

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### Thursday, 27 November 2025

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

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

**The SPEAKER** read prayers.

#### *Parliamentary Committees*

### **NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE: DUCK SHOOTING PROHIBITION**

**Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (11:03):** I move:

That the eligible petition presented to the house on 13 November 2025 from 22,500 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to prohibit duck shooting in South Australia be referred to the Natural Resources Committee.

This is the largest petition received by this parliament this term, calling for an end to recreational shooting in our state: 22,000 South Australians from every region and every walk of life all saying with one voice, 'This outdated cruelty must end.' This is an extraordinary act of civic participation and it deserves recognition in this chamber. These signatures were not gathered online with the click of a button; they were collected by hand—thousands of conversations and thousands of moments where everyday South Australians stopped, learned more, shared their concerns and chose to act.

I would like to acknowledge the tireless work of the RSPCA South Australia, Birds SA, the Conservation Council SA, South Aussies for Animals, and every volunteer who has spent the past five months standing outside shops and markets and local events collecting handwritten signatures. You have brought this issue from the wetlands to the very steps of Parliament House. This is people power in its purest form. Many of these volunteers have told me stories that have stayed with me, like the grandmother who signed because her grandchild asked why ducks cry out when they are shot. These are the lived experiences that do not make it to the technical reports but they do matter deeply.

In 2023, a parliamentary inquiry into native bird hunting examined this issue in depth. It heard from hunters, scientists, conservationists, wildlife carers and animal welfare experts, and the evidence was sobering. The inquiry found what many in our community already knew: that monitoring and enforcing compliance across vast wetlands is almost impossible, and that too many birds are wounded, not killed outright.

South Australia has only a small number of compliance officers available to monitor vast and often remote wetlands. Even with the best intentions, there are simply not enough boots on the ground to ensure humane standards are met, and when oversight is impossible, cruelty becomes inevitable. The RSPCA presented footage from the very first day of the 2023 season, footage not taken by regulators but by independent observers, showing wounded ducks left flapping on piles, dogs encouraged to snap at still-living birds and inhumane attempts to kill injured ducks by windmilling them by the neck or stomping them into the ground.

What I found particularly heartbreaking from this footage was that this seemed to be some kind of father-son activity: 'Let's take our boys out to the wetlands and let's teach them how to do this practice'—a practice that I only learned about recently called windmilling, where they literally spin live ducks around by the neck. Those kids were aged nine, 10, 11, and this was supposed to be a fun experience with their parents. I think what was particularly concerning was that they were not good at this practice, so they did not really achieve the outcome they were hoping for, and often it took quite some time before that duck was put out of its misery.

These are not isolated incidents. They are scenes that are witnessed year after year, and the scale of suffering is significant. The RSPCA estimates that as many as 10,000 ducks each season may be left to suffer slow, painful deaths after being shot. One experienced hunter told the committee he refuses to shoot ducks at all, not because he is against hunting but because the wounding rate is simply too high.

For those who have never witnessed it, it is important to understand what duck hunting actually involves. A shotgun does not fire a single bullet; it sprays hundreds of tiny metal pellets into the air, a wide cloud of shot aimed roughly towards a moving bird. Some pellets will hit vital organs, but many do not. The birds on the edge of that spray are struck in their wings, their legs or their backs. They are injured but they are still alive. Some will fall into the water and struggle, and others will fly on with pellets embedded inside them, only to die slowly hours or days later from pain, infection or predation. It is not clean and it is not quick. As even hunters told the inquiry, wounding is inevitable, not because the shooters lack skill but because the very method makes cruelty unavoidable.

Beyond the animal welfare concerns, though, duck shooting also disturbs fragile wetland ecosystems. Repeated gunfire disrupts breeding cycles, scatters migratory species and impacts other native wildlife. Wetlands are some of our most precious ecological assets and their protection has to be part of this conversation.

When we talk about sport, let's be honest about what that actually means: hundreds of lead pellets scattered through the air, hitting living creatures at random. Duck hunting in South Australia is carried out by less than 0.05 per cent of the population—711 permit holders in a state of 1.8 million people—yet we keep protecting this activity. Each of those hunters can legally shoot up to 10 ducks per day across a three-month season. It is a pastime for a few but suffering for thousands, and the vast majority of South Australians, as multiple polls have shown, want this cruelty to end.

Three independent polls in recent years found around 70 per cent of South Australians support a ban and almost 90 per cent of South Australians say that, when animals are killed, it should be quickly and humanely—something that just cannot be achieved with duck shooting. As the RSPCA points out, we do not talk about wounding rates in abattoirs because humane killing requires control, precision and certainty. Shotguns in a wetland just cannot deliver that.

Other states have also grappled with this same question. New South Wales, Queensland and WA banned duck shooting decades ago. South Australia remains one of the few states that still allows the recreational shooting of native waterbirds. Those states that ended duck shooting have not looked back. Their wetlands remain open for birdwatching, photography, education, tourism—activities that create far more economic benefit and community participation than a short hunting season ever could. These are models that we can all learn from.

Every year, volunteers from rescue groups and the RSPCA spend their weekends retrieving wounded birds, comforting the dying and witnessing suffering most of us will never see. They do this because they believe in the lives of our native wildlife, and their evidence—their lived experience—needs to be part of the conversation.

As the Conservation Council has noted, people living near wetlands are tired of the gunfire, tired of injured birds washing up on their properties, tired of seeing habitat disrupted and breeding disturbed. As Birds SA has said, 22,500 signatures send a clear signal about what South Australians consider decent, civilised behaviour in 2025. As South Aussies for Animals put it so simply: 'Why is this still allowed?' And I have heard many kids from primary schools in my local area also say that same thing: 'Why is this still allowed?'

We are a state that prides itself on fairness, empathy and evidence-based decision-making and, when 22,500 South Australians speak with this level of clarity, we have a duty to listen. If cruelty is recognised, what level of suffering are we willing to accept? Government must always base decisions on evidence, consultation and fairness, but part of that responsibility is listening deeply to our community and being open to evolving expectations. Young people, in particular, are watching what we do here. When school students write to MPs asking why our laws still allow native animals to be shot for recreation they are not asking technical questions, they are asking moral ones; and they are asking us to lead, and they expect us to.

So, today, as I table this petition, I do so with deep gratitude to the RSPCA, to all partner organisations and to every South Australian who has signed their name to this cause. With 22,500 signatures—22,500 voices—our community has spoken.

Motion carried.

#### **ECONOMIC AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: YORKE PENINSULA HEALTH SERVICES**

Adjourned debate on motion of Mr Hughes:

That the sixth report of the committee, entitled Inquiry into Delivery of Health Services on the Yorke Peninsula, be noted.

(Continued from 30 October 2025.)

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (11:13):** I believe I am still on my feet from halfway through my last contribution, so I will finish it off quickly because I want to make sure that my colleague, the member for Narungga, has the opportunity to be able to speak specifically about some of the detail of this important inquiry and report that was done on the delivery of health services on Yorke Peninsula.

Regional people deserve to have a standard of health care that should be expected right across our whole country. We should not be accepting a lower standard of care for those of us who live in regional South Australia just because of convenience. Your postcode should not determine your health outcomes, and that is why this is a really important report that is being put forward.

Coming from the other side of the gulf, from Yorke Peninsula, these problems are magnified even more with the challenges that are faced as far as distance goes, firstly, with getting health professionals to be able to deliver a service. The recruitment and retention of GPs and RNs within regional communities should be a policy focus area for government, no matter what colour, because we know that if those basic services are not delivered into regional communities, especially here in South Australia, the opportunity for sustainable communities to continue will be increasingly difficult.

The health delivery within regional communities is an area that we on this side see as a really important focus area for investment. I urge the government to consider the different aspects of this report, especially when it comes to some of the transportation, some of the specialist care and some of the really important health delivery services, which are delivered through our hospitals and regional South Australia. The important work that this report highlights should form the basis for regional health policy going forward, no matter what type of government is in power.

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (11:15):** It is a tremendous honour to rise today to contribute to this, being the culmination of what has been a pretty significant body of work performed by my electorate. To secure almost 11,000 signatures in a discrete area is quite an impressive feat and to be one of the first petitions to achieve that quantum that will trigger an inquiry is a really wonderful effort by my community and it goes to highlight how important an issue it is.

It is something that has been touched on, obviously, just now by the member for Flinders, but it is something that is at the forefront of the minds of possibly every single regional South Australian, the fact that it seems as though our regional health services are declining in an irreversible way and that something needs to be done ASAP to ensure that we can be comfortable living where we live and knowing that we can access the services that we need when we need them.

I would like to start, in the culmination of this report and this inquiry, by thanking my community for getting behind it and ensuring that we got that number of signatures we needed and that we were able to contribute to the inquiry as we did and secure a result that has been laid on the table now, and, of course, in a rather embarrassing faux pas in question time yesterday, the response from government also having been laid on the table. It probably did not necessarily need a question in question time, but we got one nonetheless.

I am pleased, now that we have the response from government, we can see what they intend to do and it will be open for the community to see how they have responded to it. I have had a quick read since yesterday and I note that the government have accepted all the recommendations, which is pleasing; however, I do want to note my initial disappointment that the recommendations were somewhat equivocal as presented by the Economic and Finance Committee. There were quite a few

that recommended the government 'consider investment' or 'investigate' or words to that effect, rather than the unequivocal nature of just 'invest in hospitals' and 'invest in our regional health system'.

While I am happy and thankful that the government were able to accept all the recommendations, I wish that they were more certain and that we would just see commitments for new hospitals and improved services. Nonetheless, I will now be doing my level best to ensure that our community achieves the essence of what these recommendations sought to recommend, that they realise that we are in desperate need of improved facilities and better services. That was the essence of the recommendations and not to be 'considering' or 'investigating' or any of those other words that add equivocation to what we need.

I do want to touch on a couple because there were some encouraging responses in there. Firstly—and it has been a major passion of mine—the Wallaroo Hospital is farcically undersized for what we need. It is a 21-bed inpatient hospital for an area that services what I would estimate to be 15,000 or 16,000 people. It is a comically undersized hospital and it really is struggling under the weight of the population it serves.

It is shaping up to be quite a busy summer in that gulf as well. The algal bloom in Gulf St Vincent is risking driving people away from that coastline, and they will, inevitably I am sure, find themselves on the Spencer Gulf side and putting more pressure on our hospital there.

It is pleasing to see in the recommendations that the government have dispatched a strategic infrastructure assessment for the Wallaroo Hospital and that this process will support the infrastructure master plan to establish the case for change and identify preferred development solutions. We know—thanks to the HAC that I am on—that there was an architect there recently who was doing an assessment about whether a refit or a rebuild was the preferred option, and I look forward to seeing whether that information is made public in due course so we can hopefully use that to lobby for the preferred outcome. I also want to touch on another point that is made under recommendation 1:

Radiology services currently provided at Wallaroo Hospital include a seven-day a week after-hours service until 10pm weekdays and between 9am and 10pm on weekends and public holidays. Discussions with the on-site radiology provider are ongoing at Wallaroo Hospital to extend access to CT imaging to the same after-hours availability with a view for emergency access overnight.

This is something that came up in the course of the committee report quite a bit and it is something that I know local GPs consider a life-saving option. People who present to hospital with a stroke and need an urgent CT to determine its severity currently have to head towards Port Pirie to have an emergency CT scan, and if it is then discovered to be potentially life-threateningly serious they will then need to go to Adelaide, which is in the other direction.

So we are looking at a one-hour car ride to Pirie for that CT scan and then a more than two-hour car trip to Adelaide for the treatment if it is required. This, of course, is not quite ideal and it is something that I hope those discussions lead to a result on quite soon. It would be pleasing to see those CT services extended at Wallaroo Hospital in the not too distant future.

We actually had an example in my office only recently when my office manager's grandson was playing basketball and sustained a concussion. He presented to Wallaroo Hospital at 10.15, thereby missing the CT scan that the doctors wanted him to have urgently to investigate whether there was anything dramatically wrong and he had to be airlifted to Adelaide on an RFDS plane for an urgent CT scan. He managed to get that at the women's and kids' hospital some 11 hours after he was recommended for an urgent scan. So thank the Lord there was nothing seriously wrong with him in this instance, but it does highlight the shortcomings of the lack of availability of a CT scan after hours.

Another one I wanted to touch on in the brief time I have available to me is the recommendation from the committee that the government investigate the expansion of CaFHS services to include the southern part of Yorke Peninsula. We have recently had the removal of a CaFHS nurse at Minlaton, which meant that the CaFHS station at Kadina had to cover the entire Yorke Peninsula. I know from having talked to those nurses at Kadina they do not necessarily enjoy having to spend hours upon hours in the car travelling around the entire peninsula looking to conduct their home visits for newborns and that they are finding it quite draining as well.

It is pleasing to read in this response to our petition that CaFHS are exploring options at Yorketown, which would be a wonderful addition, and I will be writing to the minister to follow this up: they are considering whether someone can be based at Yorketown or Minlaton to conduct those home visits from a more local base. I sincerely hope so because it will be of great benefit to new mothers on the southern part of Yorke Peninsula and it will make it far easier for both the Kadina and the Minlaton or Yorketown nurses to conduct their business. I think it will be a wonderful re-addition to our CaFHS system on the peninsula.

Congratulations should go to Katie Hughes and a number of new mothers on the southern part of the peninsula who have been advocating and pushing quite hard over an extended period of time to have that service returned.

There are quite a few other measures in here that I will not have time to touch on. I note one part of recommendation 15, which is about expanding palliative care services, where it is observed that all proposed enhancements will require additional investment. That is to state the bleeding obvious and that is what we are crying out for: additional investment in our regional health system.

I have touched on the Wallaroo Hospital. There is a need for at least an upgrade to the facilities at the Maitland and Yorketown emergency departments. They currently are not operating at an optimum level because it is a bit of a rabbit warren getting patients through the doors and into the emergency system. There is a need, of course, to expand the rural doctors training program, which Dr Ellie Daniel has done an excellent job of instituting and I hope will bear fruit in the not too distant future and she should be congratulated on the work she has done on that front.

But there is a need, as observed in this response, for increased investment in our health system, and I hope the petition itself and the response to it having been tabled now will lead directly to that. It has come at a good time for our constituents as we prepare for an election in March, and I will do my best to ensure that all participants can commit to some of the outcomes in this inquiry.

I sincerely hope, as we roll around into the next term of parliament, that whoever is here representing Narungga can use this report to lobby for better outcomes for our community. Thank you to the committee for conducting the report, thank you to the community for signing the petition and participating in the inquiry, and thank you to the government for providing their response for our community to read and take into account.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (11:25):** Thank you to the member for Giles for the work of the committee and thank you to the member for Narungga for not only tabling the petition but organising the entire petition. As a petition that has reached a certain threshold, I have a responsibility not only in terms of responding to the committee report that has been tabled but also in terms of addressing the house in relation to the matter. I checked with the Deputy Clerk that this meets that responsibility. He thinks it does and he is never wrong, so this is my address in response to the tabling of our response to the committee's report into the petition.

Yorke Peninsula is an important area of our state and this is an important area in terms of the delivery of health services for our state. I thank the member for Narungga for his tireless advocacy in terms of improving health services in his local region. The depth of feeling about local health services was shown by not only the number of people who signed and were passionate about the petition but also the people who engaged as part of the committee process. Thank you to all of them for sharing their stories and sharing their passion for local health services.

I think the most important thing when it comes to the delivery of these local health services is the workforce. It is the people who are there to be able to deliver these services, and this has clearly been a significant issue in terms of being able to find the requisite number of health professionals, particularly doctors, to be able to deliver those services on Yorke Peninsula. However, I do believe that there has been a number of very positive developments over the past couple of years that are going to set us up well into the future.

When I became the health minister, only two of our six local health networks had an intern program for new doctors in regional South Australia and now six out of six do. The last of those to come on board was the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network, which only started their intern program this year. They have been successful in recruiting a really excellent doctor to be their

Executive Director of Medical Services in Dr Hendrika Meyer. She has not only spearheaded improvements in terms of the medical education that is happening in the region and re-engaged with general practitioners across the region from what was a very broken down relationship between the local health network and local GPs but has also been successful in terms of recruiting extra doctors to the region.

From where we were in terms of Wallaroo Hospital a couple of years ago, where basically the entire coverage of the hospital was being covered by locums, we are now in a much more stable situation in terms of our medical workforce and, as per what my response to the committee report shows, we are seeing a real improvement in terms of the number of doctors that we are recruiting to the region. So I think we are seeing some improvements and I think that there are opportunities to come with things like the single employer model being rolled out across regional South Australia and with additional medical places going to Flinders University for their regional medical school. We can see some bright spots on the horizon there.

Another factor that was raised as part of this report is infrastructure. There is no doubt that right across country South Australia there is a lot of regional infrastructure that needs to be upgraded. We have been doing a lot of work since we have come to government. We have increased exponentially the amount of spending that we are doing in terms of upgrading our regional SA Health infrastructure, but there is no doubt that there is more to do. This report points to that.

Clearly, one of the areas where further investment needs to happen is in terms of Wallaroo Hospital and expanding the space there. Having been to Wallaroo Hospital, as well as all of our country hospitals across the state, it is apparent in terms of the space that we have to deal with that the emergency department does need to expand into the future and we are considering options for that to happen.

Another area I will touch on that the member raised in his remarks is in terms of radiology services. We also agree that we need to expand the hours of operation that we have radiology operating at Wallaroo Hospital. It is not enough hours of operation that we have at the moment, and this is one of those areas of the state that for many years has been contracted out to a private provider to operate. We have not been successful to date in terms of negotiating with them to expand their hours of operation of those services. We are considering what options we might need to take into the future to be able to provide a broader range of hours of operation of radiology services at Wallaroo Hospital.

They are just some of the things: the response that I tabled in parliament yesterday goes through all the recommendations in more detail. I can report to the house that we have accepted all of the recommendations in this report. I want to thank the members from the committee for their work and listening to all the evidence from members of the Yorke Peninsula community. We know that there is more work to do. We are seeing some good progress in terms of our medical workforce, in particular, but we think that the recommendations of this committee report chart a good path forward in terms of improving health services on Yorke Peninsula into the future.

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (11:31):** I want to repeat what I had to say on the last occasion we discussed this report and I want to put on the record again the work and the advocacy the member for Narungga has done to bring this inquiry about. It was a very positive experience as the Chair of the committee to go out to Yorke Peninsula, to have those meetings in Yorketown, to have those meetings in Wallaroo. Also a real positive is the reasonably timely response on the part of the government to the report. I note the member talks about investigations but that is the only sensible approach you can take. You cannot just, holus-bolus, bowl into it. Work does need to be done but what you have initiated is an incredibly important first step. To see all eight recommendations accepted I think is a really good outcome.

I know there has been some movement on Yorke Peninsula. I remember down at Yorketown on the issue about the availability of GPs, there was a very longstanding GP on Yorke Peninsula. I understand that Country & Outback Health have done some good work and have managed to secure the services of two GPs for Yorketown, so that is a real plus. I want to mention Zieco Skeldon, the CEO of that organisation, and the flexibility and the positive work done there. Also in my electorate, in Quorn, we were facing the prospect of one of those old-time doctors, who gave 24 hours in the community for many, many years, facing retirement. There was a real concern we would not get

GPs. Zieco and his organisation secured two GPs for our community, which was above my expectations.

The member for Flinders indicated that postcode should not determine health outcomes. We know that it does. When it comes to regional communities, it is the availability of services and access to services. A recent report has just come out that the survival rates, after five years, for people with cancer in country areas is 13 per cent less than in the city. There are some real issues that need to be addressed. Of course, it is not just a case of distance. We also see in the metropolitan area that postcodes can make a difference. So often, though, in the country it is those socio-economic determinants of health that are incredibly important. Those determinants of health are amplified by distance.

It is also amplified by a change, in some respects, in culture and the sort of lifestyle that people want. I am old enough to remember when we had a whole range of specialists who actually lived in your community. I will not list them all, but it was a broad spectrum of specialists. Even in major regional communities these days, that is not common at all. There has been that fundamental shift, but that shift has occurred across, if you like, the professional strata as a whole, when it comes to that willingness to live and work and be part of a country community. There are complex issues there, but we should not give up on addressing those issues.

The member mentioned the decline over years in country health services. I would not put it as strongly as that. I have seen some real improvements and I have seen, in other areas, a decline. There is a whole raft of services in my region, which is a big country region, that did not exist in the past. This is in some of our larger regional hospitals. Oncology services were not available in the past and people had to go down to Adelaide for chemotherapy, so there have been improvements in that. There has been an expansion of dialysis services, so that is a real plus; and in some of our hospital settings there are mental health services.

Motion carried.

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: INQUIRY INTO THE PREVALENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS IN PRESCHOOLS AND SCHOOLS TO ENSURE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DO NOT GO HUNGRY DURING THE DAY**

**Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (11:37):** I move:

That the 51<sup>st</sup> report of the committee, entitled Inquiry into the Prevalence and Effectiveness of Programs in Preschools and Schools to Ensure Children and Young People Do Not Go Hungry During the Day, be noted.

I do not think anything breaks my heart more than the thought of a child with a hungry belly. Before turning to the substance of our report, I want to sincerely thank all of those who contributed their time, expertise and lived experience for this inquiry. The committee received 29 written submissions and heard from 19 witnesses across six public hearings. Thank you to all of those who provided evidence. The committee expresses particular thanks to the Department for Education, Foodbank SA and NT, and KickStart for Kids, organisations whose partnership in the school breakfast program provides a lifeline to thousands of children in our state every single day.

We also thank Professor Rebecca Golley and Dr Stefania Velardo from Flinders University for their substantial contributions throughout the inquiry. I also acknowledge Helen Connolly, the Children in the North Alliance and the school communities of Swallowcliffe School, Elizabeth Downs Primary School and Fraser Park Primary School, who welcomed committee members on site visits and demonstrated the powerful impact of school-based meal programs.

I thank the committee secretariat, Ms Robyn Schutte and Ms Mary-Ann Bloomfield for their diligent work on preparing the extensive report. Finally, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their thoughtful, compassionate and genuine bipartisan engagement throughout this inquiry. I thank our Chair, the Hon. Ian Hunter MLC, for his steady leadership and commitment to ensuring that the voices of children, families and educators were heard with respect. I also thank the Hon. Russell Wortley MLC, the Hon. Rob Simms MLC, the Hon. David Pisoni MP and Ms Penny Pratt MP for their constructive contributions, robust discussions and shared dedication to improving the wellbeing of children and young people in South Australia.

This inquiry was referred to the committee by this house on my motion on 20 February this year. It calls for submissions opened in early May, generating considerable interest from educators, health and community organisations, academics, advocacy groups and individuals right across our state. Across the evidence one message was overwhelmingly clear: too many South Australian children and young people are attending preschool and school hungry. Hunger, whether the result of poverty, food insecurity or lack of access to nutritious foods, has a profound impact on a child's learning, development, behaviour and wellbeing.

Earlier this year, the committee tabled its 49<sup>th</sup> report investigating a human rights act for South Australia. In that inquiry, the committee expanded the rights set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Among the rights of every child is the right to adequate nutritious food. The recommendations of the report before the house today directly support that right. They outline practical reforms, particularly a universal school meals program that would ensure more South Australian children have reliable access to healthy, nourishing meals.

The evidence presented to the committee was clear, confronting and consistent. Food insecurity is rising. More than 53 per cent of South Australians reported financial hardship as a major concern in 2025 and 6.9 per cent of children and young people experienced food insecurity in 2024, which is an increase on the year before. In 2021, 17.3 per cent of children in our state were living in poverty—that is around one in six kids here in South Australia—32 per cent of public school students receive School Card support and 26 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households have reported food insecurity.

The link between food insecurity, disadvantage and educational inequity is undeniable. Teachers, principals and service providers told the committee that more children than ever are arriving at school without having eaten breakfast or with no food in their school lunch box that day. Foodbank, KickStart for Kids, OzHarvest and others reported unprecedented increases in demand, including from schools that traditionally have not required food relief. In some of our lowest income communities, KickStart for Kids told us that 2.5 in four children arrive without breakfast or lunch.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** Excuse me, member for Davenport, I just want to interrupt you for one second. I would like to welcome students from Mercedes College, who are guests of the Treasurer of South Australia. Great to have you in here. It looked like the Treasurer was giving you a very entertaining rundown on what happens in this place. Thank you again for coming in. I hope you enjoy your tour of Parliament House. The member for Davenport, thank you for that interruption.

#### *Parliamentary Committees*

#### **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: INQUIRY INTO THE PREVALENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS IN PRESCHOOLS AND SCHOOLS TO ENSURE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DO NOT GO HUNGRY DURING THE DAY**

Debate resumed.

**Ms THOMPSON:** I was just saying that 2.5 out of four kids in our state arrive without breakfast or lunch. Hopefully, that is not any of these gorgeous kids who joined us today. South Australia is fortunate to have longstanding providers such as Foodbank and KickStart for Kids all delivering breakfast programs across hundreds of schools, often powered by volunteers. In fact, I think mostly powered by volunteers.

In 2024, participation in Foodbank's school breakfast program grew by 14 per cent. The number of public schools offering the program increased by 10 per cent and 76 per cent of public schools are now participating. Our government's increased funding in 2023 has made a real difference. Providers told us it allowed them to meet growing demand and reach more schools. But even with those efforts, the evidence is strong that more is needed. Breakfast programs alone cannot overcome systemic food insecurity nor address lunchtime hunger.

The committee received compelling international and local evidence demonstrating that hunger harms children in multiple ways: lower attention, motivation and cognitive functioning; reduced school attendance; increased behavioural issues; weaker academic outcomes across NAPLAN; higher incidence of social difficulties and victimisation; negative effects on mental health



and physical development; greater long-term risk of chronic disease; and ongoing disadvantage into adulthood.

On the other hand, evidence from South Australia, Tasmania, interstate and overseas shows that nutritious school meal programs lead to improved academic performance, better attendance and engagement, enhanced behaviour and classroom climate, strengthened peer relationships, greater social inclusion and healthier lifelong eating patterns, so the benefits there are clear. These outcomes were visible during the committee's visits to Swallowcliffe School, Elizabeth Downs Primary School and Fraser Park Primary School, three schools demonstrating innovative and effective approaches to school meals and food education.

The committee explored a range of Australian and international models, from Tasmania's rapidly expanding School Food Matters program to long-established universal systems in Japan, Finland and New Zealand. A clear theme emerged: a universal model will work best. They reduce stigma, increase participation, support consistent nutrition and strengthen community cohesion. The committee identified proportionate universalism as the most suitable approach for South Australia. That means a universal program available to all students at participating schools, with rollout beginning in category 1 and 2 public primary schools where the need is currently greatest and providing flexibility for schools to adapt local delivery models.

The committee has made several recommendations to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills. These recommendations set a clear pathway for strengthening food security in our schools and ensuring that no child is left behind. Firstly, the committee recommends that the government develop, fund and implement a nutritious, school-provided meals program, drawing on the successful models already operating at Swallowcliffe and also in Tasmania. These programs demonstrate that well-designed school meals can significantly improve student wellbeing, engagement and learning outcomes.

Secondly, the committee strongly encourages the government to continue its support for the existing breakfast programs delivered by Foodbank SA and KickStart for Kids and other community partners, recognising the vital role that these services play in meeting immediate needs. Thirdly, the committee recommends that any future school meals program be developed with a strong evidence based and comprehensive inclusive framework. This includes:

- drawing on the expertise of academic, public health and community specialists;
- adopting a model of proportionate universalism, ensuring support reaches the schools with the greatest need first;
- embedding an anti-stigma approach so that no child feels singled out or ashamed for receiving a meal;
- investing in robust data collection, monitoring and program evaluation;
- undertaking infrastructure audits and providing targeted grants to upgrade school kitchens and food preparation areas; and
- adopting an across-government 'health in all policies' approach, ensuring collaborative input from Health, Human Services, Primary Industries and Education.

The committee has acknowledged that a program like this will require significant funding and that detailed statewide costings have not yet been undertaken; however, the evaluation of the Eat Well Everyday pilot at Swallowcliffe School will provide critical evidence of cost, feasibility and social return on investment.

Hunger should never be a barrier to a child's education, yet for too many children in South Australia it is. This report provides clear evidence of the problem, strong data on the consequences and a practical road map for action. A universal nutritious school meals program, delivered in stages and based on demonstrated need, has the potential to transform educational outcomes, improve health and wellbeing, and strengthen communities across our state. It is an investment not only in children but in South Australia's future. I commend the committee's 51<sup>st</sup> report to the house and thank all who contributed to this important work.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:48):** I rise to make a few brief comments on this report of the Social Development Committee into the prevalence and effectiveness of programs in preschools and schools to ensure children and young people do not go hungry during the day. I was very pleased to host the Social Development Committee in Murray Bridge. We went to Fraser Park where we saw the excellent program put in place by the whole school. All of the teachers are involved and the student services officers to make sure that people get appropriate nutrition so they can learn properly.

As has been already indicated by the member for Davenport, better nutrition ensures that the children are attentive and can learn more. I think schemes like this should be progressed more. We have seen breakfast clubs in general go right across the state and now there are lunch clubs in place as well, but there is also this extra element of these special food programs to make sure we get that really nutritious food to the people who need it: the students of this state.

I do thank the committee for coming out to Murray Bridge to have a look at Fraser Park. It is a neat little school in Murray Bridge and they do a great job educating our future leaders. I commend the motion.

Motion carried.

### **ECONOMIC AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: INQUIRY INTO SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AFFORDABILITY**

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (11:50):** I move:

That the seventh report of the committee, entitled Inquiry into South Australian Housing Affordability, be noted.

Beginning in 2022, an inquiry was established to inquire into housing availability in South Australia. The committee resolved to specifically investigate:

1. the decreasing availability of affordable housing for both purchase and rental;
2. housing needs relative to the demand from marginalised groups, including those with low income, serious health and disability challenges, and older people—especially older women—with limited private resources;
3. different housing options required by and suitable for marginalised groups in our community;
4. the community expectation that every South Australian should have reasonable access to housing that meets their needs;
5. key market barriers—including land, labour and materials—that are limiting the delivery of social and affordable housing even where funding is available;
6. the necessary policy settings, at all levels of government, required to deliver suitable housing outcomes;
7. the economic impacts arising from a lack of social and affordable housing, including barriers to economic development in specific locations, and the additional costs on other sectors including but not limited to health, disability, justice and emergency relief;
8. innovations in housing that can lower costs, expedite new supply, and deliver a greater diversity of housing options to meet current and emerging trends;
9. leveraging of government assets by all levels of government to maximise the delivery of additional housing;
10. partnerships with social housing providers and the private market to deliver additional social and affordable housing;
11. new approaches to financing and tenure options that increase supply and security of tenure; and
12. any other matter that can deliver better housing outcomes for South Australians.

Clearly, they are very broad terms of reference. Clearly, there is no magic wand response to the crisis that we now face not just in this state but nationally—a crisis that has probably been developing

over a period of two decades. I could go into the reasons why I think we are in this situation, but I might leave that for another occasion.

The inquiry received 36 submissions, and over the life of the inquiry the committee heard from over 20 witnesses representing government agencies, organisations and stakeholders. Over three years, this inquiry investigated the issues surrounding the availability of housing in South Australia. Since the beginning of the inquiry, there have been significant changes in the socio-economic landscape in Australia, with a rise in the cost of living, increases in inflation and upwards growth in the price of housing for both property purchase and rental. There have also been legislative changes and policy announcements concerning the housing market at both state and commonwealth levels.

The committee heard from a variety of stakeholders and interested parties on a complex matter that needs to be addressed by all levels of government: commonwealth, state and councils. The committee heard that the availability of housing, particularly affordable housing, has decreased in recent years. There were not enough houses to buy coming onto the market, and of those that did come onto the market there was less time before they were sold. Meanwhile, the median house price has increased significantly, with less affordable housing being available.

The rental market across the state has become tighter, with the committee hearing that rental costs have risen sharply and rental properties considered affordable have decreased. This was exacerbated by a lack of suitable properties, with some areas, such as the City of Adelaide, having a less than 1 per cent vacancy rate for rentals.

The lack of available and affordable housing has a significant impact on people's wellbeing, as well as pushing people into precarious forms of housing and the risk of homelessness. This can lead to more people requiring assistance from the government and community services, not to mention the incredibly serious impact on the individuals concerned.

The lack of affordable housing has a particular impact on a number of marginalised groups of people. The committee heard that there are different housing needs and support structures required for people within marginalised groups, and that there was not a one-size-fits-all solution to those needs. People often fall within overlapping and intersecting marginalised groups with complex needs in regard to housing, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disabilities, older people, younger people, domestic and family violence victims, people experiencing homelessness, and people released from prison.

The committee was made aware of several barriers to the delivery of housing. There were barriers to building houses, including issues concerning the supply of suitable land. It is good to see the releases and infrastructure investment that are now taking place, so the supply of land is being addressed, but obviously there is a long way to go. The shortage of labour and materials is an issue that lengthens building project timelines.

There are also financial barriers for those looking to buy property, such as increased deposit and loan requirements from financial institutions, along with other levies and charges concerning stamp duty and infrastructure costs passed on to buyers. Additionally, there are regulatory barriers, such as zoning and building regulations, and barriers related to the infrastructure requirements needed for housing projects.

The committee also heard of the barriers faced by those in regional and rural areas of the state, including the distance from Adelaide, population size, infrastructure demands and a whole raft of issues around critical mass and availability of building companies. There are some initiatives that are being taken and there is a series of pilot programs, but there is a long way to go, especially in some communities. When we came out to Australia my family was a beneficiary of housing tightly linked to industry policy, and that is one of the issues in some of our regional communities where the jobs are available but the housing might well not be.

I think—and I have written to the minister—that we need a whole rethink of housing policy, but I recognise that there is a strong commonwealth element to this as well. I will not go on about the incredibly destructive impact during the Howard period of the commonwealth-state housing

agreements and the changes that were introduced at that stage that stripped billions of dollars out of public housing. It is one of the contributing factors to the crisis that we face today.

In this nation, at one time something like 12 to 13 per cent of the investment in new housing used to be in public housing. That is probably now less than 2 per cent, so it is a massive change that has had a whole series of consequences because the market-based solutions were not able to fill that gap. This requires a fundamental rethink about where we have been and where we are going. It also requires us to look at some of the European countries that had that really strong commitment to public housing and at how effectively that has worked in some of those countries over a long period of time.

It is worthwhile reflecting that in my community, once upon a time over 60 per cent of the housing was public housing—Housing Trust housing—so some fundamental changes are needed. Public housing should not just be seen as housing for people with complex needs in what is referred to as category 1. We have to take a far broader approach, and there is a real role for government in doing that.

With changes in the demographics of home occupancy in South Australia, the committee learnt about innovations in housing and the aims of various stakeholders to diversify the housing offered in this state. This includes creating housing options.

Debate adjourned.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I would like to welcome to parliament today guests of the Minister for Tourism and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, who are part of a very large delegation that is in South Australia at the moment from the Shandong province, of course our very much loved sister province in China. We have Yu Shengtao, who is the Deputy Secretary of the CPC Municipal Committee and the mayor of a city of 112 million people.

Thank you very much for visiting us in parliament this morning. We welcome you and your delegation, and we hope you enjoy your time in South Australia. It is a very strong and long-lasting relationship that we have. We love going to your part of world and we hope you enjoy our part of the world just as much. Thank you again, sia sia, and thank you very much, Zoe, for having your guests in here today.

#### *Bills*

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

#### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 26 November 2025.)

**The Hon. L.P. HOOD (Adelaide—Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (12:03):** I rise to continue my remarks in regard to the Fisheries Management (Cuttlefish—Northern Spencer Gulf) Amendment Bill 2025. Again, I want to thank previous speakers for their contributions: the member for Finnis, the member for Giles and the member for Playford. I think the member for Giles' reflections on the changes he has seen during more than 25 years of involvement with the cuttlefish were very interesting, and I thank him for those reflections. I think this demonstrates just how deeply entwined these creatures are with the Whyalla community and how strongly the local community feel for this amazing species.

Every year, the cuttlefish draw thousands of tourists, snorkelers, photographers and marine scientists to the Upper Spencer Gulf. These people stay in local accommodation, eat at local restaurants and cafes, book local tour guides and support hundreds of local jobs. Protecting the cuttlefish is not only our responsibility from an ecological perspective but also a huge opportunity to support Whyalla and the Upper Spencer Gulf region from an economic and social perspective.

When we talk about protecting these amazing experiences for future generations, we must also ensure that we are always considering how best we can ensure that most people can access

the experience in a safe and respectful manner. A great example of this was highlighted by the member for Giles yesterday when he spoke about Spencer Gulf Adventures tours led by skipper Steve, who now operates glass-bottomed boat tours, allowing people who may be less mobile or not confident in the water to experience Cuttlefish Cove and appreciate our marine diversity in an environmentally sensitive and respectful manner. That might be also a great option if perhaps, like the member for Finniss, you do not want to jump into a wetsuit and into the very cold water.

New and innovative approaches that open up our ecotourism for all members of our community are important in ensuring more people can get out and about into nature and marvel at the natural wonders we are so lucky to have in our own backyard. The member for Giles is an outstanding advocate for his local community and I thank him sincerely for his passion and advocacy.

I also acknowledge the queries I mentioned yesterday raised by the member for Finniss regarding enforcement and ensuring people understand their responsibilities. As I mentioned to the house yesterday, this bill simply seeks to move the current cuttlefish closure into the act, and this means the location or size of the closure area will not change from what it is in regulation currently, and the amendment is not expected to impose any new or additional restrictions on commercial or recreational fishers.

The fishing prohibition relates only to the take of cuttlefish species and will therefore not restrict the take of other cephalopods such as the southern calamari or octopus within the closure area. If anything, this bill provides some certainty to fishers that there will not be any forthcoming regulation changes in relation to cuttlefish closure areas. The closure area and boundary are already regularly patrolled by fisheries officers and have been for a while, given the closure has been placed through regulation for some time. As I mentioned yesterday, any illegal fishing activity can and should be reported through Fishwatch and this can be done by contacting their free phone line on 1800 065 522 or through the SA Fishing app.

This bill introduces the highest level of protection for one of our state's most iconic species, and in doing so gives us the best chance of ensuring future generations of South Australians can enjoy this incredible species and the fantastic show of nature they put on every winter in the waters off Point Lowly in Whyalla. This event really is one of the greatest natural shows on earth.

We know that the South Australian community remains deeply connected and takes great pride in our environment, and that connection drives our continued efforts to protect our environment, our iconic natural wonders and the many unique species in our ecological communities. We are incredibly fortunate to have so many natural wonders here in SA, and you could argue that the giant Australian cuttlefish aggregation is right at the top of that list.

One of the many incredible things about the giant Australian cuttlefish aggregation in the Upper Spencer Gulf each winter, other than the fact it is the only known event of its type in the world for the species, is that it remains so accessible to the community to both enjoy and learn from. Governments at local, state and federal levels have worked together on a number of projects over the last decade aimed at improving infrastructure to support the cuttlefish experiences on offer, and these have been done so in a way that is sympathetic to the fragile ecosystem.

The area near Point Lowly is also part of the state's marine park network, located within the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park under the Marine Parks Act 2007 and administered by the Department for Environment and Water. One of the sanctuary zones in this marine park, known as the Cuttlefish Coast Sanctuary Zone, is also recognised on Australia's National Heritage List. The National Heritage List recognises places of outstanding heritage significance to Australia.

In 2024, following the listing, the commonwealth invested \$400,000 to help manage and protect the Cuttlefish Coast. The South Australian government, through the Department for Environment and Water, has partnered with the Whyalla City Council and the commonwealth government to deliver a conservation management plan and tourism plan. I would like to take a moment to thank the Whyalla City Council that do a fantastic job in connecting more and more people with the cuttlefish experience through its great work on the ever-growing Cuttlefest, the regional celebration of all things cuttlefish each June and July.

The Whyalla City Council has also invested in infrastructure to support this economic activity, including improving road access to cuttlefish breeding sites. Indeed, this year's cuttlefish aggregation saw 13,000 vehicles drive past the dive site area, with 8,000 people taking part in one of the marine experiences on offer. That is 8,000 more people who have had an unforgettable experience with these incredible animals in our marine environment, many of whom will no doubt become passionate advocates for not only the protection of the giant cuttlefish but hopefully our environment in general.

In my own Department for Environment and Water we are incredibly fortunate to have a key role in researching the giant Australian cuttlefish and determining an estimate of their numbers each year, which gives us an insight into the sustainability of the species. SARDI also have a critical role to play in research. They annually provide estimates of abundance and biomass to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. The population estimates are also provided to the cross-government Giant Australian Cuttlefish Working Group, which was established in 2012 to coordinate a whole-of-government response to concerns about the population at the time.

The working group is chaired by the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and comprises representatives of PIRSA and SARDI, Department for Environment and Water, Environment Protection Authority, Department for Infrastructure and Transport, South Australian Tourism Commission, Whyalla City Council, Conservation Council of South Australia, the University of Adelaide, RecFish SA and the commercial fishing industry.

This year the Department for Environment and Water undertook four counts of cuttlefish abundance in May, June, and early and late July, with SARDI conducting their count in June. The results this year highlight the highly variable nature of the species with 63,734 cuttlefish counted. It highlights the need for continued efforts on the protection of the species.

On a much brighter note, research suggests that this year's cuttlefish population experienced a successful hatching season, which bodes well for future numbers. Over 600,000 to 800,000 eggs are suggested to have already hatched, with 90 per cent of the estimated 800,000 eggs expected to have hatched by the end of last month.

The algal bloom has not yet had a measurable impact upon the species, but the state government did act quickly to enact protection in the event the bloom reached the cuttlefish coast, installing a bubble curtain as an insurance policy to help shield a large number of cuttlefish eggs. As yet the curtain has not been called upon but is an important safeguard that we have at our disposal should it be needed in the future, noting that the aggregation and egg hatching are now largely finished for the season.

We know there are many reasons to protect the giant Australian cuttlefish and, as I have mentioned, the natural variability of the species and the potential for impacts from algal bloom and other environmental factors are key amongst those. We also know that the former Liberal government allowed the protected area in the waters off the Upper Spencer Gulf to lapse in 2020, which creates another compelling reason to protect the species through legislation through the Fisheries Management Act. I am, however, pleased that the opposition saw fit to support the government's amendments to enshrine protection in the Fisheries Management Act.

Cuttlefish are and will continue to be an incredibly important species for our state, the Upper Spencer Gulf and the Whyalla community who benefit greatly from the certainty of a government who backs them on a number of fronts, including as they continue to build nature-based tourism opportunities around this incredible natural event.

By choosing to protect the cuttlefish we choose to honour the richness of our natural environment. We choose to leave something extraordinary for future generations. We choose to recognise that some natural wonders are simply too rare, too beautiful and too important to risk. So let's continue to work together so that our giant Australian cuttlefish will continue to amaze, educate and inspire for many generations to come.

Bill read a second time.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. L.P. HOOD (Adelaide—Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (12:13):**

I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

### **STATUTES AMENDMENT (ENERGY AND MINING REFORMS) BILL**

#### *Final Stages*

Consideration in committee of the Legislative Council's amendments.

(Continued from 25 November 2025.)

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendments be disagreed to.

I know it is deeply inappropriate to mention anyone in the gallery—it would be against standing orders—but just to give the people an example of what is occurring here today, there was a bill passed in this house, it went to the upper house, which is the big red room, and there were changes made. Those changes are now coming back to this house for us to consider and we are going to say no. We are going to insist that the views of the House of Assembly, which is the house of the people, should prevail, not the views of the Legislative Council.

We are not alone in that view. I want to read to the house what I think are probably some of the most damning comments. The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC), which is the peak body nationally for mining and explorers, put out a press release yesterday. It was about the Liberal Party's amendments in the upper house. It states:

They claim to be working in the interests of farmers and agriculturalists, yet these amendments offer no further protection to them. All they do is further harm investment in the State's mining industry.

It sends a message to investors far and wide that South Australia is a risky place to invest.

The real loser out of this, aren't just those working in or investing in the mining industry, but the people of South Australia, who once again find more barriers placed between them and the chance to realise the value of the minerals that belong to them.

With the state Liberal party claiming they are acting in the best interests of farmers, they are ignoring the fact these industries can and do co-exist well together.

The minerals in the ground belong to all South Australians, not just those who happen to occupy the land on top of them.

This is the most devastating line:

And while the Liberal Opposition will no doubt seek to place the blame elsewhere, the simple fact is that they had the opportunity to vote for legislative change that would have enhanced the State's investment attractiveness and they chose not to.

With an election just around the corner, the Liberal Party has already demonstrated that when it comes to growing the South Australian economy they're just not interested...

They go on to say:

Although this is a disappointing outcome, industry thanks Treasurer; and Mines Minister Tom Koutsantonis and the South Australian Government for listening to the needs of the industry and bringing this important Bill to the Parliament.

The shadow minister is meant to advocate for his portfolio within the Liberal Party. This is the shadow minister for net zero and, nationally, the Liberal Party have abandoned net zero. He is also the shadow minister for energy and mining. His job in the Liberal Party is to advocate for the mining sector. The mining sector have just said he has failed. He has failed terribly at it. In fact, he has made South Australia a less attractive place to invest in for the mining industry. He laughs at the mining industry. He laughs at it.

**Mr Patterson:** I laugh at you. I laugh at you and your hypocrisy.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I have been entirely consistent.

**Mr Patterson:** Yes, consistent in down ranking in the ratings. Good.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** If I were you, I would be nervous too. A press release like that before an election is damning. I look forward to debating you in the mining sector. I look forward

to standing up alongside my friend, the shadow minister for energy and mining, and debating access to mining and access to get minerals out of the ground. I look forward to him getting up and explaining to the mining industry why they think these changes are no good and why he has made South Australia a less attractive place to invest in.

The House of Assembly will carry our disagreement. We will insist on our changes and the Legislative Council, led by the Liberal Party, will block these changes, and the people of South Australia will decide at the election. We will seek a mandate for these changes, and the shadow mining and energy minister will go missing. He will not talk about these changes to the mining industry. He will not front up and defend his position because it is indefensible.

While the shadow minister is completely captured by the rural part of his party and does not have the courage to stand up to them and speak truth to power, and he abrogates his entire responsibilities as the shadow minister for mining and energy and just lets the people within this party who are on the side of a small section of the farming community—not by any way a majority part of the farming community—he has now chosen to say that the mining industry and the farming sector cannot coexist, which is simply untrue. Of course they can coexist. But what he has done is hurt the mining industry. It is not just me saying it. It is the mining and exploration industry who are saying it themselves.

This press release is damning. I do not know how any self-respecting mining shadow can get a press release like that and think, 'Job done.' I do not know how any self-respecting shadow minister can see their industry calling out for change and still, stubbornly, put up these changes. There was no phone call to me for a compromise position. It was just the Liberal Party's way or no way. And so the Liberal Party, siding with the Greens—

**Mr Telfer:** It's your way or the highway.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Interject as much as you like.

**Mr Telfer:** You pretend you try to work together. As if.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I will give you an example, Mr Chairman of Committees, of where I have. That was on the legislation regarding councils and the LGA that members of the opposition moved. I gave my word that, once they offered the ability to consult and discuss this, that I would not push through those changes until the sector was happy, and I kept my word on that. The Liberal Party, on this bill, just sided with the Greens to block these changes. You had a choice to make between the industry, economic growth, the exploration industry and the mining industry and the Liberal Party of South Australia chose the Greens. That is who they chose.

I hope you do go out and defend this decision. I hope you do. No doubt this is a sign of a party that is not outward-looking. It is not looking to grow its base. It is simply sandbagging seats that it currently holds, rather than trying to grow the economy of South Australia and take on the difficult conversations with stakeholders and say, 'This is in the broader state's interests.' Instead, they have chosen the narrow path, the path about sandbagging seats that they already hold, which is fine. It is fine by me. But there will be a reckoning on this because what the Liberal Party are doing is hurting the state's investment attractiveness. When they see that the Liberal Party, the conservative party, the so-called party that is pro-business and pro-investment, are siding with the Greens to stop explorers and miners from getting onto land, from having their leases extended—

*Mr Patterson interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes it is.

**Mr Telfer:** What a misrepresentation.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** It is not a misrepresentation at all. If I am misrepresenting it, get up and move a motion. Otherwise, sit quietly and listen because votes have consequences. If you do not like what you have done, do something different. But what you have done is side with the Greens which has been given the most scathing of attacks from the mining industry, and when I explain it to you, you do not like it and you interject. You are the shadow treasurer: act like it. Act in the interests of business. Act in the interests of investment. Instead, you act in the interests of who? A small, select group of people—

**Mr TEAGUE:** Point of order. The minister—



*Members interjecting:*

**The CHAIR:** Order please. Your point of order is?

**Mr TEAGUE:** The minister has been skating close to standing order 127(1) throughout. We are dealing with amendments. He needs to stick to the subject matter, not engage in ad hominem abuse and threats about what might or might not happen in the future. We need to look at the substance of the amendments. We are here in committee to do that. It is a 127(1) point of order.

**The CHAIR:** My understanding of what the minister is saying is that he is explaining the repercussions of these amendments. That is what I understood him to say, to explain that. He clearly—

*Mr Teague interjecting:*

**The CHAIR:** Don't interrupt. I have the floor. I listened to you. My understanding is he is quite within in his rights to explain what he believes these amendments mean. You may have a different view. All of you on my left may have a different view. You will get a chance to say so, in a second. Minister, continue.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** This is exactly the place that you would talk about this, not in question time. The bill is before the house. This is exactly the time you would air these grievances. They are not personal threats. They are political realities. The Liberal Party have taken a stance. They have sided with the Greens in an important sector that is important for the growth of our economy in this state and we are going to ventilate it. That is entirely appropriate.

The reasoning that the Liberal Party have is that they are sandbagging seats that they think are either a risk to Independents or a risk to the Labor Party. That is what they are doing. The shadow treasurer interjects that that does not characterise what is going on. That is completely not true. If I have misrepresented what the Liberal Party have done, get up and say that I have misled the parliament, otherwise sit quietly and listen and you will have your chance to make your remarks.

The amendments moved by the member for Narungga were defeated in this house. The peak bodies, the South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy, which is basically the business chamber for the mining industry in the state and which has members like BHP, Santos, Beach Energy, previously OZ Minerals, the big miners who invest millions if not billions of dollars in South Australia, say that they cannot support this bill with the amendments the Liberal Party have moved; that is important to note. These are big investors in the state. They employ more people than almost any other industry. BHP have the largest operating expenditure in the state.

*Mr Telfer interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Okay; so even though their peak body that represents them says this. Alright. So we are carving out, are we? We are carving out industries. Fair enough. As I said earlier, the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies have indicated they would not support the passage of the bill with these amendments. The ability to grant a special circumstances extension of up to five years meets the industry's needs and supports the department's regulation function. This is not *carte blanche*. This is about making sure that there is investibility and some certainty in investment frameworks, which the shadow treasurer and the shadow mining minister both disagree with the industry on.

If this is reduced to two years, it will serve no practical benefit to the industry. That is what the industry say—not us, the industry. The people who this bill is for say that the extensions that the Liberal Party want to grant them have no practical benefits. For the party of entrepreneurship, exploration is a high-risk activity where you are putting up lots of capital with potentially no return. You would expect the party of entrepreneurs to say, 'We're going to back these people.' Of course, they do not. They do not back them. The sector has consistently raised concerns that the lack of flexibility regarding extensions and security of tenure is driving a reduction in exploration investment in South Australia. Mr Chairman, you might have heard a disorderly interjection by the shadow minister for energy and mining talking about metrics dropping in exploration. This is trying to deal with it and they vote against it.

It is another example of the shadow minister complaining about the metrics around exploration numbers. When the government attempts to alter legislation that they introduced restricting tenure and I want to give us the ability to extend that tenure, they vote against it. They complain about the lack of investment, and then when you are trying to do something about it to increase investment, they vote against it. There is a Greek word for that: it is called hypocrisy.

In addition, the amendments do not provide the additional certainty that the opposition is seeking for landowners in relation to future exploration activity. Upon the expiry of a licence, when the licence expires after 18 years, it does not extinguish that land from exploration rights. So what you are attempting to do has no practical benefit. That land is not sterilised from mining, which is a massive misconception.

If I go through clause by clause, clause 16, page 12: this amendment the government cannot support. It imposes an additional requirement on the administrative burden of licence holders seeking to apply for a special circumstances extension, which is incredibly broad. This is not a narrow request the Liberal Party are making; it is a very broad request. The act already provides for adequate environmental controls. These are the same environmental controls members opposite legislated for and implemented. These are your environmental controls that you are now saying are not broad enough. You can imagine why the industry is so confused about your position. They get it from the member for Narungga. He has been consistent from the very beginning.

When the first mining bills were brought in by the previous government, the member for Narungga was entirely consistent. Members on the opposition frontbench have not been. They voted for that bill. They implemented the environmental standards and now they say, 'We were wrong. The member for Narungga was right all along.' This is hypocrisy writ large.

I do not know how you justify this in your own head other than this is not about being consistent or formulating a policy framework that you can sort of rest a foundation on to grow the mining sector, this is simply thinking to yourself, 'There are votes in the farming sector for us. We will go after that.' The member for Narungga is the only one here with clean hands.

The environmental controls and consultation requirements that the previous government put in place in the Mining Act meet contemporary standards. We voted for them and we backed them. You wrote the laws, we supported them. We are now in office. Nothing has changed in the last 3½ years that I can tell, but now you say they are not broad enough, they are not consistent enough. What has changed? Other than an election in March? Other than you are worried about losing seats in regional South Australia? Other than that, nothing has changed. Hypocrisy writ large.

If I go to amendment No. 3, clause 16, page 12, after line 24 where they inserted a clause, this amendment cannot be supported. It fetters the minister's discretion to grant a special circumstances extension. In particular, it introduces an impractical requirement to consult for a potentially substantial number of landowners to which the agricultural impact statement relates, which are not subject to exploration activities. So you want us to go out and consult with people who are not affected.

Again, the consultation requirements were put in place by members opposite. It went to their cabinet, they supported it, it came to the parliament, it passed with opposition support at the time which was the Australian Labor Party, and now that we are in government you do not want to have that discretion.

Amendment No. 4, moved by the Hon. Ms Centofanti, is again the same as with amendment No. 1: it is the same amendment moved by the member for Narungga, which was defeated in this house, and for the same reasons I have outlined, the government cannot support this amendment. It is important that the ability to grant a second or subsequent special circumstances extension is retained. I think the misunderstanding from the opposition is that they think everyone who applies will get an extension. What we are saying is there needs to be a cohort. They should be granted and extended.

I am very disappointed with the opposition. It can take 15 years to define a resource—15 years—and to undertake economic modelling and progress an exploration model, and in some cases there would be special circumstances that could relate and require an extension to be made.

What is going to occur now is that the House of Assembly, I can anticipate, will insist that we disagree with the changes. They will return it to the upper house and the upper house will not accept

our changes because of the Liberal Party and its alliance with the Greens. No doubt this will play out very well in safe Liberal seats—very well.

Where it will not play out well is in mainstream South Australia who want to see economic growth and are scratching their heads, and long-time Liberal voters in metropolitan Adelaide are thinking to themselves, 'Why would the Liberal Party be opposed to investment? Why would the Liberal Party not support entrepreneurs? Why would the Liberal Party not understand in the mining industry to develop a resource can take decades? Why would they not understand that? Are they that far removed from the economic realities that are facing companies today that they have sided with the Greens?' That is the question that members opposite will have to explain to their constituents in March.

The member for Flinders cannot wait. He cannot wait to go back to regional South Australia and tell them about this huge win. I wonder if the member for Morphett will be here to have the same conversations. I wonder. So, while he takes the side of the regional members in the safe Liberal seats so they can have a win, what does he do to the rest of the state?

**Mr PATTERSON:** This side of the house will be supporting the amendments that have come down from the Legislative Council. What a tirade! I am listening to a minister who is arrogant and has a big dummy spit when he does not get things his own way. Of course, the Liberal Party makes no apologies for standing up for regional South Australia against what has been a ruthless attack on not only farmers but landowners and primary producers by a bill.

Let's look at where we are. With two sitting weeks of parliament to go, it gets rushed into parliament by this arrogant minister who just wants to ram it through and then all of a sudden when there are some sensible amendments made he carries on. We will not give Labor a free pass to just trample on people who put food on our tables and, as we do with all bills, we will look at things sensibly and look at bringing a balance to things.

It is quite obvious that Labor in this bill have failed any real balancing of interests between the mining industry and primary producers. There is always a conflict between the two, but both sides of the argument need to be listened to in any changes that are going to happen to the Mining Act because they are both very important economic drivers for this state. That is why the Liberal opposition introduced sensible amendments. When you look at them they bring fairness, they bring respect and they bring balance back into the process here.

If we go through what the amendments are to what has already changed. We have the minister carrying on saying that the Liberal opposition are making changes to something that was already put in. Well, actually, no, it is the government that is making the changes to this bill, not the opposition. It is entirely consistent that, when these changes come through, we look at them and make changes as required, which we have done.

The amendments that have come through that the government is not accepting is that you already have 18 years to explore. The mining exploration licence lasts for 18 years. This looks at capping that exploration licence and granting an extension for another two years. That gives 20 years for mining exploration companies to be able to explore because we want companies to explore. We do not want them to take their time. We want progression to happen here because of course if there are mineral deposits then we want them to be mined and as quickly as possible, whereas the government wanted to have repeated five-year extensions that could go on indefinitely at the discretion of the minister.

We just heard his performance here before. How much consultation is he going to do? He gets very angry when people do not agree with him. We have to be careful not to give unfettered powers to a minister who just wants to run carte blanche over people, which this process shows has occurred.

The other amendments are that we have also included a requirement for the minister to get an independent agricultural impact assessment done before awarding an extension. That is just for that additional extension because farmers and primary producers know there is an 18-year licence. They are trying to plan for the next steps for themselves as well, so this again tries to bring into place

a balance between mining explorers and farmers in terms of what needs to occur going forward to allow both parties to plan.

Finally, there is another requirement for the minister to consult with the landowner if an extension is to be granted. Hearing the minister, he was incredulous that we might actually put in as a requirement that the landowner, on whose land the exploration licence is occurring, be consulted. He tried to say that we have to consult all the landowners all around. No, it was that they have to consult the landowner to whom the exploration licence applies.

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**Mr PATTERSON:** Off he goes again, trying to talk over again, when we provided 20 years for mining exploration to occur here. As I said, these amendments get that balance right between fairness and respect. They get balance back into the process. That is something that, if the consultation process had been done properly, could have been arrived at by the government as well. Instead, all there was was five business days of consultation—five business days. The federal government provides a standard and says there should be at least 30 days of consultation on any bill, but here we have had five days. We have here a bill that is being rammed through the parliament after a mere five days of consultation.

As we found out in committee when this went through this house previously, there has been no consultation with primary industry. Not one representative organisation, not one regional stakeholder and not one industry body has been approached by the government. So it only gets the views of the mining industry and not of the farming industry.

They have left it to the last two sitting weeks of parliament, despite knowing about this issue for well over two years. Why has it taken this long to get through? There are a number of reasons. The first reason is that all the resources and all the effort of the department was not going into the mining side of it; it was going into the government's hydrogen fantasy. There were three years of that—all the effort and the human resources.

We have seen all the highly paid executives: the CEO of the Office of Hydrogen Power SA, the most highly paid employee in the Department for Energy and Mining at \$600,000 a year. When, embarrassingly, the hydrogen power plant had to be shelved and thrown away, we found out that there was a golden handshake to a mystery executive of potentially up to \$850,000. That tells you where all the resources and all the effort were going.

All of a sudden, just before the parliament finishes this year, it has dawned on them: 'We had better put this bill through. There's no time for consultation, so we will just do this tick the box exercise: five days not 30 days.' Then they put it into parliament and the minister is surprised when there are changes to it that balance the interests of the mining industry with the interests of the farmers and the primary production industry.

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**Mr PATTERSON:** As the minister tries to interject, I will read in some of the comments here from Grain Producers SA and what they had to say about this:

'GPSA welcomes the Legislative Council's majority support for amendments to the Energy and Mining Reforms Bill to provide greater clarity for grain producers and the agricultural sector when it comes to exploration'...

It then goes on to say:

...the new safeguard requiring an independent agricultural impact assessment before any extension was an important addition. 'Grain producers, and farmers more broadly, carry the production and business risks when their land is under exploration, so it is only fair that any potential impacts are properly assessed by an independent expert'...

Quoting still:

'Just as importantly, we strongly support the requirement to consult with the landowner before any extension is granted. It is the farmer's business, their land, and their long-term planning that's directly affected. Genuine consultation cannot be optional.'

So there we have Grain Producers SA. Had there been proper consultation performed during this process instead of rushing it through in five days, those concerns would have been heard. Now we have the histrionics of the minister, trying to attack the Liberal Party for making sensible amendments.

Another reason why this was left until two weeks before is a question that has to be asked of the minister: was this just a cynical wedge attempt by Labor on the Liberal Party before a state election? We have heard him stand up and say he is going to take it to the state election. It is just another example of this minister in the energy and mining portfolio putting politics above actual practical policy.

We have seen how that has worked out in other parts of his portfolio. In the energy portfolio we have had electricity skyrocket for people. It has gone up by \$776 for a household.

**The Hon. A. Koutsantonis:** Are you talking about this bill or electricity?

**Mr PATTERSON:** No, this is about using politics instead of proper policy. Up 43 per cent—and then what about trying to put in the hydrogen stuff?

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**Mr PATTERSON:** No. Hydrogen fell over too because, unfortunately, that does not work on politics, and now again we have this one coming through. So, unfortunately, the mining exploration industry are being used as pawns in what is a political wedge by this Labor government. They are trying to wedge the Liberal Party, but no. We have sensible amendments here that balance the two sectors. They allow for 20 years of exploration.

On this side of the house, the Liberal Party will ensure between now and the next election that every regional South Australian, every farmer, every primary producer and every landowner will know about this assault, this ruthless attack on them, by the Labor government. They will know. Ultimately, the food and fibre producers of this state provide food to put on our plates. It helps with the cost of living. If you put prices up, that affects all people. So if you want to attack primary industry and not be sensible, if you want to play political games and if you want to arrogantly ram legislation through, go right ahead, because we will not stand for it on this side of the house.

**Mr ELLIS:** It has been a rather combative start to debate. I would like to offer a slightly more conciliatory tone, as we move forward, by congratulating both parties on taking this to the election. It is something that I mentioned in my second reading speech might be a good idea, and no matter how we got there I am pleased to see that we have arrived at that very destination. At the risk of putting aside the enjoyable combative debate, congratulations to both parties on this becoming an election issue.

To that end, we have the amendments and the bill in front of us, but we also know that there is a further tranche of reform coming in the not too distant future, as outlined on the Department for Energy and Mining website, where it says:

A broader suite of reforms in respect to the Mining Act may be considered for a legislative program in the new term of government...

I would like to see—if we could, please—that data or that policy or that idea released by the election as well. Let's put it all out on the table, all our ideas and respective views on the issue, so that we can have a proper, informed debate about the merits of the ideas and the path forward. I think that would be best case and would allow for all our electorates to consider the pros and cons of all the ideas and make an informed vote one way or the other.

I am quite hopeful, despite the fact that this has been portrayed as a city versus country issue, that there would be quite a few people across the entirety of the state who recognise the preciousness of our arable land. There is some 4 per cent or 5 per cent of land that is used to produce food, and I suspect there would be a great majority of people who acknowledge that we need to preserve that land for its current use so that we can continue to produce food to feed our state and to feed our nation.

From where I sit, I would like to think that these amendments—the ones that I moved, particularly, but also the other amendments that have manifested themselves in that select committee report—would be a vote winner across the state and that we can continue to reform the mining industry to provide them certainty. By 'certainty', I do not mean certainty that they can mine wherever they want; I mean certainty that they can mine in areas of our state that are more conducive

to hosting mining than others. For mine, that is up north and away from arable cropping land where we produce food.

Hopefully, we can have an informed debate about mining and agriculture as we head toward the election, and I would like to commend the government and the opposition for ensuring that this matter does become an election issue. I would also like to acknowledge the submission from the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies. In particular, they identify, and I agree, that:

These amendments—

the ones we are talking about now—

offer no further protection to them.

By 'them' they mean the interests of farmers and agriculturalists. That is at the heart of the issue of what I am most concerned about. We have had the select committee report, tabled some four years ago, which was painstakingly put together from consultation with farmers and landowners across the entire state and tabled in this place, and which has not found its way into any of the proposed amendments to the Mining Act. That, I think, is a mistake. That work should have been considered as part of the reform on account of there being, as AMEC have identified, no improvements for farmers or agriculturalists, and I do not think this is a bill worth pursuing.

I would like to see, as I have said in my second reading speech and as I repeat now, the results or some of the efforts that have found their way into that select committee report to find their way into the next tranche of mining reform so that we can provide certainty to both industries about what is encouraged practice in what parts of our state. That is the path forward, because although AMEC have claimed in their press release that there are examples of mining and farming coexisting, I have not yet seen a hole with crops growing in it anywhere around our state. As far as I can tell, you have a hole or you have a crop. It is one or the other, and there is no coexisting.

If you drive past Pine Point at the moment, you will see some golden crops poking their heads through and driving right around them are massive excavators and diggers, and piles of dirt from the roadworks being done to enable that mine to happen. That is not coexistence; that is crops being trampled in the name of mining. It is not a criticism of Rex; they have gone through all the processes that they needed to to get that approved. It is what it is, and that is happening down there, but it is evidence in my view that coexistence is a bit of a folly.

The other thing that I would like to take slight issue with in the AMEC press release is there is an allusion to South Australians having forgone the value of the minerals that they will ostensibly no longer be able to access. I would contend that, in regional South Australia, we have not necessarily seen the benefit of those minerals as they are currently mined anyhow.

This morning, I contributed to a debate on the health petition report that I tabled in this place, which highlighted the shortcomings in the facilities of our regional hospitals. There is a 21-bed hospital in Wallaroo that is farcically undersized for our community. That has not seen the benefit of any mining activity as far as we can see. How can we have any faith that benefits would flow from these new exploration rules and that we would benefit from those mining royalties? While it is all well and good to say that South Australians are forgoing the benefit of that mineral value, I would contend that in some ways it feels like we have been forgoing it anyway, despite hosting the mines in regional parts of South Australia.

I am tremendously excited about this becoming an election issue—it very much was last time as well, if my memory serves me. While we remain in a similar place to where we were then, hopefully with continued pressure and sustained force we can drive a fairer bargain for our farmers and landholders and ensure that we provide certainty to both industries about what practice should be encouraged in what parts of our state.

**Mr TELFER:** I rise to speak in favour of the amendments that have come down from the Legislative Council. From my perspective, I am not here to score political points. I do not think there is any great advantage for me in this process. The advantage is to get the balance right for South Australians across our whole state. This faux division that gets put out there when it comes to these debates really makes me sick. It actually makes me sick to think that these are the sorts of divisions that get driven when we are trying to make laws that are suitable for a balanced outcome for South Australia.

In a regional seat like mine, I have mining and I have agriculture. There are people who are relying on these industries in my electorate for their livelihood, and we need to get the balance right when it comes to decisions. The amendments that have been supported through the Legislative Council I believe strike that balance. They get that balance between giving some certainty to mining companies, that there is a capacity to be able to have an extended period of time over and above the legislated 18 years—

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**Mr TELFER:** —over and above—but it also gives some context for farmers, for landowners, to have that balance when it comes to engagement, consultation, and certainty going forward.

I believe these amendments are sensible. We have been hearing from communities on the ground that they believe they are ones that strike a good balance. Obviously, it has been spoken about by the shadow minister but we are also hearing about it from the representative body of grain producers. I understand the differing perspectives. A mining exploration company does not want any hindrances on its operations, absolutely. A farmer would not want to have any interactions with a mining company if they had the choice. What we have to do in this place is strike the right balance when it comes to these decisions around legislation such as we are considering.

The amendments that have come down from the Legislative Council, as put by my colleague in the other place and supported by the majority of the crossbench, aim to strike that balance. We need to have the balance right between mining interests and those landowners, many of whom have been generational farmers and have put their heart and soul into these portions of land for decades, if not more, because if we do not have a balance, we see some potentially divisive and perverse outcomes that could come about. This is why I am supporting these amendments.

I commend the Legislative Council for doing the work to try to find a landing point of balance, because I do not think that the process that has been followed by the government, shoehorning this in at the end of the parliamentary term, is the right one. I do not think there has been enough consultation throughout the process. I do not think there has been enough understanding of what the actual impacts are going to be for landowners out there.

Here we are debating amendments on the last formal sitting day without the potential for an optional, which may come to pass when considering important pieces of legislation. From the perspective of not just a regional MP but someone who has a mind for the best outcome for South Australia as a whole, when it comes to this sort of legislation, when we are considering the interactions between mining and farming, we need to get the balance right.

I believe these amendments strike the balance and do so in a constructive, forward-looking way. It is not giving carte blanche powers to a minister to continue on the exploration capacity of a company ad infinitum, which I worry that the existing bill that was put by the government does. It does put parameters, it does provide scope and I think that this amendment, which has been put in the Legislative Council, gets that balance right. I commend my colleagues in the other place and urge the government to consider these amendments for what they are: an attempt to get the balance right in a constructive way when it comes to the consideration of this process.

The important part about this for regional communities in particular is that their voice is heard when it comes to consultation. The amendment, which has been put by the members in the other place, actually legislates a consultation process that a minister is obligated to carry out. I do not think that is a bridge too far. I think that is something which is proactive and constructive when it comes to looking at what opportunities there might be for a piece of land that is under a mining lease that is coming close to the expiration time of 18 years ago.

This is why we on this side believe there need to be greater parameters around this exploration to provide certainty. I absolutely recognise that the existing arrangements and even the amended arrangements do not extinguish any future exploration lease. But the process which has been put forward here, I believe, as amended by the upper house, gives more certainty to landowners and surety that the balance is right between farming interests and mining interests here in South Australia.

Progress reported; committee to sit again.

*Sitting suspended from 12:58 to 14:00.*

*Parliament House Matters*

### CHAMBER PHOTOGRAPHY

**The SPEAKER (14:07):** The first item of business is to get the family photo. We are starting a new tradition. We are copying it from the NSW parliament. I think some other parliaments do it. We have our good friend, Tony Lewis, in here who is going to take the photo.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** I am not wearing the wig—I am not even wearing a tie. The Clerk and Deputy Clerk look resplendent in their wigs. I delegate the Speaker's role to you, Tony; you can tell everyone what to do. Excellent, good work. Thanks very much, Tony; we appreciate it.

*Parliamentary Procedure*

### VISITORS

**The SPEAKER:** Before we get underway, I would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of two of my very good friends. They own a pub in Washington, DC. It opened the day after Prohibition was lifted in 1933. They are Billy and Gina Martin and the tavern is called Martin's Tavern. It is the oldest-running family-owned tavern in DC. I know politics sometimes takes us to places like DC and if you ever get a little thirsty, call in there because it is a history lesson. Every president, from Truman through to George W. Bush, has been to their hotel and if you sit in booth 3, that is where JFK proposed to Jackie. There is so much history. Unaccustomed as I am to walking into bars, I did walk into this bar 18 years ago. I got talking to Billy—I was flogging McLaren Vale wine. We bonded over a bottle of Shingleback D Block Shiraz and he has been selling our wines at Martin's Tavern ever since. Thank you and welcome, Billy and Gina.

*Condolence*

### APPLEBY, MRS J.E.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:02):** By leave, I move:

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of Mrs June Appleby, former member of the House of Assembly, and places on record its appreciation of her meritorious service and that, as a mark of respect to her memory, the sitting of the house be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

I stand with the sad duty of informing the house of the passing of June Appleby, who served in this chamber as the Labor MP for Brighton and Hayward and who passed away on Friday 7 November.

June's political career began in March 1983 when she was elected as the member for Brighton and served until the 1985 boundary redistribution that created the seat of Hayward. It is notable that she entered into parliament at the same election as Susan Lenehan, the second and third Labor women to serve in the House of Assembly.

Their example was to inspire an ever growing number of resolute Labor women to enter this parliament over the years and decades ahead. Today, women represent almost half of this government's MPs and members of the Legislative Council and a majority of our ministers. Both Susan and June were to enjoy careers of great significance, with Lenehan rising to serve in the Bannon cabinet and Appleby appointed South Australia's first female Government Whip, serving in the role from 1985 until the end of the parliament in 1989.

It was a job she excelled at, developing a reputation as a hard taskmaster—that is important for a whip—who did not suffer fools. Mark Brindal, who won her seat for the Liberals in 1989, unkindly claimed 'there were Labor members who thought well of me to be released from her discipline'. However, the truth is that June Appleby was driven by a deep and enduring compassion for those doing it hard.

One of her greatest passions was addressing the devastating impacts of unemployment, particularly among older workers, and the need for our state to build a strong economy capable of lifting South Australia's labour market. She took aim at employers who took training subsidies for young workers and fired them once they became eligible for adult wages. She was a lioness when



defending the safety of women in the workplace, particularly during South Australia's mid-eighties penchant for topless waitressing.

But it was within the community that her greatest impact was felt, an impact that continues to this day. As a staunch champion of the rights of disabled South Australians, June spearheaded pioneering legislation making it mandatory for state and local government to provide designated disabled parking spaces. That legislation laid the groundwork for further action to acknowledge and improve accessibility throughout the state at shopping centres, sports grounds, restaurants, places of worship—every sphere of public life. At the time, amazingly, the idea seemed controversial. Now it is taken for granted as an expected right, as it should be.

June Appleby's advocacy for greater accessibility made possible greater dignity, agency and freedom for disabled South Australians. Her example speaks to the important things we can achieve with the power of parliament. The reason she did so was simple. As she said in her maiden speech, 'Every person should have reason to be proud of our state.' I am sure everyone here shares this guiding principle in their own work inside and outside of the building.

We offer our condolences to her beloved husband, Maurice, to her family, particularly those who have lost their adored aunty and great-aunty, and to all those whose lives she touched. I commend the motion to the house.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the Leader of the Opposition, I would like to welcome to parliament and acknowledge Lynn Arnold, former Premier of South Australia and agriculture minister, among other portfolios. Thank you, Lynn, for being here today.

#### *Condolence*

#### **APPLEBY, MRS J.E.**

Condolence motion resumed.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:07):** I also rise to support the condolence motion. Today, the house reflects on the life of Mrs June Elizabeth Appleby, a former member of this parliament whose service left a clear mark on the people she represented. Born in 1941 and passing away on 7 November 2025, she is survived by her husband, Maurice, and by the many friends and colleagues who respected her deeply.

She was elected to this place as the member for Brighton and later continued her work as the member for Hayward after the redistribution. During that period she served as assistant whip and then became the first woman in South Australia to serve as Government Whip. That achievement alone speaks to the trust that her colleagues placed in her and to the way that she also carried herself with professionalism in this chamber.

From the moment she delivered her maiden speech, it was obvious what mattered most to her. She spoke about many things, especially mature-aged workers who had lost their jobs, about families who were struggling to hold on and about the human cost when the economy was certainly under pressure. She especially understood unemployment, what it does and how it shakes a person's confidence and their dignity, and she made sure that those stories were brought in to this very place.

June did not treat those issues just as talking points. She held those public meetings and she listened to people directly, but she also pushed for practical solutions. She worked with local residents on things like skills support, concessions and programs that could help practically with older workers, getting them back into meaningful employment. Her advocacy was always grounded. It was consistent and it was shaped by the voices of the people in her electorate and the state.

She was also a pioneer in disability rights. She drove the effort that resulted in the first legislation required to establish disabled parking spaces in this state. Members who came after her acknowledged it, that it was her persistence that made that change possible. That reform has served generations of people in this state and remains one of her most significant contributions.

Her work touched every corner of community life. She called out the misuse of youth unemployment subsidies, defended small business owners, raised concerns about rising energy costs and spoke for the many pensioners and low income earners who relied on the electricity concession scheme. She questioned age-based discrimination in various industries like insurance. She supported national efforts to address it as well. She even raised issues that others may have brushed aside, things like concerns about scratch-and-sniff stickers in schools. What stands out the most is the way that she approached public life. She listened carefully, she spoke plainly and she focused on people who were often neglected and overlooked. She carried their stories into this place and she insisted that they be heard with respect.

On behalf of the opposition, I thank June Appleby for her service. She broke new ground in this parliament. She stood up for vulnerable South Australians and she did her work with honesty, integrity and commitment. We too extend our sincere condolences to her husband, Maurice, and to all of those who knew and loved her. May she rest in peace.

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (14:10):** I will just speak briefly. I remember June Appleby because she was a member of the first sub-branch that I ever joined, in 1992. June and Maurice were the stalwarts of that sub-branch. The reason I remember is because we would meet on Sundays at 10am which, as a very young person, I suggested was not a great time. We would also raffle off a dozen eggs and that was our fundraising.

As a person, newly part of the party, very interested in politics, you always look around you to see people who have had that opportunity to serve, and June was one of those people. As we have heard today, she was a first mover in many ways. It was a really difficult time for youth unemployment in the early 1990s and the fact that she spoke about this concern is something that I remember from the conversations I had with her, as a very young person.

Her leadership in disability access does not surprise me at all. She saw opportunities there to speak out for people whose voices were not heard. It feels like a long time ago, when I joined my very first sub-branch, but you do remember the people who were there, the people who influence you and the people who you look up to when you think about the opportunities that might present to represent people here in this state parliament.

To her family, to Maurice, I remember you and I remember how committed you were to continue to work on campaigns, even though she had left parliament at that point. I think of her dearly and may she rest in peace.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services, Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well) (14:12):** It is with great sadness that I rise today to honour the life of June Elizabeth Appleby who was born on 2 June 1941. June was a distinguished South Australian, a pioneer for women in political leadership and until recently, along with husband Maurice, a much-loved resident of my suburb of Woodcroft.

June was a member of our Hurtle Vale sub-branch. She was a friend, a supporter and a mentor to me. June passed away on Friday 7 November 2025. Her loss is felt deeply across the state and especially within our local community where she maintained strong and meaningful connections. June devoted nearly a decade to the Parliament of South Australia, representing the Labor Party. She served as the member for Brighton from 1982 to 1985 and then as the member for Hayward from 1985 to 1989. Her parliamentary career was marked by principled leadership and an unwavering commitment to her constituents. I know she has left our earth absolutely delighted with the collective representation of her old electorates, which sit across mostly Gibson and Black.

In 1985, June made history as the first woman to hold the office of Government Whip in South Australia under the Bannon government, until 1989. This was a groundbreaking achievement that helped open doors for women in parliamentary leadership. She carried out her responsibilities with diligence—apparently, she was pretty tough—but with fairness and steadfast integrity, earning the respect of colleagues across the chamber.

June's parliamentary career places her firmly amongst an extraordinary generation of Labor women who reshaped political representation in South Australia. She followed in the footsteps of pioneers such as Molly Byrne and Anne Levy, and then Anne Levy later became the first woman to preside over any house of parliament in Australia. These women, along with other trailblazers like

Barbara Weise and Carolyn Pickles, helped carve out a space in political institutions where women had previously been excluded. June Appleby's appointment as one of Labor's first female government representatives in the House of Assembly is a proud legacy in itself. Her leadership contributed to a cultural shift that continues to open doors for women like us in public life today.

June was fierce, a determined advocate for people living with disability. Notably, she pioneered legislation requiring the provision of disability parking spaces in South Australia. I have to say, we have had some conversations about that over recent years, because she lived a mere 500 metres from my house. This reform continues to improve accessibility and, along with recent changes as well, the independence and dignity for countless individuals have been improved. This achievement stands as a lasting testament to her compassion, to her vision and her dedication to creating a fairer and more inclusive state. Her advocacy reflected her character. Principled, courageous and deeply committed to justice, she never hesitated to challenge practices that excluded disadvantaged people. Her persistence brought lasting change for so many South Australians that other members have just spoken about.

June's community contribution extended beyond her parliamentary career. As a founding member of the Cosy Club, she helped establish one of the most warm-hearted and impactful initiatives supporting older South Australians. Operating under the Uniting Communities Community Aged Care program, the Cosy Club brought together older women to meet monthly at U City and knit, crochet, make crafts, and these handmade items were given to people who were doing it tough all across Adelaide. Their creations, including rugs, socks, scarves, baby clothes, blankets and beanies, have been distributed through local charity partners including the Smith Family, Hutt St Centre, Westcare Centre and Catherine House.

The group also provided welcome and pamper packages for people entering Aldersgate and Murray Mudge aged-care homes. These offered comfort at a time of uncertainty and change. June often reflected on the meaning of that work, describing each handmade item as an expression of love, care and dignity, and emphasised how the Cosy Club provides its members with connection, purpose and the joy of giving. This is leadership. It was leadership that continued to warm hearts and uplift people in need.

On a personal note, more recently we visited June, and my staff and I always enjoyed visiting her. She lived in the Living Choice retirement village in Woodcroft. She would always welcome us warmly and generously. She would share insights from years and years of experience. You would never get bored talking with June. She remained deeply engaged with issues affecting her community, and she let me know. She was very pleased with the concessions work that has been done under the leadership of the Premier. When you visited, you felt that you were in a place where you were privileged to be reminded of her wisdom, her generosity, and her enduring commitment to public service.

I know her passing is felt deeply by many close to her. She was the cherished wife of Maurice. They were inseparable and recently moved together to get more support and care so that they could be in a place of comfort together in the end part of their life. The house extends its absolute heartfelt condolences to Maurice. She was also a beloved daughter of Colleen and Albert, both deceased, and a sister to John Bennetts and Richard Bennetts, also deceased. Her sister Kaye Clothier and brother-in-law Lawrence Clothier will absolutely miss her, as will her nieces Jodhi-Anne and Kym Therese. She was proud great-aunt to Garratt and Jai. She will be missed by them all. I know that they will be coming to celebrate Maurice's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in February. I look forward to reaching out to see if we can do something special for them.

I acknowledge June's really close friend Denise Kirk, a member of my local VIEW club, who was always there for her. Denise provided a steadfast friendship and practical care right to the very end. She brought comfort, stability and companionship to June during her final months and it is fitting that we represent Denise's absolute commitment and dedication.

I know the family was very pleased with the caring staff at Allambi aged care, whose support and compassion provided comfort to June and her loved ones. I know Maurice would have loved to have been here today but it was just not possible, but I will be visiting Maurice very soon and passing on our regards.

To the family, we will mourn her loss. We honour and celebrate a life of service, a life that made South Australia a fairer, more inclusive and profoundly better place. Vale June: a warrior for people who needed a voice. I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

**The SPEAKER:** The house will stand suspended until the ringing of the bells.

*Sitting suspended from 14:21 to 14:32.*

*Parliamentary Procedure*

**VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I would like to begin by welcoming to the parliament today my son Conor, my wife, Karen, my sister Toni and her husband Roger. They are here for the first time—well, Conor is always hanging around—because I made a commitment to them the day after the last election that that was going to be my last election. I think they are here today to make sure that I fulfil that promise to them. To everyone who has kept the secret for four years and to those who have been in on the secret for the last few weeks, I thank you very much for your silence and your cooperation.

*Petitions*

**STURT HIGHWAY**

**Mrs HURN (Schubert):** Presented a petition signed by 146 residents of South Australia and freight drivers and commuters of the Sturt Highway requesting the house to urge the government to commit to improving safety on the Sturt Highway between Barossa Valley Way, Nuriootpa and Duck Ponds Road, Stockwell, to prevent the possibility of a major crash or loss of life.

*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 Premier (Hon. P.B. Malinauskas)—

Auditor-General—Auditor-General's Department Annual Report 2024-25  
Cross Border Commissioner—Annual Report 2024-25  
Defence SA—Annual Report 2024-25  
Infrastructure SA—Annual Report 2024-25  
Motor Sport Board, South Australian—Annual Report 2024-25  
Premier and Cabinet, Department of the—Annual Report 2024-25  
Premier's Delivery Unit—Annual Report 2024-25  
Productivity Commission, Office of the South Australian—Annual Report 2024-25

By the Treasurer (Hon. A. Koutsantonis)—

Compulsory Third Party Insurance Regulator—Annual Report 2024-25  
Coroners Act 2003—Inquest into the death of Edward John Raines Report May 2025  
Coroner's Court—Inquest into the death of Robert Llyod Hall Report October 2025  
Distribution Lessor Corporation—Annual Report 2024-25  
Essential Services Commission of South Australia—Annual Report 2024-25  
Funds SA—Annual Report 2024-25  
Generation Lessor Corporation—Annual Report 2024-25  
Government Financing Authority, South Australian—Annual Report 2024-25  
HomeStart Finance—Annual Report 2024-25  
Industry Advocate—Annual Report 2024-25  
Lifetime Support Authority of South Australia—Annual Report 2024-25  
Local Government Finance Authority—Annual Report 2024-25  
Lotteries Commission of South Australia—Annual Report 2024-25

Metropolitan Fire Service Superannuation Scheme, South Australian—  
Annual Report 2024-25  
Motor Accident Commission—Annual Report 2024-25  
Southern Select Superannuation Corporation—Annual Report 2024-25  
State Owned Generators Leasing Co Pty Ltd (SOGLC)—Annual Report 2024-25  
Superannuation Board, South Australian—Annual Report 2024-25  
Transmission Lessor Corporation—Annual Report 2024-25  
Treasury and Finance, Department of—  
Annual Report 2024-25  
Report on the review of the operation of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987  
Report October 2025

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

Energy and Mining, Department for—Annual Report 2024-25  
Energy Market Commission, Australian—Annual Report 2024-25  
Hydrogen Power South Australia, Office of—Annual Report 2024-25  
Northern Water Delivery, Office of—Annual Report 2024-25  
Power Line Environment Committee—Annual Report 2024-25  
Technical Regulator, Office of the South Australian—Annual Report 2024-25

By the Minister for Human Services (Hon. N.F. Cook) on behalf of the Minister for Education, Training and Skills (Hon. B.I. Boyer)—

Education Standards Board (Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and  
Standards Board of South Australia)—Annual Report 2024-25  
Public Sector Act 2009—Overseas and Interstate Travel—Minister for Education, Training  
and Skills Report 16 to 17 October 2025  
Teachers Registration Board—Annual Report 2024-25

By the Minister for Human Services (Hon. N.F. Cook) on behalf of the Minister for Police (Hon. B.I. Boyer)—

Police, South Australia—Annual Report 2024-25

By the Minister for Small and Family Business (Hon. A. Michaels)—

Small Business Commissioner, South Australian—Annual Report 2024-25

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

Club One—Annual Report 2024-25

By the Minister for Arts (Hon. A. Michaels)—

Adelaide Festival Centre Trust—Annual Report 2024-25  
Adelaide Festival Corporation—Annual Report 2024-25  
Adelaide Film Festival—Annual Report 2024-25  
Art Gallery of South Australia—Annual Report 2024-25  
Carrick Hill Trust—Annual Report 2024-25  
Film Corporation, South Australian—Annual Report 2024-25  
JamFactory Contemporary Craft and Design Inc—Annual Report 2024-25  
Libraries Board of South Australia—Annual Report 2024-25  
Museum, South Australian—Annual Report 2024-25  
Public Sector Act 2009—  
Overseas and Interstate Travel—Minister for Arts Report 26 September 2025  
Overseas and Interstate Travel—Minister for Arts Report 4 to 5 September 2025  
State Opera South Australia—Annual Report 2024-25

State Theatre Company of South Australia—Annual Report 2024-25  
Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute—Annual Report 2024-25

By the Minister for Energy and Mining (Hon. A. Koutsantonis) on behalf of the Minister for Trade and Investment (Hon. J.K. Szakacs)—

Coroners Act 2003—Inquest into the death of Michelle Stephanie Foster Report Updated  
Electoral Commission of South Australia—Election Report 2024 Dunstan and Black  
By-elections Report 2025  
Employment Tribunal, South Australian—Annual Report 2024-25  
Law Society of South Australia—Annual Report 2024-25  
Legal Practitioner's Disciplinary Tribunal—Annual Report 2024-25  
Legal Practitioners Education and Admission Council—Annual Report 2024-25  
Legal Profession Conduct Commissioner—Annual Report 2024-25  
Legal Services Commission—Annual Report 2024-25  
Professional Standards Councils—Annual Report 2024-25  
Public Advocate—Annual Report 2024-25  
Public Sector Act 2009—  
Overseas and Interstate Travel—Minister for Trade and Investment Report  
20 to 29 September 2025  
Overseas and Interstate Travel—Minister for Trade and Investment Report  
5 to 6 October 2025  
Public Sector Employment, Office of Commissioner—  
Annual Report 2024-25  
State of the Sector Annual Report 2024-25  
Training Centre Review Board—Annual Report 2024-25

By the Minister for Housing and Urban Development (Hon. N.D. Champion)—

Housing and Urban Development, Department for—Annual Report 2024-25  
Urban Renewal Authority—Annual Report 2024-25

By the Minister for Housing Infrastructure (Hon. N.D. Champion)—

SA Water Corporation—Annual Report 2024-25

By the Minister for Planning (Hon. N.D. Champion)—

Adelaide Cemeteries Authority—Annual Report 2024-25  
Surveyors Board SA—Annual Report 2024-25

By the Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services (Hon. R.K. Pearce)—

Coroners Act 2003—  
Inquest into the death of Michael Lionel Richard Weetra—actions taken by  
Department for Correctional Services Report 10 October 2025  
Inquest into the death of Michelle Stephanie Foster—actions taken by Department  
for Correctional Services Annual Report 2024-25  
Correctional Services, Department for—Annual Report 2024-25  
Fire and Emergency Services Commission, South Australian—Annual Report 2024-25  
Official Visitor—  
Aaron Cooke Annual Report 2024-25  
Joanne Battersby Annual Report 2024-25  
La Nina Clayton Annual Report 2024-25  
Lauren Messmer Annual Report 2024-25  
Timothy Fitzgerald Annual Report 2024-25

By the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing (Hon. R.K. Pearce)—

Recreation, Sport and Racing, Office for—Annual Report 2024-25

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

Environment and Water, Department for—Australia's National Science Agency—Review of progress to achieving targets under Section 7 of the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007 Report October 2025  
South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board—Annual Report 2024-25

*Parliamentary Committees*

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (14:39):** I bring up the interim report of the committee.

Report received.

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (14:39):** I bring up the eighth report of the committee, entitled Inquiry into Kangaroo and Wallaby Populations in South Australia—Interim Report.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**PUBLISHING COMMITTEE**

**The Hon. L.P. HOOD (Adelaide—Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (14:40):** I bring up the second report of the committee.

Report received and adopted.

*Question Time*

**ALGAL BLOOM**

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:41):** My question is to the Premier. Does the government have something to hide regarding the harmful algal bloom? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** On 16 October, the other place passed a motion compelling documents to be tabled in relation to the bloom. Since last checking, I am advised that these documents remain outstanding.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:41):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. My advice is that the Department of Premier and Cabinet, amongst other agencies, have worked assiduously since the passage of the resolution in the other place to ensure that they could furnish all necessary documents. I understand there is a process in place to achieve that. I would note that there is—

*The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:*

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** I would note that there is a lot of effort and resources that have been put into this—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** A lot of effort and resources have been put into this exercise. We have made clear from the outset that we don't intend to take resources off the frontline of service delivery associated with the harmful algal bloom to achieve the objectives, and we do the best we can given the sort of clearly political timeframe that was put in place by those in the council. I also note that the government is facilitating this request notwithstanding the fact that it is under no obligation to do so. We are doing so because we have no reason not to.

### ALGAL BLOOM

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:42):** My question is to the Premier. How often is the government monitoring brevetoxin levels across metropolitan beaches, including in foam, and will these levels be made public? If not, why not?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:43):** Our position hasn't changed since the last time the opposition asked this question.

### HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:43):** My question is to the Premier. Is Adelaide the sixth least affordable city in the world in which to buy a home? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** The Demographia International Housing Affordability report, released in May 2025, declared Adelaide as the sixth least affordable city in the world.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:43):** The South Australian economy is doing some of the best it has ever done in its history. The South Australian economy now results in our city and our state being more desirable to live in than what was the case four years ago. In no small part, that is a function of the fact that this government has been disciplined—united—in making sure that we focus on growing prosperity, we improve wages and we see more jobs in South Australia. As a result, people want to live here, young people want to stay here, and that is why we are seeing a substantial uplift in demand for housing in our state.

When you've got a set of circumstances where demand for housing is on the up, you need to have a government to do something about it. That's why when demand is high we focus on supply. The other mob want to make demand even worse in South Australia. You focus on creating demand where we don't need it. We focus on delivering on supply where we need it most.

The Leader of the Opposition recounts statistics that speak to the fact that we are more liberal than we have been in the past. We are focused on delivering housing supply, and I am very grateful that since we outlined our Housing Roadmap, since we released the land, since we got the code amendments happening, since we got the water infrastructure in the ground, since we moved the urban growth boundary, since we stopped the public housing sell-off, since we ensured that government did not look at strategic infill sites and sit on our hands, we actually got on and did something about it.

Since we started initiating all these policy efforts, we have gone from being below the national average in terms of new housing stock and growth in housing supply to becoming nation-leading. In fact, I am pleased to report to the house that we are going to see more new homes and houses completed this year than in any other year in the state's history. We are leaving our predecessors, Labor and Liberal governments, in our wake as we keep our foot on the accelerator to increase housing supply.

What does the opposition want to do about housing supply? They've got some really nifty ideas. They are going to remove stamp duty from existing homes. How many new homes does that create?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my right and members on my left will stop the interjections.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** The big winners out of the opposition's housing policy are vendors. Congratulations. The Leader of the Opposition is doing his level best to support vendors. Not only does any basic economic analysis demonstrate the futility of their policy but we've even got real estate experts now on the record condemning the abolition of stamp duty in the way that they have crafted it. It beggars belief.

So while those opposite spend time formulating policies to make the problem worse, we are going to continue to engage with the Housing Industry Association of Australia, the Master Builders



Association of South Australia, we are going to engage with the Business Council of Australia so that they can tell us how to keep doing it. We are going to work with the Housing Trust to increase public housing stock while you try to reformulate a way to deliver your sell-off. These are the things that are making a difference. Our state is more desirable to live in than ever before and we have more housing supply on the way than ever before, and that is the difference between a united government and a divided rabble.

**The SPEAKER:** Okay, it's all getting a little rowdy in here, particularly the member for Flinders.

**An honourable member:** Chuck him out, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** I don't want to chuck him out; it's the last day. Member for Morphett, you were getting a bit rowdy as well. I will tell you who has been pretty good, it's the member for Chaffey. I reckon you have been going really well. He was the first person I ever chucked out and he sent me a text message that said, 'How about I come around to your office and have a celebratory beer at knock-off?' and I always appreciate that, member for Chaffey.

### HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:48):** My question is to the Premier. Is the Premier aware of any capital city within Australia that is less affordable to rent in than Adelaide? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** The Cotality Housing Affordability Report November 2025 highlights the proportion of income required to service rent in Adelaide is the highest of any capital city in the nation.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:48):** We need more housing supply. We don't deny the challenges in the housing market. We don't deny the fact that there is a housing shortage around our country, which is why we are doing something about it and which is why we have a comprehensive strategy and a policy that we are delivering and acting upon. We are not formulating policies to create demand where there is already a lot: we are formulating policies to deliver the supply that is needed. We are not chasing votes in a desperate attempt at the next election: we are chasing genuine policy effort to make a difference on the ground. That's what we are doing, which is why—and don't take our word for it, just listen to what the MBA, the HIA and the BCA state. Just look at what the Australian Bureau of Statistics tells us around what jurisdiction in the nation is delivering the fastest rate of housing growth. It's us. That's what makes a difference.

We want to keep the drumbeat up. We do not sit around in meetings and say, 'Oh, that's going well, nothing more to do here.' In fact, the Minister for Housing knows exactly how these meetings go: we always want more. We are looking for the next policy. We are looking for the next effort to actually address the challenge that we have on our hands.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The deputy leader, come on, that is getting really, really rowdy now.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** We are actively making a difference where it is needed most, and we will continue to collaborate with all the various organisations around the country and all the government agencies that have the capacity to provide government advice and intelligence about the sorts of things that actually make a difference, not make the problem worse.

One of the reasons why we have a housing shortage in Australia is because governments of various political iterations over a long period of time, when they have seen a housing issue, they have actually made the problem worse by doing something that generates demand. Think about the first-home owner grants in the past. All that does is drive prices up. What we want to do is dry supply up.

No matter how many times we talk about the policy distinction that we see formulating in the lead-up to the election, no matter how many times we seem to talk about the fact that they are

focused on demand and we are focused on supply, there seems to be a continued ignorance from the Liberal Party, the so-called party of the economy—

**The Hon. A. Koutsantonis:** Wilful.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** A wilful ignorance—to basic economics. Economics 101: supply and demand. We have got a housing market that we would not characterise as being in equilibrium. We need to increase supply, not demand. So we are going to keep doing what it takes to make a difference on the ground.

The Leader of the Opposition talks about a jurisdictional analysis. Can I point to cities with different policy settings around the country? Yes, I can think of one city that has a particularly unique policy setting. There is one city in Australia that doesn't have stamp duty. It doesn't have stamp duty on residential properties. And guess what? That's also the same place in the country that is the only one that has a land tax on the family home. The only one.

The only place with no stamp duty is the only one with land tax on the family home. So we all know how that movie ends. Don't worry, it will be the people of South Australia who will be able to forecast that when they cast their ballot at the next election.

### **ROBE COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC**

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:52):** My question is to the Minister for Health. Is there a plan to re-employ a community paramedic in Robe? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and the leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr McBRIDE:** The community paramedic in Robe has retired. This position has successfully helped with medical needs of locals, working in conjunction with local medical clinics and the Kingston hospital.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:52):** I thank the member for MacKillop for his question and his advocacy in relation to the community paramedic service in Robe. It is an issue where the member and I have discussed this a number of times over the course of this parliamentary term. In fact, we had a meeting with Liam McKay, who recently retired as the community paramedic in Robe. I particularly want to put on the record for the house my thanks to him for the work that he does in that community.

Of course, Robe is a community that doesn't have a hospital located in it. It is serviced by the Kingston hospital, and it has been long serviced by Dr David Senior, who I also thank for his incredibly long service to the community as the resident GP in the area. One of the benefits of the community paramedic in Robe has been the support and the cooperation between Dr Senior and other GPs who have been part of that practice and also Liam as the community paramedic.

While we of course regret Liam retiring, we understand the reasons for him to do so, and we certainly have a desire to make sure that we can attract and secure a new paramedic into that particular role in Robe into the future. It does require particular skills, including suturing, wound care, antibiotic administration and in-hospital support of critically unwell patients awaiting retrieval.

I am happy to advise the member that the position was advertised this week. It is already creating interest and inquiries from suitably qualified paramedics. We want to continue our work with the local community. Also, as the member will be very aware, one of the things this government has done is we have brought Keith into the SA Health fold. As part of the Keith health service, now within SA Health, ending the years of debate around the Keith hospital, we also have a community paramedic role based there. It is an area and a particular role which is, I think it is fair to say, still under development, but I am very keen to see that expanded into the future. Not only have we had that position in Robe but we have also, as the member for Flinders will no doubt be aware, had a community paramedic in Ceduna, who has played a slightly different role, understanding it is a very different community. We are also in the process of recruiting a new community paramedic into Wallaroo as well.

We see a good future for these positions. I think we can attract suitably qualified paramedics into them who have that expanded scope of practice. As we have done with those first two positions, we can tailor it to what the particular health needs of the local community are. I want to thank Liam

again for his many years of service to the Robe community and look forward to a hopefully successful outcome of the recruitment process that is now underway.

### **MALINAUSKAS LABOR GOVERNMENT**

**Mr DIGHTON (Black) (14:56):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house on how the Labor government has delivered its bold and ambitious agenda for South Australians.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:58):** I think everyone in this place would have had to endure political speeches over the years, where politicians stand up and start recounting lists of things that they have done and those speeches invariably end up being rather long and painful, so brace yourselves.

Let's start with some of the bigger reforms that we've done: banned political donations in the state of South Australia; banned social media leading to globally picked-up reforms. We established a Voice to Parliament in South Australia. We have had an important royal commission into domestic violence that is providing advice to government; the toughest laws in the nation to keep paedophiles locked up; punishing adults who try to get kids to commit crime.

We have extended shop trading hours on Sundays. We made Christmas Day a public holiday regardless of the day that it falls. We have stopped the sell-off in public housing. We have banned mobile phones in schools. We have delivered a new, amalgamated Adelaide University that is already in the top 100 in rankings; rolling out three-year-old preschool to thousands of families and young people throughout the state of South Australia; delivered one of the biggest comprehensive civics programs in schools to confront the challenge that democracy sees globally.

We are building technical colleges back into high schools. We have done an extraordinary amount regarding animal justice and animal cruelty, including banning puppy farms. This government, unlike any other that we can remember, has actually reverted privatisation by bringing trams and trains back into public hands. We axed the EV land tax—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morphett can leave for 10 minutes.

*The honourable member for Morphett having withdrawn from the chamber:*

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** We are building 600 new beds across public hospitals. We have over 330 new beds coming into the public hospital system by the end of the year; 2,794 health workers, over and above attrition; opened up 10 new ambulance stations—five to go, more refurbished; and 300 extra ambulance officers and ambulances are now rolling up on time when you call 000. The non-stop South Road project is finally getting completed, a \$15 billion infrastructure program on the non-stop South Road that will change the way our city moves, forever. Down on Majors Road, there was an on-off ramp which they supported, then opposed, then were not really too sure of anymore. Anyway, we just got on and got it done.

We have released more land for housing developments than any other government in our state's history, done the code amendments, moved the urban growth boundary and abolished stamp duty for first-home buyers when there's a new build involved. We changed SA Water's priority from kayaking on reservoirs to actually putting water pipes in the ground so we can build some homes in South Australia. We have delivered major rental reforms to make our rental market just that little bit fairer for more vulnerable South Australians.

We decided to unlock building heights in our CBD to get activity moving and, by the way, there are more cranes in the sky than at any other point in the history of our city and our state in a way that is nation-leading. If you happen to work in hospitality in South Australia, you know the government's got your back not just by delivering higher wages but things called Gather Round, LIV Golf and bringing back a car race, which you opposed. This is a government that gets things done while you sit around and bicker amongst yourselves.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** I just reckon they must have got the up-and-about memo from the Premier. The member for Flinders.

### NATIONAL HOUSING ACCORD

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:00):** My question is to the Minister for Housing. How many homes does South Australia need to build to meet our component of the National Housing Accord targets? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** The National Housing Accord committed to 1.2 million homes over five years, yet the South Australian government is yet to publicly track its own performance against that target.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (15:01):** Mr Speaker, I will tell you some numbers that the honourable member should be aware of and informed of. This is a government of supply. If you look at the ABS data for just the September quarter: residential work up 1.9 per cent for the quarter to 1.7 billion, 21 per cent higher than a year earlier. And then, if you look at the data of completions: more completions than ever before—more completions than ever before—12,692. But what's important about that is the trifecta of numbers that it comes with. Commencements: 13,172, under construction: 14,311, and there has never been a better trifecta of construction in this state's history.

We are not going to do what you did, which was to pump all this demand into a system with no supply. We are focused on supply. If you look at the code amendments, as the Premier said: 31 planning code amendments done, rezoned, finished; 15,131 hectares of land; approximately 20,000 allotments, including Concordia away, Onkaparinga Heights away, Thebarton Brewery and many, many others. But, of course, we are not just going to do that. We are going to put water pipes and water infrastructure in the ground—in the ground—29,067 metres of pipe. Do you know how much more pipeline that is than you put in? About 29,067 metres of pipe; that's how much more pipe it is.

We have executed 234 developer agreements, a record number of agreements, for a record number of allotments, 8,244 allotments, across the state. In fact, 2024-25 was the highest year of DAfIs since they were first recorded in 2012-13. Of course, it's not just that. We are focused on getting the Urban Renewal Authority, Renewal SA, out and about and developing homes. What your stated policy is is just shutting up shop, which is what you did when you were in government. You had no role for Renewal SA, no role in the regions, no role in the city. You just stepped back, you just took your foot off the accelerator, no forward pipeline, again, of government projects.

We've got them in Playford Alive, we've got them in Prospect and we've got them in Southwark. We have civil work in Noarlunga. Anywhere you go—Seaton—you can see demolition, you can see civil works, you can see construction, you can see slabs going down. Whatever part of the housing, infrastructure and building continuum the member for Flinders wants to see, any bit of it he wants to see, he can just drive around Adelaide and see it.

The most important thing is I meet young South Australians—every time we do one of these announcements, we meet a young couple or a young South Australian who is happy to get a home, who is getting their first home. In Playford Alive, we met a young couple: he was a butcher and she worked in business administration. They were living in their parents-in-law's garage to save the money for a deposit in Playford Alive.

The other day when I was with the Premier at the Market Square site, a fellow walked past me and said, 'G'day Nick'. I said, 'Do we know each other?' He said, 'Yeah, you came out and opened my home in Seacombe Gardens' with the Minister for Human Services. She would have undertaken that with the Housing Trust. We are putting homes on the ground.

### HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:05):** My question is again to the Minister for Housing. Has the time needed to save for a home deposit increased or decreased under Labor and how does the minister explain that to young South Australians looking to enter the housing market? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** In March 2022, it took 10½ years on average to save for a house deposit in Greater Adelaide. In September 2025, that has increased to 13.1 years according to Cotality's November 2025 report.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (15:05):** The point I would make to the member for Flinders is that they strangled supply and added to demand, and now they are going to go back to that policy, they are going to switch off the lights at Renewal SA. They have already stated—

**Mr TEAGUE:** Point of order: standing order 98(a) expressly prohibits debate. The minister needs to answer the question.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, I have counselled you over the last 18 months a little bit about maybe not winding up the opposition quite so much. The temperature seems to be lower when you don't do it. The noise is certainly lower. So maybe we will give that a go for the next three minutes and 55 seconds.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** Mr Speaker, as it's your last day, as I understand it, I will follow your directions carefully. I guess the point about it is we all know that there are people in the rental system, we all know there are people who want to get into home ownership, we all know there are a range of first starters and restarters and people who do not have the benefit of owning their own home who want to get into the market. The only thing that will provide them that opportunity is supply. Supply only comes if you put infrastructure in the ground, if you put civil work underway, if you release government land, if you do all the components that allow the private sector, Renewal SA and other government agencies such as the Housing Trust to deliver that housing to market. That is the only way.

This is a government that stopped the sell-off of public housing. We have empowered community housing providers, we have brought back the Housing Trust and reorientated it to provide housing on the ground through things like the rent-to-buy scheme, which is enormously popular and a very important initiative by this government. We have brought back regional housing through the Office for Regional Housing at Renewal SA, which the opposition have never acknowledged was a good policy for regional South Australia, an innovative one, which has helped rural councils, which has helped rural communities, which has helped government employees in rural communities getting out there to the regions. They have never acknowledged that that is a good policy and they should, and they should give it some certainty going forward.

They have never backed a single government project, whether it be at Southwark or whether it be at Seaton or whether it be at Playford Alive or the work we are doing at Noarlunga. All they want to do is admire the problem and then add to demand. It will be a choice. Mr Speaker, I note your direction and I note it very carefully, but there will be choices to be made and the choice when people look to the government is they know we are adding to supply: the supply of public housing, the supply of community housing, the supply of rent to buy, and the supply of private market housing. What we want to do is push the market and push the developers and push the residential builders to do even more because that is the policy that will work. There will be other voices out there who are trying to do other things, but what we are focused on is the supply of homes to South Australians.

#### HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:09):** My question is again to the Minister for Housing. How much has the median cost of a home increased under Labor and does the minister believe that it is achievable for South Australians saving for a home to keep up with increasing costs? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** According to the Valuer-General, the median house price in metropolitan Adelaide has increased by 35 per cent and more than \$200,000 from March 2022 to September 2025.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (15:10):** There is house price growth right across the country and that is because we have a full employment market, we have a growing South Australian economy and we have a lot of reasons for optimism because of all the other work the government is doing.

What we are doing in terms of housing is adding to supply and, as I said before, supply of all the categories. Public housing: is it going up or down? It is going up. Community housing: is it going up or down? It is going up. Private housing: is it going up or down? It is going up. What you are seeing is us working with the industry. The reason why the HIA give us number one in terms of policymaking across the country, the reason why they say our policy settings are right, is because we work with them and we listen to them and we are looking at supply-side reform. Why does the Business Council of Australia say we have the best planning system? Because we are looking at delivery of—

*Mr Telfer interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** The member for Flinders is claiming work that is not his party's, but be that as it may, I will not enter into debate. I will ignore his interjections. But the point about it is that it doesn't matter which industry group you look at, they are backing in the government's Housing Roadmap because they know what we know and what every major commentator knows: you have to increase supply. Everybody across the country understands that. But how do you do it?

The government has set out a clear plan with clear pathways and clear reforms, and what do we see from those figures? A record trifecta of figures in terms of completions, in terms of commencements and in terms of under construction. What does that mean? It means that we are building more homes, we have more commenced and more under construction and that is our goal and we won't rest until we have the Australian dream back in the reach of South Australians.

#### NYRSTAR

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (15:12):** My question is to the Minister for Mining and Energy. Can the minister update my community regarding future opportunities for Nyrstar's Port Pirie smelter following the first production of the antimonial metal recently? With your leave, and that of the house, sir, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** Recently, the state government, in partnership with the Tasmanian state government plus the federal government, granted a grant to the company to assist the company to produce an antimonial metal that will be a critical metal for our defence and other industries.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:12):** When you are a united government, you can get good outcomes for regional South Australia. Imagine if we were a divided government. It would be very hard to get the deliverance you need. But we are a united government, all working behind for one common goal, supporting our leader, no division, no talk of midnight coups, no-one having to rule out a form of challenge, these types of leadership ambitions.

But I can say that the people of Port Pirie, who are recovering from an horrific storm, would welcome the news coming out of Nyrstar. Antimony metal has been delivered from the first trial and that is a huge milestone. Antimony is a metal that is used in the defence sector to harden shells, harden bullets and reinforce armour. It is an important tool and it is fair to say that this metal has been monopolised by one country. The entire world supply of antimony is held by China, nearly 96 per cent. The rest is held in strategic reserve within the United States and it has now begun to be manufactured here in Australia.

This is one of the greatest opportunities for Australia amongst our strategic partners and world democracies. Democracies need access to these metals. It is not just about rare earths and rare minerals; it is about rare metals.

It is one thing to have the resources; it is another thing to beneficiate them into a finished product. A finished product is everything. Without that finished product, we would be reliant on one country and one country alone. That doesn't mean necessarily that China is an adversary. It could

mean that China's neutrality could mean we would not have access to that metal. Australia and our allies need an independent source for these types of crucial metals.

The important thing is that we have earned, over decades, a hard-fought social licence in the city of Port Pirie for lead smelting. There is not a single functioning lead smelter left in the United States, not one. There aren't many cities in the United States—indeed, there aren't many cities anywhere in the world—putting up their hands saying, 'We want a lead smelter in our town.' Port Pirie have fought hard for this and now their time has come. The world needs this commodity. The South Australian government, the Tasmanian Liberal government and the Albanese Labor government are working together to make sure that Nyrstar have a long-term future.

I have said previously to this house that when the Prime Minister was in the Oval Office and in the cabinet room with Madeleine King and Tim Ayres Port Pirie was mentioned regularly. There are not many times when the President of the United States—regardless of your views on who the president is or what their politics are—could point to a map and say, 'That's Port Pirie.' Things have changed.

Port Pirie is a strategic city, it is a very important city, and the metals that they make will help in our nation's defence. Hopefully we will never need these metals. Hopefully we will never need antimony, but if we do need antimony our allies know that they can rely on us to provide them with this antimony. Antimony ended World War II a year early: this is how vital it is.

The people of Port Pirie, who have worked so hard and have suffered through so much—whether it is in perceptions or in rural health risks—now have something that the world needs. This government is prepared to stand right behind them because they deserve to have our support and they deserve to have their moment in the sun. We hope that through the strategic work of the Albanese government and the Trump administration we can progress this critical rare metal.

#### **MALINAUSKAS LABOR GOVERNMENT**

**Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (15:16):** My question is to the Leader of Government Business. Can the Leader of Government Business update the house on the performance of the government in this place during the current parliamentary session?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:17):** It is always important to compare and contrast between this parliament and past parliaments. I thought I would give us a few stats. The Premier has already talked about the number of bills and measures we have passed. We have passed 206 pieces of legislation; the previous government passed 190. The number of government bills lost in the House of Assembly while we have been in office: none; the number of government bills lost in the House of Assembly by the previous government: two. The number of government members who crossed the floor in this session of parliament to vote with the opposition: none; the number of government members who crossed the floor to vote with the opposition—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I will get to the ministers in a moment—and none of ours are on charges. In the previous parliament, four government members regularly crossed the floor to vote with the opposition. The number of parliamentary inquiries into Deputy Premiers: for us, at this stage, none; for the previous government, one. The number of Deputy Premiers sanctioned for misleading the parliament: for us, none; in the previous parliament, one—and suspended from the parliament. The number of Speakers removed from office forcibly by the parliament: in this session, none; in the previous session, one. Members of the executive who were given the functions and powers of the Attorney-General while not actually being the Attorney-General: during this session of parliament, none—we actually have an Attorney-General; in the previous parliament, one.

While we are on the subject of ministerial resignations, a quick recap under the previous government. The honourable member for Schubert had to resign his ministry over an expense scandal. The member for Chaffey—we remember that little nugget; he had to resign. The member for Hammond had to resign as government whip. The number of leaders of government business who had to stand down, and this is a stat very important to me: during this term, none; under the previous term, we had two managers of government business, one of whom had to go after a slight

pairing incident. In the last term we also saw the Legislative Council President resign, with his replacement expelled from the Liberal Party after contesting a vacancy without party room backing. That's not exactly stable.

By contrast, in this current term there have been no ministerial resignations due to scandal or controversy. The former Deputy Premier has left with our regret and kind wishes for her future. The former Treasurer, in the last parliament, finished off his term destroying two Liberal governments—first, the Olsen-Brown government, and then he finished off the Marshall government—whereas our former Treasurer has left this government in an excellent position with four budget surpluses, an improved credit rating and budget surpluses across the forward estimates, for which we are eternally grateful.

The number of former government MPs facing criminal charges during the parliamentary term on this side of parliament: none. Under the former government: three. I want to quote the member for Kavel—

**The Hon. D.G. Pisoni:** Go back a bit further and you'll see Bernie Finnigan there.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** CFMEU! CFMEU!

**The Hon. D.G. Pisoni:** We've had no sex offenders over here, mate; you have.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Unley can leave for 10 minutes.

*The honourable member for Unley having withdrawn from the chamber:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I want to quote the member for Kavel:

The Marshall government is making enemies. It is infuriating the property council. It is quarrelling with the hotels association and the master builders—

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** The Leader of Government Business, there is a point of order from the member for Morialta.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Sir, it is against standing orders to quote *Hansard* from the same session.

**The SPEAKER:** I reckon you probably know it off the top of your head, I would say, Treasurer.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Basically, if you compare and contrast this term, it has been an island of stability, unity and discipline compared to the chaos of a government that had a working majority that tore itself to pieces. Within four years they have continually lost members, and now they are asking for another four.

### POWER PRICES

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:21):** My question is to the Premier. Have household power prices in South Australia increased by 43 per cent in the last four years? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr PATTERSON:** South Australians have paid the highest power bills on record under the Malinauskas Labor government, according to the independent Essential Services Commission of South Australia's annual energy retail offer market comparison report.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (15:22):** I welcome the shadow minister's question. I was actually asking for some data regarding yesterday's CPI numbers. We saw CPI numbers come out federally that raised concerns regarding inflation, for reasons that are worthy of note to anyone who would like to see further rate cuts for the benefit of home owners or mortgage holders throughout the state, so this is naturally something to pay a bit of attention to.

What the government looks at, at a state level, is how we are performing when it comes to these numbers in regard to the rest of the country. On that score, we actually did see that CPI in



South Australia, or in Adelaide, was below the national rate and certainly below cities like Brisbane, Perth and Hobart: where they are above the national average, we are below it.

But, importantly, you can actually get the data broken down for the percentage change year on year to the October period, and I was particularly interested in how we are going on the costs that everyday South Australians have to account for when they do their household budgets, as an indicator of living standards. I am pleased that, when it comes to utilities in South Australia versus the national rate, there was a differential of 6.8 percentage points lower in South Australia, which is good news. It is also true for water and sewerage: notwithstanding our big investments in water infrastructure, we are below the national average there to the tune of 2.3 per cent.

In terms of electricity, which goes specifically to the shadow minister's question, the differential is a bit over 17 per cent, so the increases in South Australia are approximately 17 per cent lower in comparison to the national average. Similarly, transport costs are two percentage points lower than what is the case nationally. Education costs in South Australia are also below the national average, to the tune of at least one percentage point, and it's similar with insurance and financial services. When you add all that up, it actually means that our CPI growth in Adelaide is less than what is the case in the rest of the country. We monitor these numbers, we look at them and we look at them closely. But the shadow minister quite reasonably asked about what's happening to electricity costs in South Australia, particularly relative to the rest of the country, and I can report that our electricity costs—

*Mr Patterson interjecting:*

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —you asked about electricity costs—are increasing at a far lower rate than what is the case around the rest of the country. There's a range of contributing factors to those numbers. I am not saying those numbers are positive, because we would prefer it wasn't going up, but I am pleased to say it's positive relative to the rest of the country, which is a good thing. As we see the changing nature of our energy market here in South Australia, as we get closer and closer to being at 100 per cent net renewable energy, provided we have an appropriate firming service coming from natural gas—if we have natural gas firming, where natural gas prices are hopefully coming down—combined with growth renewables, that's what sets the conditions for the market to start to function more adequately.

What we don't want to see happening to the generation market around the country is undersupply, and undersupply happens when there's a lack of investment certainty. There's a lack of investment certainty if people keep changing the rules, which is what your mob is so determined to do in Canberra. Having said that, I do note and welcome that the shadow minister for energy is an outspoken supporter of net zero being the shadow minister for net zero, so presumably he will take on his federal colleagues accordingly.

#### POWER PRICES

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:26):** My question is again to the Premier. Can the Premier explain why households are paying record high power prices under Labor? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr PATTERSON:** The annual Energy Retail Price Offers Comparison Report by the independent Essential Services Commission of South Australia shows that the average residential market offer power bill has risen by \$776 over the last four years.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:26):** If you look at the annual average weighted prices for wholesale electricity prices, and you do a comparison that the Australian Energy Regulator and AEMO do each and every year, in 2024-25, which is the last financial year, which is the average annual volume-weighted price, Queensland was \$128, New South Wales was \$150, Victoria was \$101, South Australia was \$132 and Tasmania was \$102.

In South Australia, we have these weather events that cause contingency events on the interconnection. You see single-day events. Because there is not forward contracting into the market,

it will have a dramatic impact on the forward price, which is then offered to households in retail pricing. What the Tim Nelson review into electricity pricing—and then reform—found was that we need a market-making obligation here, which would increase liquidity in the electricity market.

So what does that mean in terms that the opposition could understand? Deliberately, that energy companies are not selling forward offers into the market because they are waiting for individual events that spike wholesale prices when an interconnector is constrained because of a weather event or there is some event that occurs that requires some storm event, and they price it into their forward pricing when they do their retail offering.

The biggest contributor to that is the cost of gas, and the cost of gas is what's used to firm. These companies are using the exorbitant costs of gas to firm as the reason that they are arguing that they have this forward price, which has seen price increasing. I just point this out to the member. He talks about the previous Liberal government: in their utopia, in their first full year in government, the first full financial year, the average wholesale power price was \$128, which was the highest in the country—the highest in the country—yet all you hear from members opposite—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** See? And what sets retail pricing? Wholesale pricing. Wholesale pricing is what informs retail pricing. This is the point. They make these observations in complete absence to their own actions. For example, why is gas so expensive? Gas is expensive because the second largest gas basin in South Australia, the Otway Basin, is precluded from fracture stimulation because of whom? Members opposite. They ban gas extraction, and then they say, 'Why are gas prices so high? What are you doing about it? Fix gas pricing.' And then they ask why electricity prices are going up and when you say to them the firming of gas with our renewables is what is pushing prices up, they just howl into the wind and they take no responsibility for their own actions.

They put all their hopes and dreams into an interconnector to connect to a jurisdiction that last financial year had higher wholesale prices than South Australia, and that was the entire energy policy. The member talks about a wasted four years. It hasn't been a wasted four years on energy policy when your entire policy was connected to a jurisdiction that has got higher power prices than we do. I just think members opposite are lost on energy. They have their federal colleagues in South Australia who are opposed to net zero and their state colleagues here who say they support net zero. There are some of them who say they want more fossil fuels but others who are saying they do not want any fossil fuels. The Liberal Party is confused about what it is and who it stands for.

#### **NORTH ADELAIDE GOLF COURSE TREE REMOVAL**

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (15:30):** The last question of my life is to the Minister for the Environment. Does the minister support the removal of hundreds of trees in her electorate? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI:** In 2022 Labor committed to protect the Adelaide Parklands and urban tree canopy as outlined within their heritage and greening policy. Hundreds of trees in the member's electorate are expected to be removed to expand the North Adelaide Golf Course.

**The Hon. L.P. HOOD (Adelaide—Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (15:31):** I thank the member for his last question in this place and wish him all the best for what comes next. One of the first things we did upon coming to government was actually scrap the former Liberal government's plans for a \$662 million basketball stadium on our Parklands. One of the first things we did when we came into government was restore the Parklands protection to Helen Mayo Park where the former Liberal government planned to build a basketball stadium. We decided to scrap the basketball stadium and invest that money back into our health system, which is what we have done. We have built more beds, employed more nurses, and there are more ambulance stations, because we do understand that our health system is a priority for South Australians.

I am very proud that one of my main election commitments for our community is a brand-new Adelaide Aquatic Centre on our Parklands. The Minister for Sport has been very excited to be able to talk about that particular project, not once but twice this week in our chamber. What that will achieve is not just a brand-new centre, indoor and outdoor pools, it will be an absolute game changer

for our community. It also includes the return of 1,000 square metres of Parklands and will include hundreds more trees being planted in our community, because we are passionate about our Parklands and providing more community facilities for people in our community.

That includes a major investment in an important community hub in my electorate and that is the North Adelaide Golf Course. I have had the pleasure of visiting the golf course and being given a tour by the former president, Marlene Boundy, and what was really wonderful about this particular community hub was the fact that you could see so many locals—in particular, groups of men, groups of retired people—going around and playing golf, keeping fit, active and connected.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Florey, and a few others on both sides, we are almost there, eight minutes. Come on, let's do it. Keep the tone down.

**The Hon. L.P. HOOD:** This is a significant investment in a public golf course to make it a world-class public golf course, and so I am very excited to see that investment that will see it remain for the majority of the year a public golf course whilst also providing for world-class events that bring millions and millions of dollars that go into our economy in order to spend on our hospitals, on our schools and also on important community infrastructure. I am very excited to see the completion of our Adelaide Aquatic Centre, which will show that when we step in, when we invest in community infrastructure, we get better facilities and a better outcome for our Parklands.

#### KINGSTON JETTY

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (15:34):** My question is to the Treasurer, representing the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport from the other place. Can the minister give an update on the status of the insurance claim put through the state government for damage to the Kingston jetty? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and the leave the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr McBRIDE:** It has been about five months since the jetty was destroyed. Engineering reports submitted confirm that the jetty was a write-off. However, the council is yet to hear back on when the claim will be paid, if it will be.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:34):** Keeping your word is a very important thing in this place. Jetties are important. What is more important is our word, and our word is that jetties are vital parts of regional communities. When we say—when I say, when the Premier says, when any of our ministers who go to regional South Australia say—our word is our bond. I can see the member for Schubert laughing, which I will get to in a moment, about your word is your bond.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes, thank you for the entree. You are going around and trying to get to her, right? I give a commitment to the member for MacKillop that we will do everything we can to make sure of this insurance claim, because our word is our bond. I hope the member for Schubert is the same type of person. Could you imagine standing up yesterday saying, 'There's no chance I will challenge the Leader of the Opposition; I will never be leader,' and then to actually do it? Could you imagine the betrayal, the cost? Could you imagine? Forever painted as Madame Defarge, you know, knitting at the bottom of the guillotine.

**The SPEAKER:** Treasurer.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Oh, you don't like this one?

**The SPEAKER:** There is a point of order from the deputy leader.

**Mr TEAGUE:** Standing order 98(a).

**The SPEAKER:** I reckon you're on the money. I mean, it has been 18 months and you haven't got a lot. With six minutes to go, I think we might just—

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Finally, sir, Bond University paid off. I give my word to the member for MacKillop that I will do everything I can to make sure this insurance company pays for the Kingston jetty. If they do not, luckily, the former Treasurer put in place a running tally of money for the upgrade of our regional jetties. It is an important part of our regional infrastructure spend.

I just do point out to the regional members that there was a regional study done by previous members on jetties. They did not release that study. We are more interested in fixing jetties than talking about fixing jetties. We have invested a lot in regional jetties. We want regional jetties to survive. Go to Whyalla and look at that jetty. That is our bona fides there. We want jetties to be improved and fixed, because jetties are an essential part of the wellbeing of any regional community.

One of the things I heard from the Tumby Bay Mayor and his new chief executive was an exceptional plan on the Tumby Bay jetty, which the South Australian government is very interested in. That is a council that, unlike previous council administrations, is interested in saving the jetty. It is interested in local communities. Because I know how important that jetty is for the wellbeing of that town, not just as a place to go along and enjoy Eyre Peninsula but for the mental health and good order of the region.

Jetties are more than just places that you go and visit. They are places that you can walk along, they create communities and they are an attraction. The Kingston jetty, the Tumby Bay jetty and the jetty that we upgraded in Port Lincoln as a result of the former Treasurer's program—which was a great outcome, with even an enclosed swimming area alongside the jetty there—are great examples of this government's commitment to regional South Australia, because we kept our word. We kept our word.

Keeping your word is everything in this business and, when you break your word, people never forget it. Because when you break your word to your leader or to the people of South Australia, they will never forget it. We will see if you keep your word or if you are going to pull out the knitting needles and start knitting at the bottom of the guillotine.

**The SPEAKER:** Just a quick plug for the Cape Jervis jetty when you are having a look at those jetties.

## HEALTH SYSTEM

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (15:38):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister update the house on how improvements in our health system are making a difference for patients and their families?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:38):** I thank the member for Waite for her question, and I thank her for—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left, I can't hear the minister, so if you could just come to order. Thank you.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** I thank the member for Waite for her question and her advocacy for our health system. I want to take the opportunity to thank the 50,000 people who work for SA Health for their hard work day in, day out, caring for hundreds of thousands of South Australians every year. In particular, I want to highlight some of the incredible work that they do caring for our patients. If you only listened to those opposite, and in particular the member for Schubert, you would think that the system is leading to tragic cases all over the state and horrible outcomes for people. Credit to the member for Schubert, she is very good at being negative all the time, but it is worth highlighting some of these incredible stories that we do hear. It is worth highlighting some of these incredible stories. Let's hear from some of the South Australians about the care that they received in our hospital system.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Bragg! The member for Hammond!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** Let's hear from Christine, who lives in the Leader of the Opposition's electorate. She wrote:

I want to thank you and the South Australian Government for the excellent advances in keeping people out of [A&E]. This week we have experienced the Ambulance Service, the Sefton Park Hospital Avoidance Clinic and the My Home Hospital and we [were] most impressed with all three services.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta, don't make me throw you out in your last minute of question time.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** 'This is just a quick message to say thank you to the SA government' a most impressive advance in medical care. Or take Ian from my own electorate, who emailed us saying:

I was transported to Flinders with heart failure. What followed over the ensuing 12 days could have easily rated as the most traumatic experience of my life [but] It was not!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** 'I wish to commend as highly as possible, the SA ambulance crew, ED nurses, ward staff—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Chaffey, member for Morialta, you are going to leave—for the rest of question time. No, no, I was just kidding. We want to finish with a full deck for the first time in a lot of months.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** 'As South Australians we ought to be very grateful for and extremely proud of the great people who make our Health System world class.' So said Ian from Seaford. Karen said:

I am writing to you regarding Noarlunga Hospital. In December last year, I had major surgery [at the hospital]...I [want] to commend the hospital, Nurses, staff, Doctors in particular Dr Conner...for the wonderful care I received. During a time when there is so much disquiet regarding hospitals and health in general, I want to put a positive side to this. I would like...to pass on my feedback to all at this facility and in particular thank YOU.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Bragg will come to order.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** But my favourite letter that I received wasn't actually sent directly to me. It was sent to member for Schubert. It was cc'd to me and it said:

In response to your trolling for bad news stories about the SA health system, please take [into] account my recent experience. Last week I experienced chest pain that prompted me....my wife to call 000. The ambulance arrived promptly and took me to the RAH. I was diagnosed...[I had] surgery...I was then cared for by a team...The SA health system saved my life and cared for me with wonderful...compassion. [Of course our health system isn't perfect] I reflect on...how special it is to live in a community that chooses to [spend our] resources...this way. [Please do not overlook the wonderful work being done by SA's health system.]

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Well, that was the noisiest five minutes of question time I reckon we've had. I did want to let it go a little bit because it is the last day. For some people who are retiring, they know it is their last day. This is a pretty difficult day, having come in here five times and wondering whether I would be back again. I want to thank everyone for their time in here. I'm going to maybe seek the house's indulgence in about half an hour or so to make some comments. For those who won't be coming back in for that, I wish you all the very best for the festive season, the campaign and for the election on 21 March. Thank you for putting up with me.

*Grievance Debate*

#### **MALINAUSKAS LABOR GOVERNMENT**

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (15:44):** Sir, congratulations on your retirement. For nearly four years Labor has been heavy on headlines but light on delivery, big on events but small on cost-of-living relief. Labor promised to fix ramping but did you notice how

the health minister did not mention that today? Did you notice that the Premier did not mention that today? We know what Labor promised, and we will tell the people of South Australia what Labor promised. They promised to fix ramping, but we know that ramping is now worse than at any point in South Australia's history, not for one month, not for two months, but for 41 months. Labor promised to also cut wholesale electricity bills, but average households are paying almost \$775 more on their annual bills, a 43 per cent increase.

Labor promised no new taxes, but we know that families and businesses are being gouged right across the state with things like tax grabs and price hikes. Labor promised more homes, but we heard today that barely a single slab has been laid. That is why South Australians are working harder than ever, but, unfortunately, they are getting less and less in return. That is why a Liberal alternative offers something Labor cannot: a real plan to offer a better future for South Australians.

Under Labor, despite their ironclad promise to fix ramping, sick patients have spent over 164,000 hours stuck on the ramp. This is more than double the entirety of the former Liberal government. More ramping, families are waiting, and paramedics are exhausted. If you cannot fix the basics, you cannot run a government. We are not offering empty criticism, we are offering solutions. Just this week, we announced some of these. Let's go through some of the announcements.

We said that we would abolish Labor's GP payroll tax break, making it easier to see your GP. We will fund an after-hours GP access trial. We will deliver \$72 million in retention and re-entry bonuses for nurses and midwives, the people who keep our hospitals going. We will roll out a \$90 million nurse and midwife scholarship program, attracting that next generation in the pipeline for our healthcare system. What does Labor do, sir? They throw money at headlines. We will return respect to taxpayers' money, and we will actually invest in the people who matter. That is how you build not only a bigger healthcare system—and the member for Florey laughs—but a better healthcare system.

Let's be honest, life is getting harder in South Australia under Labor. The stats show we now have the poorest households in the nation. Our economy has gone backwards per person for two years. Despite a housing crisis, Labor continues to rake in record stamp duty revenue while frontline services blew their budgets by the exact amount. A new Liberal government will restore accountability. We will restore hard work and the South Australian dream.

We have got a plan to abolish stamp duty entirely by 2041, with reductions starting in the first term. We will cut government waste, including halving Labor's ad spend. We will lift the payroll tax threshold from \$1.5 million to \$2.1 million. We will exempt apprentices and trainees from payroll tax, boosting local skills and local jobs because without apprentices and training you cannot build homes, you cannot build tunnels and everything else. Governments should be an enabler for business—we understand that—not a roadblock.

Under Labor, business confidence in SA has consistently ranked among the weakest in the nation. Under the Liberals, we will bring investment back to South Australia. When it comes to energy, what has Labor promised? They promised a hydrogen plant. How did that go? Five hundred million dollars down the drain and not one single watt produced. What an unbelievable lie they have told the people of South Australia. A new Liberal government will keep the lights on. We will put downward pressure on power bills. We have already said how we are going to do it.

We will reinstate the home battery scheme. We have said that we will keep Torrens Island B open until replacement generation is ready. We will not rush to just renewables, like Labor are, while the people of South Australia pay. We will back new gas-fired generation, whether it is public or whether it is private, and we will investigate carbon capture in the Upper Spencer Gulf too. We will reduce the cost of living, and we will build more homes.

The stats show that Adelaide is now the sixth least affordable city in the world. How can the government pat its back over that? It is the least affordable capital to rent in the nation—what an embarrassment—and the second least affordable to buy. We know stamp duty on the median home has jumped by more than \$12,000 under this government. We will cut red tape, we will open land, we will back modern methods of construction, we will expand apprenticeships, and we will deliver the homes that our state desperately needs.

The people of South Australia cannot afford four more years of Labor government that is heavy on headlines and low on delivery. But we can choose a government focused on the basics, getting the basics right: health, housing, safety, affordability and economic strength. We need a government that backs hardworking South Australians. We need a government that builds, not just broadcasts. We need a government that delivers, and that is exactly what a new Liberal government will do.

### ADELAIDE ELECTORATE

**The Hon. L.P. HOOD (Adelaide—Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (15:49):** With just under four months until the 2026 state election, I have been reflecting on the things—

*Members interjecting:*

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Wortley):** Order! Sit down, member for Adelaide. Members, if you are not speaking, could you leave the chamber, please. For those who want to have a discussion, it is outside the chamber. The member for Adelaide.

**The Hon. L.P. HOOD:** With just under four months until the 2026 state election, I have been reflecting on the things our community has achieved together since I was elected to represent the state seat of Adelaide in 2022. I would like to update the house on the election commitments I have been working tirelessly to deliver to make our neighbourhood stronger and more connected.

Just last week, we announced that on 27 January 2026, the new Adelaide Aquatic Centre will open its doors to our community, with memberships now available for purchase. This centre is going to be a game changer for our local community and I am so excited to welcome back former members as well as new members and visitors.

The site of the previous Adelaide Aquatic Centre will be returned to Parklands, providing an extra 1,000 square metres of accessible green space for our community to enjoy. The new Adelaide Aquatic Centre will feature incredible facilities, including a 50-metre, 10-lane indoor pool; a 25-metre, eight-lane outdoor pool; dedicated indoor rehabilitation and learn-to-swim pools; a lagoon outdoor pool; entry-level diving amenities; leisure and relaxation spaces with splash zones; water slides (I know my kids are very excited about that one); a sauna and steam room; BBQ lawned areas; a cafe; gym and fitness facilities three times the size than first planned; improved pedestrian and cycle pathways connecting the centre with existing networks; and increased car parking.

We also have The W recreation centre currently being built on the previous Walkerville YMCA site, which will see a vibrant recreation and leisure hub return to the community in 2026. This has been a campaign of many years, and I am so proud that our new centre will return recreational services to the heart of the township. They will include a two-court stadium, catering for basketball, netball, pickleball, badminton and volleyball, as well as other activities such as gymnastic, dance and community events.

Since the late 1950s, locals have relied on the recreation centre to keep them active and healthy. We are all looking forward to getting back into the centre early next year. I want to thank the Town of Walkerville for partnering with me on that important election commitment. The Malinauskas government is also getting on with the job of building a bigger and better Women's and Children's Hospital and recruiting staff to boost our health system.

Other election commitments I have delivered alongside our community include a 25 km/h school zone for Gilles Street Primary School and Pulteney Grammar School; guaranteeing the ongoing tenure of the National Trust in Ayers House after it was booted out; and an expansion to Adelaide Botanic High School, providing an extra 700 local students access to a first-class education. We saved Helen Mayo Park and restored its Parklands protection after it was zoned entertainment under the former Marshall Liberal government. We also scrapped their plans for a \$662 million basketball stadium on this Parklands site.

We covered the free City Connector in a local artist's work—my dear friend Robert—to make it easier for communities and visitors to identify the free bus, jump on and explore our beautiful city. We upgraded the notorious intersection at the Howard-Rosetta streets intersection in Collinswood,

putting in a roundabout to improve safety, and we saved Prospect Service SA and expanded its trading hours to Saturday to make essential services more accessible for my local community.

We are building new social housing apartments for older women in the Adelaide CBD, giving them a fresh start. I have also delivered an upgrade to R.L. Pash Park in Nailsworth, a new pocket park in Prospect, and an additional pocket park on Churchill Road, Ovingham. We are also delivering two wombat crossings for Melbourne Street, and a new scramble crossing for Archer-O'Connell streets intersection. We secured bus stop V1 on Hutt St as a permanent stop on the free City Connector's route, we brought back the Harvest Rock Music Festival and also returned bus stop 4 to Melbourne Street.

I am so passionate about ensuring our neighbourhood has open green spaces that keep people fit, active and connected to community. It is all about creating a community where people feel a strong sense of belonging, where small businesses thrive, and where families can raise happy, healthy kids. I am so proud to be the member for Adelaide and of the community we are building together. I want to wish my community a very safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

### **ROTOLO, MS R.**

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (15:54):** The Westminster system was born from a simple but powerful principle that citizens deserve to be represented by their peers. For centuries, its strength has rested on the one fundamental idea that parliaments function best when they reflect the aspirations, values and lived experiences of the communities they serve. A healthy democracy is one where people from all walks of life bring their stories, their challenges, their knowledge and their achievements into the chamber.

Yet over the years we have seen a narrowing of that diversity. Too many have arrived in this place treating politics as a chosen career, rather than as a calling. Too many have followed the well-worn path straight from university, into unions or political offices, and on to win preselections granted by people who often do not live in the community they are choosing a representative for. When parliaments become dominated by one type of background, one type of resume, we lose the richness of genuine community representation. We lose the voices of small business owners, volunteers, caregivers, educators, tradies and the many others who make our suburbs and towns thrive.

This is precisely why we need active, grounded community members like Rosalie Rotolo in the parliament of South Australia. Rosalie's story reflects the very best of South Australia. Born in Adelaide to Italian migrant parents, she grew up surrounded by the values of hard work, family and service. She has a very strong work ethic. By the age of 15, she was already helping her parents in the Adelaide Central Market and at just 19 she took the bold step of starting her own business. She founded Bottega Rotolo, a business that has become synonymous with quality, innovation and the celebration of great food. Rosalie built from scratch a company that brings iconic European foods and wine to consumers, while also creating a distribution network that champions artisan Australian producers. She understands that small producers are at the heart of our food culture and she has spent her time lifting them up.

Customer service and education are pillars of her business philosophy—values learned through decades of self-employment, relationship building and listening to customers, important skills for any member of parliament. Rosalie is a sought-after educator in the food industry, bringing the latest products and food trends to Australia and enriching the knowledge of both professionals and the public. Her eye for design led to the King William Road store being named the national finalist of the year in the 2014 Eat Drink Design Awards. Under her leadership, Bottega Rotolo grew into a beloved Adelaide institution and a truly national business, partnering with distributors to serve major corporate clients including Qantas, Foodland, IGA, Coles and Woolworths.

Beyond business, Rosalie has consistently stepped forward to serve. After a number of voluntary board roles, she was appointed South Australia's representative for the National Library of Australia in 2019 and to Carclew in 2020. Perhaps the strongest testament to Rosalie's love for her local community is the way she invests her time, her energy and her heart into it, a role she took on after successfully selling her business after 29 years. She volunteers with the Unley Mensa seniors group, serves on the board and as an active member of the Sturt Bowls Club, and is a proud supporter of the Sturt Football Club and the Unley Salvation Army, which does amazing work supporting the many who need their services in Unley.



During this campaign, she has raised funds for local organisations by asking people to donate for every step she takes, steps that now include the walking generated by doorknocking more than 6,000 homes, countless shopping centre visits, Australia Day ceremonies, Remembrance and ANZAC Day services, church fairs, school graduations and collaborations with the Unley and Mitcham councils. She has also done all of this while helping care for her elderly mother with special needs. This is what genuine community representation looks like. This is what community service looks like. That is why parliament needs people like Rosalie Rotolo, people who live in their community, work in their community and are committed to giving back to their community.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Wortley):** Member for Unley, may I take the opportunity to wish you well in your future endeavours.

#### WAITE ELECTORATE

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (15:59):** It has been a busy last two weeks in Waite and, let me tell you, it has been nonstop. I am going to talk about a couple of things, but there have been a lot of things.

Since we were last here, one of the most special things I got to do was visit Minnie Robertson, who was turning 107 years old. What an amazing achievement and what a life she has lived. A good lady called Helen Surridge organised an afternoon tea in Glenalta and we were able to celebrate Minnie's long life. I have known Minnie for quite a while now. She and her husband, David, used to drop into our office quite regularly. We lost David at the end of last year and it has been lovely to catch up with Minnie again and see that she is still doing so well. A very big happy birthday again to Minnie.

The Blackwood High School graduation came and went. That was another opportunity to see how fantastic the young people in our community are. One of my award winners was Isarak Tep Chan. He was an international student and he won my community volunteer award. He put so much effort into his time at Blackwood High School, helping others not only in the language program but across the school. I was really pleased to be able to provide him with that award and wish him well for his next endeavours.

Our 100<sup>th</sup> parkrun went through on Saturday this week just gone, and it was a huge event. We had close to 300 people come along for the special day. The Premier was there and made good time in his run around. Our parkrun is such a special thing in our community. I was really pleased to be able to get that off the ground with the help of some incredible volunteers who are still part of our volunteer family today. A huge thank you to everyone who comes along and helps us with that race every Saturday morning and to all in our community who come along. It is such a beautiful thing to see everyone up early and getting active on Saturday mornings.

On Tuesday night just gone, we celebrated 175 years of the area of Clapham. In conjunction with Clapham Primary School we put on a huge event, with a history talk from members of the Mitcham Historical Society who came and spoke about the history of Clapham and the area. We also had an art trail put on by the students, a barbecue by the Mitcham Rotary club and my staff were hot under their collars making as much popcorn as you can possibly imagine. There was a beautiful cake made by Banana Boogie Bakery and Complete Cake Decorating Supplies. It was lovely to see the whole community, whether they were from Clapham, Lynton or Torrens Park. There were teachers there who used to teach at the school and there were ex-students and ex-principals. It was such a wonderful community event.

Just this week, I was able to get along to our Concordia St Peters campus to start the awards process for our primary school students. Young Maddy Smart won my environmental warrior award at the Concordia St Peters campus. She is such a sweet girl. She looks after the chickens and she makes sure everybody does the right thing in their environment program. I was really pleased to be able to provide her with that award.

Just this morning, I joined members of the Coromandel Valley community as we honoured two soldiers who were lying in unmarked graves at the Coromandel Valley cemetery. That was through The Headstone Project. The Headstone Project does an incredible job of honouring service members who are lying unnamed. They create these beautiful headstones, they bring family together

and they do all the research of the service. I want to thank them for what they do. They take someone who is lying there and whose story is unknown, and they make sure that our community knows that they are there.

Finally, our wellness session will be on tomorrow—it is our last one for the year—at St Michaels Church in Mitcham. It has been such a fabulous program, both in Blackwood and down in Mitcham. I want to thank Tracey Yeend, who is my co-coordinator of those sessions. We see over 100 to 150 people come along every month at both sessions. Tomorrow we will be having our last one in Mitcham and then we will be celebrating with a Christmas party afterwards. Thank you to Tracey but also thank you to St Michaels Church and the Blackwood Uniting Church for having us along, and to my team of volunteers and staff who do so much to make that happen.

I would like to thank my staff for all of the work they have done this year and over the last four years. They have worked so hard. To Daniel, Caprice, Nicole, Matthew, Peter and all of our JPs who come and volunteer: I appreciate everything that you do.

Finally, I want to wish my community a very happy Christmas. Thank you so much for the opportunity that you have allowed me to be here as your representative. I hope to be able to continue to do that long into the future. Have a safe Christmas with your families and no doubt I will see you in the break.

### SCHUBERT ELECTORATE

**Mrs HURN (Schubert) (16:04):** Today I was really pleased to table a petition from 146 people in my local community about road safety along the Sturt Highway. This is not the main petition that is circulating in my community talking about the condition, but rather this is a really specific location in my local community that does require some really urgent upgrades to improve safety for workers and also for people who live along this specific stretch.

This is in relation to a section of road between Barossa Valley Way and Duck Ponds Road in Stockwell. I would like to give a really special shout-out to a few locals who spearheaded this petition, namely Troy Bonner and Mark and Linda Dahlitz. Troy Bonner is one of the many business owners who is impacted and he has really proudly stood up for his workers in the name of road safety; likewise, Mark and Linda have been the spokespeople for many people who live along this stretch.

I have had a number of site visits to this specific location. Just to paint a bit of a picture, this is a national highway, so there are around 10,000 cars and trucks coming through this specific stretch each and every day. It is 110 km/h and it is one lane in each direction. If I could paint the house a picture, many workers who are coming from Nuri heading towards Stockwell need to turn right across traffic, with heavy vehicles coming from Stockwell and Truro to Nuri, and it is a big road safety concern. In fact, when I have stood on site, workers describe it to me as though they are rolling the dice with their lives each and every day.

I have invited multiple ministers to come out and see this firsthand, because I think it is one thing to sit in your office and look at it on a big spreadsheet and think, 'There probably aren't too many issues there,' but it is another thing to join workers and the community on site and see it firsthand yourself, and I have done that on multiple occasions.

I have written letters to multiple ministers who have held carriage of this portfolio—former minister Brock, Minister Koutsantonis, former minister Cregan, former minister Mullighan, Minister Boyer and Minister Bourke—painting a picture for them about how serious this issue is and why action needs to be taken, but not one person has set foot or put their boots on the ground in a formal capacity to see this firsthand, which I think is really disappointing. If you are someone who is taking road safety seriously, then I think there should be a sense of duty and obligation to get your own boots on the ground so you can see why decisions are or are not being made.

I believe that there does need to be a short, sharp review into what actions the government can take to improve road safety here, because it is a matter of life and death. I have stood shoulder to shoulder with workers and business owners from Ultimate Engineering and Maintenance Services, Suber Oak, WEMS Engineering and Filmer Delivery, as well as many local families who live along this stretch. I have also spoken to many workers who have encountered and relayed to me episodes of a near miss; some cars have been rear-ended.

It is a really big concern in my local community and I would like to thank the 146 community members who put their name on the petition and are urging the government to act. I do encourage the minister to come and join me. I have extended the invitation to her, as well as Minister Boyer, to come and stand on site. We do need real action here and I was really grateful to be tabling this petition.

I would like to give a special shout-out to all the volunteers from Wirraminna Care in Williamstown, who put on yet another fantastic annual strawberry fete. They go above and beyond in this fundraising effort. Despite a little bit of bad weather for some of that day, it really was a fantastic hit, so well done to all those volunteers. Likewise, I would like to give a shout-out to the Seppeltsfield Road Business Alliance. They held another Sunset on Seppeltsfield Road, which really does showcase the very best of the Barossa under palm trees that, thankfully, are staying along this iconic stretch.

Lastly, I would like to give a shout-out to all my staff. They have done a fantastic job this year and throughout the last four years: Kaitlyn, Carla, Casey—whose last day is today—Saskia, Greg and Michael. Thank you, and merry Christmas to my community.

### **SCHOOL BULLYING**

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (16:09):** I rise to speak briefly about a topic that I raised in my first speech in this place, and that the Malinauskas government has made considerable progress on, particularly through the Minister for Education. Bullying is a complex topic, with issues often arising well beyond the school gate. Every incident of bullying is concerning; it must be taken seriously and responses put in place. There are no short-term solutions to eliminate it. However, actions taken to reduce the incidence of bullying in our schools can be life changing, both for the victim and their family, and the perpetrator.

There is no other issue that impacts in such a significantly negative way on families with school-aged children. It can result in lifelong consequences and, sadly, lead on to acts of violence, including domestic violence, poor self-image and mental health, self-harm and even suicide. Addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach, involving schools, governments, parents and individuals, to create a safer and more supportive culture.

I am pleased to say that our government has acted to address the scourge of bullying. In our first year in government, we held the violence prevention roundtable, followed by the student summit in 2023, and the release of the Safe and Supportive Learning Environments—Plan of Action. We introduced the mobile phone ban in 2023. I remember being at a school assembly, and the students were not that pleased about it, but when I went back after 12 months and had that discussion again they were pretty well pleased with the result. Of course, that has resulted in a lower frequency of critical incidents involving devices happening at schools. So I suppose these are my final words in this place, but there are a couple of other things I would like to mention.

First of all, I would like to offer comments about the future: our children's future and for generations beyond. Over the years, when I have spoken to a gathering of children and young people in my role as a teacher or member of parliament, our environment is always on the agenda. There is no greater wake-up call to understanding the importance of actively caring for our environment than what we are currently experiencing around the world, with changes to weather patterns and to our ocean. Whatever the cause, when the environment around us reacts in such a way that it impacts on our way of life and that of the creatures and plant life we share the planet with, we know there is more to be done. While major projects and policy are for governments to implement, there is much that can be done by individuals and communities, and we can each play a role.

I want to thank the chamber today for its indulgence. I would like to take the opportunity to wish my staff and my colleagues here a wonderful Christmas and a particularly wonderful new year leading to March, I hope, for my colleagues. I thank my residents and wish them a wonderful Christmas and new year 2026. It has been an honour to be their voice in our parliament.

*Members***VALEDICTORY**

**The SPEAKER (16:12):** I might seek the indulgence of the house, if that is okay, just to make a few comments on this final day of parliament for a few of us. I want to begin by thanking my 28,000 bosses. They are the people of Mawson who have backed me in for five elections since 2006. They are the people who I absolutely love and adore. It is an area that I love and adore, all the way from McLaren Vale, where I live, to that western end of Kangaroo Island—the place that was so badly devastated in those 2019-20 bushfires.

Each part of it has its own personality, each part of the electorate has its own character and, within those towns like Second Valley, Rapid Bay, Parndana and Penneshaw, there are so many characters and personalities as well. It is so good just to hang out with those people and listen to them and find out what is important to them—what are their aspirations, what do they think is going well, what is not going so well—and then be able to go in and fight hard for all those people. I am going to miss that bit, but I will still be out and about in the local area. I might get one of those 'Not My Problem' T-shirts.

I came to politics from journalism. If you look at being a kid—I am still maybe a kid—I spent 20 years as a journalist and then 20 years in this place, so it is a third of my life and it is definitely time to go and do something different.

I grew up in a little town. I have four things on the mantelpiece in my office. One is my school photo from grade 1 at Glencoe West Primary. There were 39 kids in that class. We merged with Glencoe East. Dad was the chair of the parents and friends. From those little schools, good things happen with kids. I have a mate, Tony Tassell, and we started out as copy boys together at the *Adelaide News*. He is now the opinion editor at the *Financial Times* in London.

I was brought up in a very Liberal-voting and National Party-voting family. Towards the end of my schooling when I was 16 years old I wanted to go and see Bob Hawke. He had just become the leader of the Australian Labor Party. It was 1983 and he was doing a speech at the Festival Centre. I got dad, who was a stock agent, a former dairy farmer, to drop me off there. I got one of his little Elders pads that the stockies all have and I had a ballpoint pen.

When I was growing up my great-aunty Girly used to sit in front of the TV. Bob Hawke was the ACTU president and every time he came on the telly Aunty Girly would be going like this, pretending to shoot him through the TV. So we did not have that great an opinion of Bob Hawke in the family.

I went along. I was blown away by his leadership and the message still resonates today, and I was a 16 year old. He said it was time for the bosses and the workers to get together and talk things out and come up with some results that are for the benefit of everyone in Australia. As I walked out—and I only had that little pad—I wanted to get his autograph. I jumped under the security thing in my Blackfriars uniform and the only thing I could get, because the Greens were there with their Vote for the Franklin flyers, was Bob's autograph on the back of that, so that is in my office.

I have got something to remind me of my journalism career and this is from the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada, in 1994, standing alongside Cathy Freeman and our great Marjorie-Jackson Nelson as they were all about to march in for the closing ceremony. This was at the start of my political career. It is me and two Whitlams having lunch, the great Gough Whitlam and the other one is Tim Freedman, the lead singer of the Whitlams, in that classic photo. They are the timelines of my career and my time at school.

I have a few people in here I really want to thank today. I want to thank my wife, Karen. When I was minister for food, wine, tourism, agriculture, recreation, sport and racing, Jay Weatherill was the Premier and he said, 'You've got one job, you've got to be our number one salesman for South Australia, you've got to travel the world,' which I gladly did, selling all things South Australian. There was another person doing that at the same time and it was Karen Raffan, CEO of Brand South Australia. We were at a lot of events together.

Brand South Australia was a really, really good institution. We have brought it back in some ways but we can never replicate what was there, because it was paid one third by the government

(about \$1.3 million), \$1.3 million in memberships, and then the rest was all free advertising from the Nine, Ten and Seven Networks and *The Advertiser*, and we cannot bring that back.

It was a really sad day when the new government decided to get rid of Brand South Australia and I never really knew whether it had anything to do with our relationship. We got together in 2016. I always felt really sorry for Karen that she had to give up so many things. She was the chair of the equestrian event and because the government gave some money to that and I was the Minister for Tourism she gave up being the chair of that wonderful event that I love so much, and then she had to get off the board altogether a few years later when I became the chair of the Major Events Committee.

We all talk about the sacrifices that our families make and, Karen, I am really sorry for everything that happened to you. I know the RDA took you on and there was a minister who would not let state public servants meet with you and you said, 'Well, I can't do the job because I love the RDA and I love what they do and I do not want to hold anyone back.' It was very big of you to do that, and I do not think it is right that anyone does not get a job because of their time in parliament or because their spouse is in parliament. I will leave it there because I know you will be really embarrassed about me talking about that.

There is a big swag gap if you look at us: beautiful Karen and then me, who looks like Detective Columbo or something just dragged out of the bushes backwards, and she is like Posh Spice. But we are so together and aligned on everything that we do. We love South Australia. We love everything about South Australia. We are proud ambassadors. We love travel. We love music festivals, concerts and sporting events. I have got 18 teams and she has got one, the dirty Hawks.

People say, 'I never see my spouse,' because they are always busy out doing stuff. Karen is there pretty much by my side. In fact, with most people I am the plus one, because they go, 'We don't really want you here, we just want Karen, but come along if you have to.' So, Karen, thank you very much. I love you so deeply and I look forward to whatever the next chapter has for us.

My first election was 2006 and I was preselected in 2004. The guy who has been the responsible adult in our relationship since he could talk, which was at about 12 months, is my son, Conor. He had a fish called Megawati Soekarnoputri at the age of 2½ and could say it better than most radio people at the ABC. He had another one called Big Kim Beazley and another one called Little Johnny Howard. Big Kim Beazley kept dying all the time and Little Johnny Howard, he lived forever, and we thought there was a bit of truth in that.

I will quickly tell the story about being preselected. This is the thing when you do not write speeches and you just talk from your heart. I was Pat Conlon's chief of staff and we were driving to the airport to go somewhere. Pat said, 'I reckon we should run you for Mawson. You'd be up against Robert Brokenshire. He is a dairy farmer and you come from a dairy farm.' He was in the front seat, the ministerial chauffeur was driving the car and I was sitting behind him. He looks around and he goes, 'Well, what do you think?' I said, 'I was hoping you were talking to the driver.' But Pat backed me in and I am mostly forever grateful about that.

Anyway, Conor was six years old when that happened and I did not live in the electorate, so I raced down there. It was the end of 2004. I had to find a house to rent. We were driving around and the six year old was in the front seat of my amazingly good two-door 380SEC gold coupé Mercedes. I had to swap it out for a Mitsubishi Verada once I actually got preselected. We were driving around and I said, 'Old Noarlunga looks really nice. Look at that, the Onkaparinga River goes through there.' Conor is six going, 'Dad, it's not in the electorate.'

I said, 'What do you mean? It's got to be in the electorate. We've got Woodcroft at one end and we've got McLaren Vale at the other. You can't go from one end of the electorate to the other without driving past and over that bridge where Old Noarlunga is.' He goes, 'It's not in the electorate.' I go, 'Yes, of course it is, mate. Let's just go.' He goes, 'Dad, pull over, I'll show you the map.' The six year old was right and Old Noarlunga was not in Mawson for that 2006 election.

Thank you, Conor, for all your love and support. You are a beautiful person. I remember my parents dying and my grandparents dying and the way you held their hand, from when you were very young to last year with my mum. You were amazing, and that is not something that you can act. That

is something that I saw. It was just a beautiful thing that you did. But you were a little shit stirrer sometimes with Nan Bignell. She was very funny. Both my grandmothers made 100.

We would go down and stay at Millicent with Nan Bignell and we would all be out for a big family dinner and he would be scooting around behind her at the table and pulling her ears. She would go, 'You little...' like this. One night we were staying in her little unit at Millicent and I heard, 'You little...' and it was nan having a go at Conor. He came running out—he was about five, I reckon—and he goes, 'I dakked Nan Bignell, I dakked Nan Bignell.' She was in her pyjamas washing her hands and he came up behind her.

I want to thank your mum, Susy, as well because it takes two parents to produce a kid as beautiful as you. Susy and I split up when you were two and half. She has done a remarkable job. And your mum's parents as well, Margaret and Neilo, who did much of the heavy lifting when you were a young fellow, so I want to thank all of the Rusalens for their amazing work. You have turned out to be a fine young fellow.

Conor has got a job but he is no nepo kid. He got a job on his own merits as the Minister for Trade's media adviser. When he was in year 10, so 15 or 14 maybe, he went to China and lived in Shanghai for three months with a Chinese family that we had never met, and went to high school there. He came back. He kept paying for his own trips to go back to China. He did Chinese and Mandarin all through high school. When he went to uni, he did international studies and economics and kept his Mandarin studies up. Last night we bumped into some people as part of the Shandong province visit, and he just started belting away in Mandarin. That's the X-factor, mate. Lots of people can get the degrees you have—international studies and economics—well, I couldn't, I could never go to uni. I didn't finish year 12. I think I have told that story. So that is the X-factor.

I didn't know this story until last night, but two years ago Conor wrote a media release that had my name and Joe Szakacs's name on it. He managed to get Joe's name right and then called me 'Lefon Bignell'. Somehow he put an 'f' in the Leon. That is pretty funny but it was Adam Todd, the media director in the Premier's office, it was his thing in the media adviser WhatsApp group the next day that caused all the laughter in the group and lots of smiling emojis and laughing emojis. Adam said, I think we can all agree, if anyone was going to make this mistake, we are glad it was Conor.'

I don't think you have made too many mistakes, mate, but thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything. To my sister Toni and her husband Roger, thank you for all that you do. You are amazing and particularly in those last five years of mum's life. You did the heavy lifting down at the nursing home where she suffered dementia and saw out her final days, in September last year. They are beautiful people. I reckon if the AFL came around to our place on card night we would probably be banned for ten weeks at a time just because of some of the banter that goes on between us. Thank you very much.

To my staff who are in the offices now, the Speaker's office and the electorate office, thank you so much for everything that you do and that you have done over the years, and also people from the ministerial office as well. We have Ruth here, who was chief of staff then, and Kerry, who started in the electorate office in 2007 and then came into the role when I was assistant minister for health, assistant minister for infrastructure and, when I became tourism minister, was my tourism adviser and then came back again last year to run the Speaker's office. Thank you, Kerry, for everything that you have done. It has been a long journey. Sorry about how frustrating I can be to work with; that goes for everyone. Sometimes they have to take my handwriting down to the chemist to get it deciphered because no-one else knows how to read it.

We have Janine up there. Janine and I started out as copy kids together in 1984, at the *Adelaide News*. Janine's dad was Mick Young and going around to the Young's house was a huge eye-opener for me, down there at Tennyson. Like it was with Bob Hawke, when I went and saw him in 1983, especially if you were around there Saturday morning and Bob would be out in his shorts and no top on—he was the Prime Minister of Australia—maybe on a cigar and laying on the sunlounge.

Mick was the first person I ever saw with one of those big Telecom commander phones at home. I was thinking, 'Well, he is the special minister of state. He is the immigration minister.' And he goes, 'No, no, it's for Three Way Turf talk on a Saturday morning.' They had all of these people in Bart Cummings's stable, everyone who gave them all the tips in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, and that is what they needed the Commander for.

To Mel, who looks after our Kangaroo Island office, thank you very much. You have been an amazing part of our team. It is really good to have you in here today to join in. To Jessie, thank you for everything. Jenny Mitton is the only person in Mawson who knows more people than I do. She ran the Willunga Farmers Market for seven years and before that ran lots of different organisations, either as a volunteer or as an employee. Jenny, thank you so much for everything you have done. I tried three times to get Jenny to join my office, and, when I finally did, it was like the Crows getting Darren Jarman, like those players who are game changers. I go somewhere, and Jenny, as I said, knows as many people as I do, quite often because we have got kids at different ages, and stuff, and she knows different people than I do.

Bridget, it is great to have you here, a second-generation Black to work in the Mawson electorate office, obviously your mum Shauna and now you. Thank you for all the work that you have done in the Speaker's office. It has been terrific. I wish you well for the next part of your career with the federal government and hope that goes very well. To Jo, literally the heavy lifter in the office, representing Australia as a powerlifter, we are all very proud of you going off to the tournaments and stuff like that. Jo writes all the letters, and we all know how important that is, to have someone in your office who can keep up with the communication and do it so well. Thank you very much, Jo.

Jerry is here. Jerry drove me for five years, when I was a minister and since I became Speaker. We have a very special relationship. The member for Unley was lucky enough to be with Jerry for four years when he was a minister. Jerry and I have as many laughs as anyone I have ever hung around with. He does everything that you could possibly want except toot the horn at bad drivers. He also refused to put a horn in my side of the car, which I had been asking for for many years.

There is a woman here, Marg Ralston. I have worked with Marg a few times. She was the first woman sports editor in Australian newspapers, and she was one of my first bosses. When I became sports minister, Marg had gone off after *The News* closed and worked for Greg Crafter. She ran the South Australian Olympic Committee. She has got the best black book in sport in terms of knowing everyone from the IOC to local sporting federations here in South Australia and nationally. Marg was 78. I rang her up and said, 'Marg, I need you to come and join the team,' and she did that for five years. I am forever grateful, Marg.

In that role and in the role as sports editor, you taught us to cover men's sport and women's sport equally. One of my proudest moments as a minister was to get equal prize money for the Women's Tour Down Under and the Men's Tour Down Under, to get rid of the grid girls at the car race and to replace the models on the podium at the Tour Down Under with under-18 state champions, boys for the men's race, girls for the women's race, to give them an insight into a major bike race. Maeve Plouffe was one of the first intakes. She was a state champion, and she said she got to talk to the best riders in the world and learn so much. Not long after, she was out there competing with them at the Olympics and on the road circuit as well.

Marg, you are a great inspiration to me. In fact, I was at Willunga primary a few weeks ago. I always love going to the schools because the kids ask you questions that make you think about what it is that drives you and why you put your hand up to do the job. They said, 'Who's the most important person you have met in your life?' I am thinking, I have met the Clintons, Ayrton Senna, and a bunch of people being a sports journo covering the Olympics and footy and all that sort of stuff. I thought about it. I do not think anyone had ever asked me that question. I love those inquisitive grade 6 kids. I said the most important person I have met in my life is Marg Ralston. Marg inspired me, Marg taught me about equality and how to make sure that we delivered that.

Karen and I were in Madrid in 2019 and we were having dinner with Charles, the Deputy Director of the Vuelta, the Tour of Spain, and he said to Karen, 'Do you know why Formula One and MotoGP don't have the women on the podium anymore? Do you know why the Tour de France and the Tour of Spain do not have women on the podium anymore? It's because of your husband,' and the ban that happened here. The Spanish media and the French media all covered what South Australia did, just like we did in 1894, giving women the right to vote, giving women the right to run for parliament. We can make change on a global scale right here in Adelaide.

I would not necessarily have had the ability or the foresight to do that, Marg, without you and I am so glad that you are here with us today. You mean the world to me. You have been like a second mum and I just wanted to pay a huge tribute to you. So, you can change the world and you can save the world as well.

One of my other proud moments was when we came up with legislation to stop urban sprawl and gutter-to-gutter housing in McLaren Vale. It was such a good idea that Marg Lehmann, up in the Barossa, said, 'Biggles, we love what you're doing down in McLaren Vale. Can we join in and get the same sort of bill?' I said, 'Of course you can.' It actually gave us more power. I was talking about saving McLaren Vale. Mike Rann was the Premier at the time and Mike was pretty easy to read and you could see in the corner of his eye he thought, 'Well, if we lost McLaren Vale, we still have the Barossa,' but when we joined together we were unbeatable. We can have all the jokes we like about McLaren Vale wine being better than the Barossa or whatever, but when we joined together we did that.

I have a lot of people to thank in McLaren Vale: the business association, the Grape Wine and Tourism Association, the environmental groups, Friends of Port Willunga, and Friends of Willunga Basin. Everyone came together with their ideas and we sat around with butcher's paper night after night saying, 'What is it that we love about our area? What is it that we want it to look like in 10 years', 20 years', 30 years' time?' We did that.

Mike wanted me to do this as a private member's bill. I am not sure how keen he was on it at the start because he knew I had no idea about legislation, and planning is its own language, but at the end, he was terrific. He came on board, and Paul Holloway initially and then John Rau. We got it through caucus and then we got it through both houses of parliament. The only way those protections can be weakened is if both houses agree to change that legislation. If anyone ever thinks of doing that I am coming back in to haunt each and every one of you. I might even run again. Is that enough of a disincentive to change that legislation?

Mike was an incredible leader. I was at Channel 10 and interviewed Don Dunstan on the night of the 1993 election. We were at Greg Crafter's electorate office where they were having a bit of a wake. Don was great. I asked if I could do an interview—that was the State Bank election—and he said, 'We may not see a Labor government in South Australia for two or three generations, if we ever see one again.'

The fact that Mike led a disciplined opposition and got back within striking distance in 1997 and then with the help of the then member for Hammond, Peter Lewis, that helped get Mike and the Labor team into minority government in 2002 was incredible. I want to pay tribute to those people who did that because it was an enormous effort. Then when we did win government in 2002, we knew that we had to tell a story and point to the fact that we were going to be responsible with the economy. I think Mike, Kevin and Pat Conlon did a very good job of doing that. They brought in Robert Champion de Crespigny. They started up an economic development board. They got one of the biggest Liberals and biggest businesspeople in town to chair that, and I think that was a masterstroke.

Mike was basically saying that you cannot rely on one side of politics to run the state all of the time. He saw the public perception was that running the Treasury was an Achilles heel and he brought the right people in and we got that credibility back. Mike also started with zero in terms of wind energy. There were no turbines here. The first ones went in at Starfish Hill. I was working for Pat Conlon at the time. Those 23 turbines kicked off what is now a world-leading renewable energy story for our state and one that everyone is rightfully very proud of.

So that was 2002 to 2006. I came in in 2006 in what they called the 'Rannslide' and Mike and everyone were riding high, but as we got closer to the 2010 election, we were starting to hear on the doors and in the local pubs and places like that about the arrogance of the government. One of the clear things that does not matter which side you are from is that you have to be a little careful that that does not creep in because people do not like it. I was kind of reporting a little bit of that back to the party, but I do not think it made much of a difference.

Even with the 2010 election result, where most of the ministers got double-digit swings against them, the member for Light and I got swings to us because we were out there working on the doors and doing all that stuff and it kind of continued. I got the feeling that people had had their ten years in power and they did not really necessarily care about those of us who were still in the



party and wanting to make a difference and win more elections and stuff like that. I was a bit publicly critical and suggested that Jay Weatherill would be a good Premier and events unfolded that Jay took over.

I want to thank Mike because I think he did a really good job. He diversified the economy of South Australia. He made a big difference. At that time, someone asked me on radio if I knew I was actually speaking out against my own Premier. I said, 'Look, I can't have one conversation in the front bar of the Woodcroft tavern or the Alma Hotel at Willunga and then come on the radio and tell a different story.' I am hoping that bridges are mended. It was a long time ago. Jay was a different sort of leader and he took us to that 2014 election and we formed government again with the help of the then member for Frome, now member for Stuart. Brocky has been terrific for the Parliament of South Australia and for the people of Port Pirie.

Jay, as I said, entrusted me to be in the cabinet for five years. When I think of all the portfolios, tourism was the one that I saw could really grow this state, and it employs people in the regions as well as in towns. Sean Keenihan was the chair of the South Australian Tourism Commission and Sean is a terrific guy and razor sharp. He and I sat down and he explained to me that, if you put more money into marketing, if you put more money into this area, you will see the growth. Then we sat down with Jay and Tom Koutsantonis, who was the Treasurer at the time, and it did make a difference.

We set a goal at the start of 2013 to take our visitor economy from \$4 billion to \$8 billion by 2020. I remember Ridgy afterwards being critical and saying it was a pie in the sky dream and we could not ever achieve that. We did not achieve it between 2013 and 2020, but we achieved it by the end of 2018. It just proves that, when you set high targets and you aim for those targets and you talk about those targets at every function that you go to, you can achieve the targets.

So they get to \$8 billion and we have done it in five years and then the Liberals are in government by then and Ridgy is the minister and the Liberals come out and say, 'Right, we have got there. We have hit this target ahead of time. The new target is to take it from \$8 billion a year to \$12 billion.' So we doubled it in five and their ambition was to increase it by 50 per cent in 12 years, maybe 11. That target is still sitting there and there are still people in the Tourism Commission patting themselves on the back saying, 'We are ahead of target.' Well, of course, you are. It is like limboing into an aircraft hangar. It is not that hard to hit low targets.

My great passion is the tourism industry and the visitor economy because all of these operators out there who have mortgaged everything they have, who have to make beds and clean, stay up until the people arrive, put up with bad reviews on Tripadvisor and all that sort of stuff are the ones putting their money and their house on the line every day to run a business and employ local people. I think it is such a terrific sector and one that is huge for South Australia. It speaks to who we are and the confidence that we have.

On tourism, I want to thank the current Premier—I will get to him in a little bit—for the hard work you have done on the major events and for putting me in as the chair of the major events committee. That was terrific. LIV Golf would not have happened without you, Gather Round would not have happened without you, the Matildas at Adelaide Oval would not have happened without your support, and the British and Irish Lions would not have happened without your support.

*The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, but you had to sign off on it; I just got to make recommendations. Other people were saying no; you were saying yes—although you drove a hard bargain. I would do a deal and he would say, 'What's the president's name?' and ring him up and hit him for a little less cash each time.

After we lost that election in 2018, I managed to hang on in a seat that had been redrafted and was now a 4½ per cent Liberal seat on paper. We went into opposition. I think that four years was as good as any four years we had in government. Everyone says, 'Your worst day in government is better than your best day in opposition,' but it gave us the time to do a reset: all these things that had been put in place since 2002. I will never forget the hard work and the leadership team that we had.

I did not put my hand up to go into cabinet because I had won by 115 votes. I said, 'I have all these new people to meet, I have six or seven new pubs and I have 20 new bakeries—I like the sausage rolls. I have to get out and meet as many people as I can.' I rang Pete and said, 'I won't be putting up my hand for the shadow ministry.' But I had so much admiration for those who did, particularly Peter, who was out there introducing himself to everyone and showing everyone what his capacity was. He was extremely convincing and charismatic and won people over.

To Susan Close: I have never seen anyone do as much policy work as you did. I think you are, in so many ways, our unsung hero. It was just incredible what you did. There are people for whom that is their schtick; it is not my schtick—as Jay said, 'You're the guy from sales. Get out there and sell, sell, sell.' But I have so much admiration for people like you who do that really hard work and that consultation with everyone. Stephen was the shadow Treasurer and was very generous to me and the people of Mawson, and I want to thank you. Tom Koutsantonis: I love Tom. Tom is one of my favourite people in the whole wide world. He was there and any infrastructure stuff that we needed, he got it.

We have some special people in with us today: Craig Curtis, who ran the Main South Road Action Group, and Fred Shields. We worked together: the opposition leader, the shadow treasurer and the shadow transport minister. We would come down there time after time and do press conferences with Fred and do press conferences with Craig. You are the faces of the reason we do what we do. We announced the Main South Road duplication in 2017, in that budget that Tom brought down and Stephen was the transport minister. We had the money in the budget and we filled it up with stage 2 in the Mid-Year Budget Review that following December.

Fred had a head-on collision on Australia Day in 2003. I first met Fred in 2004 when he and his family were running a road safety unit down in Aldinga. That crash resulted in Fred being in hospital for 47 days. He was discharged in a wheelchair, unable to read, walk or talk. Fred has that red roadside marker that indicated where he had his near-fatal crash. Fred: you are the reason the Premier, the former Treasurer, the current Treasurer and all of us come in here each day, because we need to make our roads safer and we need to make our roads more efficient and productive. You are worth every cent of that \$840 million that we are spending on Main South Road. I am so glad you are here today, Fred.

Craig should be running some big lobby group. He is a local who is so passionate and he just knows how to push the buttons of MPs. He had a direct line through to Rob Lucas and he would stir him up a little bit. He called Peter Malinauskas the PM. I said, 'He's the Premier, mate,' and he said, 'No, PM: Peter Malinauskas.' He wore a big hat and a big heart, and never ever gave up on fighting for a better Main South Road.

We went in December 2016 and had a community cabinet down there. All the members of cabinet went out doorknocking, and the word that came back was that everyone in Aldinga wanted this road and everyone in Aldinga wanted a new high school. So we put them in the budget and we took both of those as funded packages to the election in 2018. The reason I won that 2018 election by 115 votes had a lot to do with you and it had a lot to do with my colleagues in here, and I am so very grateful for all of that.

The people of Kangaroo Island experienced a devastating bushfire in 2019-20 that burned for 30 or 40 days, killed two people and destroyed so many houses. I knew the people who lived in so many of those houses. Some were already friends and some have become dear friends, like Margi and Geoff, Ben and Sabrina, Lucy and Josh, Priscilla and Geoff, and Shane Leahy. We all know Shane; he had the garlic farm on Kangaroo Island. He had everything destroyed: his house, his sheds, his farm machinery, his boat melted. He was sure that his seven five-week-old kelpie pups were going to be dead as well. He went up to where they were near their mum at the kennel and, somehow, the mum and these pups were still alive.

We asked if we could have Dusty—well, I had to ask Karen first, and she said, 'Will you walk it all the time?' 'Yeah, yeah.' 'Will you clean up its poo?' 'Yeah, yeah.' I have done nothing; I am the worst. But Dusty has played a really important part in our lives. I had not had a dog since I was on the farm, and we left there when I was 10.

Dusty has been so important, not just to our family but to so many people. He started up Facebook and Instagram pages straight after he came to live with us, after the fires, and then of course we went into lockdown with COVID. He had 1,500 or 2,000 followers and they would be

sending him direct messages saying, 'Dusty, you're the only thing that keeps us going. We can't see our kids. We can't see our grandkids. We're so lonely. You make us laugh with stories about the old boy and Patrick the cat.'

When things opened up, we went out and talked to Probus Clubs about Dusty being a symbol of survival. We went to every school in the electorate and spoke to the kids there about how out of devastation, hope can come. Survivors can flourish again. New blooms can follow. It was then that I realised that this role can play a hugely important pastoral care role, and I really drew closer to a lot of people in the electorate through those interactions and out of that bushfire.

I do not want to be too critical of anyone or any government, but I think we need to put it on the record; we cannot just sugar-coat everything. With the Wangary bushfire in 2005, Mike Rann, Patrick Conlon and I flew into Port Lincoln the day after that Black Wednesday fire that killed eight people and devastated so much of Eyre Peninsula, and Mike said, 'We're going to have a minister on the ground every day that it takes until you people can start getting back on your feet.' He left me there for six weeks, and Vince Monterola was appointed the person in charge of recovery. The opposition leader at the time, Rob Kerin, was on the phone to us all the time: 'We need to do this. We've got all this hay. How do we get it up? How do we devise a plan?'

With the bushfires on Kangaroo Island, I was really disappointed that the government would not take my calls and were not looking after people. I get it. I grew up on a farm. I get Liberal Party philosophy that says, 'We want small government, we want people to get down there, we want the trickle-down effect through the economy.' But when you have a natural disaster, you want the very biggest government you can find. You want that government to be wrapping their arms around you, knowing what you are going through and finding solutions for you.

We had gone through it in Wangary. We would come up with solutions to get people back on their feet. What I had to do was to go out and hit up corporate donors to get two-way radios so that we could keep our farm firefighters safe, so they could talk to each other, and then the government refused to listen to me about getting people generators, because we know that even if you have lost everything, you still have your bit of dirt and you can get out there and sit on your piece of dirt and start reflecting on how you rebuild your life, but there was none of that.

The AHA and Bank SA, and my dear friend Dr Michael Reid, from the McLaren Vale practice, all put in tens of thousands of dollars. We had \$120,000, and we bought generators from the businesses on Kangaroo Island. Our dear services people, who did so much for Kangaroo Island during the fires and after the fires, delivered those out to people who really, really needed them.

I want to single out a guy called Dudley Brown. He moved here from the US 22 years ago. His now wife moved here from Brazil 15 years ago, and they have Inkwell Wines and a boutique hotel called Hotel California Road. When we were doing that legislation to save McLaren Vale, because everyone agreed it needed legislation, they said, 'Well, what happens when you are not the local MP or Labor is not in power?'—because we had knocked back 8,000 houses on Bowering Hill—'What happens then?' It was Dudley who said to me, 'Go to Napa Valley and learn from them.' They brought in an act in 1968. I want to thank Dudley for putting me onto that; I want to thank the people of Napa Valley for showing us the way.

I want to thank Cathy King, but I am going to go back to Marg Ralston. She rang me in 2001 when I was at the ABC. It was February, and I had covered the Olympics in Sydney four or five months earlier. She said, 'Biggles, I don't know what your politics are, but would you be interested in working for the federal Labor Party on the 2001 campaign?' I said, 'Certainly.' She put me in touch with Cathy King, we went and had a meeting, and I took on that job for six months. We did not win that election—we had a lot of things like *Tampa* and September 11, and other things—but Kim Beazley would have been a great Prime Minister of Australia. Out of that, I worked on Paul Caica's campaign for Colton, his first campaign, and then Patrick Conlon wanted me as his media adviser. So I am ever grateful for Cathy, for Patrick and for everyone else who believed in me and took me on board.

I am sorry to have taken up so much of your time. It is always a risk when you start speaking from your heart and not reading a prepared speech. It is an emotional day for me, it is one that fills me with gratitude and love for the people that I have represented for the past 20 years in this place,

and for the people I have worked alongside both present and past on both sides of the chamber. Thank you one and all. It has been a magnificent ride. Thank you.

*Parliamentary Procedure*

**SITTINGS AND BUSINESS**

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Women) (16:58):** I move:

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday 5 May 2026 at 11am.

Motion carried.

*Members*

**VALEDICTORY**

Debate resumed.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (16:58):** Mr Speaker, I rise to talk about you, mate.

**The SPEAKER:** I wanted to sit you down.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** Today, you have announced that you are depriving the parliament of one of its most unique characters. Anybody and everybody who works in this place at some point or another would have had the privilege of getting to enjoy Leon's company because it is some of the best in the parliament. When Leon is in the zone, cracking a few jokes, telling stories, it is good fun—particularly if there is a frothy or a McLaren Vale shiraz involved at the same time.

There are a number of stories that are worthy of recounting and Leon has referred to a few himself, but there are a couple of things I want to touch on. First, I want to touch on policy. Leon's contribution to public policy in South Australia has been profound, particularly in the context of our tourism sector. Our tourism sector exploded under your leadership and we can talk about what that means to the economy and the big numbers, but what strikes me is that at every part of the deliberations and efforts that you made there was always in the back of your mind a thought for the mums and dads who work in the small enterprises that are littered throughout the hospitality and tourism sectors in the state of South Australia. That genuine and sincere, authentic interest in people and their stories and their lives is what has resonated in what would be the tens of thousands of interactions that you have had with your constituents and other random South Australians over a sustained period of time.

That policy is enduring and the legacy is substantial. When we formed government and established the major events advisory committee it was a no-brainer to deploy your black book or your Rolodex (or whatever you want to call it) of contacts around the world. It is amazing how often Leon's name comes up when you are travelling to other parts of the world, on occasions in the strangest of places. It is a policy that has served the government exceedingly well.

But then there are the other moments. I remember watching a night game of Big Bash cricket early on. I was watching the telly and the Strikers were playing and there were sixes going over the boundary and so forth. This six goes over the boundary—there was a promotion at the time for trying to catch it in the crowd—and I could not believe it; I am watching the telly and I was thinking 'What?' because only Leon Bignell could find himself to be a member of parliament in the right place at the exact right moment to stick his big mitt out and land a catch and then be able to handle it with all the confidence and adulation that someone should be able to carry when they land a six coming into the crowd.

The only reason I share this story is that it is just a little bit of a summation of Leon. He just knows where to be and when and somehow the ball always ends up coming his way and he carries himself in a way that benefits good luck. People say there is good luck, but people make their own luck. Leon just has this uncanny ability to understand how to maximise every opportunity that comes about. That is not through, as I described it, an uncanny ability; it is through an instinct or an impulse to make the most of every interaction because you never know where it is going to lead.

When you are with Leon, particularly in his own community—and his passion for that is well-known and well established—you see it in the interactions that he has with thousands of people.

Thinking about Kangaroo Island, I will never forget when the final redistribution report was handed down in 2017, in advance of the 2018 election. I remember exactly where we were. We were in cabinet, at an off-site community cabinet in Marion, and we were in this sort of makeshift room crammed up; it was too small for the meeting and it was hot. There was a degree of anxiousness in the room because this report was going to come down. We knew that a big redistribution was on the cards, and for many of us it is seen as a moment that can seal your fate, or be a moment of deliverance for a degree of confidence going into the next election.

So the report comes down and we are in cabinet and people are looking at their phones, getting messages from their EOs or whoever, trying to work out what is happening to their boundaries. I was in a panic-stricken moment worrying about Croydon. Meanwhile, Leon's electorate was completely spliced, carved up. New communities were being put into Mawson to turn Mawson into a completely different seat to the one that he was elected to in 2006. In fact, the only part of Mawson that was still there was McLaren Vale, and, when you think about it, the hardest part of Mawson for Labor in 2006 ended up basically being the only part of Mawson in 2018.

Some people responded to the redistribution by trying to work out how they could change seats. That is the truth of it, and I can think of a few examples—none here. But then Leon in that cabinet room in an instant, in the way that only he can, just said, 'This is fantastic.' Everyone was like, 'What?' He goes, 'This is fantastic. I have just picked up five pubs, 20 bakeries, a bunch of surf lifesaving clubs and so forth.' He just saw the positive and he said, 'No, I'm going to make it happen.'

Almost everybody thought he was deluded. Kangaroo Island was put into Mawson, which was territory that was perceived to be rolled gold conservative territory with 3,000-odd voters who would never vote Labor no matter what, and Leon just got on with work. He did not complain, he did not whinge and he did not come up with extraordinary asks of the government to make electoral commitments, he just got out there and talked to people. He talked to people in their communities, listening to their issues that had never been otherwise heard before.

I think people gravitated towards Leon as a human being because he was genuinely interested in what they had to say. You cannot fake that. You cannot manufacture it. It has to be sincere because people have the best BS radar out there. They know when you are listening or not. They know if you are sort of looking over their shoulder for the next person to interact with. When Leon is talking to someone, he is all in and he actually cares about it. If you do that enough, what Leon has taught us is that votes can change and then, in turn, you can deliver for your community.

The fact that at the last election every single booth on the island voted for Leon is a testament to him as a character and as an individual. A few years ago that was an utterly incomprehensible political outcome. But it is not the electoral outcome that I want people to focus on, it is an appreciation of the person who sits behind it and the work they put in to achieve it on behalf of that community. That tenacity and that enduring effort, sustained over 20 years of public service, is something to behold, because the truth is you have never had an easy election. You have never had an easy set of boundaries. It has always been difficult. So to be able to do that for as long as you have speaks to a stamina and a sustained commitment that few other people in this place can lay claim to, and it is worthy of recognition.

I hope that the member for Mawson just takes a bit of a breather after March next year. I know we keep working through to March. I hope he takes a bit of a breather with a bit of pride about the list of policy achievements that he contributed to. There is the protection of McLaren Vale, there is what you have done in tourism, there is the work you have done on KI, particularly post the bushfires, and everything else. We mentioned the Main South Road.

Only you could have delivered those things, and you can take a lot of comfort and pride in it, but I just hope you take a moment of respite. Then, after that respite has concluded, quickly turn your mind to what is next, because in my mind someone with your ability and commitment has something to offer the people of South Australia, or the people of this country in the future, or your community or whatever it is that you choose to do.

On behalf of the parliamentary Labor Party and various iterations of the parliamentary Labor Party across five different parliaments, I want to say thank you for what you have done for us. You reflected on what the party has done for you, as I knew you would, but there is what you have done

for us. You have given us the opportunity to be in government, to occupy the Treasury benches, to try to make a difference for the people we care about. You have provided those opportunities to us.

Marginal seat members who contribute, who go out there and win the votes—and we have a number of people who are doing that in this parliament—and provide the opportunity for particularly people on the front bench to serve in government is the rarest privilege of all and we owe it to efforts like yours. If you could replicate 47 Leon Bignells—heaven forbid—there would be 47 of you in the parliament. This is an opportunity for me, on behalf of the parliamentary Labor Party and various iterations of it prior, just to say thank you for what you have done for the party.

You have shown us that every vote is winnable and you have shown us how to translate that support into outcomes for people, which is everything we are about. So, to you, Karen, Conor and everybody else who has contributed to your efforts, we praise you and we thank you and we wish you all the very best for your future endeavours.

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (17:10):** I would like to just make a few comments about our relationship over the course of time. My first understanding of who you were was coming into this place in 2010. There was a huge uproar on this side of the house to our understanding that you rebranded yourself. You came into your second term. You branded yourself as putting your family first, you changed the colour scheme of your election material, and I thought it was a brainchild. I thought you did an outstanding job. The Premier has talked about the things that you did and were able to do through your course of time over a 20-year period.

That was my introduction to you. You are an ever effervescent, competent kind of person, always bubbling around, always just terrorising the corridors with your positivity. There is your gorgeous wife, Karen—I knew her in a former life—and Conor, who has come through this place as a young whippersnapper. He has definitely grown into a man from what we knew in those early days. While I do not know Conor as well, I know Karen reasonably well and she is a beautiful person and you are a very lucky man to have Karen.

What I would say is that, over the course of time, I got to know you best on a parliamentary select committee, the grain handling committee. I think the member for Hammond was part of that. The member for Stuart was the chair of that committee. My goodness, didn't we have some fun touring the state. First and foremost we entered almost every hotel in country South Australia and we were judging the best schnitzel. In the course of doing that I think we named Keith—I did—as having the best schnitzel in South Australia.

The trip that really opened my eyes to how you could really spread your wings and show your true form was our trip to Perth. We went to study the grain bulk handling situation over there. David Pegram was the secretary at the time and David spent a lot of his time worrying about where Leon was and just exactly what Leon was going to do next. I vividly remember that Leon looked at me while we were out, after our day's proceedings, and he said, 'Let's get out and go somewhere.' So we went to a concert out on the outskirts of Perth. I forget the name of the band but it was a lot of fun. We had a lot of laughs but not as many laughs as David had when he had to come back and explain the alcohol bill to the Clerk. That was extraordinary. I remember that the secretary of agriculture in Western Australia said, 'We'll pick up the tab for the food, and you pick up the tab for the alcohol.' We certainly did that.

It was a great committee. You were a lot of fun and we did a lot of things that probably conventional parliamentary committees would not do, all aboveboard, but it was a lot of fun and you were probably one of the head instigators in achieving that. Also, I listened to the Premier talking about you being a person of the people, having a beer and going to the bakery, and that is something that I remember about you.

I think we formed a semi-warm friendship. I called in to your house a couple of times. I knew where you lived. I called in to say g'day. I had not seen you for a while. I think you were sick for a period of time. That was the type of relationship we had. Admittedly, sometimes it was love, sometimes it was hate, but there was always an element of respect. I always called you minister for fun and travel, and I think it was fair enough. You did extensive travel, and, as the Premier said, if there were 47 Leon Bignells, the Treasurer's budget would not be big enough. To be fair, you were a good minister. You excelled, particularly in tourism, particularly in sport.

I know ag was a grind. You responded to me in many favourable ways. We had a terrible hailstorm that came through the Riverland. You had just hopped off a plane and you came straight up and tended to the people who had been absolutely smashed, and I thank you for that. They are some of the memorable moments. During sport, Marg Ralston, a beautiful lady, was very kind to me, always very stern, but always had a guiding word. I thank you, Marg.

The Kangaroo Island bushfires were devastating. They almost burned an island to the ground. As the local member, you spent a lot of time there. I remember calling in to your office during a time when there was a lot of hardship, a lot of uncertainty, and the fires were still smouldering. I had been there for a week. Sadly, I have a close family farm and a lot of friends over there. So I loaded up my vehicle with beer and I went over there to just get around and hand out a few cartons of beer. Sadly, I spent most of the week shooting sheep.

The reason that I was doing that was because a lot of those landowners, livestock owners, were in paralysis, they were not handling things too well. I thought that if they are not handling this too well, the local member would be doing it pretty tough too. I remember calling in to your office and you had head in hand and you were doing it pretty tough at that time. I felt that, as an MP leaning out and reaching out to the sitting MP, it was the only noble thing I could have done. I am quite proud that I showed a level of compassion and respect for you going through a very tough time.

In closing, you are the Speaker without a tie. I guess that is the way it is. That was your trademark coming in to the grand chair, and that is the way you roll, and I respect that. Over time, you have been a character of this place. The penny dropped when David Penberthy on radio one morning said that he heard there was a rumour that a veteran MP was going to retire. I thought, Kouts is never going to retire, so I thought it was going to be you. I sent him a little text message and said that it would be you and, lo and behold, today I was proven right. Congratulations on a stellar career. Thank you for putting some entertainment into the building and thank you for being a good MP.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. The Treasurer.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (17:18):** I will be the last speaker on your valedictory because the government has business to get on with. I just want to say this: I am an observer of politics. Antony Green in the ABC studios at the last election—we were off camera—came over to the console, where there was me, Rory McClaren and the former deputy premier talking about the results, and he said, 'Pound for pound, best local member in the country, best local member I've ever encountered, best marginal seat member I've ever seen.' To hear someone like Antony Green say that about you is everything you need to know about your career. That is high praise indeed.

I want to say thank you very much for your service to the Labor Party and your service to the people of Mawson. Thank you for your support for me personally. It has always been there. I have always been able to rely on you and I thank you for it. I wish you all the very best for what is going to be happening next in your career. I am sure it will be exciting. Every now and then send us a message, and I will get you over for that pork dinner eventually in Bignell Street, Richmond.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (17:20):** I will try to be quick because there is a lot being said about your stellar career. I was one of 10 of us who came in here in 2006 after a raft of elections. I think the member for Light, Tony Piccolo, and I are still running at the next election and we will see what happens there.

One thing I will say is you are one of those characters in the house who is very fair and very friendly. One time, you were the agriculture minister and I was the agriculture parliamentary shadow secretary and we had a fairly solid debate during the committee phase and then immediately after that finished, we were out having a coffee together. That is how it should be. I will never forget that.

Talking about the trips: you came to me and said, 'I am going to do a trip up through the Outback and would you like to come along?' I thought, 'This is great.' David Ridgway was the actual shadow agriculture minister and I said to David, 'What do you think?' He said, 'Go along; that's good.' We had a fantastic time flying around Leigh Creek, Oodnadatta and Lyndhurst. You were very fair: you gave me the opportunity to speak to the farmers and station owners.

I remember one night in Leigh Creek, we were holed up in a room, I think Ruth was there—I do not want to name too many staff—and we just had a few light refreshments, and that is how it should be: out having a bipartisan trip around the bush.

In closing, I want to say a couple of things about the Viterra select committee that I instigated in 2010-11. Tim, the member for Chaffey, mentioned the schnitzels. We turned up in Pinnaroo one night—he knows what is coming—which was in my electorate and I had not warned the pub that we were going to need a certain number of schnitzels for dinner. We were going to be one short so the member for Chaffey and I took the hit and we had half a schnitzel each. Some people argue you only need half a schnitzel.

We have already talked about fine dining and fine wines. Three of us went on a trip to Canada: you, Leon, Geoff Brock and I. We had a dinner one night and I was getting some stressful comments from the committee staff that one bottle of wine blew the whole dinner budget out of the window. But that is what it was. You are the salesman for the parliament. It was very enjoyable and it has been a pleasure to serve with you.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, everyone, for those kind words.

#### *Adjournment Debate*

#### **VALEDICTORIES**

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (17:23):** I rise to speak on indulgence. We are at the end of the parliamentary year and, more than that, we are closing in on the end of the parliamentary term with an election due in March next year. This is an opportunity to reflect and also to pay thanks to a range of people who have contributed to the functioning and the operations of the parliament.

I would like to actually start by thanking you, Mr Speaker. Being Speaker is not an easy job. It requires active chairing and maintenance of the parliament and we thank you for your efforts. You have done it exceedingly well. If you had told me at the beginning of the parliamentary term that the parliament would end up being in this shape, I do not know if either of us would have predicted it, but you have taken on the role of being Speaker in a very Leon Bignell way and I want to thank you for the way you have conducted yourself in the chair throughout the time you have been Speaker.

I also want to acknowledge the Deputy Speaker, or Chair of Committees, Mr Tony Piccolo, who spends an awful amount of time, as a result of the parliament being quite busy in a legislative context, performing his functions in the operation of the parliament. I do want to thank you, Tony. I mentioned earlier the member for Mawson having few peers in terms of work ethic and demonstration of switching votes in the parliament. The one person who can absolutely lay claim to be a peer of the member for Mawson in that regard is, of course, the member for Light.

I want to thank the member for Light for his responsibilities in monitoring the parliament over the last four years, as well as being Chair of Committees over that period, but I also want to particularly wish the member for Light all the very best in March. He has taken on a formidable task and has always demonstrated a determination to do the best he possibly can by the state parliamentary Labor Party and has always put the interests of others and the party first.

When he rang me up and said, 'I am interested in running in the new seat of Ngadjuri,' you could have knocked me over with a feather. I think I called Tom Koutsantonis and said, 'Just check in on him and make sure everything is okay.' It is pretty remarkable and I just want to wish you every success. I have already seen much of the work that you are doing in that community, which is a good thing. There is nothing lost in having a bit of healthy competition and I just want to wish you every success and all the very best over the next few months because I know there will be few of us working harder than you, mate. Thank you for what you have done in the parliament.

To our Clerk and Deputy Clerk, Rick and David, and everyone else who assists them—the Serjeant-at-Arms, house services officers, parliamentary officers and research officers—you all make it tick.

The people I always feel most sorry for, of course, are Hansard, because they are duty-bound to actually listen to what we say. You must have the patience of saints and that is worthy of acknowledgement. The work is diligent and ongoing. It is an amazing team that you have. In particular, I do want to take this opportunity to thank you and wish you all the very best over the end



of the parliamentary year. I hope you get a bit of respite from those headphones. Do you hear it at night? I hope you do not hear us at night when you shut your eyes because that would be problematic.

Can I also acknowledge John Weste and the whole parliamentary library team. It is such an incredible resource. Something that I grew a great appreciation for during my time in opposition is just how magnificent the parliamentary library team is for every MP. They deserve a lot of credit. They are extraordinary custodians of an amazing institution within the parliament.

The most important people in the building, though, of course, are Nicky, Karen and Belinda in the Blue Room. Without them, the whole joint stops. I can honestly say that I do not go there every day when parliament sits. When I was in opposition, I was in the Blue Room all the time. All of a sudden you are in government. You are not around the place. You lose a bit of contact with those magnificent women and the rest of the Blue Room team. The best thing about their character is that, as soon as you go back, you are straight back into it. There is a bit of healthy banter, which is very refreshing and it just brings a bit of light to the parliament.

I want to thank them for being the people they are, along with Creon and the team. The member for Lee mentioned Creon in his remarks the other day, but I just want to thank Creon and the whole team. From my perspective, the whole thing ticks. It is a lot of work. It all happens behind the scenes. It is too often taken for granted. I am very grateful for it. The security team here at parliament, the protective security officers, have an important function and it is again worthy of recognition.

I want to thank the member for Elizabeth, of course, who is the whip. I did not get a chance to acknowledge the member for Elizabeth yesterday in responding to his valedictory, by virtue of the fact I had to be elsewhere with the Governor of Shandong. The member for Elizabeth is a gentleman. He is a stalwart of the Labor Party. He has always conducted himself with grace. I think you can rightly characterise him as an exceptionally humble servant of the party and the parliament but an utterly dedicated one.

He has done a great job as whip. Whipping is a formidable task no matter the size of your party or the caucus, and he has had to deal with a number of characters and personalities and make sure he is accommodating everyone's request. He has done it really, really well. He has a calmness about him. Lee is just a cool cat. Where is he? Oh, you are there.

**Mr Odenwalder:** I just walked in, honestly.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** Right, well I will stop talking about you now. He is a cool cat. You are always calm and have it under control. I just want to wish the member for Elizabeth all the very best for his future endeavours. I know he will have more to contribute to the state. Thank you, Lee. I am sorry I could not be here yesterday for your remarks. To you and your beautiful family, I wish you all the very best.

The whip and the Leader of Government Business have to work closely together. Well done to Lee for enduring that. The Leader of Government Business enjoys rare status in this parliament as being the father of the house but also one of the most extraordinary people I know. The member for West Torrens has a rare combination of talents. What is not always appreciated as much as it should be is that underneath the parliamentary skill, alongside the work ethic and commitment, is an extraordinary intellect. It is in his blood: he has beautiful parents and an exceptionally smart brother. He is one of the best-read people I know, whose insights are invaluable to the government and to me personally. I am very glad to be able to count the member for West Torrens as a friend.

Every day you are in the parliament and Tom is around the place, you just are very grateful that he is on this side and not that one. I would hate to think about it being the other way around. I am very grateful to the member for West Torrens for his work.

Likewise, I want to thank the new Deputy Premier of the parliamentary Labor Party, the Hon. Kyam Maher from the other place. Kyam has slotted into the role of deputy magnificently. I am very grateful for his support of me and the whole team. I never anticipated that the member for Port Adelaide would not be Deputy Premier at the next election—alas, life—but Kyam is doing an outstanding job and I want to thank him, which then extends to the whole cabinet.

The member for West Torrens touched on this in a lighthearted way earlier, but the cabinet has been united and disciplined every step of the way. Touch wood, we have not had any resignations as a result of scandal or disgrace. Everyone has just worked so hard. I could not be more grateful for their support of the government and me.

I want to depart from the parliament for a moment and thank my EO staff, led by Peter but also Gayle, Suzie and Sophia. When you are Premier, you are not in your electorate nearly as much as you otherwise would be. Similarly, I know the member for Hartley would appreciate how hard it is being leader and a local MP. Something has to give. It is a really difficult balancing act. I always have guilt when I reflect upon how much less time I have spent in my electorate over the last few years in comparison with what I was able to previously. But you rely on your EO staff and they have been so good and I am thankful to them.

I want to thank the whole team in DPC. I have been so impressed by DPC since I have been in this role. We have thrown at them a lot of challenges and they have always risen to the occasion. Damien Walker pulled the pin as CEO of DPC late last year. I spent a bit of effort thinking about who should take on the role. I could not be happier with the work that Rick Persse is doing—he has been awesome—and he has a really good team around him. I want to thank Nari, the deputy chief of DPC. On Whyalla, on the algal bloom and a range of other functions she has been asked to lead, Nari has been exceptional.

I do not want to list too many names, but Chief Operating Officer Wayne Hunter deserves recognition as well. The work he has done on a number of projects for the government has been tireless and structurally important for the state. That team, particularly Rick, is ably supported by Grace whom I want to thank as well.

In the Cabinet Office, Will Evans is in charge at the moment while Elspeth Brown is on maternity leave. Both Will and Elspeth lead an amazing team in the Cabinet Office, and I want to thank them. The Cabinet Office are professional, on top of their brief, and they make for a far better functioning government because of their work.

I do want to thank my office. Forgive me for naming them, but it is at the end of the term so I really would like the opportunity to pass on my appreciation to Nicole, my EA. My life would be disastrous without Nicole. How she manages it is beyond me. I want to thank the whole team, including Jess, Paul, Angela, Vicki, Leigh, Maddie, David, Mikaela, Tahlia and Anne-Marie. I want to thank that whole team that make the office work.

There is another bloke I would like to thank: my Chief of Staff, John Bistrovic. He is not in here, is he? Oh, he is here—he came in. Alright.

**An honourable member:** He's in the shadows.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** That's right, that's where he hides. He loves the attention, so I should probably dial this up. John Bistrovic—

**The Hon. A. Koutsantonis:** John Michael Bistrovic.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** John Michael Bistrovic, JB, is right up there with the hardest workers I know—the first to get in and the last to leave. He has an uncanny ability to be flat out on his laptop and listening at the same time. Despite the member for West Torrens accusing him of it being Candy Crush, I know it is not, because I see the volume of work that gets undertaken. It is a really hard job. To be Chief of Staff in ministerial offices, in the leader's office, is really hard. But he has a good team around him: Sonia, Cheyne, Cat, Lawrence, Lukas, Claire, Rebecca, Todd—who celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday the other day—Pam (a great human being) and Nick. He is on the phone to me at sparrow's you know what early in the morning; it is an around-the-clock job.

Minh, David and Harry do a great job, along with Wendy and Streeter. I do want to particularly give a shout-out to James, who drives me around. He is an awesome human being. I very much like his company—thank God—because you spend so much time with them. If he does not like my company, he deserves a bonus because—

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** That's right. Jim is just a ripper. He is a person I trust implicitly. I never think twice about the conversations I have in the car. I have nothing but respect for

James. He is an exceptionally hard worker, and I hope he and Anastasia get some time together over Christmas. I might give him a day or two.

To everyone back in the parliament, to everyone in the parliamentary Labor Party—all 29 members in this place and the nine members in the other place—it is a big deal to put your confidence in another person. In their own individual ways, by supporting me with the unity that the caucus has means they are putting their confidence in me. I take that seriously. When I stop and think about it a little bit it gives me a moment for pause to think how have I been so lucky to deserve that opportunity? There are so many talented people within our show, each of them with their own capabilities and each of them deserving an opportunity to be able to serve in the highest capacities.

It is the rarest of privileges to be the leader of the parliamentary Labor Party of South Australia, one of the most united, disciplined, committed and professional political outfits that this nation has ever known. The fact that the caucus gives me the opportunity to lead them—and I do not want to say this lightly, because it is genuinely humbling. I have a range of imperfections. Sometimes I worry that I do not spend enough time and effort providing the pastoral care to members of the caucus as much as I should. When I say 'pastoral care' I hope that is not misinterpreted—but the time. I hope that people appreciate that I do not necessarily get to spend as much time with you individually and privately because you want me to be out there doing the work of leading the state. Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I try to repay your faith by doing the best I possibly can. I think we have been able to do a fair bit of good work and thank you for giving me this chance and for as long as you do I will do my absolute best.

There are three last groups of people I want to thank. The first one is my family. It is really amazing the support that we all get as members of parliament. I know we all love our families to death. I am very grateful for the support that my wife gives me. She is an amazing human being. She is a saint. She was calling me when this speech was on. I do not know if she would say the same thing about me and that would be right. She is a good human being and I am very grateful for her love and support. To our kids who do not quite understand necessarily what is going on all the time, they seem to just roll with the punches somehow. They are beautiful kids and I am very, very proud of all four of them.

The other group I want to thank is the people of South Australia. I do not know what the outcome of the next election will be—no-one does. It is very much in their hands and I just want to thank them for their support of me and the government and the confidence they put in us at the last election.

I do not suggest for a moment that the government has been perfect. I certainly have not been perfect as Premier, but we have done our best and we have been able to do some good work. I hope that we are repaying their faith as best we can and I very much look forward to allowing them to cast their judgement on us at the next election, as they well should. Their votes are precious. Individually people might feel as though it does not mean too much, but when you add up almost a million of them it actually determines who leads the state and the effort that is put into the policy endeavour that might materialise in opportunity for others. I want to thank them for just giving us this chance over the last four years. It is a precious gift and we are grateful for it.

The final group I want to talk about is my political opponents. Politics is brutal, it is contested, it brings out the best in humanity, it brings out the worst in humanity. Having had the experience to sit on the opposition benches, I well appreciate that it pulls out of us—in fact, you have a responsibility to assume the worst of the government. You have a duty to be cynical of government, and that is healthy. That is part of the dynamic.

What I would say is that I think we should not forget, each and everyone of us, that our motives are genuinely for good. I believe that people of good intent can arrive at very different conclusions, as clearly we do all the time, but I think the way the South Australian Liberal Party has approached this parliament on matters when they have really been about the state's interests is to your credit.

I particularly think of the Whyalla example. I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for the leadership he showed when that legislation had to pass the parliament quickly. It was one of those important moments where the state's interests had to trump any political interests. I asked if

you could do that, and you did, and that was a really powerful moment because it was a demonstration that, when push really comes to shove, we actually are all in this together. I want to thank you for that.

I also want to wish each and every one of you all the very best over Christmas. This Christmas will be different for all of us I think. All of us will have a little bit of anxiety in the Christmas before a March election. I hope that you, as our political opponents, know that, notwithstanding the robustness of the electoral period ahead, we value your contribution to the state of South Australia and the sacrifice that you and your families make in order to make our state a better place.

In my view, the Liberal Party in this country is a fundamentally important institution for our country. There are two parties of government in Australia and they both have a really important role to play and political philosophies that have merit. You prosecute that case and that is important, and I wish you all the very best. Not too much, I hope, but I wish you success in your personal commitment to the future of the state and I hope you have a good Christmas.

I hope everyone has a good Christmas. We live in a very fortunate part of the world. I would not want to live anywhere else. I do not think anyone would. I hope that the people of South Australia are able to enjoy some time with their families and that we all spare a thought for those who might not be in as fortunate circumstances as others over the Christmas period.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (17:47):** On indulgence, as the year comes to a close, I too would like to express my gratitude to a number of people. I do so very gratefully as the Leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition. I too thank the Premier. When there has been a degree of cordiality and civility, the Premier and I, such as in respect of the Whyalla situation, were able to put the state's interests first, which I think speaks volumes to the cordial nature of this place, despite the adversarial role of our respective positions.

I also want to say that I do respect and appreciate the way that we have been able to conduct ourselves this year in this chamber. I want to acknowledge that there are a number of members in this place who will be retiring at this election, and we should put on the record our acknowledgement of all those members for their contributions: the members for Lee, Elizabeth, Port Adelaide, Unley, Morialta, Colton, Torrens and yourself, sir.

Congratulations on whatever is next for you. I was listening to your contribution at length, and what a journey it has been. What a unique role it is up there, as you know. Of course, we all have brought our own style, for those of us who have been fortunate enough to sit in that august position. You have done it your way and, all in all, I think the house has functioned well. It has functioned well in the time that you have been there, so congratulations and best wishes for what is next.

I want to also take this opportunity to thank those who have supported me and enabled me to do this job. Before I get to many of my colleagues and those in the building, I should put my thoughts on the record to thank my own family, my dear wife Charissa and our two sons. I love my family dearly. They say that the moment that your child is born your heart learns a new language. It is very, very true, especially to Leonardo and Raphael. Leonardo knows at the end of a sitting week he gets a chocolate frog from the Blue Room. I get accused of being the fun parent.

We all make sacrifices in this place. We all make sacrifices in the roles that we do, and if I did not have the love and support of Charissa and our families we would not be able to do what we do. Like every member here I appreciate those sacrifices that all of our families make, to work hard in the service of our communities, to carry out what we need to do. I am grateful for the encouragement and the patience that I receive every single day.

We are all very fortunate to be in these roles. It goes without saying that these are really fortunate, privileged positions. We are very fortunate to call South Australia home at a point in time when we see other parts of the world are certainly not as fortunate as us. As we approach the end of the year, I want to wish every South Australian all the best. I also want to express my gratitude to the people in this parliament who contribute in various ways.

I take the opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the people who ensure that this place runs smoothly. Thank you to Mr Crump, who I had the pleasure of working very closely with, to Travis Freckleton and David Pegram. To Lauren and your team, thank you for your guidance, your professionalism and the steadiness that you continue to bring to this house every day. To Chris

Schwarz, Guy Dickson and the staff in the other place: thank you for your dedication and tireless service, especially the late hours that you sometimes have to work.

To the Hansard team, led very capably by Andrew Cole. I was involved in the employment of Andrew Cole and it is great when, a long time later, these people are still here. It was obviously a good choice because Hansard is functioning extremely well: never get things wrong. Sometimes they remember things that need correcting that I, myself, did not even know needed correcting at the time. They conduct their role flawlessly, despite the cut and thrust of parliamentary debate. We often find the words just eloquently and accurately arranged in *Hansard*, so thank you for that. We obviously depend a great deal on the Hansard staff.

To the building services team under David Woolman, I think the only failure originally is that our forefathers did not come up with another lift, because it always seems like there is something that needs to be improved in this house, whether it is a light globe, a lick of paint or whatever it is; there is always something. But to David and your team, nothing is too hard when something needs to be done. Thank you for keeping this iconic building functioning well day in and day out.

My thanks also go to PNSG for their support, and the Blue Room staff—Nicky, Karen and Belinda—for your warmth, kindness and the sense of community that you help create in the building. I should also acknowledge the most powerful man in the building. That is Creon. We had another situation during the week where I had some enthusiastic guests who had not met Creon; they did. Creon generally tries to make things work and make sure that our guests are always looked after, despite the rigours of some of the parliamentary dining rules in this place. Thank you, Creon, for what you do.

And to everybody who works in this building, from the cleaner to those in the bar: thank you for the pride that you take in your work which keeps this place welcoming and immaculate, not only for ourselves but also for the thousands and thousands of people who come in through here every single year.

Thank you to Dr Weste and the parliamentary library team, and to Natalie and the Community Education and Engagement team. A fundamental part of what we do is being able and privileged enough to showcase this place, the people's house, to the people of our state. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the protective security staff and the parliamentary admin staff for keeping us safe each and every day and ensuring the smooth running of the building and surrounds.

I should pass on my gratitude to my parliamentary colleagues on the record, to our leadership team: to my good friend and colleague the deputy leader, the member for Heysen; to the Hon. Nicola Centofanti, the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council; to Heidi, Deputy Leader of the Opposition. To all my colleagues, I am grateful for what has certainly been another big year but another big four years for our party. I sincerely thank all of my colleagues for their steadfast support. Shadow cabinet, outside shadow cabinet, I am very appreciative of their work and their fundamental role in performing our duty as an opposition.

To my office, I am very grateful for the dedication and commitment of my staff, if I am able to list them: Aric as Chief of Staff; the media team, including Hayley, Gretel, Sean and Scout; and of course the rest of the office and the broader team who keep everything running smoothly: Dawid, Luke, Max, Michelle, Craig, Nigel, Ned, Isabella, Yahnika, Tanja and Caitlin.

Of course, we all know that to enjoy the fruits we also have to water the roots. We all have an electorate office, and I have been very fortunate to have such longstanding staff. Thank you to my former office manager Simone Mazzeo, now Simone Bakopanos. The only reason she left was because she had a baby. For nine years—what loyalty. It was great to catch-up with her recently and another staff member who just got married. Thank you to Federica, who has been with me for over 10 years, and Sharon, Spencer and Matteo, who have helped us out as well. The team behind us as MPs does not go unnoticed and it must not go unthanked, so thank you.

My thanks also go to our whips, the member for Unley, the member for Finnis and of course the member for Bragg, who I promoted to manager of opposition business. It is a decision that I am very proud of. The member for Bragg is a great talent, as are all my other colleagues. The member for Bragg, it is a tough job and you have done it exceedingly well, so well done and thank you. To all

of my colleagues, we are a great team. I am very grateful for their work this year, despite some of the challenges that have come before us, some of them like never before, so I really am grateful for that.

Mr Speaker, I also want to thank you. Like all Speakers, you have kept us to work in a civil way, well behaved in the chamber. Sometimes you are too lenient, but I know you have always done it with the charisma, spirit and relaxed nature that you conduct in other ways. I still think you should put a tie on. There is still time; you still have a few minutes to go. I thank you for your service, for the role that you provide—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** And we should have got a few more questions, yes. Thank you for the service that you provide in the role. We also wish you and your family a safe and merry Christmas. Thank you to those who are working over Christmas. While many of us will get some sort of break, I remember the hardworking, dedicated South Australians who do not necessarily get a break. I want to take this opportunity in the time that remains to wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas and a prosperous 2026.

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

**The SPEAKER (17:57):** On indulgence, I just want to quickly put my thanks on the record, too, for the Premier entrusting me to be in this role as Speaker, to Rick the Clerk, David the Deputy Clerk, and to everyone in the team here. It is a very well-run parliament. We brought in an executive officer thanks to legislation. I want to welcome Megan Bradman into that role. It will take a lot of the weight off the clerks because their job is just getting bigger and bigger. Megan is working her way through the different changes that we can make.

There was an EB that dragged out for 20 months, and I know that has had an effect on morale throughout the building. I hope all staff members have a good break. I look forward to catching up with you in January, February and half of March before the election, as we try to repair some of the relationships throughout the building and get back to having a really harmonious and productive workplace. It is a little bit hard sometimes when you have three different workgroups. I will be working with the Attorney-General, Deputy Premier Kyam Maher, on some legislation that, hopefully, whoever is here in the next term can then put through the house to make sure that we modernise and have a contemporary workplace that matches what happens out in the private sector and the public sector.

Talking about Kyam, I just want to put on the record that Kyam is one of my favourite human beings. He is a beautiful fellow. I have seen him suffer more than any other MP in my 20 years in this place. We all go through hardship, but being an Aboriginal man I saw the racism directed at Kyam online and through other means, particularly cruel, around claims about his mother—totally outrageous. To be honest, it is one of the reasons I went off social media over a year ago, not from anything that anyone was saying to me but because of the sorts of attacks on people like Kyam.

Kyam is an incredible human being, one we will look back on when his time in here is done and thank him for the huge changes he has made. We are the only place in Australia with a Voice to Parliament. We sat in the upper house in the last sitting week when Danni Smith from Mount Gambier, a joint Presiding Member of the State Voice to Parliament, spoke so well about what it is that the Aboriginal people of South Australia would like to do. She said whether you agree or do not agree, let's all walk together and try to make this a better place. She was the first Aboriginal woman to speak on the floor of parliament in South Australia. I came away from that thinking, 'What was so hard? Why couldn't we have done that as a nation?'

It is great leadership that Kyam has shown in that area and also in voluntary assisted dying. I lost count of how many bills we tried to get through to bring in voluntary assisted dying. It was Kyam's relentless giving of his time to get around and explain to everyone in this house and in the other place the advantages of having a bill that could give people dignity in their final days.

I will be forever grateful for Kyam's friendship. As I said, he is probably my favourite person in this whole place. He is just a beautiful guy with a massive heart. When I told him yesterday that I was not going to run again, I just burst into tears and we had a big hug. Thank you Kyam for everything.

Thank you to everyone in this place. It has been a pleasure. When the Premier suggested I could be the Speaker, I said, 'But I'm the guy from sales. Usually it goes to someone from accounts or from the legal department.' He said, 'Just get in there and be yourself.' I am forever grateful to the leader, the deputy leader and the member for Kavel, three former Speakers in this place, who gave me some really handy driving hints before I sat in this chair for the first time.

Of course, Rick and David and everyone down here, they are like puppeteers putting their hands up the back of your shirt. You just move your mouth and hopefully the right words come out. To everyone, thank you. I want to wish you all a merry Christmas and all the best in the election.

For those who do not win, we have done a big reform this year in allowing former members who got voted out and who did not get to make a valedictory speech the right to come back in here and put on the record their gratitude to the people who are important to them and their legacy. Because, what happens is when you move on someone takes all the credit for the things that you do. Unless you get the chance to come in here and put it all on the record, someone else will change history and you might not get the recognition that you deserve.

#### *Bills*

### **UNCLAIMED GOODS (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Final Stages*

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

### **CARERS RECOGNITION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

#### *Parliamentary Committees*

### **JOINT PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMITTEE**

The Legislative Council informed the House of Assembly that it had appointed the Hon. L.A. Henderson to the committee in place of the Hon. D.G.E. Hood (resigned) and the Hon. D.G.E. Hood as the alternate member to the Hon. L.A. Henderson.

#### *Resolutions*

### **JOINT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF VETERINARIANS**

The Legislative Council passed the following resolution to which it desires the concurrence of the House of Assembly:

That should the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Wellbeing of Veterinarians complete its report while the houses are not sitting, the committee may present its report to the presiding officers of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly, who are hereby authorised, upon presentation, to publish and distribute that report prior to the tabling of the report in both houses.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (18:04):** I move:

That this house concur with the resolution of the Legislative Council contained in message No. 317 that, should the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Wellbeing of Veterinarians in South Australia complete its report into its inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of veterinarians in South Australia while the houses are not sitting, the committee may present its reports to the Presiding Officer of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly, who are hereby authorised, upon presentation, to publish and distribute the report prior to the tabling of the report in both houses.

Motion carried.

### **JOINT COMMITTEE ON HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

The Legislative Council passed the following resolution to which it desires the concurrence of the House of Assembly:

That should the Joint Committee on Harmful Algal Blooms in South Australia complete its final report while the houses are not sitting, the committee may present its final report to the presiding officers of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly, who are hereby authorised, upon presentation, to publish and distribute that report prior to the tabling of the report in both houses.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (18:05):** I move:

That this house concur with the resolution of the Legislative Council contained in message No. 318 that should the Joint Committee on the Harmful Algal Blooms in South Australia complete its report on its inquiry into the algal bloom in South Australia while the houses are not sitting, the committee may present its reports to the presiding officers of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly who are hereby authorised, upon presentation, to publish and distribute the report prior to the tabling of the report in both houses.

Motion carried.

At 18:06 the house adjourned until Tuesday 5 May 2026 at 11:00.



*Answers to Questions***ABORIGINAL LIAISON OFFICERS**

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (15 October 2025).

**The Hon. R.K. PEARCE (King—Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

I can confirm that DCS Aboriginal liaison officers service all prisons in South Australia.

**ADELAIDE REMAND CENTRE**

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (16 October 2025).

**The Hon. R.K. PEARCE (King—Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

The 50 beds at the Adelaide Remand Centre will be supported by investment in targeted infrastructure improvements, including upgrades to the admissions and visitation areas, along with the installation of two (2) body scanners.

**ADELAIDE REMAND CENTRE**

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (16 October 2025).

**The Hon. R.K. PEARCE (King—Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

It is anticipated these beds will be available from early December 2025.