest iteration, the Murray Bridge council were giving rate relief, and they took that rate relief away for about four or five months. That meant a cost to the racing club of \$64,000, which was just untenable. Thankfully, after many months of pain and my interference with the process, that has been overturned and the racing club can be set on its way again, as was the vision of Brenton Lewis.

Sadly, we see some other interesting discussions around what the Rural City of Murray Bridge have done recently with the decision to sell Lerwin, an aged-care facility in Murray Bridge. I understand the financial considerations, but the thing is that this was built by bequests and fundraising since the early eighties, and we need to know that those people who made those huge bequests, especially on their passing, are recognised and that the funding goes to set projects in the Murray Bridge region.

In finalising, we have a huge opportunity here to get 17,000 homes built out there at Gifford Hill but sadly Nick Champion, the super minister, has put a spanner in the works. Grange Development are quite happy to go ahead and use private suppliers to install the water and sewer to get going on the first thousand homes but, no, Minister Champion has insisted that SA Water be used instead of a private supplier. On my last reading of the act, you can use a private supplier and I think Grange will prevail. This government needs to wake up and not use Grange as a financial lever to pay for water connections in the northern areas around Concordia and Roseworthy. It must get on with the job of allowing Grange to develop this \$2 billion proposal at Gifford Hill.

GILES ELECTORATE

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (15:18): Given that this is the last week of this parliament, I think it is an appropriate time to reflect on some of the great things that have been done in the electorate of Giles. I tried to get through the list the last time, but there were too many things so I will start again.

Clearly, the \$2.4 billion sovereign steel package is the stand-out: unprecedented legislative action, unprecedented support, which was a real shot in the arm for the Whyalla community in general and for our contractors who were really suffering, who will not now go to the wall. We are coming close to the end of the non-binding bid process, so it will be interesting to see what the interest is, given there will be \$1.9 billion on the table from the state and federal governments to assist the new owners.

The Port Augusta Technical College was a proud achievement, not just for Port Augusta but as something serving the whole region and, given it has accommodation, we have students coming from as far as Kadina to make use of the college and the accommodation, with some block education in Port Augusta. The \$3 million in support, in Port Augusta once again, for the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden at Port Augusta was very welcome by the garden. The new ambulance station in Port Augusta with the additional crews is a real plus and now that it is completed construction will start very soon on the new ambulance station in Whyalla, which will also accommodate additional crews to address some of those issues we have with delays in responding, which is all very positive.

The multimillion dollar upgrade at the Port Augusta Hospital is well underway. There is also the multimillion upgrade at the Whyalla Hospital, that has run into a few problems—which happens when you are dealing with older buildings—and there are some concrete issues in the ceiling that have to be addressed. There is also the federal and state partnership to address the Port Augusta Wharf which has been fenced off now for many years. It is good to see that the wharf is going to be refurbished. It is situated on the edge of the central business district in Port Augusta, so it is an incredibly important asset.

There is the \$6 million for the Whyalla sports hub and it is great that the work is going to commence this year. This has been a long time coming. It has been a bit of a saga but progress is now well underway, so we will have a new home for the Westlands United Soccer Club, which will enable Discovery Parks to expand on their old pitch to create a destination caravan park.

Junior soccer will also be accommodated and there is also the potential for the female football league in Whyalla—which is thriving—with the oval there and also the potential for cricket and other stages that I am hoping to see down the track. We also funded over 20 CCTV cameras for Port Augusta and a safety audit in Port Augusta was carried out as well, which has been well received, and we are looking at potentially expanding that.

Importantly, there is the \$12 million from the federal government and from the state government for addressing some of those longer term youth issues in Port Augusta, especially around crime and antisocial behaviour. What is it we can do with diversionary strategies? What is it that we can do with really early intervention, so kids do not go off the rails?

Bedford exists in Whyalla, so the intervention there has protected those jobs in Whyalla at Bedford. We will be talking later today about one of the things I have been pushing on the enhanced cuttlefish protection in Whyalla. That is now going to be delivered and is a real plus, for not only its intrinsic value but also the fact that it attracts tourists. We now have business operators also making use of the cuttlefish aggregation. I could go on with this list because there is quite a bit more, but I think that is a very good start.

MORPHETT ELECTORATE

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:24): As the member for Morphett, I have worked hard to serve the community that my family and I have lived in for more than 20 years, and it is a community that Labor has neglected. My wife, Tammy, teaches at a local primary school, and our four children have played football, netball and nippers at local clubs where Tammy and I have volunteered. Being active in our area has allowed me to fight for our community and deliver important projects locally over the last eight years.

One of the most significant is the Morphett Road tram crossing overpass. I fought for this upgrade before I was elected in 2018, helping secure funding in early 2022 for a design. After years

of worsening congestion at this notorious tram crossing, the Labor Party refused to act, handing down six state and federal budgets without a single dollar to fix the Morphett Road tram crossing and instead only funding tram overpasses at Marion and Cross roads.

In early 2024, I launched my petition to fix the Morphett Road tram crossing, for an overpass to be built when the tramline was closed. Thousands of locals backed it. I held listening posts, doorknocked and spoke directly with residents about this notorious bottleneck. Under mounting community pressure, the state and federal Labor governments finally committed funding: a grassroots win secured by locals, not Labor.

When it comes to investing in Glenelg, the Malinauskas Labor government is conspicuously absent. The federal government has put money on the table for the Jetty Road upgrade—a bipartisan funding commitment—and the City of Holdfast Bay is contributing ratepayer funds, but the Malinauskas Labor government, the one that should be helping fund this state tourism asset, is not contributing a single cent.

The state government refuses to provide funding that could have been put towards night works that would have sped up the upgrade and helped struggling local businesses. Instead, the Malinauskas Labor government is totally ignoring the impact the tram closure is having on local traders when the tram brings so many visitors down to the Bay. The Malinauskas Labor government should be helping to fund one of South Australia's premier tourism destinations, not leaving the burden to fall mostly on local ratepayers.

It is not the first time the Malinauskas Labor government has let our community down. The Labor Minister for Health forced a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility into Glenelg, placing the centre just 200 metres away from a primary school. SA Health's own tender recommended that it be located in one of 22 other suitable suburbs, all in Labor electorates, with the closest more than 15 kilometres away. Despite serious concerns about placing the centre in a very old building so close to young families, the government arrogantly used extraordinary planning powers to bypass council assessment and silence the community. More than 1,000 locals signed a petition, yet the Malinauskas Labor government dismissed them as nimbys and pushed ahead. Residents were left to fund their own Supreme Court challenge simply to have their concerns heard.

Remember, when the Premier was the police minister, the operating hours of the Glenelg Police Station were slashed from seven days a week down to just Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, plus station-based foot patrols were ended. As a result, crime and antisocial behaviour around the area rose. When I was elected, I delivered increased operating hours for the Glenelg Police Station during peak times, and I will continue to fight for a greater police presence in Morphett.

Remember, the Malinauskas Labor government said they would fix the ramping crisis, but instead they have delivered 41 of the worst months of ramping in the state's history. Remember, the Malinauskas Labor government said they would build a hydrogen power plant by the end of 2025 to bring down wholesale electricity prices by 8 per cent. Instead, Labor have spent or committed half a billion dollars on their failed hydrogen hoax, which has now been cancelled. It is a once-in-a-generation waste of taxpayer money. Meanwhile, power bills have skyrocketed by 43 per cent under the Malinauskas Labor government, leaving South Australian households paying the highest power bills on record. As the only electrical engineer in the South Australian parliament, I am determined to end Labor's power price spiral.

The Labor Party comes asking for your vote in Morphett, thinking our community will not remember. Do not reward them for their neglect. As a trusted local, I am proud of what we have achieved together, and I will continue to work hard and fight to deliver for our community in Morphett.

PINERY BUSHFIRES

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:29): Ten years ago, the Pinery fires tore through more than 86,000 hectares of our region, leaving devastation that is still etched in our collective memory. Yesterday was the actual day, 10 years ago. We remember the lives lost, the homes and farms destroyed, the animals killed or maimed, and the livelihoods that were shattered. For many, the pain of that day has never fully healed and, for some, recovery remains incomplete even now. Yet, in the face of devastation, our communities rallied.

The commemorative events held over the past few days remind us that the bonds which hold us together can never be destroyed. On Sunday, I joined the Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Rhiannon Pearce MP, as around 500 people gathered at the Ahrens and Johnsons FARM Centre in Freeling for the Pinery 10 Years On event. Families, survivors, volunteers and supporters came together to reflect on the tragedy and to pay tribute to those affected. I want to honour the committee members who organised this event and thank all those who contributed: committee members and groups like the Lions Clubs of Mallala, Balaklava, Gilbert Valley and Gawler.

Following the speeches, we moved outside, where Light Regional Council Mayor, Bill Close, and Vince Monterola AM AFSM, who was appointed the Pinery recovery coordinator in November 2015, planted a commemorative tree and unveiled a memorial plaque. The tree will grow as a living memorial, symbolising both remembrance and renewal, while the plaque ensures that future generations will know the story of what happened here.

Yesterday, the Wasleys Bowling Club hosted its own remembrance. This venue burnt down during the fires, and it stands as a symbol of both loss and recovery. At 3.18pm yesterday, the exact time the fire tore through the club and froze the clock, the bowling club community observed a moment of silence. I want to acknowledge the bowls club and the Wasleys community for organising such a meaningful event. The efforts ensure that the memory of what was lost is honoured, while the spirit of renewal is celebrated.

During the event, I met Debbie Massaeu, who was in one of the burnt-out cars I recall from those haunting days. Her story is a reminder of the human courage that emerged from the tragedy and the lives forever changed by that fire. Ten years on, those memories remain vivid. I recall the images of burnt-out buildings, the Wasleys Bowling Club, the post office reduced to ruins and the vehicles abandoned on the road between Freeling and Daveyston. Those vehicles carried a silence that was difficult to contemplate. The trauma was visible in the eyes of farmers and residents, who on any other day would have seemed very stoic.

Many older farmers wondered if they would have the strength to rebuild. The fire stripped away not only the buildings and crops but also the memories stored in garages, sheds and family archives. As one farmer told me, 'I have lost so many memories.' The loss of history, family records, artefacts and heirlooms was as painful as the loss of physical structures. Yet, despite the enormous pain, what shone through was compassion and solidarity.

Emergency services workers, both paid and volunteer, fought bravely at the frontlines. Vets and animal welfare groups searched the scorched countryside for animals in need of help. Men and women groups stepped forward to help those directly affected with their process of grief. Neighbours reached out with simple acts of kindness, sharing meals, lending equipment or simply listening. Over time, fences were mended, crops were replanted, herds were restocked and buildings were rebuilt. Life returned to some form of normality, though the memories of loss remain.

The Pinery fires revealed the best of humanity in the face of tragedy. They showed us that healing is not a single moment but a continuing process. Each act of remembrance, each gathering, such as those I have attended in the past few days, contributes to that healing. As we mark this 10th anniversary, let us honour those we lost, acknowledge those still carrying the scars and celebrate the resilience of our community.

Let us thank the volunteers, the service workers, the community groups and neighbours who stood shoulder to shoulder when it mattered the most. Let us remember Allan Tiller and Janet Hughes, who lost their lives, and express our condolences to their families. The Pinery fires were a tragedy but they also revealed the strength of our community. Ten years on, we stand not only in remembrance but in gratitude for the courage shown, the compassion given and the unity that endures.

FLINDERS ELECTORATE

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:34): I rise to speak on a major infrastructure gap for our state that means there is significant weather forecasting and knowledge deficiency for our community and industries. Did you know that between Ceduna and Adelaide there is no Doppler weather radar to allow for the accurate forecasting of weather? If you are an avid watcher of weather radar data, like many of us from regional South Australia, you would notice a big black circle over significant parts of

Eyre Peninsula and Spencer Gulf. This was especially visible prior to last weekend's terribly destructive hailstorm that struck Port Pirie. There was no radar data letting emergency services know what was coming. It highlights the vital role that such a weather prediction radar system would play in regard to emergency management.

A lack of Doppler radar has also resulted in lost opportunities for our primary producers across both Eyre and Yorke peninsulas. The installation of a Doppler radar on Eyre Peninsula would allow for improved weather forecasting and an increased output by farmers across the region. Improvements in primary production business efficiency could yield increased economic gains in the tens of millions of dollars for South Australia. It would enable more appropriate decision-making for these businesses in an ever-changing and unpredictable climate and provide extra jobs in rural and regional communities.

Decisions around farming operations, such as applications of fertiliser and chemicals, are currently being made with a lack of up-to-date weather information. These decisions are often on treatments that cost tens of thousands of dollars per pass and can potentially be left redundant if a farming business is unfortunately in the pathway of an unpredicted weather event, rainfall or wind.

Similar installations made by the Western Australian government in recent years have proven that there is significant return on investment, and this was in inland areas of the state, which are solely agriculture areas, whereas obviously here in South Australia, in my electorate and across the western part of our state, we have a substantial fishing and aquaculture industry, which would also see significant advantage with greater weather forecasting certainty, along with potential improved safety outcomes for both agriculture and aquaculture farmers, as well as tourism operators.

So whether it is major safety and decision-making challenges with emergency management or whether it is productivity opportunities for primary production, an investment in a Doppler weather radar on Eyre Peninsula would provide positive outcomes for communities and business here in South Australia.

Over several years, I have written to both federal and state ministers urging this vital investment. I welcome Grain Producers SA and other representatives getting on board with this campaign because I believe that the opportunity for this investment, with state government partnering with the federal government to deliver an outcome, will be a massive win for the people of South Australia as a whole.

I also rise today to speak on the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS), which is a significant and vital subject for my community of Eyre Peninsula and the West Coast. Obviously, the ideal for health delivery is as close to home as possible, but we who live in regional South Australia recognise that sometimes it is necessary to travel to get to that health care, especially specialist care. That is why I think it is so important for us to have a properly functioning and funded PATS to reflect the additional challenges and cost that regional people face when seeking medical care.

Health patients from my electorate in particular rely on an effective PATS, as the specialist health delivery within my community is so very limited. Thus, those patients have to travel significant distance, usually to Adelaide, which is 500, 600, 700-plus kilometres away, to receive that care. This needs to be an area of policy and investment focus for whoever is in government.

The accommodation allowance currently sits at only \$44 per night. That is only \$44 paid to families to stay the night in Adelaide. It hardly touches the sides with the significant costs they face. On top of this, that amount is only paid from the second night and subsequent night stays, not on the first night. It is well short of the costs that people actually incur. Obviously, to travel from my electorate, it is pretty difficult to do a daytrip for a medical appointment, so an overnight is necessary.

We need a PATS that recognises that crucial medical services do not get delivered into our regional communities. It needs to be a system that recognises the dynamic nature of healthcare need in regional South Australia and reflects the needs of those country people who rely on it. Our regional communities deserve better.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (15:39): I rise today to talk about the Beach Volleyball World Championships that were hosted in Adelaide for 10 days up until last weekend, and to congratulate all involved. It was a huge success, and something that came out of my time chairing the major events committee in South Australia. A trip that I did to Europe a few years ago netted the Beach Volleyball World Championships; 10 games of international hockey, five for the Kookaburras against India, five with the Hockeyroos against India; and the British and Irish Lions—first time since 1888 that they have come to South Australia—and we managed to have more hotel rooms sold than ever before in South Australia's history.

The thing about that trip was that there was a bit of conjecture from an ABC journalist who tried to call it a junket. He said, 'Why is this person, this politician going to somewhere as beautiful as Switzerland to try to get these events and everything else?' Switzerland is where the International Olympic Committee is, and that is why you go there—to talk to the governing bodies.

We went to a Beach Volleyball World Championship in Gstaad. The whole trip I reckon cost \$14,000, and I explained that to the journalist at the time, and he still did a story saying it was a rort. I have to say that in my time as tourism, food, wine and agriculture minister, I travelled all the time because you cannot sell a secret, you have to get on planes and go to market and put Adelaide out there on the map.

I was delighted to be there on the weekend to see the rest of the world and hear people speaking French, Italian and Portuguese, with people from Brazil and Asia and from across Europe, from North America and South America. It was just terrific to have so many people in our city, and the athlete satisfaction and the visitor satisfaction was through the roof. To be able to stay at the Intercontinental and then walk across the bridge to Memorial Drive where the Beach Volleyball World Championships were held was a great experience for them, a great experience for the fans.

The thing that worries me a little bit about tourism in South Australia is that we do have, under the South Australian Tourism Commission, a major events division. They are the people who recommended to the Liberal government to get rid of the car race—which they did and which was a disaster for South Australia—and I want to thank the Premier for bringing that back. It was an election pledge leading into the 2022 election, and of course to Brad Jones and his four teams in this week's event, the grand final, and to all of the other competitors out there, I want to wish you all the best.

They also did not want to go after what is now called Gather Round. I think they were a bit reluctant on LIV Golf as well, and the Premier deserves every bit of credit for getting Gather Round and LIV Golf. He worked the phones and he worked the rooms to get them here and they have been huge successes. The South Australian Tourism Commission did not want to have the Matildas here. I had to convince people that we should get them—the game sold out, 54,000 seats in under an hour. I think that was a winner.

I think the British and Irish Lions sold more rooms than ever before. That was a winner. The SATC did not want it, it was not on their radar, and then they pushed back when we were trying to put a bid document together. In fact, the person from the SATC when I went to London to have the meeting in Gloucester could not even be bothered getting on the train to come out there for the meeting and did it by Teams. You have to be in the room, you have to turn up, you have to be in people's faces and you have to hustle, and you have to sell South Australia.

I am not sure what is going on in the South Australian Tourism Commission but I know they argued against the Beach Volleyball World Championships as well. If we are to succeed in this state, if we are going to grow our economy, the best money we can have in our economy is the money out of the purses, the wallets and the pockets of people who live interstate and overseas. I will never stop promoting South Australia. I will never stop doing whatever I can with my connections around the world to make sure that we get the best in the world competing in the best place in the world—which is Adelaide.

I want to thank Craig Carracher, the Chair of Volleyball Australia, who always believed in this event and went really hard after this event. He sponsored the event when the federal government refused to come to the table. I am very disappointed in Anika Wells, the federal sports minister. I wanted to have a meeting with her—too busy. I went to Canberra and had a meeting with some junior staffers and she walked out and walked straight past me. I reckon that is not good enough. MPs turn

up, they get on planes and come to Canberra to have a meeting. Do not snub us, and get in behind. We have an Olympics in this country in 2032, and if we do not support these Olympic sports we are going to have a very bad road to Brisbane.

Private Members' Statements

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:44): In a win for community common sense, ElectraNet and NTx have been pushed back to the drawing board, as they now concede they will investigate a preferred corridor that we are calling the fifth corridor, fifth option, but the job is only half done. As a result of local coordinated advocacy joining my farmers to push back against a bad idea, it is pleasing to see that ElectraNet are at the negotiating table to consider some better options. Sadly, they will not rule out the four original corridors that are already under assessment.

Along with that concession, if you like, it is clear that they also, with a six-month extension, will not be in a position to declare that route until the middle of next year. Farmers who are in the crosshairs report weed contamination and interference to GPS and internet, and so we have a long way to go. We know that there is a suggestion that the route still needs to be pushed another six to 15 kilometres further east than they are even considering now. I would ask all of those in my community to spare a thought for those farmers who are under consideration for these NTx transmission lines into the future.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (15:46): 'Prolific' today, I think, Acting Speaker, would be the word. I just wanted to rise briefly to give a shout-out to the leadership students at Aldinga Payinthe College in the electorate of Mawson. It is a great school. It only opened in 2022. It used to be farmland before Jay Weatherill as Premier and Susan Close as education minister listened to my pleas to build a school on that side of South Road. Kids from Aldinga used to have to go across to Willunga High to go to school.

I have seen this school evolve. The former education minister, the member for Morialta, is in the chamber. I would also like to thank him for the work that he did in that four years that he was education minister. He basically did the whole build, so that it was ready to go in 2022, just in time for another one of his achievements, that transition from grade 7 out of primary school into high school.

The student leaders are amazing. They were telling me about what they are doing for charities, including one called Share the Dignity, where they are putting together for young mothers bags of goodies for newborn babies and for their mums, whether that is dummies or wipes or lots of different things that young mums will need to bring to the very first days of their newborn babies. I want to congratulate all the leadership group. I am very inspired by their great work.

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (15:48): A few months ago, I received an email from a year 7 student at Faith Lutheran College. Her name was Sienna. She wrote to me saying:

I was walking home from school with a friend and as we crossed the road we were hit by a car. We were crossing at the pedestrian crossing in front of the Rex Centre. We both looked left and right and saw no cars so we began crossing.

She went on to say:

This crossing is very dangerous as it's busy with traffic, cars parked along the road make it hard to see and it is a 50km zone.

You can appreciate that this sent an absolute shiver down my spine, and it is not the first time that students and families have raised with me road safety concerns about this entire precinct in Tanunda. It is something that I take really seriously as the local member in trying to work hand in glove with local councils to get outcomes to improve these types of things.

For months, I have been raising this with The Barossa Council. I spoke to the CEO, Martin McCarthy, before I met on site last week with concerned students, parents and teachers, and I was really pleased to learn from the council that they are now actively considering options to improve road safety in this area.

I cannot emphasise enough that it is so important that we have swift action here. It is raised with me constantly by local families and people who are living right across the area. I really hope that we can see action soon, so that we can make it much safer for people like Sienna and Lotti, who are year 7 students at Faith.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:49): Today I would like to formally acknowledge the passing of Robert Ernest Ahrens OAM, otherwise known as Bob. He was the dearly loved and loving husband of Marj for 61 years and the loving and cherished father of Janine and Stefan. He was a dedicated Rotarian: an honorary member, past president and multiple Paul Harris Fellow, generous of his time, resources and support for Rotary through a number of their projects.

He was a South Australian business legend and a remarkable community leader. He was a former director of the Ahrens Group which originated in Shea-Oak Log and then moved to Kingsford, and they now have sites right across Australia and internationally. He was the third in the fifth generation who have operated the family business and he received an OAM in 2002 for his enormous contribution, with his wife, Marj, to the community.

I was fortunate enough to get to know Bob. He was quietly spoken with a very civil and pleasant demeanour at all time: a true gentleman. From a blacksmith business, Bob built the Ahrens Group into a manufacturing business and, since 1995, his son Stefan has run the business which has gone national and international. Bob will be greatly missed by the community and I extend my condolences to his family. Vale Bob Ahrens.

Bills

ARTS, CULTURE AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (15:51): Introduced a bill for an act to recognise the importance of the arts, culture and creative industries in South Australia, to provide for a state arts, culture and creative industries policy, to ensure that all South Australians benefit from and can participate in the arts, culture and creativity of South Australia, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (15:52): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am very pleased to introduce the Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Bill 2025. This bill marks a significant step forward for South Australia and has been designed to recognise the importance of the arts, culture and creative industries to our state.

At the 2022 election, the government committed to enshrine in law how the arts are valued and led in South Australia. The bill gives effect to this commitment and reflects our government's vision for a vibrant, inclusive and sustainable sector that contributes meaningfully to the state. Most importantly this bill ensures future governments continue to commit to the sector. When we speak of arts and culture we speak of who we are as a state and South Australia has long been renowned for its innovative leadership in the arts, culture and creative industries.

This was largely driven by the groundbreaking work of former Premier Don Dunstan who considered arts and culture to be crucial to a healthy, democratic society. In the 1970s, his government significantly increased funding to the arts as well as opened the Adelaide Festival Centre, the State Theatre Company and the South Australian Film Corporation. Don Dunstan's legacy lives on in today's arts, culture and creative industries in South Australia.

The sector is deep, broad and interlinked and includes major cultural institutions, collections, presenting companies, small-to-medium organisations and festivals, emerging and community artists through to long-established practitioners and artist-run initiatives and groups. It also includes creative start-ups and small businesses, venues and large-scale commercial enterprises.

The sector employs more than 15,000 people and contributes around \$1.8 billion to our economy. Over 10,000 creative businesses operate in the state, yet we also recognise that the creative industries face unique challenges. It is clear that, to secure the future of the creative sectors, a modern legislative framework that supports growth, fosters collaboration, builds capacity and ensures access right across South Australia, is necessary.

South Australia is home to the Adelaide Festival, one of Australia's oldest international arts festivals. Our Adelaide Fringe is the second-largest annual arts festival in the world, behind only Edinburgh Fringe. The international careers of many artists, musicians, performers, writers, game developers, producers and filmmakers have been launched from our state. South Australians deeply value the sector. Every year, 96 per cent of us engage with or attend the arts and each week more than 40 per cent of South Australians participate in making art. The Australian government also recognises the value of the arts, culture and creative industries, knowing that as a nation, creativity connects us and benefits us all.

In January 2023, the Prime Minister released the National Cultural Policy—Revive, along with significant new investment in the sector. That same year, I announced the development of a landmark cultural policy for South Australia aligned with Revive and focusing on a long-term vision for the sector. Significant consultation was undertaken to develop the South Australian policy. More than 2,000 community members, artists, creative practitioners, cultural leaders, arts workers, business owners, researchers, educators and government agencies took part. This consultation clearly demonstrated that South Australians are proud of our arts, cultural and creative industries.

On 31 March 2025, the Premier and I launched A Place to Create, an ambitious 10-year cultural policy for South Australia. A Place to Create marks the beginning of a transformation for South Australian arts, culture and creativity. It presents a vision to strengthen South Australia's arts, culture and creative industries to expand access and participation and ensure the benefits are shared by all South Australians right across the state.

The bill that I introduce today, the Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Bill 2025, continues our government's transformational work to build a new era for the sector in South Australia. The bill will sit above A Place to Create as an overarching framework that ensures all future governments show commitment to the sector through having a dedicated policy in place. The bill was informed by feedback received during the significant consultation that supported the development of A Place to Create in which South Australians told us:

- that arts, culture and creativity make a life worth living;
- that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts, creativity and cultural leadership must be prioritised and extended;
- that South Australians value the health, happiness and wellbeing outcomes of a culturally connected community;
- that we have a responsibility to ensure children and young people have access to and can participate in creative and cultural activities and to ensure there are pathways to embed these experiences throughout their whole lives;
- that South Australians value accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring that everyone has access to cultural experiences, artistic expression and creative opportunities;
- that we want people who live outside the metropolitan areas to have the same opportunities to enjoy and participate in arts and culture, and for people from all language and cultural groups to have their stories and creativity valued;
- that South Australians want our diverse stories to be more visible and to be able to access them easily and affordably; and
- that we want to come together around art, culture and creative activities, sharing culture across generations.

With this, the bill's primary aims are:

- to recognise the importance and support the value of the arts, culture and creative industries in South Australia;
- to provide for a state arts, culture and creative industries policy; and
- to ensure and promote participation, diversity and inclusion of all South Australians in the arts, culture and creativity of South Australia.

The government's policy intention of this bill is to continue South Australia's proud legacy as a leader and believer in the arts, culture and creative industries, and to ensure the sector continues to evolve, grow and thrive.

I want to close by thanking all those who have contributed to the development of this bill. 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

3—Interpretation

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Principles, objects and guidelines

4—Principles

This clause sets out the principles underpinning the operation of the Act.

5—Objects

This clause sets out the objects of the Act.

6—Guidelines

This clause empowers the Minister to publish guidelines for the purposes of the Act.

Part 3—Administration

7—Functions of Minister

This clause sets out the functions of the Minister under the Act.

Part 4—State Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy

8—State Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy

This clause requires the Minister to prepare and maintain a policy, called the State Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy, which must set out the policies of the government in respect of achieving the objects of the Act, and must also address any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

9—Consultation for State Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy

This clause requires the Minister to undertake the consultation referred to in the clause when preparing the State Policy.

10—Publication of State Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy

This clause requires the Minister to publish the State Policy.

Part 5—Miscellaneous

11—Interaction with other Acts and laws

This clause sets out how this Act interacts with other Acts and laws.

12—Regulations

This clause is a standard regulation making power.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. J.A.W. Gardner.

LABOUR HIRE LICENSING (SCOPE OF ACT) AMENDMENT BILL*Final Stages*

Consideration in committee of the Legislative Council's amendment.

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendment be agreed to.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Thank you very much for the opportunity to reflect on the amendment from the Legislative Council. The opposition supports the motion.

Motion carried.

UNCLAIMED GOODS (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 25 November 2025.)

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (16:01): The member for Heysen, having been on his feet, has provided the house with ample information about the opposition's position on 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) (16:01): I thank the member for Morialta for his fine contribution and commend the bill to the house.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clauses 1 to 4 passed.

Clause 5.

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

Amendment No 1 [TradeInvest-1]—

Page 5, line 9 [clause 5(4), inserted paragraph (c)(ii)]—Delete 'made reasonable attempts' and substitute 'taken reasonable steps'

This is a minor change to the wording of section 5(4)(c). The provision requires the recipient to contact the owner or provider of the goods to notify them that the goods are available for collection. If the recipient does not know the contact details of either the provider or any owner, they must make reasonable attempts to obtain those details before the goods can be treated as unclaimed.

This amendment tweaks the wording slightly to refer to the recipient having 'taken reasonable steps' rather than having 'made reasonable attempts'. The updated language is consistent with notice requirements in other parts of the bill and with the wording of the regulation-making power in clause 12 of the bill, which permits the making of regulations which specify what constitutes taking reasonable steps.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I thank the minister for his explanation. I am much persuaded, as are my colleagues.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clauses 6 and 7 passed.

Clause 8.

The CHAIR: Minister, you have a money clause.

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

That clause 8, which is printed in erased type, be inserted in the bill.

Clause inserted.

Remaining clauses (9 to 12), schedule and long 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) (16:05): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

SUMMARY OFFENCES (HIGH RISK MISSING PERSONS) AMENDMENT 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) (16:06): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Summary Offences (High Risk Missing Persons) Amendment Bill 2025 to the house. Community safety is a top priority of this government, and we have demonstrated that commitment by a strong history of reforms, including recent changes to knife crime laws and street gang reforms, to ensure that police have all the necessary tools and powers they need to protect and keep members of our community safe. Today, we are introducing yet another protection to confer additional powers on police in relation to high-risk missing persons based upon similar laws that have been implemented in Queensland.

These laws seek to address a potential deficiency that has recently been identified in relation to police search powers for missing persons. Specifically, the concern is that in circumstances where police do not reasonably suspect that a crime has been committed and do not otherwise have authority or consent to enter and search a premises, vehicle or other place, there is no authority for police to enter and search for information that may be relevant to the missing person's disappearance and locating their whereabouts.

In 2018, Queensland became the first jurisdiction to provide police with express statutory powers to conduct searches in relation to high-risk missing persons. The missing person search powers under the Queensland legislation enable police to search a place without the consent of an occupier if they reasonably suspect that searching the place may locate the person, or information relating to their disappearance, and the person meets the definition of a high-risk missing person. To meet the definition, the missing person must be under the age of 13, or their circumstances raise a concern that they may suffer serious harm if not found as quickly as possible.

A 2024 review of the Queensland act, conducted by the Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission, relevantly found that, in the first five years of the powers being in effect, police officers used them in 16 missing persons investigations to assist in locating 22 people; and investigations, where the missing person search powers were used, ultimately resulted in the safe location of 14 persons. The other eight persons were located deceased or are long-term missing.

In addition, the review relevantly identified that while the powers under the Queensland act are rarely needed, they are a valuable tool to progress missing person investigations. The government wholeheartedly agrees with the sentiment and is proud to be introducing similar laws today.

Turning to the substance of the reforms, the bill amends section 83C of the Summary Offences Act 1953 to authorise police to exercise certain powers in relation to high-risk missing persons. Under the bill a 'missing person' is defined to mean a person who is reported missing to police where their whereabouts are unknown and there are concerns for their safety and welfare.

For the purposes of the bill, a 'high risk missing person' is defined to mean a missing person who is under 14 years of age or a missing person who a police officer reasonably suspects may suffer harm if not located quickly. 'Serious harm' is defined to mean harm, including the cumulative effect of any harm that endangers or is likely to endanger a person's life or is likely to be significant and longstanding.

The bill sets out a number of factors that a police officer may have regard to when determining whether a high-risk missing person may suffer serious harm if they are not located quickly. This includes, but is not limited to, the person's age; any disability of the person attributable to a cognitive, intellectual, neurological, physical or psychiatric impairment; the person's ability to interact safely with other persons or in an unfamiliar environment; and whether the person is suspected of being lost within a particular area, the climate or other environmental factors relevant to the area. The bill relevantly provides:

(1a) Where a senior police officer suspects on reasonable grounds that—

(a) a high risk missing person; or

(b) information that may assist in locating a high risk missing person,

may be in or on specified premises, a specified vehicle or vessel, or other specified place—

they may authorise a police officer to enter for the purposes of investigating the matter and taking such action as the circumstances may require.

An authorisation given by a senior police officer remains in force for a period of 48 hours until the high-risk missing person is located or the authorisation is revoked, whichever is the sooner. In circumstances where a police officer reasonably suspects that an authorisation could be granted in relation to a high-risk missing person, the bill allows for a senior police officer to apply to a judge of the Supreme Court for a missing person warrant. An application for a high-risk missing person warrant can be made whether or not an authorisation is still in force and whether or not a high-risk missing person warrant has previously been made.

A missing person warrant may be made personally or electronically in urgent circumstances. An application may be made and determined without giving notice to an owner or occupier of the premises. Subject to any conditions or limitations that may be specified, a high-risk missing person warrant authorises a police officer to exercise any of the powers that could be granted under an authorisation given by a senior police officer. A high-risk missing person warrant may be granted for a period of up to 90 days and there is scope for this period to be extended or a new application to be made. I commend the bill to the 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.

Part 2—Amendment of *Summary Offences Act 1953*

3—Amendment of section 83C—Special powers of entry

This clause amends section 83C of the principal Act, extending the operation of that section to authorise entry to premises, vehicles, vessels and places where police suspect a high risk missing person (defined in the amended section) is located, or in which information that may assist a high risk missing person to be located may be found.

The clause inserts procedural provision in relation to how authorisations under the amended section can be granted, and the duration of authorisations.

4—Insertion of section 83D

This clause inserts new section 83D into the principal Act, providing an ability for senior police officers to apply to the Supreme Court for a high risk missing person warrant. An application for a warrant may be made without

notice to the owner or occupier of the relevant premises etc. A warrant can be issued whether or not an authorisation under section 83C(1a) has been granted, or whether or not a warrant has previously been issued in relation to the premises etc in relation to the relevant missing person.

A warrant remains in force for a specified period of up to 90 days, and can be extended for up to a further 90 days. However, a warrant must be revoked if the missing person is located.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (16:13): I am grateful for the opportunity to speak on the Summary Offences (High Risk Missing Persons) Amendment Bill. I have appreciated the opportunity to hear from the minister. I am also much persuaded by some of the points made by the Hon. Nicola Centofanti in the other house and for the benefit of members in this house, I want to share some of her comments—and I will paraphrase—and speaking again as lead speaker on behalf of the opposition I appreciate the opportunity to take my full measure.

This bill was introduced by the Attorney-General earlier this month and seeks to amend the Summary Offences Act 1953 so that a proportionate set of tools can be made available to police in order to respond to missing persons cases designated to be at high risk. We, of course, support the rapid and lawful search activities being enabled by these reforms, especially where there is a vulnerable person who is missing and where, even in the absence of suspected criminality, urgent action is required.

Sir, as you would be aware from your time as a police minister, there is a legislative model in Queensland that was recently reviewed. That review found that, while powers are rarely invoked, there is a benefit in that they can be critical to enable an investigation to progress in order that a missing person may be located as swiftly as possible.

Clause 3 of this bill makes an amendment to section 83C so that a senior police officer may provide the relevant authorisation for entry to a specified premises or a vehicle or a vessel or a place for up to 48 hours for the purpose of enabling the investigation and taking whatever action is necessary to locate a high-risk missing person. In relation to who is a high-risk missing person, it is a missing child under 14 or any individual who police reasonably believe may suffer serious harm if not found urgently.

Clause 4 inserts new section 83D into the act. That allows a senior police officer to seek a warrant from a judge in similar circumstances. A warrant under this provision can remain in force not just for the 48 hours that the senior police officer's own authority can provide for but, indeed, for up to 90 days so that in cases where there are more complex or extended searches that are necessary, that ongoing lawful authority remains. SAPOL has advised that, having discussed the matter with their colleagues in Queensland, they consider these powers to be valuable but, indeed, tightly bounded—rarely used, but essential when time is critical.

Clearly, it is important that these measures have safeguards. Clearly, it is important that the public has confidence and, indeed, that police have confidence in their own powers to do this work rapidly as necessary to locate vulnerable people. The Liberal Party is satisfied in the safeguards and satisfied in the intent and supports the 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) (16:16): I knew that I was right in pre-emptively thanking the member for Morialta; it was a fine contribution. 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) (16:17): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

**FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (CUTTLEFISH—NORTHERN SPENCER GULF) AMENDMENT
BILL***Second Reading*

The Hon. L.P. HOOD (Adelaide—Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (16:17):
I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am very pleased to introduce the Fisheries Management (Cuttlefish—Northern Spencer Gulf) Amendment Bill 2025. Each year, tens of thousands of cuttlefish arrive on the rocky reef around Point Lowly in the Upper Spencer Gulf and take part in the only known dense spawning aggregation of this species in the world. Many South Australians are aware of how fortunate we are to have the iconic and unique population of giant Australian cuttlefish that aggregate off the coast of Whyalla each year.

The giant Australian cuttlefish aggregation is one of those natural phenomena that captures the wonder of all those fortunate enough to have experienced it—an incredibly beautiful show of nature and, in many ways, it is nature at its finest. The shapeshifting, colourful and complicated mating process for this species is as visually spectacular as it is critically important for its sustainability and longevity. Of course, this in turn draws people from all over the state, the country and the world to bear witness to the beauty of not only our cuttlefish but also their environment, and while they do so they also gain an appreciation of the beauty of the Upper Spencer Gulf region as a whole.

Through this bill, the government seeks to continue the prohibition on the take of cuttlefish in the Northern Spencer Gulf through arrangements in the Fisheries Management Act 2007 to provide more certainty and permanency to the existing regulated closure. In 2022, the government implemented a one-year temporary section 79 closure on the take of cuttlefish in the Upper Spencer Gulf in line with our election commitment to do so. The section 79 closure provided time to draft and implement regulatory protection, and in 2023 the government regulated this spatial closure under the Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017.

We now seek to give this species the highest level of protection we can within the legislative framework by incorporating it into the Fisheries Management Act 2007. The proposed amendment to the act is about long-term protection of the species, ensuring future generations can continue to visit the Northern Spencer Gulf and experience the magic of our giant Australian cuttlefish.

The proposed amendment has been considered by key stakeholders, including our important fishing sectors and regional stakeholders, as part of the consultation process undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions. Importantly, this bill simply seeks to move the current cuttlefish closure into the act. This means the location or size of the closure area will not change from what is in regulation currently. The amendment is not expected to impose any new or additional restrictions on commercial, recreation or traditional fishers. The fishing prohibition relates only to the take of cuttlefish species and will not therefore restrict the take of southern calamari or octopus within this closure area.

While the bill provides certainty for the protection measures in place for the species, it also provides certainty for investments and tourism opportunities around the Northern Spencer Gulf, which is already doing an incredible job in realising the opportunities that the aggregation presents to the community, with these opportunities growing every year, as more and more people flock to the region to take part and see the giant cuttlefish.

Through the algal bloom, the government took early and decisive action to further protect cuttlefish in the event that the algal bloom reached the cuttlefish coast by installing a 200 metre by 100 metre air curtain to protect up to 800,000 cuttlefish eggs laid throughout the aggregation. The innovative technology creates a barrier that disrupts the movement of algae, which stops it from travelling through the bubble curtain. Fortunately, the bloom has not impacted the region directly and, as a result, we have not had to call upon the bubble curtain for protection. Despite this, the installation of the curtain demonstrates our government's commitment to protecting our unique and vulnerable

species, and the curtain will remain available for use in subsequent giant cuttlefish hatching seasons if it is required.

Most eggs from this winter's spawning season would now be expected to have hatched, and I am advised that there were positive signs with good egg numbers, which is wonderful to hear. Given the significance of the giant Australian cuttlefish, the bubble curtain remains a proactive measure that adds an additional layer of protection, enabling the precious eggs to hatch and become the next batch of giant Australian cuttlefish that will then take part in future aggregations, noting that, sadly, the cuttlefish does only live around one to two years and often dies after spawning, adding further intrigue to these very majestic creatures. This measure works well alongside strengthening cuttlefish protection through the Fisheries Management Act 2007.

At its heart, this bill is about sustainability and preservation of an iconic species. Around a decade ago, there was concern for the future of giant Australian cuttlefish, as they reached record low numbers. The strong actions to protect the species at that time, along with their well-known natural variability, has seen a recovery over the past decade, with numbers well above those seen in the early 2010s. I commend the Fisheries Management (Cuttlefish—Northern Spencer Gulf) Amendment Bill 2025 to the house and look forward to further debate. I seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Fisheries Management Act 2007*

3—Insertion of section 75A

This clause inserts new section 75A as follows:

75A—Taking of cuttlefish in certain waters of Spencer Gulf

Proposed section 75A provides that, unless a person is authorised by a permit issued by the Minister, it is an offence for the person to take cuttlefish (*Sepia* spp) in the northern waters of Spencer Gulf.

Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (16:23): I rise as lead speaker for the opposition on this bill to amend and enshrine the protections into legislation to prohibit the taking of cuttlefish in Northern Spencer Gulf. Personally, I had the opportunity back in June 2021, when I was minister for primary industries, to go out and swim with the cuttlefish and see them first-hand. There are some photos out there of me in a wetsuit that people do not need to see, but it was a nice experience to head out there and swim with them. My eldest daughter joined me at the time. She was the only other member of the family I could convince that June was a good time to go for a swim and it was fantastic to see.

It was certainly an important thing for me at the time to see because I was very keen to understand the pressures that were going on there. There were many discussions going on and I actually increased the protected area at that time as minister to make sure that we looked after the particular zones that were necessary. I was very pleased to be involved in that process at the time. I think it is really important that we continue to make sure we look after this going forward, so we are supportive of moving this into legislation.

I foreshadow that we will ask just one brief question in the committee stage about how we are going to enforce the boundaries to make sure people understand where they need to be and what they need to do. That is just one minor question in the committee stage. I am happy if the minister wants to answer prior to that and not go into committee. I am also happy to take that as an answer to that question. With those few words, I will conclude my remarks.

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (16:26): I enthusiastically get up to support this amendment bill. I first came across the giant Australian cuttlefish many years ago, in fact over a quarter of a century ago. When my kids were very small, I used to take them out to a rock that we would wade out to west of Black Point, between Black Point and False Bay, and we would go out there fishing. It was sometimes like an aquarium on those still, early winter mornings and we would actually catch a heap of cuttlefish.

At the time, we did not realise what was actually going on. We thought, 'Well, we are catching a lot of cuttlefish here.' We used to go for a couple of years to catch a lot of cuttlefish and eat them because they are very, very good eating.

Everything came to a head in the mid-nineties. In the mid-nineties around about four tonnes of cuttlefish were taken. It was a very sustainable catch. Then some commercial fishers, small in number, probably less than a handful, found there was a market for cuttlefish in Asia. They were getting a price of somewhere between \$2 and \$3 a kilo. They turned up in Whyalla to totally hammer the cuttlefish aggregation and we went from a four-tonne-a-year take of cuttlefish throughout the state, mainly around Whyalla, to 250 tonnes a year in 1997 when they were out there, the peak of exploitation. If that had continued, they would have wiped out something that was globally unique.

Of course, a number of people in Whyalla, including myself—I was on the council at the time, so I have been involved in this sort of stuff for a long time—started to agitate about what was going on and there are some people who really need to be acknowledged here. Tony Bramley, who had the dive shop in Whyalla, plus had a range of commercial diving operations, became an incredible champion for the cuttlefish breeding aggregation.

Carlo Possagno, a fantastic photographer, captured the beauty and fascination of the cuttlefish. Chris Fewster, a commercial fisher, is incredibly committed to the waters of the Northern Spencer Gulf, so he was there as well looking to protect the cuttlefish. There was Ron Hardman, who also took some amazing photos that I used in some of my election material when running for council.

So a combination of people then put pressure on the government and on the department to recognise what was going on in Whyalla and so, over a period, protections were introduced. It was initially temporary protection on a seasonal basis and over time that protection was extended.

It was the Weatherill government and it was referred to the drop-off in numbers. This was after the commercial exploitation had finished, about 10 years after or thereabouts, where there was a drop-off in population. As you do get in nature, and especially in the marine environment, there is variability. We do not fully know today why there was that drop-off in population but, as a result of that, the Weatherill government introduced a far more comprehensive protection.

That protection introduced a new take zone from around about Arno Bay across the gulf to just north of Wallaroo. It was a no-take zone for cuttlefish, but closer into the breeding aggregation there was more full-on protection. There were parts of that the zone where you could not fish for any cephalopod. Given the manner in which cephalopods are fished, when you are fishing for squid—not that there is much octopus up Whyalla way, but a lot of people fish for squid—you could in that aggregation area easily catch a cuttlefish. False Bay was protected and then over time there was more intense protection around the rocky fringes to the point where part of it was listed on the National Heritage List, a recognition of just how important the area is, and so protection was introduced over a period.

I listened to the member for Finniss, which was a little bit of an interesting take—and I do not blame the member for Finniss as it was his predecessor as the fisheries minister. His predecessor actually opened up part of the cuttlefish breeding aggregation to commercial exploitation. I was out there talking to people from Brazil, from South America, from the United States and from all over Australia who were diving on the cuttlefish and meanwhile, just around the corner, on the Point Lowly peninsula itself, the commercial industry was once again hammering the cuttlefish—not to the extent of back in 1997, but they were taking literally tonnes of cuttlefish.

What sort of message did that send? In the estimates committee that year—we were in opposition obviously—I expressed my frustration with what was going on but it was actually left. It was one of my election commitments to my community, which the then Minister for Environment had fully supported, as did the Labor Party, that if elected, we would reinstate the full protection for the giant Australian cuttlefish. Within weeks of being elected, we had reintroduced protection for the cuttlefish and the whole no-take zone—which was initially, and still is, a precautionary application and principle—from Arno Bay to just north of Wallaroo, and of course we clamped down on the commercial industry exploiting part of the aggregation.

There is a vulnerability around the giant Australian cuttlefish in the Northern Spencer Gulf. It might be an example of genetic drift but genomically it is very similar to the overall cuttlefish population, which is why it spread all the way from Geraldton in Western Australia to Coffs Harbour in New South Wales, but this is the only place in the Northern Spencer Gulf where they aggregate. They have a behavioural repertoire, a reproductive approach that differs from all of the other cuttlefish.

In some definitions of species—and there is a number of different definitions of species—reproductive isolation through a particular behavioural repertoire can count as a species. I have no doubt, given the pressures at work—salinity and temperature and other factors—that we are seeing an example of genetic drift when it comes to this particular population in the Northern Spencer Gulf. There is a little bit of overlap based on the sampling that is done with the broader population, but in that overlap there is not intermingling. There is something very particular about the Northern Spencer Gulf.

I guess the argument that has been put relates to the bottom in the Northern Spencer Gulf. There is not much in the way of reef, and so you get that aggregation around the Point Lowly peninsula. Indeed, you even get some aggregation happening around the breakwaters at the steelworks and also at the marina on the northern side of the Point Lowly peninsula. You get some aggregation there. It is interesting that there is some colour differentiation between the ones on that side of the peninsula and the ones on the other side of the peninsula, even though they are the same grouping.

The cuttlefish itself is fascinating. It is the largest cuttlefish in the world. It can grow up to a metre. Its anatomy is somewhat strange. Doctor Who might have two hearts, but these have three hearts—two of the hearts servicing the gills and one heart servicing the whole of the body. We transport oxygen around our bodies with haemoglobin. It is the haem, or the iron content of red blood cells, that transports the oxygen around our bodies, but the cuttlefish have green-blue blood, which is the result of copper playing the role that iron plays in our body. That is actually in common with prawns, which have something very similar, and a number of other marine species that also use copper instead of iron.

The protection of the cuttlefish and the publicity surrounding it draws people in from all around the world. As I said, I have spoken to people from South Africa, from Brazil, from America, from Europe and elsewhere. They read about it in diving magazines and they come to Whyalla specifically to dive with the cuttlefish, because of the colour displays and the behaviour that is entered into, with small males pretending to be females to get under the guard of big males.

There is a fancy Latin term that essentially means 'root once and you die'. I cannot remember the fancy Latin term, but generally speaking cuttlefish, in common with other cephalopods, breed once and die. As the minister said, the cuttlefish only live for a year to two years. When you see all those cuttlefish bones on your beaches to give to your budgies or whatever, that is as a result of the death that occurs after breeding.

You go back to the first base. To me, it is the intrinsic importance of this as part of our marine environment and our broader environment, and that is the reason it deserves protection. But the other element is that because we provide that protection we have then generated commercial opportunities for Whyalla. We actually get a peak in visitors in the winter months as a direct result of cuttlefish. Whyalla has not necessarily been one of those places that is a destination tourist site. People, before the snapper ban, would come and fish, because we have big snapper. There was a bit of that going on, but it is not necessarily a destination place.

It is a place where people might spend a night and drive through on the way elsewhere, but because of the cuttlefish it has become a destination site. As a result of that, a number of commercial operators have moved in. There is Matt, from Port Lincoln, with Cuttys. That was the first of the glass bottom boats. He does a good spiel when you go out on the boat and he was the first mover, so good on him for doing that.

Then we have other players who have moved in as well, and it is fantastic to see that we have Steve there now and he is doing a great job. He has also purchased a glass bottom boat. That is Spencer Gulf Adventure Tours and he concentrates on the cuttlefish in the winter season. The other thing that Whyalla has that is pretty special—and you do not have to go all the way to Monkey Mia—is you can come to Whyalla because the behaviour of the dolphins around Whyalla itself and

in the marina is something that has altered over the years, so you get pods of dolphins virtually interacting with people. You have to be careful about all of that but that is something that has happened over many years and Steve Storic also does tours, marine-based tours of the steelworks, going into the harbour and looking at the various elements there, and also in relation to Santos and some of the other marine species. So we have some commercial operators also attracting people.

One of the things about the cuttlefish aggregation is that you do not need to have a full scuba outfit. You can get in with your snorkel. I would advise a thick wetsuit because we are talking about winter and the water is cold and the cold temperature is a bit of a trigger for the cuttlefish to aggregate. You can just wade in a few metres, immerse yourself, and you will be seeing cuttlefish and their amazing behaviour, their amazing display of colour.

Not everybody is in a position to do that, and that is why the glass bottom boats have been a real plus for people who are not confident to dive or who might be frail or might have other conditions. Some people might be afraid of sharks—no-one has ever been taken by a shark in the Northern Spencer Gulf. I think the only shark-related death was when a shark came out of the water when someone was at his outboard and he had a heart attack. That was many years ago. No-one has ever been taken by a shark in the Northern Spencer Gulf, so it is very safe—just a bit of useful information for people. But for those people who for whatever reason cannot enter the water, the glass bottom boats are really great. Both Steve Storic and Matt give a good rundown about the cuttlefish, the ins and outs of the cuttlefish, and they are both good storytellers.

There are a number of books around. Carlo Possagno has a book with a lot of pictures of cuttlefish that he has taken over the years. There are some amazing pictures. It is the sort of place that has attracted the attention of major documentary makers from around the world. It has also featured on the Attenborough documentaries, so we get film crews coming to Whyalla to film the cuttlefish and the unusual behaviour of the cuttlefish.

As I said, I have had some involvement with cuttlefish for over 25 years. As a local member, when you can help instigate the return of full protection and deliver that within weeks of this government being re-elected, that is a plus.

I am really pleased that the Liberal Party is supporting this legislation. Clearly, they have learned from the error of their ways, so that is a positive. Of course, the reason I was very strong on seeing it put in legislatively is that the way it was before it could easily be changed just with the signature of a minister with a department, sometimes blinkered at times in the past, just treating this as a fisheries issue. It is more than a fisheries issue, it is something globally unique, and we need to ensure maximum protection.

By having it enshrined in this bill, it means that any future government of a mind to change it will have to come before this chamber and get it through the upper house, and that is highly unlikely to happen. As I said, we all now know we need to protect the giant Australian cuttlefish, this unique and iconic creature that every winter gathers around the Point Lowly peninsula. I commend the bill to the house.

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (16:46): I rise in support of the Fisheries Management (Cuttlefish—Northern Spencer Gulf) Amendment Bill 2025. Before I go into the details that I want to add, let me just say that I was enthralled by that contribution by the member for Giles. I am also a little bit jealous. As one of the self-proclaimed chamber nerds, it is a little bit unfair that he got to squeeze in a reference to *Doctor Who*. Maybe I could say that these creatures look a bit like Daleks on the inside, but I would bore you senseless and it is not the point of my contribution.

We are here to talk about cuttlefish, but at the same time I would like the *Hansard* to reflect that the member was extremely enthusiastic through his delivery, he was inspiring, and I do have a little bit more to say about that further on. It really was a contribution that stopped me in my tracks. Quite often, before I speak, I like to review my notes but he had me enthralled and I am very grateful for that.

South Australians are fortunate beyond measure to live alongside some of the world's most extraordinary marine life and among those remarkable of all is the giant Australian cuttlefish. They

are a species found nowhere else in such numbers, in such splendour and under such unique conditions as those that gather each winter along the rocky reefs of the Upper Spencer Gulf.

I understand that these magnificent animals are the largest cuttlefish species in the world. Males can grow up to half a metre in length and weigh as much as 10 kilograms. They are experts in camouflage, capable of changing colour, shape and even texture to blend seamlessly into the reef. Their dynamic displays during the breeding season are spectacular, an explosion of colour, pattern and movement unmatched anywhere else in the natural world—maybe in this chamber. It is little wonder that thousands of visitors travel to Upper Spencer Gulf each year simply to witness this phenomenon.

As I am sure we are all aware, each winter tens of thousands of cuttlefish gather along an eight-kilometre stretch of reef in Northern Spencer Gulf, the only known dense spawning aggregation of this species in the world. Under the rocks and within the crevices of this coastline, females lay their eggs, while males engage in elaborate contests for mating opportunities. It does not sound as exciting from me as it does from the member for Giles.

With males outnumbering females as much as 7:1, these competitions display a level of complexity and intelligence that has fascinated scientists and captivated the public for decades. Some large males guard closely paired females, using rapid colour changes to ward off rivals, while smaller males roam the reef attempting to sneak mating opportunities with creativity and cunning. It is truly one of nature's great performances.

We are custodians of this remarkable species, and with that comes a deep sense of responsibility. The giant Australian cuttlefish aggregation is not something that can be taken for granted. Decades of research, community advocacy and government action have shown us the population can be fragile and subject to environmental pressures.

The decisions we take today will determine whether our children and grandchildren will be able to stand on the shores of Point Lowly and witness tens of thousands of cuttlefish swirling beneath them in that extraordinary colourful dance in years to come. That is precisely why this bill matters. The amendment before the parliament provides enduring legislative protection for the species by enshrining in the Fisheries Management Act the spatial closure that already exists under regulation.

I understand the bill does not alter the boundaries of the closure nor does it impose new restrictions on those who fish in the region. Recreational, commercial and traditional fishers will continue to take species such as southern calamari and octopus in the area. What this bill does is ensure that the take of cuttlefish themselves is prohibited unless expressly authorised by the minister. It brings certainty and permanency to protections that have been in place for years and does so in a way that does not disadvantage those who rely on the gulf for their livelihoods.

It is also important to acknowledge the enormous work and advocacy that has led us to this point. I want to recognise my friend and colleague the member for Giles, Eddie Hughes. Long before he entered parliament, Eddie was a powerful voice for the cuttlefish and for the Whyalla community. I remember hearing him on radio, at Labor Party gatherings and in conversations across the state urging people—particularly those in Adelaide—to understand just how unique this species is and how significant Point Lowly is to both science and tourism.

His passion has not wavered and this bill is, in many ways, a testament to his years of dedicated advocacy. Of course, I also acknowledge that he perhaps had finer detail on some of the other Whyalla locals who have been strong voices on that, and I do not wish to diminish their contribution to the efforts that we are discussing today as well.

The tourism value of the giant cuttlefish aggregation to the Upper Spencer Gulf cannot be overstated. This year alone 13,000 vehicles travelled past the dive site, with around 8,000 people participating directly in cuttlefish experiences. Each of those visitors leaves with a deeper appreciation for the species and for the marine environment more broadly. They help support local businesses, regional jobs and Whyalla's growing reputation as a destination for world-class nature-based tourism. With increased investment in infrastructure and the ongoing success of events like Whyalla's annual Cuttlefest, the opportunities for the region are only continuing to grow.

I also want to commend the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, the Hon. Clare Scriven from the other place, for bringing this bill before the parliament. Her commitment

to protecting the state's marine treasures is clear. This legislation is the culmination of careful work by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions, alongside scientists, fishers, regional stakeholders and the local community. Their collaboration ensures that this protection is not only environmentally responsible but practical and supported by those who live and work within the region.

The giant Australian cuttlefish aggregation is one of the great natural wonders of our state. By supporting this bill, we are choosing to safeguard it for the years ahead, we are choosing to honour our responsibility as custodians of our environment, and we are choosing to ensure that future generations will continue to marvel at a natural spectacle found nowhere else. I commend this bill to the house.

The Hon. L.P. HOOD (Adelaide—Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (16:53):

I want to thank the various speakers on the bill: the member for Finniss, the member for Giles and the member for Playford. In particular, I thank the member for Giles for his very passionate explanation of the way in which cuttlefish work and also the way in which they bring and draw so many various people to his community. They really are remarkable.

I note the member for Finniss's question in regard to patrolling of the area. Given this is just placing the regulation within legislation, the same various patrols of the area by fishery officers will be undertaken just like any other closure area and, as indicated, that already does happen given that the closure is in place through regulation. An important point to make is that, if anyone does see illegal fishing activity, they should report it through Fishwatch, which is a free phone number—1800 065 522—and also through the SA Fishing app.

I would like to once again thank everybody for their contributions to this bill, and I would also like to thank the following key stakeholders that have been consulted on the proposed amendment. They include the South Australian Tourism Commission, the Environment Protection Authority, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, the Department for Environment and Water, Conservation Council of South Australia, Whyalla City Council, Port Augusta City Council, District Council of Mount Remarkable, Port Pirie Regional Council, Copper Coast Council, District Council of Cleve, District Council of Franklin Harbour, Yorke Peninsula Council, District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula, and District Council of Tumby Bay.

I also thank the Nukunu Wapma Thura (Aboriginal Corporation), the Barngala Determinations Aboriginal Corporation and the Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation and also, importantly, our Seafood Industry South Australia, Marine Fishers Association, SA Blue Crab Pot Fishers Association, South Australian Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association, Spencer Gulf and West Coast Prawn Association, the Charter Boat Association of South Australia, RecFish SA, South Australian Professional Fishers Association and the University of Adelaide.

Once again, I just want to highlight how incredibly iconic this species is in South Australia. As I have mentioned and, as other members have mentioned, each winter tens of thousands of giant Australian cuttlefish aggregate in this rocky reef area near Whyalla in northern Spencer Gulf to spawn. We are very incredibly pleased to see that we did have a successful hatching season, despite the harmful algal bloom. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

RETURN TO WORK (PRESUMPTIVE FIREFIGHTER INJURIES) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the amendments made by the House of Assembly without any amendment.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL*Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

Sitting extended beyond 18:00 on motion of Hon. A. Koutsantonis.

*Members***VALEDICTORY**

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (16:58): I rise to make my final contribution to this house and, in doing so, I acknowledge I am making my remarks on the land of the Kaurna people. I acknowledge their relationship with their land and their elders, past, present and emerging, and I place on the record how glad I am that they, and all other indigenous groups, have a formal voice to this place as it conducts its deliberations.

There is a part of this parliament complex which has long fascinated me for the more than 20 years that I have been working in and around here. In between the two chambers there is a lounge where members can bring their guests and on the walls of that lounge there are panels with small portraits with the names and periods of service of all of the 700-odd members that have served in this place over the last 168 years. I have been absolutely fascinated by those panels over all that time. Firstly, I came in and looked to see what names I could recognise and put a face to the names. It is startling that almost all of the people on those panels are men, although fortunately that is changing in this day and age.

The one thing that really struck me and has stayed with me since I first started looking at those panels is just how briefly most members serve in this place. When people think of parliamentarians they think of perhaps the Kingstons or the Playfords or a Dunstan and assume that parliamentary careers extend on forever, but those panels tell a very different story. The vast majority of members have served in this place for less than eight years, many members under five.

When I became a member of parliament in 2014, I realised that in all likelihood my time in this place would be limited. It drives a sense of urgency to make sure that I am using this time in this place as a representative of my local community to try to get as much done as possible.

It has been the privilege of my professional life to serve my electorate as the member for Lee. It has meant a lot to me personally, particularly in the first term of my career when the electorate included the suburbs of Largs Bay and Semaphore, where the Mullighan family comes from. It is a great regret to me that the entirety of my parliamentary career has occurred after my father passed away, who had a public life in a different guise. It is a great regret that I have not been able to share with him the highs and lows of my career in public life.

However, I have been extremely grateful for the warm welcome that I have received from my constituents. To be invited into and included in so many lives and livelihoods over the years, whether it is at a front door or at a sporting or community event or on a business premises, it has been a wonderful privilege to get to know so many people, understand what is important to them and understand how we can make a difference to their benefit.

I want to acknowledge, in particular, those people who spend so much of their own time volunteering, whether it is in those sporting and community clubs, or whether it is in so many other ways that people donate their time to support others in our community. They are the glue that holds our communities together, and it has been a tremendous privilege to see those people commit such a large amount of their free time to those pleasures. They are the people who give our children their first opportunity in team sport. They are the people who encourage the elderly to get out of the house. They are the people who help others in our community, in particular those in need, and it has been a great pleasure to get to know many of them and admire their work.

I make special mention of the Greek, Italian and Serbian communities in my electorate who have welcomed me and accepted me as one of their own. To be included in the significant events on their calendar, to be taught a little of their language, to understand some of their culture and their customs and, of course, their food, are such wonderful experiences that contribute to being a member of parliament.

Our electorate offices are so critical to our work as MPs and the team in the Lee electorate office have been a huge help to me and to the electorate over the last 12 years and in particular during the time that I served as a minister. Karen Abineri, Kyall Smith, Corey Joyce, Carol Putland, Christian Alexandrides and the absolute best casual in the business Pauline Mannix, who has been working in state and federal electorate offices for more than 50 years, have been an enormous help. They have helped a huge number of people and they have helped me lobby and campaign for some of the changes that we have been able to deliver in our electorate.

I know sometimes it is not in the best form to be celebrating your successes and achievements, but I will not be burdening the house with my modesty. I am very pleased at some of the things that we have worked to get done in my electorate or for the benefit of my electorate: in particular, with the member for Port Adelaide and the member for Croydon, the Premier, lobbying to secure the funding for The Queen Elizabeth Hospital upgrade; working again with the member for Port Adelaide and the member for West Torrens to secure the funding for the upgrades to the Seaton High School and the West Lakes Shore, Westport and Grange primary schools; the redevelopments that we have been able to deliver for our local sporting clubs, whether it is the Seaton Ramblers, SMOSH West Lakes or the Henley and Grange Baseball Club; the Grange Recreation Reserve that we were grateful to have the minister come and officially open last week; and the Semaphore Surf Life Saving Club.

There has been a range of upgrades to local roads and intersections, but I am really pleased that, after 30 years of intransigence, we finally got on with the Coast Park. We got rid of the boom gates at Westfield West Lakes. Thanks to the Minister for Housing and Urban Development, we are finally getting on with the redevelopment of the public housing in Seaton. We get elected to make a difference in our communities, and I am really proud of what we have been able to achieve over the last 12 years in Lee.

Despite all of this and my best intentions, my work as a local MP was consistently undermined by my responsibilities as a minister. Of course, I am not complaining; I was extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to serve the government as a minister. At the beginning of that term in 2014, I remember the then Premier Jay Weatherill telling cabinet that this additional, if not bonus, term of government after the 2014 election was a huge opportunity to continue contributing to the South Australian community and that all ministers needed to make the most of that opportunity.

We were very grateful, of course, to the member for Stuart for backing us in so that we could form government, and I think even the Italians in the Labor Party now welcome having pineapple on their pizza as a result of the member for Stuart's interventions. Jay also gave me a tremendous opportunity by allocating me the Transport and Infrastructure portfolio, but as a newly minted MP and one who went straight into the ministry I had a target on my back from day one for the opposition.

I can remember the shadow transport minister at the time was Vickie Chapman. Straight after the 2014 election, in my first 30 days as minister she issued 22 press releases criticising me. The first one was titled 'Oh, boy', highlighting my youth and my inexperience, and the next 21 spelled 'Mullighan' in the title of those press releases with one 'L' replaced by a learner's plate. But it was a blessing in disguise because it got me out into the media early and very often, and it helped me build my confidence and develop my persona as a politician to make sure I was across my briefs.

It was a really busy time in that portfolio. We secured commonwealth funding and got on with the Torrens to Torrens, Darlington and Northern Connector projects. We had to deliver the Torrens junction grade separation project at Park Terrace at Bowden and the O-Bahn tunnel project through the East Parklands, and we also lobbied the then federal minister Paul Fletcher for funding for the Oaklands crossing grade separation project and the extension of the Tonsley line up to Flinders University, which were both substantially delivered by the Marshall Liberal government. I soon had the member for Unley as my shadow, and I can comfortably say that no-one worked harder or made my life hell more than the member for Unley. He was an extremely hardworking shadow to have on my case.

All of this meant that I was in the public eye an enormous amount in my first term, and a lot of the work that we were doing was actually quite controversial. Buying up hundreds of houses for those South Road projects, digging the O-Bahn tunnel through the East Parklands and even

changing the cycling laws meant that, at times, I was copping a huge amount of flak from the community, particularly because I was seemingly always on talkback radio.

I have one fond memory of the member for Port Adelaide and I officially opening the heritage restoration works to the Birkenhead Bridge during that time. For the ceremony, of course, the transport department had closed down the bridge to only one lane of traffic, so they had to take it in turns traversing the bridge in alternate directions. During the ceremony, I could see these long, snaking queues of cars building up waiting to get across while we went through the huge golden-scissors ribbon-cutting process.

I was talking, after the ceremony, to the bloke who had actually done the work, a guy called Lindsay Scragg from AFL Services. I could see out of the corner of my eye this car coming from Birkenhead towards the Port, so from my electorate going towards Port Adelaide. He had his window down, and as he spied me he leant out the window and shook his fist at me and said, 'What are you effing up now, Mullighan?' And I thought, fantastic, I finally made it, people know who I am; it is terrific. Funnily enough, the one thing I get stopped about the most from that time in the portfolio is the very simple change we made to the conditional registration scheme for historic vehicles. It strikes me how such a small, simple change can make such a huge difference to a cohort of people who own classic cars and the industry that supports them.

You will be glad to know that I will not be giving you a blow-by-blow account of the rest of my career, but I did want to talk a little about my time in the Treasury portfolio. Everything in government requires funding, and in that context the Treasury portfolio is crucial to government. The bar is always higher for Labor and Labor governments on financial management, regardless of the performance of our political opponents. I worked for the then Treasurer Kevin Foley in the Rann government, who was at pains to re-establish Labor's financial credibility after the State Bank crisis. The fiscal discipline of that government left a great impression on me.

Over the four budgets I have delivered during this term, the government has strengthened the state's finances. We have got the budget back into surplus, we have improved our credit rating outlook and we have been able to take on more debt to invest in major infrastructure projects and in the economy. We kept our promise not to increase or introduce new taxes. We abolished stamp duty for first home buyers building their first homes, and we provided significant cost-of-living relief.

Over the course of this term, South Australia has regularly had the best performing economy in the nation and we are regarded as the best place to do business. We have regularly had the lowest unemployment rate. Importantly, getting the budget back into surplus has meant that, when a community need has arisen, we have had the capacity to support the community, whether it has been through the River Murray flood event, the drought, the algal bloom, Whyalla, Port Pirie or, most recently, Bedford, all while keeping the budget in surplus.

I am so grateful to the Premier for giving me the opportunity to serve in the Treasury portfolio and contribute to improving the state's standing in these different ways. It has also been a great privilege to have served in the other portfolios as Minister for Police and Minister for Defence and Space Industries, two critical portfolios for the state in different ways, each with a lot happening in those areas.

The hardest part of resigning from cabinet has been no longer working with such a brilliant team in my ministerial office. If you want to succeed in performing well in your work, you have to surround yourself with the best people, and I have been able to do that in my ministerial offices, both in this term of government and in the previous Weatherill government.

I have been lucky enough to work with the two best chiefs of staff in the business in John Atkinson and John Bistrovic—in no particular order; brilliant EAs in Sandra Swalling, Nicole Chapman and Kate Wheeler; Tara Yoon, Michael McGuire, Matthew Leyson, Emma De Favari, Grace Nankivell, Tom Probst, Sam Chapman, Mel Jones, Jon Schomburgk, Daniel Alexandrides; Vince Puopolo, Manny Chrisan and David Wilkins, as senior and ministerial advisers; Jack Berketa, Andrea Nicolas and Jen Salter as media advisers; and someone I started working with more than 20 years ago, Elicea Tomlinson; as well as Alanah Vernocchi, Sarah Gysbers, Erinne Provis, Mike Harnett, Isaac Penglis, Leah Sagigi, Elissa Mimidas, and the team that kept the office running so smoothly. Derek, Avdo, Jack and Gary were wonderful supports to me as drivers. They together have been such an enormous support to me in all of the work that we do as ministers, and I can't tell you how grateful I am to all of them.

Our office has always had a great relationship with the departments we worked with. I want to briefly acknowledge the public sector that we have here in South Australia. When I announced my resignation from the ministry, I made reference to the Under Treasurer Tammie Pribanic, to Rick Persse, the Chief Executive of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and Police Commissioner Grant Stevens, as not only great public sector leaders but great community leaders as well. But it would be remiss of me to leave it there, because the truth is that throughout so many of the agencies and departments across government there are so many dedicated, committed, hardworking chief executives and senior officials. Many of them have served both persuasions of government and they have done it with distinction. They have done it completely impartially, with the same level of rigour and discipline. The South Australian public should have every confidence in the capability of the public sector.

I want to spend some time thanking the Premier in particular for his support and friendship but just as much for his leadership of the government and of the state. No-one would have got us back into government in only one term other than Peter. He has an extraordinary work ethic, an astonishing and, frankly, sickening level of energy, and an insatiable appetite to get things done. He was determined from day one, back in 2018, to do what was necessary to win government at the last election, again with that sense of urgency and ambition about the roles that we have here, and it was incredibly motivating.

It has been a pleasure to have been part of the team that achieved it and there is an energy and a pride that has crept back into South Australia over the last 3½ years under his leadership. He has played the central role, infusing that optimism across the community. We, and I think the parliament and the state, owe him significant gratitude for his work.

I also want to thank the ministers that I have had the fortunate opportunity to serve with. Some of them I have known for many years, like the member for Port Adelaide, the member for West Torrens, the member for Kaurna, the member for Ramsay and others. It has been wonderful bringing those relationships that have been so longstanding into the cabinet environment and, of course, getting to know the other ministers that I have had the privilege of serving with in more recent years and having the benefit of their expertise, their experience and their approach to their work. To all of my cabinet colleagues, you have been so wonderful, so collegiate to work with. It is so rare to have that working relationship and be just as comfortable socialising with one another as well.

I am grateful for the tremendous support I have received from the party and the labour movement. There are so many I could thank, but I want to make mention of those who have continually supported me and promoted me over the last 25 years, particularly in Labor Unity: Don and Nimfa Farrell, the Premier and Treasurer of course, the members for Florey, Taylor, Ramsay, Kaurna, Black, Elizabeth, Torrens, Playford, Badcoe, Light, Dunstan and King, the Minister for Environment and Conservation, Josh Peak, Sonia and Dan Romeo, Clare Scriven, Emily and Aemon Bourke, Reggie Martin, Tung Ngo, Gary Henderson, Sam McIntosh, Rik Morris and the best number 5 since Steve Waugh, Russell Wortley, as well as many others.

I am grateful to the Lee sub-branch for their support not just at election time but in between as well. It is always difficult to get people to turn out for these meetings, but people like Paul Sykes, Marilyn Andrews, Jenny Power, Toni Fotheringham, Julie MacDonald—who you will be pleased to know gave me another dressing-down at last week's meeting about public housing—Steve Liapis, Paul Beckman, Cameron Hurst and many others are just a wonderful support to me as well as the broader party and I really appreciate it.

I want to place on the record my appreciation to former leaders and Premiers Mike Rann and Jay Weatherill. I mentioned Jay previously, but Mike was also a great supporter and they were great leaders of the government and the state.

I want to remark on the privilege of being a member of the Labor Party. Over more than 150 years, our movement has achieved a tremendous amount—the rights, protections and entitlements today enjoyed by the whole Australian community. We are only able to be in this house to represent our local communities because of the decades and decades of work that has gone before us, and it is our obligation to add to their achievements when we have been given the opportunity. In that respect, I am pleased that this government has done more to improve the pay,

conditions and legal protections of working South Australians than any government in recent memory.

I have been grateful to be pursuing these changes with one of the most talented and largest Labor caucuses in the state's history. After the 2022 election, listening to the nine new Labor MPs deliver their first speeches, seven of whom were women, was really significant and it was a significant time for the parliamentary party. Seeing such talent and generational change coming in to the parliament was the first realisation I think I had that I was on the back nine of my career and there were now plenty of talented, hardworking people ready to take over senior roles when people like me decided to step back. I want to thank all of my caucus colleagues for their support and their camaraderie through the years. It has been a privilege to serve our movement alongside you.

I want to talk about the parliament and this place. I absolutely love bringing people in to parliament, whether it is primary school kids or Probus clubs or everyone in between; everyone is absolutely blown away by the building, the story of its construction and its operations. When you talk people through it, they are so impressed by how our representative democracy actually works and our Westminster system of responsible government, taking them through our roles as MPs, the Premier, the government, the leader, the opposition, the Speaker, the clerks, the cabinet, the Executive Council, the Governor and, of course, explaining to them that sitting above all of this parliamentary architecture is our sovereign, Creon.

It is probably technically treasonous that I have referred to our sovereign in that way, but I wanted to use it as an opportunity to place on the record my deep appreciation of the support that all of the parliamentary staff give to us as members: whether it is Creon and the catering team, Karen and Nicky in the Blue Room, but particularly our Clerk, Rick Crump, and his unflappable deputy, David Pegram, Serjeant-at-Arms Lauren Williams and all of the house staff, thank you for the support you give us.

Thanks also to the building services team led by David Woolman and Graham Gepp, the brilliant library, led by John Weste and Anna Graves. A special shout-out to the Hansard team. The extraordinary effort that goes in every single day, turning our spoken word into something that resembles grammatically correct English is no mean feat, and we are very, very grateful for the work that you do. Thanks to all the administrative and support staff. It is a huge operation and it runs so smoothly, and that is a credit to all involved.

I would thank the Legislative Council and its team but it is after 5pm, so of course they are not around to hear it. I want to acknowledge those on the other side of the chamber. It can be robust in here but I have really appreciated the connections that I have made with those opposite on a personal level and, in particular, those regional MPs who have taken the time to educate a city dweller like me about the reality of what goes on in their communities and how someone like me might be in a position to help from time to time. So, to all of the MPs, and in particular the regional MPs, thank you so much for your time in reaching across the chamber to me.

We have had some difficult debates in this place over the past 12 years and the one that stands out for me was the debate over voluntary euthanasia in 2017. I had been sceptical of that legislation but the advocacy of my local electors, in particular the work done by the member for Kaurana and prominent campaigner Andrew Denton, and also reflecting on the awful passing of my late father from cancer, changed my mind in the lead-up to the vote on that bill. I was proud to support the bill despite it ultimately failing.

I think that a member can be genuinely persuaded in this place demonstrates that our political and legislative process actually works. As I listened to the excellent valedictory contribution of the member for Port Adelaide I noted with interest that she posed the question about what she would still like to change. For me, and I know this will not be welcomed by some of my colleagues, I do think it is time that the government formally acknowledged that, despite the extraordinary efforts and investment of large sums of taxpayers' dollars over the years, the experiment has been a failure—it is time to abolish the Adelaide Crows. Sorry, I could not resist putting that on the record.

Since I stepped down people have asked me what I am most proud of. I have mentioned some of the achievements in my electorate and in the ministerial portfolios that I have had, and I am obviously very proud of those. I am also very proud of what we have done more broadly as a government pursuing significant reform—some of them nation-leading if not leading the globe.

Political careers are about timing and luck, and my time in politics started in 2002, right at the beginning of the Rann Labor government and a new period of opportunity for our side of politics in South Australia. From that time, I have been part of a group in state Labor that together over more than 20 years has become the most successful Labor outfit in the state's history and across the nation. I am really proud, of course, to have served in this place, representing my community, but I am particularly proud to have been able to do so as part of a team over so many years that is so talented, united and disciplined.

But over the last 12 years, the thing I am most proud of is my family. All of the major milestones of my life have occurred in my time in politics: marrying my wonderful wife, Antonia, and having our three beautiful children, Ben, Isaac and Olivia. They have been so generous and patient and loving through my time in parliament, and I am eternally grateful to all of them. I know it came as a surprise to many that I have decided to step away from politics, but they are at the heart of the reason. I love them enormously. It is time for me to step back and show them the same patience and generosity they have shown me.

I have already been enjoying immensely being far more present as a father and as a husband. I have already had some wonderful experiences taking advantage of the extra time. I have just been able to do my first after-school pick-up, and the look of joy and excitement on the boys' faces when they realised that for the first time it was actually dad picking them up from school was absolutely magic. I did my first drop-off for Olivia at child care, where she walked in with me, dropped her bag on the floor and announced at the top of her voice, 'Daddy's here, Daddy's here, Daddy's here.' I absolutely dissolved; it was wonderful.

And of course it has been so lovely having more time together just with Antonia. Time like that is at an absolute premium when you have young children, and it has been absolutely lovely to have more of that time to enjoy together. I have also enjoyed spending a lot more time with my friends from outside of politics. They have stuck with me through the years, despite all the apologies and no-shows because of work, and even in the last couple of months when we have been able to catch up we have caught up and not missed a beat.

So that's it for me. I feel I can look back at those panels now next door and know I have done my best to make the most of this time to get as much done as possible and leave on my own terms. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey. I wish every one of you all the very best for the future, both in this place and in your broader lives.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (17:27): I rise to acknowledge the remarks of the member for Lee, my good friend. It would be dishonest of me to not say from the outset how disappointed I am to be on my feet making these remarks in this context at this time. I am going to be very sad to see Stephen leave the state parliament, and the reason for that is that the member for Lee is a good friend of mine and has been for some time indeed.

I first met Stephen Mullighan when I started out at Adelaide Uni. When I started at uni, I was not yet politically engaged. I was interested in politics, a student of current affairs and the world around us, but I was not a member of the Labor Party. I was not yet in the labour movement. I remember early on in my life at university—I think I was probably in second year at uni—I encountered my second round of student union elections. I had watched the first lot and concluded that it was a complete circus, and I could not really see myself feeling at home with any particular individual.

The second year came around and I thought, 'No, I have to pay a bit more attention and be engaged. I have a right to vote. I can practise in this democratic process,' and I decided to commit myself to working out who I was with, who I was going to vote for, and I actually spoke to a few candidates. I know it sounds stupid. I thought, 'No, I'm going to speak to a few of these people,' and I met Stephen and, instantaneously, I thought, 'I'm with this bloke. I like this guy.'

I voted for Stephen to become student president of SAUA at the university and, over time, got to know him from there. The reason why I felt so at ease and comfortable in Stephen's company was not just the fact that he is a genuinely charming fellow who is funny and engaging—and I will talk about his wit in a moment—but we also shared a whole range of common views about the world

we live in and the responsibility of people in power and authority. Not in my wildest dreams would I have contemplated, when we were at uni together, that we would go on and have the opportunity to become the Premier of South Australia and the Treasurer of South Australia—not in my wildest dreams. The fact that we have had the opportunity to work together in that way is an absolute privilege.

Stephen has a range of attributes that would be well-known to most. Stephen has an exceptional work ethic. He is assiduous. He reads everything that is put in front of him: everything, often much to the chagrin of his ministerial colleagues on occasion. He reads everything put in front of him and is exceptionally diligent and takes the work of government and parliament seriously. I think it is important that each and every one of us do that. But, just as importantly as taking the work and our responsibilities seriously, is to not take ourselves too seriously as well. In countless meetings and interactions, over many years, Stephen has demonstrated a unique and unparalleled capacity to find the exact set of words to execute, at exactly the right time, to bring light to a room, to bring wit and humour that has an ability to cut through almost any debate or any moment to bring calm to a situation where necessary. That is an extraordinary talent that is worthy of recognition. It is valuable to the culture of a team.

The best example, of course, of this wit being displayed was in that exceptionally magnificent instance where Stephen had the responsibility of demonstrating to the people of South Australia the safety of driverless cars. It has to be one of the best moments in state politics. I remember watching this unfold. I wasn't in parliament at the time and I was an enthusiastic backer of Stephen becoming a minister from day one, which I knew he would handle with aplomb and handle easily. Anyway, so Stephen is the minister, pretty new in the job. Jay has given him the responsibility of selling driverless cars. It was the big new opportunity for the state.

In the car he goes and, of course, after countless practice runs, the moment came for the driverless car to evade obstacles on the Torrens Parade Ground. When the cameras started filming, the first thing the car ran into was an inflatable kangaroo. Now, any one of us in this place, at that moment in time, would be invited to react any number of different ways: acute embarrassment, shame, frustration, trying to pretend that no-one was watching, whatever. But only Stephen had the ability, at that exact instance—because there was a camera set up inside the car with audio—and without any hesitation, to say, 'Oh, it must have been set to cull.' No-one else would have said that.

That is what life was like in the cabinet room and cabinet committees and caucus with Stephen. Amazing wit employed beautifully with a real cut-through ability. It is just something we already miss. The reason why I raise that particular characteristic is that it speaks to a warmth that Stephen has and a real interest in making sure that as human beings we remain human in what are really quite intense and crazy roles. The intensity of the role of being Treasurer of South Australia, though, has been particularly profound during the life of this government, principally because the government has an ambitious agenda and ambitious agendas often have expense associated with them.

The amount of hours and meetings that we toiled on level 2 in opposition when we were trying to craft the policy we took to the election that we had to go through, where Stephen had the unenviable task of trying to make it all fit into a costings that would stand up was a laborious and really difficult piece of work.

During the course of the campaign, I remember the issue of costings was going to be important and as the campaign went on and things felt as though they were going pretty well, there was a really important moment a few days out from the election when the costings were set to be released, and I have to say—and there was a bit of anticipation about it all—not for one second did I have any nerves or reservations around how the day would play out exclusively because Stephen was in charge of it. I knew that every 'i' would be dotted, every 't' would be crossed, every angle would be contemplated, and then in turn, because the work had been done, we would be able to get through.

I remember clear as a bell we spoke straight after you had concluded that press conference and I remember reflecting on how grateful I was for you having done the work that you did and being able to handle the situation as professionally as you had. I remember thinking to myself, 'If we are so lucky to form government, the state's finances are going to be in really good hands with a highly

accomplished, professional and diligent person such as Stephen.' That did play out throughout the course of his time as Treasurer and the state is better for it.

It is not easy being the Treasurer of the state to any Premier who wants to get things done. It is an almost impossible task. Stephen handled it in a way that I very much appreciate and for which he does not get enough recognition. I just want to thank you for it. The people of South Australia and future generations of South Australians will be very grateful for it as well.

I am not too sure what the member for Lee intends to do next. In the number of meetings that we had, and there were a number, where I tried as best as I possibly could to persuade you not to pull the pin on parliamentary politics—similar to the conversations that I had with the member for Port Adelaide, which are testament to my persuasive powers not being as strong as I might hope—in those countless meetings where I was trying to persuade Mullers not to pull the pin, we talked about what he would do next post parliamentary life.

What was consistent in each and every one of those conversations was a genuine and sincere desire to spend more time with his beautiful family. All of us in this place, regardless of our politics, are well aware of the sacrifice that is paid by family. To Antonia, Ben, Isaac and Olivia, I want to take this opportunity to thank you too. You are the most beautiful of families. I know as parents you would be exceptionally proud of your children. If I have one hope out of Stephen's decision to pull the pin it is that you are afforded the opportunity to spend that quality time as a family together that you so desperately deserve, which no doubt you will.

Beyond that, Mullers, I just want to thank you. It has been a really fun ride from uni to the Breakfast Club, to getting into parliament, to leading the state together. We already miss you. It is so bizarre: in these jobs we have all these meetings together all the time and all of a sudden someone is not there anymore, you do not see them as much, and it is quite surreal in many respects.

You will always be a friend. I cannot wait one day in many, many years to come being able to recount and embellish stories, put all the mayo on it that we would possibly like, reflect on how everyone else is an idiot or whatever old people do when they reflect on their time in their job. I know that all of those moments that we will have together will be so much fun because of your storytelling ability and that wit and charm that will never go anywhere.

Thanks for everything. I would not be in this position without your support, the state would not be in its strongest position without your work, and all of us are indebted to you for that.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (17:40): As they say, when the contest ends the civility must begin, so I, too, would like to put a few words on the record to express my gratitude and thanks to the member for Lee. People like the member for Lee, when he was a minister, force the opposition to be better. In the adversarial nature of what happens, it is people like Stephen who force us as an opposition to be better.

Stephen is absolutely intelligent. He is deeply across his portfolios, whether it was transport or whether it was Treasury. We know that he prepared a number of budgets and also was involved in delivering them, as we have heard. I also have to say, I will never forget how he played the politics hard—really hard. There is only one Treasurer who has had the Paradise interchange listed in the budget to be upgraded and then pulled it when the local member won the seat as a Liberal. I will never forget it.

But Stephen is financially literate, and I say that with affection. He delivered many budgets, he was always across his brief and he has an enormous capacity, there is no doubt about it. I think Stephen will be spoilt for choice in terms of whatever he decides to do next.

I also reflect on my time as Speaker of the house. It is fair to say we had to navigate some turbulent waters sometimes in government, and there was always the motley crew of the Leader of the Opposition, the member for West Torrens, the member for Lee and I think the member for Kaurana. Whatever interjection was coming from the member for Lee, sometimes it hurt because it was always intelligent and sometimes it did cause a little chink in the armour.

The member for Lee and I had the great opportunity, as we do sometimes, to be able to travel in our jobs. Earlier this year we were able to travel to Seattle for the Australian American Leadership Dialogue to look at things like the nuclear submarine program. I have to say, even then Stephen got to bed early, he was up early in the morning, he attended things and he was always across his brief. I know that he was genuinely passionate about what this program meant, the relationship between the two countries and the future of our state.

As the Premier has alluded to, we know that these jobs do have quite an impact on our friends and our family. I, too, want to thank Antonia, Ben, Isaac and Olivia for all their support. Enjoy the time that you will have with your beloved Stephen. Mate, we wish you well in whatever is next.

Parliamentary Procedure

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (17:43): I move:

That standing orders be and remain so far suspended as to enable the adjournment of the house to be extended beyond 7pm.

Motion carried.

Members

VALEDICTORY

Debate resumed.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (17:43): I am very sad that Stephen is leaving. I am very sad. He is someone who the party had promoted and supported and, as a grouping, we had always wanted him to do well and succeed—and he has. The thing about most of us in this place is we do not get to choose the timing of our exit. Some do; most do not. He will leave and be able to hold his head very, very high. He is a very talented individual who will be able to do anything he wants to when he leaves this place, and I wish him and Antonia all the very best. I will keep my remarks very succinct because there are other valedictories that are as important to hear today.

The best time I have had in this parliament and the worst time I have had in this parliament were the four years in opposition, between 2018 and 2022. I remember thinking to myself, 'I'm not sure we can kill this government.' They helped, but everyone played a particular role in helping this government emerge victorious in 2022. Every other government during COVID was re-elected and every other government that had been elected in their first term had been re-elected. The odds were against us. This government would not have been elected had it not been for Stephen Mullighan's role. Without him, this party would not have been able to form a majority.

We were a very, very good team in opposition, and I think when we meet up at Gaucho's in about 20 years' time, and we are talking, it will not be about budget bilaterals, it will not be about Northern Water or the north-south corridor—it will be about those four years in opposition and about our focus on space. So I just want to say to Stephen, Antonia and the kids—enjoy what is next. But most importantly, thank you for helping us get here, because without you we would not be here.

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (17:45): I am mindful that we have a few other valedictories to get through tonight that, as the member for West Torrens said, are equally important. I have some remarks from none other than the member for Morialta that he would like me to pass on to you, member for Lee.

The SPEAKER: You can table them.

Mrs HURN: His directions were very specific, and I quote:

After 42 years of parallel careers, it is fitting that we are leaving the parliament together, too. I would like to think that we do so with enough fuel in the tank to offer something useful to our state, but not in this building any more.

Throughout the campaigns in which I have observed you—from student elections to state elections—you were always a fierce and effective campaigner, who worked hard to convince voters of your team's virtues.

In parliament, your value to the Labor Party has never been greater: never taking anything for granted, you have always looked for and taken opportunities to advance the causes you have believed in. Your party should be grateful for your efforts, and I am sure that they are.

More importantly, as a minister, when matters have needed to be resolved with good faith discussion, you have been willing to have those discussions in good faith—even when the political temperature in here has been high.

When constituents have come to us with tricky concerns that fall within your portfolio, you have been willing to make best endeavours to fix them. As a local MP I am grateful for that.

As a north-eastern suburbs commuter, I am also grateful for the O-Bahn tunnel—a project that you drove hard as minister, and which has done a lot to improve the reliability of that service.

My personal observation is that you are someone who is able to work extremely hard, and apply yourself extremely effectively towards whatever goal you are setting your sights on, while remaining across a vast level of detail in big portfolios.

You have a real gift with words, and when partisan politics has not been at stake, I have found your speeches impressive in a range of contexts.

You have a sharp mind, and an admirable ability to immediately grasp the salient points of an issue, and understand what is important.

After 28 years of campaigns, I am glad that we will almost certainly never run against each other again, and I look forward to seeing whatever role you undertake next. I am certain you will do it well.

Those are the words from the member for Morialta. Whilst I am up here, too, I would just like to wish you all the best, Stephen, for the next chapter. I know we have not been in this place together long, but I have always really appreciated the chats that we have had and, likewise, on local issues that you have engaged with me in—somewhat reluctantly at times. I have really appreciated the way in which you have gone about things. So I wish you and your family all the best for the future.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (17:48): I will try to be brief, but I did want to ventilate a few comments in particular about Stephen and our friendship and work together over the past 24 years, half of which has been in this parliament and half of it outside of it.

Similar to the Premier, I first remember meeting Stephen when I was in Young Labor—a budding young 18 year old coming along to meetings, and Stephen was an elder statesman at the time as an elder 22 year old. He has always been a very wise counsel, and he was a person that I and many other people looked to for advice on how to go forth in politics and how to succeed. From then on he has always been a very good source of advice and counsel and support for me right throughout our careers together.

In fact, we both ended up as chiefs of staff together in the Rann government, Stephen in Treasury and I in Health, funnily enough, and then that was matched by our later careers where we have had seven and a half years together as the Treasury and Health representatives of the Labor Party here in this place.

Similar to what the member for West Torrens was saying, I think we will all look back on that time that we spent in opposition together. There is a lot to be said about how bad opposition usually is, but the thing about it was that we spent so much time together, we operated together as an incredible team and we were all laser-light focused on the same goal and we all played our role in terms of making sure that we were ultimately successful. Stephen as the Treasury spokesperson, of course, did the low-hanging fruit of attacking tax increases and attacking spending cuts, etc., but he would be forensic in drilling down into the budget papers, drilling through budget estimates, understanding and finding every possible avenue of attack on the then government.

As the Premier said, though, he was incredibly witty and incredibly funny through all of that as well and he was always the first, whether it was in a cabinet meeting or in a text message, to make the joke that would absolutely make you laugh out loud. Despite the teasing that we occasionally do to the member for Heysen, Stephen and I went relatively toe to toe from time to time in using the parliament for the longest possible speeches in this place to try to drag things out.

Stephen was also incredibly disciplined about how we would operate as an opposition to make sure that we put forward a proposition for the election, as the Premier said, that was costed

correctly and we could balance the books. A sign of how successful that was was not just the fact that we were able to succeed in the election, and the press conference around costings went very well, but we were immediately able to go into formulating a budget and Stephen was immediately able to deliver the budget because of that meticulous costing that had happened.

I remember sitting on a Teams meeting with Stephen with the world's most complicated Excel spreadsheet going through our costings in the lead-up to the election—which I hope never to have to repeat again in the future. In government, as the Premier says, it is not always easy to be a Labor Treasurer, particularly for a very forward-thinking government that wants to do a lot of things. There might have been the odd BCC meeting where some of us would have liked to have been somewhere else—but Stephen was incredibly great at keeping us on task in terms of making sure that we had the fiscal discipline needed to run a successful government.

One example of the passion that I saw firsthand Stephen demonstrate in terms of an issue was with the work that he did around Western Hospital. If it was not for Stephen, Western Hospital would be closed right now. He worked so hard with the Treasury officials, with the SAFA officials to find a solution to keep the doors of Western Hospital open and the fact that those services are continuing there, staff are working there, is a credit to Stephen's hard work.

I was particularly shocked at the news, like many of us were, that Stephen was leaving. I thought that he would be the last of us still here. But when I look back and think about all the things that actually he did say to us over many years I should have seen it coming. I just did not believe him at the time when he was saying it. But I am delighted that he is going to be able to spend more time with Antonia, Ben, Isaac and Olivia, his wonderful family. We are sad that we will not be able to spend as much time with him here.

I am delighted that his successor in the seat of Lee is somebody who has worked for both of us in David Wilkins, who—pending election—I am sure will make an incredible contribution in this place. I know, Stephen, you will go on to incredible work outside of this place and we all look forward to working with you in whatever role that takes in the future. Thank you.

Mr BROWN (Florey) (17:54): I will be brief because I know that people are waiting to give their valedictories. I first met the member for Lee in 2003 when, one week after I had started working for the Treasurer, he started working for the Treasurer. I have to say that over the two years that we worked together in the Treasurer's office I was struck by his sharp mind and his very deep work ethic, and also that in his persona as 'The Kid' he was incredible on the karaoke stage.

It took some time for us to get into this place together, but, as other speakers have said, between 2018 and 2022 he was an absolute stalwart of the team trying to get Labor back into government. It was a team effort, but he gave as much as anyone on that team. I remember the fact that he was so keen to try to make every single post a winner. Whether it was giving a third reading contribution on the Supply Bill—as I understand, the first time that had happened since 1982—or speaking for 45 minutes on clause 1 of land tax legislation and whether the bill actually had the correct name or not, he did everything he could to try to get us back into government, and not for personal glory or his own aggrandisement but because he knew that the people of South Australia needed a Labor government, and he did everything he possibly could to get us back in.

He has been an extremely valued colleague and a good friend of mine, and I will miss him. I was shocked by his decision to retire, but it takes real strength to retire at the top of your game and he is doing that now. I would like to pass on my best wishes to Antonia and the family; I know they will be blessed for spending more time with him. Thank you, Stephen.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (17:56): I first met Stephen in the Blue Room; I think he was working for Kevin Foley at the time. One of my media talents happened to be an old scholar with him and he did not take very much time at all to think, 'I'd better find out what Pisoni's up to,' and reacquaint himself with the old scholar, but I do not think he was successful in getting any information.

Then, of course, we had a lot to do with each other when we appeared at the same place at the same time when I was the shadow minister for transport. I remember the robust estimates committees. At one particular one, we spent quite some time on trams: everything from length to cost and so forth. After I was sworn in as a minister, I bumped into Stephen walking up the stairs at Parliament House and he said to me, 'Look, David, make sure you find some time to enjoy the job,' and then for the next four years he did everything he possibly could to stop me from doing so.

I also thank Stephen, because whenever there was an issue that was not a political issue but an issue that was important to me or our team or a constituent, he would always take a call, always agree to a meeting, and was very respectful. It reminded me of World Championship Wrestling: my grandfather used to think it was real, but they were beating each other up and yelling at each other on TV and doing all sorts of damage to each other, and then behind the scenes they were all having a drink and laughing and joking. That was exactly how I felt in my dealings with Stephen.

So thank you, Stephen—a great move with the family. My kids were just a little bit older when I entered this place and I believe there were some important things that I missed, so please do enjoy that. Thank you for your service.

The SPEAKER (17:59): I would like to put on the record my thanks to you, Stephen, for the time that we spent in cabinet together and for the billions of dollars you provided for infrastructure projects in the electorate of Mawson. You and the opposition leadership team were amazing to get us back into government in 2022 and it was through your diligent work that we did that.

From the point of view of sitting up here and adjudicating this place, it is pretty hard to throw someone out or pull them up when they say something so witty that both sides of the chamber are laughing their heads off and that is what always happened after you threw in one of those barbs. So all the very best to you and your family for the future. It has been great working with you.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I would like to welcome to parliament Steve Murray the former member for Davenport—it is great to have you here, Steve—and Emily Bourke from the other place. Good to see you too, Em.

Members

VALEDICTORY

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (18:00): I will be brief. I think my kids are probably getting hungry. It is a little unfortunate, for me at least, to be exiting this place at a time when some people who have made some very considerable contributions to this place are also exiting. The members for Torrens and Colton have all made significant contributions to this place and in the member for Torrens' case, of course, to the Australian Senate. The members for Unley, Morialta and Kavel have also been effective advocates for their communities, as well as serving as ministers in significant portfolios.

But I am thinking particularly of the member for Lee and the member for Port Adelaide. These two exceptional people, who I am proud to call friends, have achieved so much and through their contributions have made this state better for working people. In that context, it is a little daunting to be standing here closing off my career in this place. I am proud, though, of the contribution that I and, importantly, the members of my team have made to the community of Elizabeth over the last 16 years. Indeed, as I reflected on my more modest achievements in my community, it was not lost on me that two of the contributions I worked on in the previous Labor government that had a huge positive effect on my community were directly due to working in collaboration with the members for Lee and Port Adelaide in their roles as ministers for transport and education respectively.

The first of those is the extraordinary success of the Northern Connector Jobs Taskforce, which I served on for the government and which saw hundreds of locals and northern suburbs' workers employed and trained in the wake of the shameful Holden closure. The second was the huge investment in my old school, which the member for Port Adelaide might remember, Playford International College. Susan and I were both approached by the new principal, who told us in no uncertain terms that we would be better off closing the school and sending all the kids to private schools, rather than continuing on its current course. I am pleased to say that we did not take his advice. These were truly outstanding ministers and I wish both Stephen and Susan the best of luck in wherever the future takes them.

I have always tried to heed the advice of my predecessor, the Hon. Lea Stevens, whose approach to being a leader in the community was to embed oneself in the networks of that community to encourage collaboration, be constantly aware of the challenges and needs of the community and then to advocate.

So whether it is advocating for more school funding, sports and recreation clubs, road safety measures and the ongoing work of tackling cost of living and housing pressures on the individual and family scale, or larger projects like the work I have done with local church networks on the winter shelter program for homeless people or the sustained and intensive response to the closure of Holden which so devastated our community, I have always been committed to working as part of a team and as part of successive Labor governments to make real change for the people of the northern suburbs.

There is always work to be done, of course, and I would never presume to tell a future member for Elizabeth what they should or should not do, but there are things to keep an eye on. Australia Post recently announced a \$500 million investment into a state-of-the-art parcel sorting facility on the old Holden site. This is a huge opportunity for the community and I have already spoken to Australia Post about the importance of employing local people in such a facility. The reality of course is that this site will not employ anything like the number that Holden did, but we need to impress upon Australia Post that employing locals and having a policy of employing locals just makes sense.

I do not have many regrets, but I do regret that certain changes have happened in Elizabeth that I have not done enough to prevent, chief among them being the encroachment of some pretty ugly architecture on public land. I will not dwell on this here, but the member for Taylor, I am sure, knows what I am talking about. If you know, you know, and the community certainly knows.

In recent months, I have been talking to the member for Taylor about revitalising the idea of Elizabeth as the garden city that it was when I first arrived in 1981. Thanks to that minister, we now have the excellent Northern Parklands legislation, and my hope is that we can build on this by protecting and enhancing what is left of the windbreaks along Main North Road between Salisbury and Munno Para and work towards a linear park that truly serves as a gateway to the city and to the Barossa beyond. I will be watching with interest both the Parklands establishment and the revitalisation of the garden city.

I know that should Ella Shaw, the candidate, be successful at the next election—and I do not want to jinx it by saying that I firmly believe she will be—I know that our community will be in safe hands. Ella is young and local and brimming with fresh ideas that I think will benefit the community we both love and will also ensure that she has a long and illustrious career in this place. I sincerely wish Ella the best of luck and I will be doing whatever I can to ensure that she is the next member for Elizabeth.

I hope that in my own way, and always surrounded by an amazing team, I have been an effective and committed advocate for my community and a conscientious member of this place, contributing to making South Australia better and safer. I will not dwell on these contributions but certain things stand out. I was Chair of the Economic and Finance Committee's inquiry into the state's labour hire laws, a significant body of work which led directly to legislation being enacted and subsequently repealed by the Marshall government, which protected some of the most marginalised and poorly paid members of our community. I am very proud of the work the committee did and I am very proud that the Malinauskas government has, indeed, passed legislation to reintroduce these measures just today.

As a backbencher I first introduced the concept of a domestic violence disclosure scheme to the parliament, and to the government led by Jay Weatherill. This is a concept which, as the Minister for Child Protection will know, while extremely worthy is legally complex and for whatever reason it never found expression before the 2018 election. I have always believed in giving credit where credit is due and the domestic violence disclosure scheme was introduced by the former Attorney-General Vickie Chapman, and she was gracious enough to acknowledge me publicly on several occasions. By all accounts, the scheme has been a success and is helping to keep women safe in South Australia.

Finally, as the shadow minister for police I had the unenviable task, which I know the member for Bragg is so enjoying, of having to criticise the government without criticising our excellent police

service, many members of which remain friends of mine to this day. While it was a hard slog, as anyone who has been a shadow minister knows, it had moments of real satisfaction, such as forcing the then government to accept amendments which ensured that our police and other emergency services workers have the best legislative protections from assault in the country.

But the unexpected highlight of my career in this place has undoubtedly been my role as Government Whip.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr ODENWALDER: It was not my first choice—well may you laugh, member for West Torrens—but I decided early on that I would make it my own, and I think I have served my party and the parliament well. I have leaned into values that I think are important: loyalty, building relationships and always keeping my word when a commitment is made. But, of course, I did not do it alone, and I want to acknowledge the staff that I have had along the way who have also been instrumental in the smooth running of this place over the past four years, and the delivery of this government's significant agenda.

Many of you will know these names: Rebecca Vandeppear, Will Cheffirs, Shaylee Knight, Isaac Solomon and, of course, Billy Zimmermann. Each of these young people have an enormous future in front of them. They will take different paths but they are each outstanding in their own way, and I want to sincerely thank them.

My two young boys are particularly grateful for the old collection of Pokemon cards which Will Cheffirs bequeathed them and, just quietly, may well be more valuable than Will knew when he let them go, and, of course, my friend and yours, Corey Harriss who works for the Manager of Government Business. He has been a constant companion on this journey.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Whether you liked it or not.

Mr ODENWALDER: Whether I liked it or not. Corey is something of an institution on this side of the house. He throws himself into countless tasks which most of us are blissfully unaware of—at least that is what I assume he is doing—but I think they have real importance to the continued success of the government.

Working with the member for West Torrens as the Manager of Government Business has been really something. There is a reason Tom is father of the house. He has seen countless people like me come and go from this place. He is a brilliant strategist, a brilliant tactician, a man who lives and breathes Labor Party ideals. He could honestly do anything in the world that he wanted but I just cannot see him doing anything else but this.

As I said before, I have truly enjoyed working with the member for Unley as Opposition Whip. Together we have established enough trust and goodwill, not only to work together on the smooth running of this house but also to make significant changes to the standing orders which are of benefit to everyone here. I wish him all the best into the future. I want to also thank the clerks and the parliamentary staff for their assistance in all of those things. Being the whip has also given me the chance to get to know and work with our enormously talented backbench. As time goes on I do not envy the Premier of managing the expectations of such a large group of truly exceptional individuals.

Then there is the Premier himself. It is worth repeating what many people before me have said, that this man is a once-in-a-generation leader, and we are just so lucky on this side of the house that he is a once-in-a-generation Labor leader. I can honestly say that in my 30-odd years in and around the Labor Party I have never seen the party so united, so full of purpose and positive energy as it is under Peter's leadership.

It would be a futile exercise to list here all of the achievements of this government and this Premier, but I do believe that one enduring legacy will be the instigation of the social media ban nationally for children, and I want to echo the comments of the member for Adelaide; I think she was absolutely on the money. I want to thank the Premier for taking a chance on me as an untested shadow minister and the trust that he has put in me as Government Whip over the last four years.

I have also been blessed over the last 16 years to have worked with a series of incredible people, and I hope that if I have any legacy at all it is as a supportive boss who always respected my

staff and always encouraged them to move onward and upward. I know that I have had some future giants of the party pass through my office on their way to greatness, and I also know that there were some very good people who saw politics up close and who, perhaps wisely, have sought career satisfaction elsewhere.

I will not name everybody, for obvious reasons, but there are some people who must be mentioned, and no-one is more important than my office manager, Chantelle Karlsen. Many of you will know Chantelle. She has worked in the office of the member for Elizabeth longer than I have, having been the trainee to Lea Stevens when I first started there in 2003. Chantelle is incredibly smart and tough and loyal and, truth be told, is largely responsible for any success that I might claim as the local MP. I am pleased to say that Chantelle was just last night re-elected to a second term as the deputy mayor of the City of Playford. I have no doubt at all that she is just getting started in terms of her contribution to the community that she loves.

I want to sincerely thank my current staff: Mary Kaspersis, Troy Davill, and also the many excellent people who have come and gone, including some names that are very familiar to everyone on this side of the house: Amy Ware, Wendy Gee and the irrepressible Chad Buchanan. It was always a team effort and it is the community that benefited.

I also want to put on the record my thanks and appreciation to the members and leadership of the SDA and of the broader Labor Unity faction. I have never laboured under the illusion that I was destined to be an MP, and I only came here with the support of a group of people who, like me, value unity, value discipline, and always put the working people that we all represent ahead of their own interests. I have always tried to conduct my professional life by those values.

There are too many to name, obviously, but I want to particularly thank Don and Nimfa Farrell, Josh Peak, Sonia and Dan Romeo, John Bistrovic, Senator Marielle Smith, Tom Carrick-Smith, Ben Rillo, John Atkinson, Amanda Rishworth, Reggie Martin, Aemon and Emily Bourke—who is here; hello, Emily—and of course, many, many others, including the member for Ramsay, of course, who is one of my oldest friends, and the member for Florey and the member for Taylor, without whom, it is fair to say, I would not be standing in this place today. I am truly grateful.

I leave this place with no concrete plans, but with two very clear intentions.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

Mr ODENWALDER: Well may you laugh, member for West Torrens. The first is to always seek out roles, whether in the public or private sector, where I can continue to find a way to make my community in South Australia a better place. I have always been committed to public service, whether as a police officer working in Elizabeth, as an electorate officer at the coalface of an MP's work or as an elected member of parliament itself.

I always wanted to give back to the community which has given me so much. My parents brought me and my sisters to Elizabeth from London in 1981, and it is the best thing they have ever done. I want to thank them both for that prescient move and for instilling in me the Labor values that guide me to this day. They are among the dozen or so people who watch these proceedings, and so I hope they are watching now. I love you guys.

The second intention, just as important as the first, is to commit to making my family my absolute top priority. My wife, Ann, has been there for me through the ups and downs of this political life. She has always been my partner, my North Star and my best adviser. Any missteps or strategic mistakes I might have made—I expected the member for West Torrens to laugh again there—have been the result of me not listening to her good advice, and I hope that I have finally learned my lesson.

Jimmy has grown up into a wonderful young man. The member for West Torrens claims he is an average soccer player. I want to put that on the record. I am so very proud of him and my two beautiful little boys, Felix and Miles, the Gallagher brothers in the gallery. They are changing every day. They are best friends and fierce enemies. They are cheeky and funny and brilliant, and I look forward to watching them grow into beautiful young men like their big brother.

It is common to observe that political life is hard on one's family, and it is: late nights, weekend commitments, constant attachment to emails and phones and, in the case of ministers and shadows, the 24-hour attention to the media cycle. But more than that, it is less commonly observed that the

simple fact of you being an MP and, even on the backbench, at least potentially in the public eye, can have a stultifying effect on your family. Every decision you make and they make must be made through the prism of this job. So to Ann, Jimmy, Felix and Miles, you have all sacrificed so much, even if you have sometimes been unaware of it, and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. I feel both very lucky and intensely guilty and I promise I will make it up to you.

As with all of us, I have had disappointments along the way, but I can honestly say that I leave this place with no bitterness, no ill-will towards anybody. It has been the absolute privilege of my life to be the member for Elizabeth, to represent the community I grew up in and have lived in for so long, and it has been a particular privilege to serve in this government with this Premier. There are books to be written about this government and perhaps more importantly about the four years in opposition that preceded it. Who knows, maybe I will dust off my degree and set about writing them.

I want to sincerely thank the people of Elizabeth for putting their trust in me all these years. I have met so many of you in so many different capacities it is impossible to distil it down but I do want to sincerely thank you all, particularly to all the Elizabeth sub-branch members, some of whom I count as lasting friends. There are other people outside this place too who I very much look forward to spending more time with. Kirsten and Brett have given me such good advice over the years, Lisa and Simon, Jason and Susie and so many more new friends.

In closing, I was reflecting on the member for Morialta's remarks towards the end of his valedictory and, if I understand him correctly, he was observing that there is this kind of cultural expectation that we as retail politicians adopt a kind of if not anti-intellectualism then certainly a limiting populism. It is absolutely true. You become used to playing a role. You learn to amplify certain parts of your personality and to bury others and the process is almost subconscious.

So, finally free of these shackles, the member for Morialta leaned into his natural inclinations as a renaissance man and quoted Marcus Aurelius and Plato. So in the same spirit, I want to close with a quotation from another philosopher, Bilbo Baggins:

I don't know half of you half as well as I should like; and I like less than half of you half as well as you deserve.

The SPEAKER: Touché.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (18:16): It used to be said of the Labor Party that the cream of the working class would rise to the top and come to the parliament. I have to say the thing about Lee and the way he conducted himself was that behind the very good nature and the very good humour was a fierce intellect. He is smart. He is a very smart guy. He has a big compassion and a big heart and he cares about Elizabeth and he cares about where he grew up. He is able to articulate that in a way that is common and nice and friendly.

The operation of the parliament this term, compared to the operation of the parliament last term needed—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The point I want to make is it could have been very hostile, given the behaviour in the last parliament, but it is very hard to hold a grudge against Lee. He is a good man, a very good man and a very good member of parliament. He has done the Labor Party proud in the finest traditions of the Australian Labor Party.

He might not remember this but there was a fallen police officer and there was a guard of honour. Lee went and stood there representing all of us while we were doing something else. Given he had been a sworn officer and given his connection to the Labor Party, you could tell that the commitment in standing in that guard of honour meant a lot.

I remember here in question time, we had this tactic of focusing on one person, because we had tactics. When we focused on a member of parliament, it was Lee's turn, and he had built up a body of questions and a body of work, and we were talking about it in the lead-up about how he would deliver it. I remember saying to him, 'You've got to be yourself,' and he said, 'What do you mean?' I said, 'Remain the funny person that you are, with the good humour. Use your natural instincts to interject and deliver it the way you want to.' That day was a devastating day for the

government. He was very good at what he did. I am going to miss him. I am going to miss him a lot. It is going to be very hard to find anyone who can do this job as well as he has because he had to fill the shoes of Michael Brown, who was probably the best Opposition Whip in the history of oppositions. Lee has done an exceptional job.

I met Lee, Zoe and Nick altogether, the northern trio, and they are a formidable team and they have done the northern suburbs exceptionally proud and I am sad to see Lee go. I hope you stay in contact with us.

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (18:20): I will be very brief today. I did want to put on the record a few comments about the member for Elizabeth who I have had the great pleasure to know long before I entered this place.

I got to know the member for Elizabeth when I was working for the member for Taylor in his federal electorate office and developed a bit of a strange friendship due to knowing a number of people who worked in prisons around our state when the member for Elizabeth was the shadow minister for corrections.

Interestingly enough, he would often reach out to me and we would have coffee and talk about different things that were going on in Corrections and he would ask for those personal experiences and that sort of thing, which was something that I really valued as a young person interested in politics, that he would take the time to hear from me about such things and that he was interested in what I had to say.

Lee is one of the people who will go down as being one of the kindest people you will meet in politics. He has an incredibly warm heart. He is fair, he is loyal and he is someone who always puts others before himself. I will certainly remember his time in this place for that. He is one of the very few people in this place who has a real interest in my storytelling. Often my stories go on for longer than they should.

What I was going to say was that every time I do have a story, he will ask me to repeat it. I will spend the next 10 minutes going on and then he will look around and tell everyone that I made it all up. I have always enjoyed the grace that he has given me to tell stories, the pretend interest that he has always given them, but on a real note, we have always got along talking about music, pop culture and a shared love for the Beatles. We have had a lot of shared interests and I have really valued the relationship that we have built over time.

He is loyal, he is diligent, he is fair, and I think the thing that I will always remember about Lee is he does what we love most in the Labor Party, he had a relatively safe seat and as a result of that he has always given back to those seats that perhaps do not have those margins. He campaigned in a number of seats in the lead-up to the 2022 election, always showed up for me and was always there not just to doorknock with me but to give advice when I needed it. I am sure that he has been doing that throughout this term in different seats as well. I have been really grateful for his mentorship, his friendship and I will miss him in this place.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (18:22): I have some quick remarks. I first acquainted myself with Lee on a UDA tour in 2017, I think it was. Surprisingly, we hit it off. We got on really well. He was representing the minister and I was the shadow minister for planning at the time.

I have also always noticed how professional he was with his estimates chairing as the Economic and Finance Committee Chair, fair but firm, and I was very pleased when I was appointed the whip after the election that I would be doing that in conjunction with Lee.

Lee has an incredible history. He was an English migrant growing up in Elizabeth. It was a tough start to life and you have done extremely well over your life. You have served the public as a policeman, served the public as a member of parliament and served your party. I know I sent you a number of text messages whenever there were reshuffles and your name was not mentioned but the commitment that you had to teamwork for your party and the commitment you had to ensuring that you did your job as the whip properly and responsibly and the way that we were able to work together is something that I really appreciate. You have made this last term of mine back in opposition a much more pleasant one than it could have been, so thank you very much. Enjoy whatever it is you are going to do.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (18:24): I first met Lee 30 years ago because I was dating one of his friends. That boyfriend is long gone but our friendship has remained all this time. I think about what we have achieved. There was a time period in the mid-nineties when youth unemployment was incredibly high. With our newly minted Bachelor of Liberal Arts degrees, Nick, Lee and I were ready to take on the world. But, to be honest, it was really hard and it took the trio of us a long time to find full-time work. Participating in the economy is something that has driven all of us, and I see how far we have come.

Today is a very sad day for me, to not have my dear friend here in this parliament going forward. I thank him for his friendship. I thank him for being there through some times when I had some very deep personal challenges in my life and he was there by my side.

But, more importantly, I want to talk about his role as the member for Little Para and then the member for Elizabeth. I reflect on what has been achieved in your time there. I see investment in health, I see investment in education and I see investment in our sporting areas. So as you leave this place, you can know that you made a difference and you made a difference that can be seen for future generations in the north.

As the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, I spend a lot of time with our migrant community. When I think about Lee and his parents and his sisters who made that decision—when I think you were the age of 10—to come here, they made a choice to have a better life. Coming from the East End of London where opportunities were more limited, Lee's parents said, 'We are going to go to Australia.' If I remember rightly, his dad was a bus driver for a very long time and they worked hard. His parents are some of the loveliest people you will ever meet. They love their son, they love their grandsons and they have given him that confidence to put his hand up to play the role that he has played in here.

But what they are really is the migrant story of particularly our northern suburbs and particularly people from the United Kingdom making a decision to move their families and start a life again. What that means is you are away from your extended families, so your family becomes smaller and tighter. I have seen that influence on Lee as a person, as he is as a father and as he is as a husband. He does that here.

I do think Lee's hardest job has been being our whip. It is like herding cats, but he has done it in such a wonderful way. Each and every one of us has felt that we could talk to him at any time: 'This is happening here, I need to go there,' and particularly as we have an increased level of women—more than ever before—on this side of the house, sometimes there are those juggles of what life is asking of you. Lee never made you explain, he just simply said, 'How can we do this?' I know that we have all valued this.

You are a great person. We will continue to have a deep friendship. You leave this house with your head held high and you can reflect on the achievements that you have had here and, of course, what you will continue to have in the years to come. I will miss you dearly.

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (18:28): I have known the member for Elizabeth for a long time, since the days of the Salisbury UniBar where we met at university. I am not going to tell any of those stories today, for obvious reasons, but what was obvious right from the start was that Lee is blood and bone linked to Elizabeth. He was living in the Downs with his parents, as Zoe said. Ken, I think, had just finished up as a bus driver.

If you wanted a picture of the rank and file of the labour movement in Elizabeth, Lee's father, Ken, is absolutely that. He has 'the knowledge'. He studied to be a London cabbie and has what is known as 'the knowledge'—the intricate knowledge of the streets of London—and then made the decision not to become a cabbie but to go to Elizabeth and change the course of his family's life. Of course, Lee is a product of that and a proud product of that, not just as a member of parliament but as a local police officer.

I have an all-time favourite story about Lee when he was a candidate and was doorknocking. He knocked on this guy's door, and they were having a bit of a chat, and the guy said, 'I know you from somewhere.' Lee said, 'Yes, I know you from somewhere, too.' At that point, they realised that

Lee had arrested him for cutting down a tree in the windbreaks. That tells you everything about life as a police officer in Elizabeth and life as an MP. I have no doubt that that guy voted for you, Lee; it is likely he appreciated you knocking on his door.

Elizabeth is a planned city, a garden city, and I remember Lee telling me—and you must have told me a couple of times when you worked with me in my electoral office or somewhere around that time—that once upon a time there were beautiful parks at the entry to Elizabeth the garden city, which was designed by Henry Smith, the architect working at the Housing Trust. Now they are not kept so well by the local council.

You have put that idea in my head and, of course, you have written to me recently in a more formal sense to return those windbreaks, as they are commonly known, to the original idea of the garden city. I think it is a fitting way of you ending your public life that you are still contributing to the city that gave you so much, to the city where all of your sons were born in the local hospital and are all linked by their birth to that city that we both love so much.

Politics is a tough business. You can have the odd crunching in caucus—it can happen. We all have our regrets about elements of public life, but you can leave yours with your head held high. You have served this house in a very noble way after a wartime whip. We had one who was better able to negotiate the peace, I think, and it is a tribute to your decency, Lee, and to your commitment to your community and to this parliament as an institution. So thanks so much for your contribution to the labour movement and to the parliament.

Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (18:33): I just want to make a few short observations. I have not known Lee as long as many others in this place. We really got to know each other when we both served on the opposition front bench, and I just want to note that I do not know that it is terribly common that we have had too many people who have had the frontline experience of being a police officer and then coming in and being part of a team developing that policy.

It can be a tough thing being on the front bench in opposition—a very tough thing at times—but I was always in great admiration of the firsthand experience and the insight that Lee brought to that task, and I think that the contribution he made to policy then and to policy we have seen developed in government needs to be recognised.

So I just want to thank him for what is thankless work in opposition. In particular, it feels like it is swept away when you come into government, but I think many of us saw the endeavour that you put into that work. So thank you very much for the influence you had on our law and order policy and how that has translated into government as well as I want to recognise that.

Secondly—and I thank the member for Ramsay for mentioning this as well, I wondered if anyone would—it can be a tough thing being a woman in this place, being a parent, and for me in particular being a solo parent. I have relied heavily on the good graces of our wonderful whip. I was very grateful in the period when I was on leave that Lee went out of his way to keep me in the loop on what was happening in caucus and in this place and ensured that I did not feel excluded or left out at all in that period of time, which can happen. I know that on occasion I have asked more than others in terms of understanding about my family arrangements.

An honourable member interjecting:

Ms STINSON: Did you say, 'You have'? Yes, I have. I am truly grateful for him really thinking outside the box and thinking about how to support me in a new role in my life. Lots of people, not just in this place but in society, say that they support working women or say that they support mothers in the workplace, but then sometimes it is all just a bit too difficult to implement.

Lee, you are a good one and we are so lucky to have you. You have absolutely put those values and the respect you have for women and working families into action. I will be forever grateful for your support. I will miss you a great deal. You have been a very loyal friend and a support when I have had a hard time, too, so I appreciate it. I wish you well.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (18:36): I will just add a few comments in terms of Lee, who, as I think we can see from all the speeches on this side, has meant a huge amount to all of us.

I first met Lee probably almost 20 years ago, but particularly in the last 12 years since I have served here, serving with Lee has been an absolute pleasure. Firstly, getting to know him when we

were both in that last term of the Weatherill government—he was Economic and Finance Chair at that point. I remember visiting Playford International College with him for one of the pieces of work that we were doing through an inquiry, and to see his passion for the northern suburbs and for Elizabeth is incredible.

To be the representative for Elizabeth is a difficult job. There is a lot of work that needs to be done. There are a lot of people that need to be helped. It is one of the areas of our country with the lowest socio-economic status, and Lee and his team have gone above and beyond to help people from Elizabeth with any number of issues. That has been a huge amount of work that he deserves incredible thanks for.

As has been noted, a background of having being born and bred in the area and having a background as a police officer as well has enabled him to bring to the parliament a rich life experience, which has certainly helped all of us and has helped us in the Labor caucus.

I also want to note his incredible work in terms of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme. That is helping people right now, and that would not have happened if it was not for Lee Odenwalder putting that forward—not on the front bench but on the backbench, putting it on the agenda to make that happen.

I remember when we were in opposition. I had briefly been the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and then Lee took over that portfolio and I spent some time in handover with him. Seeing his determination to get completely across everything to do with that portfolio, to be across all of the issues and to meet as many people as he could, shows his determination and his passion for the people of this state.

His work as whip has been extraordinary. One of the reasons why I believe we have been such a successful government is having a whip who has supported people and having a whip whom people have been able to go to for support and guidance. Thank you, Lee. That has been a really pivotal role in all of our government, and we all thank you for what you have done.

I also want to thank you on behalf of the broader party. You have been somebody who has put your hand up to go wherever, whenever—not only, as Olivia was saying, to be there in marginal seats but to go out in tiger territory. To put your hand up to go out to Murray Bridge, to go to the Riverland, wherever someone was needed to go, you were willing to go and do it without fuss, without rancour, without having to be pushed, so thank you for doing that.

I also want to thank Ann. Thank you, Ann, for lending us Lee for this time in the parliament. I know the impact the work we do here has on all our spouses, so thank you, Ann, and of course Jimmy, Felix and Miles. The only bittersweet upside is that you get to spend more time with them and the dog, which I thought you were going to mention. I did give the member for Elizabeth some advice about getting a dog, which he dutifully ignored, and I look forward to him spending many, many hours having to walk that dog and be up at all hours with the dog into the future. I wish you all the best, Lee.

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (18:40): I will keep mine short; I have learned in this place that 'brief' does not always mean 'short', but I will do that. Lee, I just want to put on the record how thankful my hometown of Upper Sturt is to you. As the shadow emergency services minister, you were one of the first to come up and engage in the campaign for me to win Waite and you helped me with a commitment to put up emergency warning signs for our CFS station. You can tell how much it means to me, and it means a lot to our fire brigade: it keeps our members safe and it keeps our community members safe, so I want to thank you.

I also want to let you know that you are the best whip I have ever worked with. You might be the only whip I have ever worked with, but I want you to know that you are leaving massive shoes to fill. Whoever gets the role when we come back has massive shoes to fill, so thank you.

I want to let you know how much you mean to our community. When you drive through Upper Sturt and see those signs in the future and you are teaching your young men how to drive, you can remember that you helped make that happen, so thank you.

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (18:41): I will be very quick; I know that your boys are hungry. I just want to thank the member for Elizabeth for being such a fabulous whip. It is scary coming into this place as a new member of parliament, and he was so kind and patient with all of us and was always willing to teach us things. He probably had 30—maybe not 30, but 27 different people come up to him and say, 'Are we sitting late? Are we doing this?' and every single time he would respond and just be calm and chill about it. I missed a text message from him once. I came running into the chamber and said, 'I'm so sorry. I didn't see my phone,' and he said, deadpan, 'It's fine. It's just parliament.' He has always made me laugh. I am really appreciative of him, his friendship and his work, and I am really going to miss him.

The SPEAKER (18:42): Thank you, Lee, for your patience, your professionalism and the way you have gone about everything you have done in your time in here. We are going to miss you.

VALEDICTORY

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel) (18:42): When I was 16, I wrote to Kim Beazley. I wanted his advice on politics and the law. Mr Beazley was a figure of quiet authority in the small Western Australian community where I lived with my dad, my sister and my stepmother. He wrote:

I am impressed that you, at this stage, are cheerful about considering a political career. I guess the best advice I could give you would be to pick a party now and stick to it.

Over all the years, I have kept the letter, together with another from the then Director of Public Prosecutions, Robert Cock KC; I will come to that later.

Like so much other good advice, I ignored Mr Beazley. After nearly eight years in the house, I was only ever a member of a party here for about three years—and from Mr Beazley's perspective, certainly the wrong one. As Shakespeare said in *Twelfth Night*:

I am as mad as he,

If sad and merry madness equal be.

You need to be adventurous to decide to be an Independent member and to live by your wits, and you need a little toughness. It is a single, daring act. As Joan Didion wrote in *Vogue*:

...people with self-respect exhibit a certain toughness, a kind of moral nerve; they display what was once called *character*, a quality which, although approved in the abstract, sometimes loses ground to other, more instantly negotiable virtues. The measure of its slipping prestige is that one tends to think of it only in connection with...United States senators who have been defeated, preferably, in the primary...

Then, of course:

However long we postpone it, we eventually lie down alone in that notoriously uncomfortable bed, the one we make ourselves.

This is how, happily, I made mine. My grandfather, Danny Cregan, for whom I am named, was quietly rebellious and admired. There is a story that a captain in his brigade was once overheard to say that if a single man was promoted in the field he wanted it to be D.D. Cregan. Danny Cregan, myopic, Irish and disdainful of authority, was commissioned in the field as a logistics officer, well behind the lines, fighting Erwin Rommel in Africa and later the Japanese in Asia. But he would have a chance at his own, single daring act.

In coming to this place I said I had a modest upbringing. That is true. It is also true that I wanted to step aside from the assumptions that often wrongly go along with Hale School and Peterhouse and Cambridge and even Moredun Station. But Moredun Station is the proper place to begin.

Raised on Moredun, which had been in the Cregan family for more than 100 years and had 38 dams, Danny married for love—his second marriage, which cost much of the farm. Later in Africa and particularly in New Guinea, serving with the 12th Light Horse, he was a profound critic of Australian defence policy. He held the strong view that the country was making a fatal error in waiting to withdraw troops from Europe for the defence of Australia. He did not mind being right, and he did not mind telling people. His letters home, including to his local member of parliament, who was particularly senior in the government of the day, were famous. He was never promoted again and finished the war still a lieutenant, alone with his glory.

Later, it is said that he refused an offer to stand for parliament. He had been divorced, he said, and there were rumours about other women, which, he assured the party officials who came to see him, were absolutely true. His view on the tactical errors of Singapore, Burma and Indonesia became accepted, a reminder that what is contested can rapidly become orthodoxy.

In any case, D.D. Cregan was an experienced critic of authority. He instilled in all of us—in everyone in our family—that it was just fine to oppose something, no matter the apparent personal cost or temporary social opprobrium. In fact, it might be better if the cost was high; it only improved the thrill of it all.

Make no mistake: I knew there would be criticism of my decision to become Independent, and that criticism came. Getting a lecture from Adrian Pederick on standards in politics was like getting a lecture from the town drunk on sobriety, but as a former law firm partner once said after I lost an easy case, 'You know, you don't have to win every day, but you do have to be right.' I felt that sooner or later the constituency would see the things I had observed at closer quarters. If they did not, that was the risk of leadership—the risk we all take and a risk I took wholeheartedly. I wrote in the margin of my daybook at the time:

The Marshall government is making enemies. It is infuriating the property council. It is quarrelling with the hotel's association and the master builders. Scandals, especially over expenses, are used as a device to strengthen the ruling faction's hand when instead they are a threat to the government-as-a-whole. New Ministerial appointments are being made from a narrow and sclerotic circle. The government's majority is unstable. Every signal to the executive is ignored. Many MPs fear for their seats. There is no longer talk of a second term.

I feared the state would see through the Marshall government. I do not share those reflections with any ill will. As the leader has said, once the hostilities end, the civilities must begin. But they are my reflections from the time and from my daybook.

There was also the question of GlobeLink and the question of my local branches. First, I had doorknocked my entire community to sell the benefits of GlobeLink. Soon after the election the policy was dumped. My electorate has forgiven me many things, but I judged that they would not forgive anybody for doorknocking them again and pretending GlobeLink was, after all, given everything I had already said, the wrong policy.

Second, in the time I was a member of the Liberal Party the party changed. I did not. A concerted membership drive from the hard right radically altered the nature of the institution. I cannot speak for the party in other parts of Australia, but in South Australia it is unquestionably, now, a hard right party. It indulges the fringe and the extremes, and every time it does, it loses more standing.

I refused to participate in the membership drive in my community, involving recruiting members from Pentecostal churches. I would refuse again today. Australia is not a sectarian society. It was made perfectly clear to me that if I did not fall into line, I would lose preselection. So it was kill or be killed. Drawing on a long Irish heritage, I knew what to do.

Serving as the first constitutionally independent Speaker was a pleasure in every way. Changing the constitution to ensure there would be an independent Speaker brought back all the tactical joy of working as a litigator at Allens. As an Independent, I was free from the mindless factionalism of the party. I could focus on my electorate and I feel I was able to devote the new energy to local projects.

We have a new hospital on the way, several new ambulance stations in the district, a new regional sports hub, a new aquatic centre, and a new school is funded and planned. Onkaparinga Valley Road through Kavel has been resurfaced. There is a new Service SA centre, an on-demand bus service is being delivered, and a new freeway interchange is being constructed. There is a new arts and culture hub, Fabrik, at Lobethal, together with other community assets. It was suggested that I am gold plating the electorate; instead, I believe that I have been focused on addressing years of neglect.

It was also an honour to replace, temporarily, Geoff Brock, who suffered a heart attack, as an Independent cabinet minister. I was honoured to receive a suggestion from the Premier that I join cabinet as the first Special Minister of State. It was a pleasure to work with the Premier, who is highly skilled, committed, intelligent and immensely capable.

It was also a great honour to be asked to advance legislation to ban political donations in South Australia, the first place where that has occurred anywhere in the world. For eight months, together with Lukas Price, the Premier and other advisers, we worked furiously and nearly every night. It was complex. There were, on average, three drafting changes a day. Many political participants in the state and elsewhere were invested in the task. They brought to bear as much influence as they could, and every day we resisted that influence in an effort to draw up the best scheme.

It was no small thing for the legislation to pass unanimously. As well, I mention Professor John Williams AM, Provost of Adelaide University, whose careful and accurate advice we came to rely on, as we had much earlier when I served as chair of the university merger committee. It was also a deep honour to serve as minister for corrections and for emergency services and police and to serve with other ministers in cabinet. It is wrong to elevate some to the status of favourites, and I admire the extensive horsepower of the cabinet overall, though I mention now particularly the Attorney-General, the current and former Treasurer and the former and current Deputy Premier.

It is true that I love politics. I also love other things. I am coming to the end of my second term. I had, at a much earlier time and perhaps foolishly, told the local newspaper that I would serve only two terms. My time is up.

What does it mean to be a local member? What values should you bring to the task? As a chief justice once taught me, and as I mentioned in my first remarks in this place:

As a general rule people who are popular or powerful, or who enjoy the support of the majority, either do not need or do not have any difficulty in securing the protection of the law. The people who need that protection are the weak, the friendless, the people who are accused of crime or other disgraceful conduct, people who can appeal only to the law to protect and vindicate their rights.

I took that lesson to heart in legal practice and, I hope, in politics.

As an aside, I want to share, mostly for my family, the first time I risked it all for something grand and exciting. I was in a mock trial competition, 15 years old in the Law Courts Building, facing off against a talented all-girls school. They were there to win. I went too hard on the cross examination. There were tears. Angry parents wrote to my headmaster. I worried that I was going to be suspended. Robert Cock KC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, who had acted as the judge, hearing about the latent scandal, wrote to the school:

In the several years which I have judged the Mock Trial competition, I have seen a number of remarkable students... Many treat the trial as a serious exercise and put tremendous effort into their preparation. Mr Cregan is, however, the most remarkable student I have witnessed so far.

Not the first time I was saved in this way—maybe not the last. I mention it so you know that I am returning to the law, something I have loved since I was 15, at least.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, and most especially to the people of Kavel and those in the gallery today who were willing to see that I wanted to do things differently and were prepared to extend me that privilege and, in time, the largest majority in the state. I hope in years to come you will find my contribution just as charming and ruthless because, scrawled in the flyleaf of all my university notebooks at Cambridge was a simple line from Beaton:

Be daring, be different, be impractical, be anything that will assert integrity of purpose and imaginative vision against the play-it-safers, the creatures of the commonplace, the slaves of the ordinary.

Lieutenant D.D. Cregan, most of all, I hope you are proud. I have enjoyed every minute.

To my staff, Airlie and Kayla, and Nicole and Leela, thank you. You are remarkable friends to have in politics, and I know you are setting out on your own political paths. Our community is as grateful as I am for your diligence, compassion, thoughtfulness, and care. You have done very fine work. I understand you have told our local newspaper you will only work for a future Independent member. You are such a valuable team for the electorate and have done so much of the work that I have been credited with, that I hope they understand what losing you would mean.

To Rebekha Sharkie, it has been a true pleasure working with you as the longest serving female crossbencher since Federation. You have left more than your own mark in our region. You have always been kind, funny and generous. To Steve Murray, the past President of the Liberal Party and a talented MP, thanks for being a very fine friend.

To all the staff at parliament in Hansard, the Blue Room, the operations and maintenance staff, to the clerks and their officers, and to the library, thank you for your support. To Matt Schultz, thank you for standing in my place. You are an extraordinary community leader with real heart, intelligence, and the capacity to deliver the best outcomes for the Hills.

To my sisters, my brother and my parents, thank you for your forbearance as I have pursued my ambitions. As Hillary Clinton once said, ambition can be a lonely passion, and it is long past time to follow my heart into other things.

Finally, to Clare, whose letters always started in a touching way, 'My Dear Dan.' To borrow from James Salter, whose writing leaves an imprint: among the road maps, cards, old addresses—the lost world never put in order, there is, I know, a photograph. It is taken after dinner. The graceful, slightly awkward girl; it is difficult now to imagine the woman she might in later years have been. She passed away from cancer. The very first and perhaps the very best of my supporters, all those years ago. She does not know I never married, there are no children. Her death was a knell and everything to follow seems less vital.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (18:57): I am very sad to see my friend Dan Cregan leave. There are often conscience votes in the parliament where political parties, for a moment, vanish, and I often find myself in the minority of those conscience votes. I look around and I think to myself, 'This is where I would be if there were no political parties.' I think I would be alongside people like Dan Cregan. We do not share the same ideology on industrial relations, and we do not share the same views on capital, but we do share a lot of common values.

The Adelaide Hills had been taken for granted for a long time until Dan Cregan became the member for Kavel. When I was first transport minister, we announced the first interchange at Bald Hills, and because we announced it, the local Liberal MP opposed it, which I found fascinating. Because of Dan Cregan, there is a new interchange being built; there is not a goldmine at the Bird in Hand; there are local intersections being upgraded; there is a fully funded, on-demand service. It is not a trial anymore, it is there for good. He has fought very hard.

What I saw in him, and in his friend Steve Murray, was something unique. My biggest fear in the last term of opposition was that the Liberal Party would embrace these two men and bring them into the tent because they are smart, they are strategic, they think, they have compassion, and they understand. Luckily, for us, they did not. They kept them out, and for that I am eternally grateful.

When Dan became Special Minister of State, we on this side of the house entrusted him with the abolition of political donations. Let me say that again. We trusted someone who grew up in the Liberal Party with the abolition of political donations. I think it is fair to say under the current circumstances that we would have outraised our opponents probably 5:1 and we would have had a massive arsenal. However, we trusted the person who could have designed a system to disadvantage us.

The intricacies of it are delicate, but Dan went away and did a piece of honest work, not in the interests of a government or an ideology but in the interests of the people, and he has taken money out of politics. For that I think the people of South Australia will be eternally grateful to the Premier and the minister he put in charge of it, the Special Minister of State. It is a remarkable thing, and I do not think we have really quite seen the consequences of it yet. They will filter through because they will take time.

Dan will go away, he will go back to the law and he will make obscene amounts of money, because he is good counsel and he is the person you would want on your side, but he is also a good man. He is a caring man. He has personal circumstances that he is attending to because of his diligence and his honour. I think that is a remarkable trait in a man who has so much to offer this parliament and this state.

I point out to him that there was another very famous South Australian member of parliament who left this state after doing only a short period of time and then moved to Perth. He was Bob Hawke's uncle and he became Premier of Western Australia. Mate, if you get there, we want our

GST back, but I suspect we will not win that argument. Godspeed, Dan. Thank you very much for everything you have done.

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (19:02): It gives me great honour to get up and speak to a friend and a colleague. As you have just heard, I understood everything that the last two years has looked like and has been. Dan and I formed a friendship in the Liberal Party, along with his friend behind us, the member for Davenport. We found ourselves in a party that was very, very difficult to even sit and listen to, let alone bat for.

The thing with Dan is that you cannot take away his history or his past in the fact that he has come right through the rank and file of Young Liberals. He has even formed relationships, even close intimate ones, with up and coming young liberals, just as any good family political position might do. He was as liberal as they come when he got into politics in 2018. One of the saddest things in this parliament here today and what we might be looking at at the next election in 2026 is that what this state needs more than ever—and perhaps even the Malinauskas Labor government might admit this—is a good, strong opposition.

In his Liberal thinking fashion, Dan does not yell it out, he does not preach to the unconverted or those who converted, he just goes about his business as though we all should either know the business of a Liberal government or know better. In 2021, I saw one of the most amazing strategic plays this parliament may ever see. On the back of a weak Liberal government, confirmed by the last 2022 election—that is not my justification, not my account. Like Dan, we both polled well in 2022. The rest of the Liberal MPs cannot say that, and most of them are not here today. Dan then went on to be the Speaker, an Independent minister and, as we have heard from the Treasurer, he played some very important roles in this house and for the Malinauskas government. That should be of no surprise to anyone.

Dan is very articulate and a man of few words. Back in the days of 1998 to 1992 I was told in the shipyard by some tradespeople, 'Nick, the ones with the loudest voices are the ones you have to stay clear of because they usually do not know anything.' Dan is one of those quiet achievers who knows way more than perhaps even the eight years that he has given us so far and, as indicated by the Treasurer, the world is before him as he leaves this place.

With Dan and his logic—and I heard some of the parts he said he did when the party changed—I totally agree. I do not think the party has considered what it looked like between 2018 and 2022, and where it is going in its future. I really like the words 'whether it is either to be killed or change the course of action'. He was a tactician and his function by stealth was incredible to watch, not only in the four years but the next four years after that.

So why has he accomplished so much? He is honest, he is clever, he is calculated and, if you know that, you will work with him. I have seen the Malinauskas government do this and no wonder they have good things from him, as has been indicated by the Treasurer, because Dan is a person who really does think and plan his way.

The other thing I want to say that I picked up is that he uses the word 'integrity'. Integrity can be used to your own detriment, it can be used in an opportunistic way, but I think that when you add integrity with care and allegiance and understanding you end up with a total package that Dan Cregan has offered the seat of Kavel. May I just say that I think the seat of Kavel has been immensely lucky to have, first of all a Liberal member in Dan Cregan but to finish up with a very promising Independent member.

With that, Dan, as the Treasurer indicated, I wish you all the best in your pursuits. I am sorry we probably did not work as closely as we probably could have. I may have got a lot more for MacKillop if I had worked more closely with Dan Cregan than hoping that the Marshall government might see the light of day and the error of their ways.

The future for you, whether it be money-driven—and I have yet to see that because I do not think going into politics is something we should all be doing. I do not see it as a money-making exercise really. You will take your skills and your experience, and the world will be your oyster, and you deserve all the luck in the world. Well done, and thank you.

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (19:07): I may do something slightly unconventional today and talk to the house about the 18 months that I lived in Mount Barker. When I lost my job in the Newland electorate office in 2018 I was looking for a bit of purpose and I thought what I would do was write to

the newly minted member for Kavel about the build that I was undertaking in one of the new estates at the back of Mount Barker from my hometown of course in Tea Tree Gully.

I wrote to Dan within maybe three or four days of the election. He responded on brand-new letterhead within about 24 hours. I had only written just as a future constituent, completely anonymous to him, and not only had he written this letter on letterhead but there was a handwritten note on the side saying he looked forward to watching my political pursuits progress. Of course, I was both very impressed and terrified, which I think are always two words you can use to describe Dan Cregan.

Later on that year, when my house was built, I did move up to a Mount Barker that looks very different to how Mount Barker looks today. Although I only lived in that community for a very short period of time, I lived there during some trying times, being bushfires in the Adelaide Hills and also the COVID pandemic. I was continually impressed by not only the active way that Dan served that community but also the personalised nature of the care that he took for each different town in the Hills, knowing that we had friends and family in different sections that had been affected particularly by the bushfires. I was very impressed by that and at one of events where I did see Dan along the way, he had made a commitment to me and my then partner that he would doorknock each of the small towns twice. Again, I had a bit of a laugh about it and then wrote that down and sent it on to whoever I needed to send it to, alongside all of the very impressive material that we had received in different places along the Hills.

By the time it came to the 2022 election, I was long gone, and I got a call from the ex-partner in question, who was going to place his early vote. He asked my permission to vote for Dan Cregan rather than the Labor Party, which of course is not something I ever would have allowed of a current partner, but he was an ex. I did my due diligence as a budding politician myself, and I asked him one question: 'That depends. Did he doorknock you twice in Lobethal?' He said something like, 'I think he doorknocked me three times.' I said, 'Alright, you can put Dan first and Labor second, just because we are no longer together.' Again, I remember that conversation so clearly, when he said, 'No, I am pretty sure he came round three times,' which was just so incredibly impressive.

I returned to Mount Barker a couple of weeks ago. I had not driven through there in probably four or five years, to be honest, and I would not have been able to place my former residence on the map. I literally would have no idea how to get there. It is not the place that it was when I lived there, and there is no question in my mind that that is because of the advocacy of Dan Cregan.

When I moved to Mount Barker, it was not keeping up with growth. There was no local supermarket that I could walk to. I could not get to a bus from my house. I drove through there just weeks ago, looking at the changes to that town, that city, that really desperately needed it. Of course, there has been a lot of work from our government to make that happen, but there is no question in my mind that a very, very hardworking, intelligent, community-first local member has had a really big role to play in that. Although I am likely not to return to live there anytime soon, I am very thankful for what you did for a lot of my family and friends who are in the Adelaide Hills and, of course, for the strange and interesting conversations and friendship that we have built along the way. Thank you.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (19:11): My first interaction with Dan was indirect. It was actually through my brother and sister-in-law, who have a property at Carey Gully. Their property at Carey Gully is a fair distance from other neighbours, and here I was hearing how rolling up one day to doorknock their house was a young budding candidate for the Liberal Party, Dan Cregan. I thought, 'Bloody hell.' This is a city MP. If something has a bit of a steep driveway or a rolling hill, we complain about it, but here is somebody going out through Carey Gully, where properties are probably a kilometre apart from each other, doorknocking houses that have never been doorknocked before.

I think that goes to show the hard work and the dedication to his community that Dan Cregan has. I think that that hard work and commitment led to the events that we saw a bit over four years ago in this parliament, which will no doubt be some of the most unprecedented times, certainly some of the more hairy times that this parliament has seen. It was borne out because of a passion for Dan's community that he felt was completely missing in action in delivery of the government.

Dan, to go through with what he did, had to have an incredible amount of guts and bravery to do so—guts and bravery that I hope no-one on this side ever has to have, let me say. The internal fortitude to do what he did is absolutely extraordinary, but while no doubt he copped a very significant amount from people who no doubt have probably never talked to him again, look at what happened at the next state election for his result in his community. It was an overwhelming result. It was an overwhelming endorsement of Dan Cregan and his agenda and his advocacy for a community which had, by any objective measure, fallen behind where it should have been in terms of delivery of services.

The one area I have, obviously, the most interaction directly with is health, and something that Dan campaigned on relentlessly was the delivery of ambulance services to the Mount Barker community. Up until Dan took the decision that he did, up until the last state election, there was one 24-hour ambulance to service the entire Mount Barker community, which was nowhere near enough. It meant people literally lost their lives because we did not have that service offering for the community, which was growing exponentially.

I will always remember standing with Dan on what is now the site of the new Mount Barker Ambulance Station and Dan saying, 'Chris, this is the happiest day of my political career.' It was pretty touching and I was glad to be there for it. It just goes to show how invested you were in delivering for your community, how much this meant to you. The new Mount Barker hospital is going great guns—cranes up, building works underway—and it is all because of the legacy of your advocacy for those projects for the Mount Barker community.

The Hon. K.A. Hildyard interjecting:

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: The member for Reynell says the 'Cregan hospital'. At the very least, a statue or a plaque or something might be appropriate. Just lastly I want to say, without divulging any confidence, that in the cabinet, Dan, you were an incredible contributor to our discussions, not just in terms of the areas of your portfolio responsibility but in areas right across public policy and political life in terms of cabinet deliberations. It is an unusual thing, usually, to have members who were previously from another political party form part of a Labor cabinet—it does happen repeatedly here in South Australia—but it really elevated our discussion and you brought a depth of understanding to our discussion that led to better decision-making.

I think all of cabinet were very disappointed with the decisions that you have made, firstly to step away from cabinet and secondly to step away from parliament entirely. We understand the reasons why you have done so. We know that you will devote yourself to your family and, as has been mentioned, no doubt go on to have a very successful private-sector career, but we are going to miss you and I think this house and your community has been all the stronger for your contribution in this place.

Ms HUTCHESON (Waite) (19:17): I will just make a few quick remarks. Dan, you are the best member for Kavel that I have ever known—again, maybe the only one. I want to thank you for being so friendly and so willing to share ideas and share your experience with me as a new member, and thank you for your help when you were the Minister for Emergency Services as well. It has always been a real pleasure to be able to listen to you when you talk in the chamber and, no offence to our current Speaker who is doing a sterling job, it was always fun to listen to Dan when he was trying to keep us all in order in this place. Then, as the emergency services minister, your responses during question time were always great to listen to.

As a fellow Hills MP I know that the people who live in Mount Barker, and in Kavel more broadly, absolutely love you and they are going to miss you dearly. In terms of your work through the bushfires but just more broadly, looking after your community is something that I absolutely aspire to. I want to thank you for all of your advice and for sharing information with me around learning about what 'campaign calories' are and giving me some tips, and your special interest in Waite and hopefully seeing me return here at the next election.

I want to thank you. I want to wish you all the best when you go to Perth and for your family as well. You have been a fantastic member in this place and we will miss you.

The SPEAKER (19:18): Thank you very much Dan, member for Kavel, for everything you have done. I remember having some long chats with you around your thoughts on ICAC. Then, when you moved into the ministry and I moved into this spot, I will be forever grateful for all the guidance

that you provided on how to do things in the Speaker's chair. Thank you very much for the service to your community and to this parliament.

At 19:19 the house adjourned until Thursday 27 November 2025 at 11:00.

*Answers to Questions***NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

156 Mrs HURN (Schubert) (21 August 2025).

Have Billard Leece Partnership provided an opinion as to whether the new Women's and Children's Hospital will be delivered by 2031 and within a budget of \$3.2 billion?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

Billard Leece Partnership were appointed as the lead architectural designers for the New WCH Project on the strength of their multidisciplinary expertise across architecture, interior design, master planning, and health planning. As the lead architects for the new WCH project, Billard Leece Partnership are responsible for delivering design services for the project, and the project team does not rely on Billard Leece Partnership for program or cost advice.

WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (29 April 2025).

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

In March 2025 a precautionary decision by clinicians was made to postpone surgeries to ensure patient safety. In two cases, children had begun anaesthesia. However, no surgical procedure had commenced and there was no harm. Both procedures have now been completed.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (29 April 2025).

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

In 2024-25, SA Health recruited 11 psychiatrists and 26 medical practitioners into roles that provide a pathway to qualifying as a psychiatrist.

SA HEALTH DOCTORS' WELLBEING REPORT

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (1 May 2025).

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

Staffing is managed within approved budgets by each local health network (LHN). Workforce capacity is continually monitored and adjusted to ensure safe, effective care.

SA Health remains committed to ongoing recruitment and retention efforts to strengthen the medical workforce and support the delivery of high-quality services across the state.

Since March 2022, the Malinauskas Labor government has recruited an additional 646 FTE doctors, above attrition.

DROUGHT, MENTAL HEALTH

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (18 June 2025).

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

A number of measures are in place to boost existing mental health and resilience in drought-affected areas. These include expanding community resiliency programs, individual and group peer support as well as the provision of additional funding to expand on the ground mental health support.

Information for drought affected communities about mental health support options has been underpinned by a social media campaign which began at the start of May 2025 and has had 1,075,469 views since inception. In addition, a targeted communications campaign commenced on 3 November 2025, following a PIRSA campaign, to ensure drought-affected community members know about the mental health support available leading into summer.

RESERVOIR FISHING PERMITS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (21 August 2025).

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning): I have been advised:

SA Water's annual fishing permit fee for recreational fishing across all reservoirs opened for fishing is \$38.00 or \$30.50 for concession. The funds are used to manage recreational fishing, primarily funding the fish stocking program.

INDIAN HOUSING PLAN

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (3 September 2025).

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning): I am not aware of any discussions between the Indian government and the South Australian government regarding plans to build one million houses in Australia and my portfolio agencies advise they have not had any such discussions.

REGIONAL HOUSING

In reply to **Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop)** (15 October 2025).

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning): I have been advised:□

□ Renewal SA's Office for Regional Housing (OfRH) is in the final stages of delivering the pilot project for the Regional Key Worker Housing Scheme (RKWHS). Twenty-four of the 30 houses in the pilot project have been completed and are now tenanted by essential service workers in the health care, education and law enforcement sectors in Mount Gambier, Renmark, Kadina, Moonta Bay and Port Augusta.

The six remaining homes in the pilot project, currently under construction in Ceduna, are scheduled for completion by the end of 2025. These houses will be sold to private investors, with long term leases to the Government of South Australia secured for a minimum of ten years. Four houses (in Port Augusta) were sold in June 2025 and the remaining 26 houses in the pilot project are now in the process of being sold.

In Bordertown, OfRH will construct five new homes for government employees within the first stage of a development project in partnership with Tatiara District Council which will deliver 15 housing outcomes. Construction of these houses will commence in early 2026.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VIRTUAL EMERGENCY SERVICE

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (16 October 2025).

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

Discussions are underway with the South Australian Virtual Emergency Service (SAVES) to explore additional rollout opportunities, where the service requirement is aligned with community profile, and noting these are also subject to contractual processes.

SAVES currently provides contracted remote GP support to 33 regional hospitals across the state, located in:

- Barossa Hills Fleurieu LHN
Kangaroo Island.
- Eyre and Far North LHN
Ceduna, Cleve, Coober Pedy, Cowell, Cummins, Elliston, Kimba, Streaky Bay, Tumby Bay, Wudinna.
- Yorke and Northern LHN
Balaklava, Booleroo Centre, Burra, Crystal Brook, Jamestown, Laura, Maitland, Orroroo, Peterborough, Port Broughton, Riverton, Snowtown, Yorketown.
- Flinders and Upper North LHN
Hawker, Quorn, Roxby Downs.
- Limestone Coast LHN
Bordertown, Keith, Kingston, Millicent, Naracoorte, Penola.

Alongside SAVES, several other virtual care models operate in regional South Australia including LHN based services such as Riverland Mallee Coorong – Country Access to Remote Emergency Support (RMC CARES) and statewide programs like the SA Virtual Care Service, which provides virtual access to medical consultants, GPs, paramedics and senior nurses daily from 8am to 10pm.

SA Health is also examining broader virtual care options, including potential 24/7 statewide models, to inform future regional and metropolitan support planning.

HAMMILL HOUSE

In reply to **the Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart)** (29 October 2025).

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

As a part of the new Emergency Department (ED) Project there was a requirement for the project electricians to undertake work on a distribution board that would provide electricity to the new ED that also provides electricity to Hammill House.

While work was being carried out on the Hammill House distribution board the generator backup which provides electricity to Hammill House during power outages could not be used, as all power through the distribution board including the generator was required to be disconnected.

Power outages occurred during the afternoon between 2pm and 4pm, which was coordinated with Hammill House nurse unit managers as the most suitable time.

During the third scheduled power outage the work extended beyond the scheduled two hours by 35 minutes and this extension resulted in the battery backup for the nurse call system to run flat, causing the system to alarm and when power was restored the system was returned to normal function.

All power outages were communicated to nursing staff, who in turn verbally informed all residents in advance. Portable oxygen was made available and accessible if required. There were no reports of oxygen required during the outages.

Attention was provided to all resident comfort needs when and where required, and when it was identified that a resident required repositioning to support their needs, attempts were taken to provide appropriate care. The fourth and final activity to connect the new ED to the power grid, was successfully completed on 6 November 2025, with no reported incidents.

It has been identified that not all beds have a battery backup supply, and this is now under investigation. For future planned or unplanned outages where a power backup supply cannot be provided, contingency plans have been put in place for residents to ensure their comfort and needs are not compromised.

NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (29 October 2025).

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

All specialities that deliver outpatient department services currently within the existing Women's and Children's Hospital will continue to provide outpatient department services at the New Women's and Children's Hospital, except for the Child Development Unit.

Care closer to home is a key WCHN strategic goal and in collaboration with the New WCH project, WCHN continues to undertake clinical service planning to provide flexible outpatient services that fulfil the criteria for care closer to home. Antenatal services include:

- General obstetric clinics;
- Obstetric medicine clinics;
- Maternal Fetal medicine clinics;
- Midwifery clinics;
- Allied health clinics;
- Maternity diabetes clinics;
- Ngangkita Ngartu (Aboriginal Family Birthing Unit); and
- Midwifery Group Practice.