

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 10 February 2016

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. R.P. Wortley)** took the chair at 11:01 and read prayers.

### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **SITTINGS AND BUSINESS**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (11:01):** I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable petitions, the tabling of papers, question time and statements on matters of interest, notices of motion and orders of the day, private business, to be taken into consideration at 2.15pm.

Motion carried.

### *Members*

#### **MEMBER'S LEAVE**

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (11:02):** I move:

That maternity leave of absence be extended to the Hon. J.M.A. Lensink until and including Thursday 14 April 2016.

Motion carried.

### *Bills*

#### **PORT PIRIE RACECOURSE SITE AMENDMENT BILL**

##### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 2 December 2015.)

**The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS (11:03):** I rise on behalf of the Liberal Party to indicate our support for this very important bill. This bill is intended to amend the Port Pirie Racecourse Site Act 1946, enabling powers for the sublet of land for commercial application. Recently, the Minister for Racing indicated his intention to introduce the bill and that, of course, has been done as a hybrid bill, meaning that a select committee will be formed, and that is being dealt with.

The Port Pirie Harness Racing Club has been approached by developers who would like to secure crown land currently under the care and control of the club. The request is to establish a bulk goods major retail precinct to include the construction of a supermarket. The proposed development could involve an investment of in excess of \$60 million and create a minimum of 200 jobs.

This land is subject to the 1946 act, which dictates the use of the land. Essentially, the racing club is hoping to change the act to enable it to lease the land to the developer and use the proceeds to upgrade their facilities. This bill seeks to amend the act to ensure that the minister has the power to lease or sell the land on the terms and conditions that he believes are appropriate.

The said land lies between the central business district of Port Pirie and the Centro shopping centre and is seen by the Port Pirie council as an ideal location for this type of development. Harness Racing South Australia says the amendment will enable the club to generate much-needed revenue for the club to reinvest in local racing at Port Pirie. Given that the Liberal Party consistently supports the racing industry, the harness racing industry and the greyhound racing industry, we are very pleased to support this bill and wish it a speedy passage.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (11:05):** It appears there

are no further speakers, so I will move to my summing up remarks. I would like to thank the Hon. Terry Stephens for his comments on behalf of the opposition.

At present, the Port Pirie Racecourse Site Act 1946 vests the defined land located in Port Pirie to the racing club on the basis that it can only be used for the objects of the club (i.e. purposes relating to horseracing). This bill provides the means for land vested in the club under the 1946 act to be used for purposes other than those currently permitted by the act.

The bill allows the club to grant another person or body a right to use the land vested in the club for purposes other than those for which the club was established. This is on the proviso that the lease, licence or easement involving the defined land is approved by the minister responsible for the act, being the Minister for Racing, by notice in writing. The minister's approval can be subject to such terms and conditions that the minister considers necessary or appropriate and specified in the approval notice.

The bill includes provisions to the effect that if the defined land is not used by the club for the purposes for which the club was established or if a party to an approved lease, licence or easement does not comply with the terms and conditions of the lease, licence or easement, the minister can, by notice in writing, require the club to take such action to remedy the default as the minister thinks fit and specifies in the notice.

Being a hybrid bill, it was considered by the select committee, as the Hon. Terry Stephens noted, in the other place and the report, tabled by the House of Assembly on 19 November 2015, recommended that the bill be passed by the House of Assembly without amendment as soon as possible and it be sent to the Legislative Council for consideration.

The changes in this bill will mean that the Minister for Racing will have the ability to authorise activities, including commercial activities, on the Port Pirie Racecourse site, that are unrelated to horseracing, with appropriate conditions.

The passing of this bill, as noted by the Hon. Terry Stephens, will enable the possibility of a commercial and regional centre development at Port Pirie in the area of the defined land that is currently not being used for racing and this will provide, if it goes ahead, job support and economic growth development in the regional community and surrounding regions which we believe is vitally important. We commend the bill to the house.

Bill read a second time.

*Committee Stage*

Bill taken through committee without amendment.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (11:08):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

## **SURVEILLANCE DEVICES BILL**

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (11:09):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (11:10):** I rise to indicate that the Greens are opposed to this bill, but also to draw the attention of not only this council but the other place to what I believe is an inadvertent error made by the government in the debate on this bill. I refer the government to its own amendments moved to delete, on page 16, lines 11 to 15 inclusive, including the entireties of clauses 10(2)(c) and 10(2)(d), deleting paragraphs (c) and (d).

I say that the government has done this in error because I drew to the council's attention at the time that, by deleting the entirety of those clauses, the government was also deleting its own words that were inserted into the bill that animal welfare was to be considered in the public interest. The government deleted those clauses because they specifically referred to the RSPCA and the RSPCA being able to receive materials.

Of course, the RSPCA never requested, never desired and never supported being the arbiter of what was in the public interest and certainly on animal welfare. However, by deleting those words that animal welfare was 'in the public interest', as they threw the baby out with the bathwater when they realised their error of judgement in not consulting with the RSPCA, the government has left a debate that indicates, by the deletion of those words, that it considers animal welfare is not in the public interest.

I will say that the Attorney-General does not seem to be of this opinion because, in various pieces of correspondence that have then been shown to me by constituents, he has been writing to constituents. I table a letter from the Attorney-General dated 14 January, and I have taken the liberty of redacting the name of the constituent who has forwarded that to me. That letter, in regard to the Surveillance Devices Bill, dated 14 January, reads:

Thank you for your correspondence in relation to the Surveillance Devices Bill 2015 ('the Bill'). I am responding on behalf of the Premier as the matter you raise falls under my portfolio responsibilities.

It goes on to describe what the bill does, but then the third paragraph, I believe, is important for the debate because, as I say, the government, by deleting those words from this bill, have indicated that, should this come before a court, they do not believe that animal welfare is in the public interest. The Attorney-General, in his correspondence to this concerned constituent, says:

The Government believes that animal welfare issues are public interest issues and rightly deserve publicity. The proposed legislation does not seek to restrict the filming of animal cruelty, and several exemptions have been included to ensure that legitimate public interest issues are not adversely impacted by the Bill.

The letter is signed by John Rau, as Deputy Premier and Attorney-General. As I say, I table that correspondence.

I draw the council's attention to this issue and I draw the government's attention to this issue because I think it is something that needs to be addressed, when this matter gets to the other place, and clarified for the public record that this government does believe that animal welfare is in the public interest, and the mistake of inadvertently deleting those words is corrected. I raised this in the debate, but I think in the debate, perhaps sometimes on the floor of the council as things are hurriedly pushed through, these important issues get overlooked.

I think, certainly the Weatherill government has long championed better reforms and protections of animals in this state. I would hope that the government will make that clear when this bill gets to the other place.

Bill read a third time and passed.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT) AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 28 October 2015.)

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (11:14):** I rise on behalf of the Greens today to support the Local Government (Stormwater Management Agreement) Amendment Bill 2015. It is a simple and straightforward bill that we welcome into this place.

The bill seeks to approve the 2013 Stormwater Management Agreement which addresses responsibilities for stormwater management and is the basis for joint and collaborative action by both state and local government to deal with threats of flooding and to better manage the use of stormwater as a resource. The Greens also support the work of the Stormwater Management Authority, which is a statutory corporation. Its role is to support the development of an urban water plan for Greater Adelaide and leave the implementation of the stormwater elements of the plan.

The Greens support more efficient, better harvesting and storage of stormwater that falls on the Adelaide Plains and surrounding areas each year. We know that the state government's Water for Good policy highlights the importance of stormwater recycling in diversifying the state's water supplies. It includes targets such as by 2025 our state will seek to harvest 35 gigalitres of water per annum, and by 2050 our state has a target to achieve the capacity to provide up to 60 gigalitres of recycled stormwater per annum in Greater Adelaide.

The Greens support the implementation of a metropolitan-wide stormwater harvesting and filtration program in partnership with local governments and SA Water. We know that our local councils are leading innovators in this regard not just in our nation but in the world. The City of Salisbury is doing excellent work in this space; it has constructed 50 wetlands which provide natural filtering and cleansing of stormwater enabling a low cost treatment option for re-use.

The City of Salisbury's wetlands are an attempt to replicate the original natural process of slowing and filtering water. According to this council, Adelaide's total water consumption is less than the amount that falls in precipitation, and this is despite low rainfall seasons. Indeed, the volume of stormwater that flows annually into Gulf St Vincent is equivalent to our total consumption. To put this in perspective, stormwater flowing through Salisbury is equivalent to 26 per cent and Adelaide's take from the River Murray in an average year. That is why we need to continue investing in capturing and storing stormwater.

The Greens encourage stormwater harvesting projects in other metropolitan councils where possible, and harvested stormwater has the potential to generate income if the treated water is sold to local industries. Harvested stormwater can also be used to recharge underground aquifers through a process known as aquifer storage and recovery.

The River Murray, our traditional water source for Adelaide, is in a critical state. Unsustainable extraction means that not enough water is flowing into the Lower Lakes and Coorong in dry periods, and all forecasted climate change scenarios show this situation will only get worse. The provision of clean, adequate and affordable water is essential for a healthy society, and we do need a plan to secure our water resources in this state. With these few words, the Greens support this bill and commend it to the council.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. T.J. Stephens.

## **YOUTH JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION BILL**

### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 2 December 2015.)

**The Hon. A.L. McLACHLAN (11:18):** I rise to speak to the Youth Justice Administration Bill 2015. I indicate that the opposition will support the second reading of the bill and does not, at this stage, envisage any amendments.

This bill follows from a government announcement in December 2014 that it intended to introduce legislation to capture the various provisions in youth justice under one uniform act. The bill before the chamber reflects this initiative as it seeks to consolidate all youth justice administrative functions into one legislative framework. We are advised that the ultimate aim is to bring the administration of training centres and community-based supervision services up to date and in line with contemporary operational standards.

In practical terms the bill seeks to regulate what occurs when a young person is ordered into and placed in detention. It aligns legislative powers for administrative management, particularly of the youth training centres with the Young Offenders Act 1993, addresses gaps in the current legislation and seeks to contemporise other relevant legislation to better reflect best practice. It is intended to clearly outline through regulations what is expected through culturally appropriate practice, for example, culturally appropriate assessment and case planning, which is inclusive of family, kinship and community in decision-making.

There has also been specific inclusion in the bill that the Youth Justice Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander principle is to be observed. This will mean that services must remain culturally relevant to the needs of the child or young person, and reflect the cultural diversity of Aboriginal communities.

The new provisions relating to the training centre will provide more robust legislative support for this important function. I note that it is standard protocol in national and international youth justice and administration agreements that there must be an independent monitoring mechanism in places of detention. Apparently the current practice here is for the Guardian for Children and Young People to act in this capacity via delegation, instruments and administrative agreement.

The functions of the new training centre visitor will be vitally important for the operational success of this legislation, for they will have the power to conduct visits and inspections of training centres, as well as inquire into and provide advice to the minister in relation to any systematic reform needed to improve the quality of care, treatment or control of the residents. I am pleased that the training centre visitor will be able to visit the youth training centre unannounced. Without this, the ultimate benefit of having a training centre visitor would be largely diminished.

Other provisions of the bill outline various conditions for residents whilst they are in a youth detention facility. These provisions include, for example:

- the education requirements for a young person in detention;
- prohibited treatments of residents;
- the power to search residents;
- the power to drug test residents; and
- the use of sniffer dogs.

There are also a number of changes surrounding the process of transferring a young person from a youth detention facility to an adult prison.

I am particularly encouraged to see the inclusion of the education provisions in this bill so that courses of instruction or training will be made available to detained youth, and furthermore that they will be encouraged to further their education. On this point, we in the Liberal Party have a strong belief in the power of education. It is key for those in the youth justice system, enabling them to achieve future prosperity, rehabilitation and, ultimately, redemption. Too often offenders are unable to rebuild their lives once they are released from detention because they lack the necessary skills and training to obtain employment. Too often this traps youths in a vicious cycling of reoffending and reincarceration.

I am also pleased to see that the bill includes a principle and objective that a family inclusive practice approach should be applied wherever possible. Like education, this recognises that support from the family unit also plays an integral important role in the successful rehabilitation of an offender, and quite often is determinative of whether an offender will be able to successfully reintegrate back into the community.

I note that the chief executive will be required to report on the operation of this act and the work of the department each year. I look forward, through the provision of these reports, to observing how this bill will operate in practice when enacted and whether further attention of the parliament is required. I commend the bill to the chamber.

**The Hon. K.L. VINCENT (11:24):** Dignity for Disability is pleased to speak to the second reading of this bill today and express our support for it. The bill, as has already been explained by other members, seeks to reflect the current reality and best practice in the administration of youth justice by creating a singular legislative framework.

I understand that it follows three years of consultation and includes quite a number of progressive measures, some of which have been outlined by the speaker before me, the Hon. Mr McLachlan. These include the appointment of a training centre visitor as an independent monitor of the detention facility who will be available to advocate for residents and, as has been said, visit

unannounced—not unlike our current community visitor scheme which plays a vital role in ensuring adequate standards for people with disabilities and mental health diagnoses.

The bill also proposes a charter of rights for youths detained in training centres and a youth justice Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander principle. Also reflected in this bill is the shift in emphasis since the Young Offenders Act 1993 from punishment to rehabilitation, and this is certainly something that I welcome. It also reflects the fact that the majority of young people in the youth justice system are now in community-based supervision rather than traditional detention. I am advised that this is now made more feasible by new technology, including GPS tracking. The proposed legislation is in line with the provision of co-located services in the new Adelaide Youth Training Centre.

On the campus there is a school and a health centre, including a dentist. I understand that residents' needs and circumstances, including any physical or intellectual disability, for example, are regularly and comprehensively assessed. Of course, this is something that we strongly welcome. Such assessment and the provision of health and education services on-site responding to that assessment aims to ensure that residents' case management is fully informed and tailored to the needs of each young person as an individual.

With those few brief words, Dignity for Disability is certainly pleased to see this step towards a more progressive catering for young people in detention, be that traditional detention or, thankfully, more and more, community-based detention. We strongly support this bill and look forward to the committee stage.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. J.S. Lee.

## GOVERNMENT HOUSE PRECINCT LAND DEDICATION BILL

### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 1 December 2015.)

**The Hon. A.L. McLACHLAN (11:28):** I rise to speak to the Government House Precinct Land Dedication Bill. The South Australian community has been scarred by war. The hopes and aspirations of those who came before us were that no-one would have to experience the horrors of war that they had had to endure and that their children and children's children would live in a lasting peace.

That dream has not become a reality. We live in a world where war is still a grim reality for many. Even as I speak, there are Australian servicemen and women in harm's way serving their country in foreign lands. It is therefore fitting, having just commemorated the centenary year of the ANZAC campaign, that we acknowledge the service of South Australian men and women who have served in conflict.

This bill provides for the creation of the ANZAC Centenary Memorial Garden Walk. It is a worthy endeavour and the Liberal Party will support the bill through the chamber. We have been advised that the key aim of this is to improve understanding and awareness of Australia's war time experience. This is a worthy aim, but is not, by implication, complementary to the state's educational institutions charged with the duty to inform our children of their collective past and their obligations to our society.

We are also advised that the memorial walk will be designed around three pillars of symbolism: remembrance, service and loyalty. These are worthy sentiments, although there appear to be no pillars in the design. The walk will bear witness to all major conflicts since Federation and also include recent conflicts, including the one that I was briefly called upon to serve in. There will be an interpretive wall of black granite which will have images that depict Australian society through a centenary of conflict.

This bill is required because land is being taken from the surrounds of Government House. This has not been done since 1927. I query why this bill is only now before the chamber when it is clear that work has already begun. This is a minor matter, but it is a demonstration of the government's contempt for the workings of this chamber and the government in general in the name of the people. It is also perturbing that the original legislation governing the land which is the subject

of this bill states that the land will be reserved for all time. This very bill before us uses the same such language, yet we are seeing, in the tabling of this bill, a government not keeping the commitments of the past and ensuring the reservation of certain land. By doing so it undermines the confidence our citizens have in their parliament when we casually refuse to keep faith with reservations and commitments made long ago.

The design of the walk does not please my personal aesthetic. I think the modern trend to machine etch photographs onto stone diminishes the purpose of the memorial. Modern memorials, often made with an eye to cost rather than the sacrifice of our citizens, do not, in my view, adequately compare with the older memorials. Modern memorials often do not enjoy the craftsmanship that the old memorials exhibit, where the love and dedication of the maker add to the sacredness of the edifice. The work of the machine should not replace the work of the hand when building a reminder of the sacrifice of our dead.

There are pleasing examples of this type of memorial in the vicinity, cast in bronze from sculpture of talented artists. There are better examples of memorials in this city and our state. Nevertheless, I acknowledge that the design before us met with the approval of the consultation process. Perhaps what the design lacks is the purity of a single artist's vision, rather than the design of a team of architects seeking to please committees and consultative forums.

I suspect that this is a problem Adelaide faces more generally, as mediocre and bland architecture, created by architects untrained or unaware of the rules of classical architecture and governed by their fragile egos, continues to inflict visual disappointments on our city. I do hope, however, that this initiative will draw more South Australians and visitors to the precinct.

War or the experience of it should not be glorified; its brutality should be acknowledged. It is my view that memorials such as this should particularly focus on sacrifice and the unbearable pain that war inflicts and endeavour to produce within each of us the quiet resolve not to forget the sacrifices of the past and to work hard to build a better future for our children. In this way we can attempt to address Wilfred Owen's lament in his poetry that subsequent generations will learn nothing from the carnage of the trench.

I am reminded of *The Iliad*, which preaches to us of the impact of war and in particular the grief Priam felt for his lost son Hector. King Priam says:

For so many of my flourishing sons he killed: I did not mourn as much for them, for all my grief, as for this one, bitter grief for whom will carry me down to the house of Hades—Hector. Would he have died in my arms.

I like to think that, upon completion, this memorial will evoke such raw emotions. Although, from what I know to date, I suspect I will be disappointed.

It is proposed that the Dardanelles memorial will be relocated from the south Parklands and repositioned on the walk. While there is some nobility to the idea, I am not in favour of consolidating all our memorials into one place and forsaking its sacred and historical home in the south. I believe it is wiser and more respectful to leave it in the south, and I am not alone in this view. I tabled a petition that prays that we preserve the community's Wattle Day Dardanelles Cenotaph in the south Parklands. The petition also prays that the chamber reject the bill; the Liberal Party does not agree with this position as the bill facilitates the walk and its clauses do not address the relocation of the Dardanelles cenotaph.

One of the organisers of the petition was the grandson of Colonel Walter Dollman, commander of the 27<sup>th</sup> South Australian Battalion at Gallipoli and subsequently in France. It is a strongly held view of the petitioners that the removal of the memorial is a misappropriation and utter desecration of the cenotaph. To move the memorial from the south will destroy its primary context; in other words, desecrate the reason for its being.

The memorial's current home in the southern Parklands also has strong links to the state's military history, dating from as early as 1885. When the memorial was unveiled it was sited in a wattle grove in the southern parklands. The creation of the wattle grove and the construction of the cenotaph were the work of the Wattle Day League, a women's group that raised funds to supply amenities to the troops. The memorial was dedicated by the then governor-general Sir Ronald Ferguson on Tuesday 7 September 1915. Importantly, ANZAC services were conducted at the memorial in

subsequent years. It is an important memorial and represents an early attempt by our South Australian community to grapple with the losses of our sons on foreign shores. In time the wattle grove was lost and the cenotaph was moved to its current location.

The Dardanelles memorial is the first memorial in Australia erected to soldiers of the First World War. It commemorates the landing of ANZAC forces on the Gallipoli peninsula on 25 April 1915 and the many casualties suffered. The memorial was erected and unveiled when troops were still pinned down and suffering heavy casualties on the Gallipoli peninsula; nevertheless *The Register's* report of the occasion emphasised not grief but pride and a call to service.

The rough stone base represented the rugged hills up which the Australian soldiers had to climb. The smooth stone at the apex symbolised victory. Initially the obelisk had a flat stone surface on which a vase of flowers could be placed, but it was later topped by a stone cross. The inscription carved into the granite block beneath the cross simply acknowledged the Australasian soldiers at the landing.

It is my view that the sacrifice of those who have come before us should be woven throughout the fabric of our city, not all corralled together. We should be encouraged to think of the sacrifice of all those who gave their life to our state, wherever we toil in the confines of this city. We should respect the past gatherings of our kin and the ground upon which they dedicated their memorials. The dedication of the builders and the solemn gatherings of mothers mourning their lost sons has made part of the southern parklands sacred to the memory of lost youth sacrificed for empire.

We should not relocate their tribute on a whim. We should not relocate their tribute because we have an eye on the cost of the new walk. We should not relocate their tribute because we no longer have the vision, will or resolve to create new physical public acknowledgments of the sacrifice of our war dead and those injured in conflict. A more respectful action by the state would be to recreate the grove and leave the cenotaph close to the ground where the tears of mothers, inconsolable with grief, have fallen.

I suspect it will be difficult to reverse the course of action now decided, to uproot the cenotaph and drag it to the location of the walk. I console myself that if the relocation proceeds it will at least provide an example of loving craftsmanship against the modern ways bereft of creation by the loving hand—which, it appears, will unfortunately populate the remainder of the trail. Despite my aesthetic reservation, I strongly support the creation of this walk. The walk will be an important reminder of service and sacrifice. I hope it will ensure that the noble sacrifice of those who came before us remains firmly in our community's collective consciousness.

I have some questions for the minister to which I seek a response at his second reading summing up. Were any significant trees cut down during the works? If so, what were the species of those trees and their ages? Were any of the trees cut down of historic or cultural significance? Are any trees going to be cut down in the immediate future? If so, what species and ages are those trees? Are any of the trees that will be cut down of historic or cultural significance? If trees have been or will be removed, will these trees be replaced? Will they be replaced with the same species and what age will the replacements be?

I ask members to have regard to the petition and also to the lack of judgement in moving the cenotaph. I commend the bill to the chamber and leave you with the words of Achilles as told to the embassy:

...if I stay here and fight beside the city of the Trojans, my return home is gone, but my glory shall be everlasting; but if I return home to the beloved land of my fathers, the excellence of my glory is gone, but there will be a long life for me left, and my end in death will not come to me quickly. And this would be my counsel to others also, to sail back home again.

The greatest warrior of the classics is telling us: savour life; it is more important than glory. We should remember the deeds of past soldiers, not just commemorate, which is why we must respect the grief of the mothers who lost their sons at Gallipoli and not disrespect their memorial by moving it simply to complement a city path. Their soldier sons did not come home. The mothers never recovered from their grief. I commend the bill to the chamber.



**The Hon. K.L. VINCENT (11:41):** I take the floor on behalf of Dignity for Disability to say a few words on this bill. I doubt that they are going to be anywhere near as poetic as the contribution of our previous speaker, but I will give it a crack.

The passage of this legislation would appear to be a necessary precursor for the construction of the proposed ANZAC Centenary Memorial Walk. However, as is well known, that project was approved by the government in January 2014—some two years ago. I understand that it received planning approval in July 2015. The Public Works Committee reported on the project on 2 July 2015. Construction started in August and its completion is imminent. The new memorial walk is due to be ready for ANZAC Day of this very year.

Nonetheless, this place is only now considering proposed legislative changes to enable the eastern boundary of the Government House grounds to be shifted 10 metres to the west in order to create the site for this already virtually finished project. The merits of this project notwithstanding, like the previous speaker I see that the question surely must be asked: what is the justification for dealing with this bill in retrospect?

It does not appear to be the case that the government belatedly became aware of the need for the legislation. As soon as the project was conceived—as I said, over two years ago—it would have been evident that the project needed to occupy a slice of the Government House grounds. When the memorial walk's design was finalised, the exact extent of the reduction was known. The Public Works Committee's report on the project states, on page 7:

The grounds of Government House are legislated under the Government House Domain Dedication Act 1927. The Act will require legislative amendment to reflect the new boundary of Government House 10 metres west of its current location.

In the absence of any other explanation, the clear implication is that the government considers that the role and stature of this parliament is unimportant. An uncharitable person—certainly one less charitable than I—might suggest that parliament is being treated with some contempt. There is another aspect of the ANZAC Centenary Memorial Walk project about which I would like to express some concern.

It is the intention to relocate the Dardanelles monument from Lundie Gardens, in the south Parklands, to the zone of the memorial walk. The Dardanelles monument, unveiled on 7 September 2015, was the first in Australia and New Zealand, I understand, to commemorate the First World War. It was moved a short distance in 1940. Nonetheless, in its present location it has links to the military history of the south Parklands that dates back to 1885. It has been the site of annual memorial services on the anniversary of its dedication. In addition, the monument was conceived for a garden setting. It was created by the Wattle League and was originally surrounded by the Gallipoli memorial wattle grove.

Mr Walter Dollman, grandson of the commander of the South Australian contingent (27<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF) in the Dardanelles, where the monument was dedicated, has argued that moving the monument will practically destroy its primary context, its builders' intention, and its secondary context, being its use since. Mr Dollman's views highlight the important point that any built memorial, not least one over 100 years old, cannot be considered as a disembodied object that will simply retain its significance wherever it is placed.

Apart from the other aspects of its heritage mentioned here, the Dardanelles monument has been a landmark in the corner of the Parklands for many decades. Relocating it to a new hard-paved area to be grouped with a cluster of other First World War memorials will, I understand, detract from the value of the monument itself and from its historic original site.

I register my objection on behalf of people like Mr Dollman to this aspect of the ANZAC Centenary Memorial Walk project. Notwithstanding that objection, and the objection to the time at which this legislation has come to the parliament, I indicate Dignity for Disability's support for this bill.

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (11:47):** I also rise to indicate my support for this bill which facilitates the erection of an ANZAC Centenary Memorial Walk at the Government House precinct along Kintore Avenue.

The memorial walk was partly funded under the commonwealth government's ANZAC Public Fund. This fund is an extremely competitive one to win a grant from. My understanding is that many worthwhile projects Australia-wide had their grant applications refused owing to the sheer quality of applications received. The total cost of the project is \$9.7 million and made up of \$5 million from the ANZAC Public Fund, \$3 million from the state government and \$2 million from the Adelaide City Council. It is good to see the Adelaide City Council on board.

All honourable members here would be aware of the important part these types of projects play in sharing the stories of South Australians at war.

Like the granite that was used to build this parliament, the Memorial Walk interpretative wall will be made from one of Adelaide's black granites. It was designed by Grieve Gillett Dimitty Andersen Architects, following extensive consultation with the veterans' groups and other key stakeholders. The design will be around three pillars of symbolism: remembrance, service and loyalty.

It will pay tribute to more than 102,000 Australian servicemen and women lost in conflict since Federation. It will also document all major conflicts from World War I to Afghanistan and Iraq, operational theatres, peacekeeping, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, the home front, the Cheer Up Society, animals, matériel and equipment.

I would like to briefly acknowledge the role that Sir Eric Neal, as Chair of the Veterans Advisory Council, played in making this project happen. The VAC, which is the Veterans Advisory Council, was established in April 2008 to promote the wellbeing of veterans and provide advice to the state government about matters concerning the veterans' community.

The VAC is chaired by Sir Eric Neal, includes lots of veterans, and has distinguished people on the committee. This is some of the CV of Sir Eric Neal. He was appointed to review Australia's Higher Defence Organisation in 1981. In 1992, he was awarded the United States Department of Defense Medal for distinguished public service by the Secretary of Defense, in recognition of his contribution in chairing the council that organised the commemorative events in Australia to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Other members on the VAC include Mrs Helen Adamson. Mrs Adamson is the State President of the War Widows' Guild and Vice President of the Partners of Veterans' Association. Another member is Mr Chris Burns CSC. Mr Burns enlisted in the Australian Army as an apprentice electrician in 1975 and graduated from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, in 1979. As most members would be aware, Mr Burns now runs the Defence Teaming Centre for South Australia.

Another member is Mr Leon Eddy. Mr Eddy volunteered for national service. He served with the 2RTB and the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment.

Mr David Everitt was a national serviceman who saw operational service in Vietnam with 9 RAR. Mr Ray Kemp is the State President of the Submarine Association of Australia and its National Pensions and Welfare Coordinator. Ms Chantelle Graham served in the Royal Australian Navy from July 1997 until June 2003. Her rank on discharge was Leading Seaman, Combat Systems Operator. During her career, Ms Graham was posted to the Australian joint intelligence centre in Sydney and served on HMAS *Tobruk* between 1999 and 2001.

Another member of the VAC is Lieutenant Colonel Jack Gregg. Lieutenant Colonel Gregg is the Deputy Commander of 1 Brigade based at RAAF Base, Edinburgh. Lieutenant Colonel Gregg graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in December 1976 into the Royal Australian Infantry.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Ngo, are you reading a speech or Wikipedia? What are you doing?

**The Hon. T.T. NGO:** No, I am just reading some—

**The PRESIDENT:** It really is out of order using a phone. I have tolerated it up to now, but it just seems to be dragging on a little bit.

**The Hon. T.T. NGO:** I am just trying to mention some of the VAC members.

**The PRESIDENT:** Yes, I know that, but it is not appropriate to use a phone.

**The Hon. T.T. NGO:** They are the names of some members of the VAC. I would like to acknowledge the role that Sir Eric Neil played at the time of this proposal to feature an ANZAC Day centenary memorial walk. I was working with the then minister for veterans' affairs, the Hon. Jack Snelling MP, and I have been well aware of this project from an early stage since it was first put to the government. I am happy that the Labor government saw the merit in this project and made it an election commitment.

I ceased to be involved with this project after the election, and I was really disappointed at that time that the Liberal Party did not make the same commitment had they won the election. Obviously, the Hon. Andrew McLachlan was not there at that stage; he was not involved in the election campaign, so I am assuming had he been around he would have made sure that the Liberal Party would have been on board with this project right at the start to make this a bipartisan project. However, now that he is here it is great to hear him speak glowingly about the project. I was also hoping, as I am sure the veteran community was also, that this project would play a role in the last state election. Unfortunately, the Liberal Party did not come around to it.

It was Sir Eric Neil's persistent support for this project that made it possible. As a former governor of South Australia, he understood the nature of what was being proposed and sold the concept to many different stakeholders. I know that if it wasn't for Sir Eric Neil's dedication and persistence this project would not have got over the line.

I would also like to thank the current Governor, His Excellency Hieu Van Le, for his understanding and willingness to see this project through. I will quote some of the comments made by the current Governor about the project. Governor Hieu Van Le said that the project was 'so important that it's good enough for some land from this house to be excised'. Further, he stated:

I have, however, sought assurances to make sure it has no unreasonable impact to the privacy, functionality, heritage aspects and security of the house.

Another quote from him:

I am a strong believer in the community thanking the sacrifices of all South Australians—and Australians, for that matter—involved in armed conflicts in the world in our name. It is important to recognise and honour them, especially those that make the ultimate sacrifice.

I also have a few quotes from Sir Eric Neal, as follows:

[the government] deserves a lot of credit for bringing this project to fruition, given it's been going on for some years.

He further stated:

When it was first put forward to Veterans Advisory Council—

which I read out earlier—

the plan was to take 40 metres [of Government House], which was a disaster, in my opinion.

Sir Eric Neal went on to say, however:

As a former Governor I feel very comfortable about it, it's going to benefit the state and the people of this state.

He said that about the revised version of the plans being presented in this bill. I commend the current Governor for his willingness to open up Government House to the public by giving up 10 metres of setbacks, which made it possible for this project to go ahead. With that, I commend this bill to the council.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins.

*Sitting suspended from 12:03 to 14:16.*

*Condolence*

**FREEBAIRN, MR J.S.**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive**

**Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy (14:16):** With the leave of the council, I move:

That the Legislative Council expresses its deep regret at the recent death of the Mr John Sydney Freebairn, former member of the House of Assembly, and places on record its appreciation of his distinguished public service, and that as a mark of respect to his memory the sitting of the council be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

Although I never had the opportunity to meet Mr Freebairn personally, I trust there will be members opposite who did, and I hope they will share many anecdotes relating to his character and his contribution and service to the community.

Mr Freebairn entered parliament as a young man—only 31 years old at the time of his election as a member for the district of Light and, at the time, the youngest member of the South Australian parliament. His young age was subject to much media commentary at the time, but to my knowledge neither his suitability nor his capability for the position were ever in question.

He was educated at Scotch College and then at the School of Mines, and it is very clear from his speeches in the other place that he was both well spoken and well informed on the matters on which he spoke. In the tradition of his pioneer family, he made his living as a farmer and was quite involved in the affairs of both the SA Wheat and Woolgrowers' Association and that great institution, the Agricultural Bureau.

In Mr Freebairn's day, the district of Light covered a very large geographical area extending to the east and north-east, even past the River Murray. In his efforts to faithfully represent the interests of his constituents, Mr Freebairn acknowledged that one challenge of governance in South Australia at the time—and indeed still is in the present day—was to balance the needs and requirements of our farmers and pastoralists with the needs and requirements of urban and suburban populations.

Mr Freebairn endeavoured to conduct himself justly and reasonably in the matter of the fair and equitable allocation of resources across the two categories of industry in South Australia—the primary and secondary industries. We know from the words he spoke in the other place that he had a keen understanding of and a clear sympathy for the plight of farmers with regard, in particular, to water allocation. His speeches to the house demonstrated an apparent encyclopaedic knowledge of the economics of water infrastructure, in particular in his district, and if you go back and read them I am sure you will be struck by the level of detail in his explanations.

Mr Freebairn was a champion of reform and progress. Aligned at the time with the Liberal Movement, he campaigned internally for both reform of the electoral system and for a modernisation of the values of the Liberal and Country League. He was proud of the eventual success in the Liberal Movement in advancing its progressive cause, but his political career ended, he believed, as a consequence of this slowness in advancement. He unsuccessfully stood for the Midland district in the Legislative Council at the 1973 election. He remained interested in politics, even afterwards, and continued to advocate for the interest of the community and its industries.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Leader of the Opposition) (14:20):** I rise to endorse the comments made by the Leader of the Government in relation to the life of John Sydney Freebairn and to add some comments on behalf of the opposition. As the Leader of the Government mentioned, Mr Freebairn was born into a family with a pioneering background and grew up in Alma, where he later farmed. Incidentally, some of my early ancestors also farmed at Alma.

Mr Freebairn was educated at the Alma Primary School and later at Scotch College. It is important to note that Mr Freebairn was involved with the Agricultural Bureau of South Australia for some 20 years and was a member of the South Australian Wheat and Wool Growers Association. I think it was in those early days that he had a real love affair with the South Australian rural sector, realising especially how important it was to our state's economy.

He became the Liberal member for Light in the South Australian House of Assembly in 1962 through to 1970 and, as the Leader of the Government mentioned, at the time he was the youngest member of the House of Assembly, aged 31. It was probably some time before that age record was broken, I suspect. Even more so at the time, he also noticed that the electorate of Light, to which he was elected, was reliant on its pastoral, agricultural and fruit growing industries.

I remember meeting Mr Freebairn at a couple of Liberal Party functions, where he still had a very strong interest in rural affairs and advocacy for rural affairs. The minister mentioned some of the speeches he made, and Mr Freebairn still talked to me about equality around water allocation and some of the other things he was passionate about while a member of parliament. He was always a strong advocate for these rural industries in his electorate, and he sought to improve the three main issues he thought were facing the industry, namely, water, power and transport. I am sure even today he would see that water, power and transport are still major issues facing not only the rural industries that reside in the electorate of Light (or the area it was then) but facing all of us today.

As the Leader of the Government said, Mr Freebairn won preselection for the Legislative Council district of Midland in 1973 but, unfortunately for Mr Freebairn, was defeated at the polls. He also went on and contested the federal seat of Wakefield for the Liberal Movement in the 1974 federal election. So, we can see that Mr Freebairn had a long connection with his electorate, a long connection with his community and a long connection with the Liberal Party and, of course, with the Liberal Movement. With these few words, I offer my condolences and the condolences of the Liberal Party to his family and friends.

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (14:23):** I rise to endorse the remarks made by the Leader of the Government and Leader of the Opposition respectively. I am probably one of the few members of this place who actually knew Mr John Freebairn for a significant period of time. In fact, he and my father were both members of the Liberal and Country League and members of this parliament around the time the Liberal Movement came to the fore as a part of the Liberal and Country League and, of course, then later as it became a separate party. While my father and Mr Freebairn were on different sides of that scenario, they always maintained good relationships, and certainly later in life that continued.

Mr Freebairn was only 30 when he was endorsed as a candidate for the LCL which, as some might have remarked, in those days was seen as almost an infant. It received a few headlines in the country papers of the day, certainly the papers that covered the area of Alma via Hamley Bridge. I know the Clerk of this place remembers Mr Freebairn as making it clear that is where he came from. While Alma is a very prominent farming area and is close to Owen and Salter Springs and places like that, not everybody knows where Alma is so he always said, 'I come from Alma via Hamley Bridge.'

Certainly I concur with the remarks about his commitment to a number of agricultural organisations, particularly the poultry industry. I do not think that they were specifically mentioned, but certainly he was a director of the Red Comb Cooperative organisation which existed amongst the poultry producers. He was a member of the South Australian Egg Board and, of course, also as a grain grower he was a director of South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd for some 10 years.

I think, as has been noted by previous speakers, he held the seat of Light on three occasions—1962, 1965 and 1968—and at that stage, as the Leader of the Government alluded to, it was a different seat than it is today. In fact, *The Advertiser* election guide in 1962 described Light as:

A pastoral, agricultural and fruit growing electorate with a few towns and small industrial pockets. Subdivisions are Eudunda, Kapunda, Morgan, Riverton and Saddleworth.

Of course, in the redistribution leading up to the 1970 election the seat of Gawler, as it was, was dissolved. The seat of Gawler had not only the town of Gawler but all the Elizabeth suburbs in it, but because of the growth in population there was a need to create new seats to the south of Gawler and so the town of Gawler, and a number of its surrounding areas, went into the seat of Light and changed the nature of that seat significantly.

As it was, the then mayor of Gawler, the Hon. Dr Bruce Eastick, ran for the preselection for the LCL against John Freebairn and, because the number of Liberal members in Gawler probably outswamped those who had come from those northern areas, he won preselection. Dr Eastick then went on to become the leader of the LCL and the Liberal Party, after the name changes and went on to become the member for Light for some 23 years.

I noted with great interest in Mr Freebairn's maiden speech a number of issues that I think would still be relevant today. One that was relevant to a lot of people was the need for better east-west connections in road transport in the Lower and Mid North of South Australia. I think many people for a long time have been somewhat perplexed by the dogleg nature of how you go from, say, Port Wakefield across to the Riverland.

It is interesting to note that some 54 years ago, in a maiden speech, that was one of the issues that Mr Freebairn raised. In fact, he talked about some of the work that had been done by the government on the Renmark-Eudunda road—which was in those days known as the North of the River Road—and some work that had been done by the District Council of Eudunda on the Eudunda-Marrabel road. He talked also about connections between Saddleworth and Balaklava which, some would say, are still waiting.

The interesting one he talked about was the fact that at that stage there was some progress by the New South Wales government in sealing the Hay-Wentworth road, which we all know is the Sturt Highway going across the Hay Plain, and he was interested in bringing some form of sealed road, I suppose, from Wentworth on the north side of the river to Renmark and then through to Morgan and beyond. To my mind, for that to have been raised in 1962, was visionary. It might have been hopeful, because we still do not have a sealed road, certainly in South Australia between Renmark and Wentworth, but it is interesting to me that he could think of those sorts of linkages, some of which we still have not achieved.

Mr Freebairn had a lengthy retirement from parliament because, he did, as has been said, attempt to come into this august house in 1973 but was unsuccessful. In his lengthy retirement, having left the service of the parliament at the age of 40, he still was very happy to come here to make friendships with people who had not necessarily been here when he was here, and he was a frequent visitor to the place. He was always very respectful in the way he dealt with me and I regard that highly.

I remember one of the more recent times when I saw him at an event in the country, and it must be about 10 years ago, acknowledging the voluntary service of CFS members in the Hamley Bridge area. He was very strong on the emergency services sector in his district and, of course, that area has, in only recent months, been decimated by fire. I am not sure whether his former property was impacted because I think that was probably at the northern end of the perimeter but, certainly, the town of Hamley Bridge was surrounded.

I think it is important, though, to emphasise that Mr Freebairn was a very young man when he came to parliament, particularly for that day. He would have also been a very young man to have lost his parliamentary career, but he never brought any sense of being bitter about that when he came to this place and, as I said, I think he was active in the former members' association, but he was always a friendly person who would come into the refreshment room, I will call it, and I think probably made himself known to many people in this place. With those remarks, I support the motion.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

*Sitting suspended from 14:33 to 14:52.*

*Parliamentary Procedure*

**PAPERS**

The following paper was laid on the table:

By the Minister for Police (Hon. P.B. Malinauskas)—

City of Mount Gambier—Industry (Timber Mill) Zone Development Plan Amendment—  
Report

*Ministerial Statement***WATER PRICING**

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (14:52):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** Today, the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) has released its draft determination to set SA Water's maximum revenue for the second regulatory period from 2016-17 to 2019-20. The government welcomes the draft determination. If ESCOSA maintains a similar revenue path in its final determination, the government will be able to deliver a cut in water bills to South Australians.

Over the last decade, this government has made significant investment in water infrastructure, such as the desal plant and the interconnection pipeline. Our water pricing policies are designed to ensure fair and equitable service delivery for all South Australians, irrespective of where they live in our state. Today's draft determination recommends overall revenue reduction of 3 per cent or \$160 million over four years, averaging \$40 million a year.

This draft determination proposes real reductions, resulting in a total revenue reduction, as I said, of 3 per cent. This would achieve a further reduction in bills for SA Water customers once prices are set following ESCOSA's final determination, due to be released in June. It is a continuation of the reduction achieved as a result of ESCOSA's first determination in 2013, which delivered a reduction in water prices of 6.4 per cent in 2013-14 with price increases limited to CPI for the following two years.

Together with the \$50 million annual revenue reduction from the first determination, this draft determination means SA Water customers could together be saving \$90 million per year compared to 2012. Independent economic regulation of SA Water is working. It has driven transformation within the business to ensure it is more customer focused and reduces its costs to deliver savings to customers. ESCOSA, in its draft determination, has recognised the work that SA Water has done in this respect.

The draft determination is now open for consultation until 24 March. I encourage all stakeholders and interested members of the public to use this opportunity to have input into the determination which will be the basis of water prices for the next four years. The government and SA Water will be working through the detail of the draft determination, and I look forward to coming back to the house to advise of the final water prices following ESCOSA's final determination, due to be released in June.

**LGBTIQ LAW REFORM**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:54):** I table a copy of a ministerial statement relating to LGBTIQ law reform made by the Premier in another place.

**OVERSEAS GOODS EXPORTS**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:55):** I table a copy of a ministerial statement relating to South Australian overseas goods and exports, December 2015, made in another place by my very good friend the Minister for Investment and Trade.

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS**

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (14:55):** I lay upon the table a ministerial statement, made in the other place by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, entitled Research and Development Corporations.

## WATER PRICING

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:55):** I table a ministerial statement made in the other place by the Treasurer on the Essential Services Commission South Australian draft pricing determination.

### *Parliamentary Committees*

## LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

**The Hon. G.A. KANDELAARS (14:57):** I bring up the 18<sup>th</sup> report of the committee.

Report received.

### *Question Time*

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Leader of the Opposition) (14:57):** My question is to the Minister for Police, Correctional Services, Emergency Services and Road Safety. Minister, do you support the Premier's policy of increasing the GST to 15 per cent?

**The Hon. K.J. Maher:** Didn't you ask that question yesterday?

**The PRESIDENT:** The honourable Leader of the Opposition is—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition is asking a different minister the same question. Minister.

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:58):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition in this place for the opportunity to answer an important question. I wholeheartedly support the Premier.

The Premier of South Australia has been left with a diabolical circumstance by the honourable member's federal colleagues. The Leader of the Opposition went to the last federal election making a clear unconditional promise that they would not be making any cuts to health and they would not be making any cuts to education, yet only a short period after that we find ourselves faced with the situation where over \$80 billion worth of cuts have been made by this federal government to health and education which have left this state with an enormous challenge.

I am a Labor man, which means that I believe in the concept of universal health care, which means that I believe that education is the great enabler in lifting people up out of the working class and into the middle class, and which means I believe in adequately funding education. So, I am very proud of the fact that we have a premier in this state who is not willing to squib challenges and is willing to actually seriously contemplate whatever is necessary to ensure that we do have the adequate health and education funding that this state desperately needs and which the people of South Australia most desperately want.

So, in answer to the member's question, I wholeheartedly support having a premier who is serious about debate, who is serious about showing leadership, which I think stands in stark contrast to the Prime Minister of Australia, who was happy to undermine an existing prime minister by talking about things like climate change, by talking about things like same-sex marriage, by talking about health and education funding, but as soon as he is put in a precarious position or it puts a bit of blowback on him, he squibs, whether it be the republic, same-sex marriage, climate change or, now, health and education funding. We have a Prime Minister who squibs and baulks at challenge, whereas in South Australia we are blessed to have a leader who is serious about tackling those challenges head on.



**GOODS AND SERVICES TAX**

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Leader of the Opposition) (15:00):** We know you support the Premier, he gave you this job. My question was: do you support the GST being raised to 15 per cent?

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY:** It was.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY:** Do you want to answer every question?

**The PRESIDENT:** Minister.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY:** I asked a supplementary question.

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:00):** I stand by my previous answer. I support having a premier who is willing to tackle the challenges—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS:** —that are brought before him.

**GOODS AND SERVICES TAX**

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Leader of the Opposition) (15:00):** Further supplementary.

**The PRESIDENT:** You can have a further supplementary, but I expect a little bit of decorum on this side of the bench. You are asking this question; let him answer it in silence. Go ahead.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY:** Do you support the Premier's policy of increasing the GST to 15 per cent—a very simple question, Mr President.

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:01):** A very simple question that has a very simple answer. I support having a premier of this state who takes on the challenges that are brought before him. I support having a premier who wants to make sure that health and education funding in this state stack up.

**AVL TECHNOLOGY**

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (15:01):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Emergency Services a question in relation to AVL technology.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** The recent Samson Flat and Pinery bushfires highlighted the importance of reliable communications with CFS appliances, particularly locating appliances. I am advised that the second round of funding for the development of automatic vehicle location technology has been stopped. I ask: will the minister ensure that the project funding proceeds to enable the fitting of AVL to CFS trucks and will the minister ensure, as a matter of priority, that AVL technology is installed on CFS appliances before the 2016-17 fire danger season?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:02):** I thank the honourable member for his important question. Communications are absolutely essential when it comes to dealing with a bushfire situation, particularly one of the likes of Pinery that we saw very recently. This government is absolutely committed to ensuring that those volunteers who are on the ground fighting our fires are equipped with the best technology that can be reasonably afforded to ensure that their safety and communication is held in the paramount regard that we do.

With respect to the specifics of your question around AVL technology, it's a technology that I am aware of, it's a technology that does, arguably, have some good benefits to be introduced to CFS appliances. I'm happy to take your specific question on notice and come back to you with an

appropriate answer in due course. What I will say is that there are a range of other technologies that go beyond AVL technology that assist in communication that this government is wholeheartedly committed to, not least of which is the radio government network, which I am advised is one of the best in the country.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS:** The radio government network did experience substantial stress during the Pinery fire and the GRN, on balance, did hold up. There is room for improvement, we acknowledge, which is why this government is committed to the ongoing and increasing funding of upgrading that particular network. With respect to the AVL question, I am more than happy to take that on notice and come back with a detailed response.

#### HILLS LIMITED

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (15:03):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation prior to directing a question to the Leader of the Government on the subject of grants to businesses.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** One month prior to the last state election, the government announced a three-year jointly funded \$5 million partnership with manufacturer Hills. Briefly, two centres of excellence, evidently, were to be established. In relation to job creation, the government indicated they would create five full-time jobs, another 50 or so highly skilled positions would come as the centres matured and then another 30 research positions at allied organisations were also expected. My questions to the minister are:

1. What has been the total level of taxpayer funding provided to Hills under this particular grant arrangement?
2. Can the minister assure the house that the government ensured that the contracting agreement entered into included a provision which required Hills to pay back all the funding if the job targets were not met?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:04):** I thank the honourable member for his question and for his interest in this matter. The government entered into a funding agreement for \$2.5 million over three years with Hills Limited to establish the Hills Innovation Centre, with matching funds from the company. Hills estimated that the centre, aimed at supporting its transition to higher value-added activities, would lead to the creation of new, highly skilled jobs.

The centre was formally opened on 7 May 2014, with university researchers, students and small businesses having access to the centre, and in January 2015 the centre was moved to Tonsley. The centre has supported, on a competitive basis, start-ups and early-stage companies seeking to progress innovative projects with Hills. The centre has received 94 applications for funding, and two shortlisted projects have been allocated funding. On 27 May 2015 it was publicly announced that the Hills CEO at the time, Ted Pretty, had resigned from the company. In a meeting with the South Australian Department of State Development in June 2015, Hills discussed its interest in remaining involved with the innovation centre but withdrawing from it operationally.

The future of the centre is currently being reviewed by the government and Hills, including expanding access to its 3D printing equipment. In the meantime, one of the two projects funded by the Hills Innovation Centre has recently won multiple design awards from the South Australian chapter of the Design Institute of Australia. It is the award-winning nurse call-assisted device suitable for people with limited hand dexterity or arthritis. Hills also advised, in late 2015, that three South Australian manufacturers are involved in manufacturing this product, which is planned for release this year.

My understanding is that not all the funding has been paid. It was a three-year agreement, and Hills and the Department of State Development are currently negotiating what the withdrawal from the centre will look like.

### HILLS LIMITED

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (15:07):** A supplementary question: can the minister take on notice what level of funding has already been provided under the \$2.5 million, and can the minister advise the house (or if he cannot, then take it on notice) whether the contract agreement required Hills to repay all the funding should it not meet the job targets outlined in the grant agreement?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:07):** I am more than happy to take that on notice and bring back exactly the amount of funding that has and has not been paid to Hills. I will also take on notice and bring back what the contract stipulates in terms of return of funding in relation to targets and return of funding for moneys not yet expended.

### HILLS LIMITED

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (15:07):** A further supplementary: can the minister also indicate, or take on notice, which budget line was used to provide the funding for this particular agreement and which minister is currently responsible for that budget line, or can the minister confirm that he is the minister currently responsible for the budget line that was used?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:08):** I am happy to take that on notice.

### NORTHERN ECONOMIC PLAN

**The Hon. G.A. KANDELAARS (15:08):** My question is to the Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation. Can the minister update the chamber on how the Northern Economic Plan is assisting workers, and their families, who are at risk of losing their jobs in the automotive component companies?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:08):** I thank the member for his question and his ongoing interest in jobs in South Australia, particularly in the difficult area of automotive manufacturing. Yesterday I outlined some of the projects and paths that were announced recently in the Northern Economic Plan. As part of that announcement, additional support for workers employed in automotive supply chain companies, and their families, was announced.

When it comes to the workers, and their families, whose jobs are exposed to the automotive supply chain, we have led the way in providing assistance through our support package, the Automotive Workers in Transition Program. Through the program we are providing in excess of \$7 million to assist automotive workers and their families transition to new employment. Eligible workers are supported through five key elements: information sessions, career advice and transition services, skills recognition, training, and business start-up support.

We know that appropriate responses to the challenge facing South Australia require constant review, and support programs for workers have necessarily evolved over time. When needs change we will look at programs and change them as required. As part of the Northern Economic Plan, we have recently announced changes to the Automotive Workers in Transition Program which include providing that career advice and mentoring on how to access training to spouses of partners, not just the workers themselves who are affected in automotive supply chain companies.

We have also extended the time frame workers have to access the support package. A fixed date of 30 June 2018 has now been set as the extended date for eligible participants to register for the program. Eligible labour hire workers will now be able to register for the program before they finish working with their employer which aligns with all other eligible workers. We have also expanded the eligible expenses covered through the program, so automotive supply chain workers will now be able to access funding for things like vocational licences or for travel to get to a new workplace or training location.

We understand the impact that the wind-down in the automotive industry has on workers and their families will only increase as the end of manufacturing draws closer. We are committed to changing our programs to meet changing circumstances, and that is one of the reasons that we have been calling on the federal government to do the same to change their programs to meet changing circumstances.

There is \$795 million left in the automotive transition scheme, and we would like to see that scheme's eligibility criteria change to allow access to help industries and companies transition from automotive-exposed activities and also support industries that are going to take the place of those companies and provide jobs.

#### NORTHERN ECONOMIC PLAN

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:11):** Supplementary: in support of the extension of those opportunities to what you termed 'spouses', can I just seek an undertaking of whether or not that includes de facto partners, same-sex couples and the like, and not just heteronormative spouses?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:11):** I thank the honourable member for her question; it is a very good question. I don't have the details but I will bring back a reply quickly.

*The Hon. T.A. Franks interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Hon. Mr Lucas has the floor.

#### AUTOMOTIVE TRANSFORMATION SCHEME

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (15:12):** In terms of referring to alternative uses of the automotive transformation fund, the \$795 million, the minister made no reference to the Punch corporation. Was that a deliberate omission on behalf of the minister in relation to his judgement about the capacity of that particular organisation to access the fund?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:12):** No, it was not.

#### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**The Hon. J.A. DARLEY (15:12):** My questions are to the Minister for Police:

1. Can the minister advise whether, as new minister, he has been briefed by his departments on the time frames and procedures in dealing with questions taken on notice by the minister in parliament?
2. Is the minister satisfied with these procedures and response times?
3. In general terms, how long can honourable members expect to wait to receive answers to questions from the minister?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:13):** I thank the honourable member for his question. The simple commitment that I can make is to get answers back to honourable members, whether I take them on notice or more informally, as quickly as possible.

In answer to your specific question, I haven't received a briefing from SAPOL in terms of the brevity in which they will get to me specific questions on notice, but what I will say is this: in speaking with SAPOL about the exchange of information between my office and theirs, they quite rightly have made it very clear that the number one priority for them is accuracy of information, and that is a policy that I wholeheartedly endorse. The last thing I want to do, or this government wants to do, is find ourselves passing on sensitive information either to members of the public or honourable members of this chamber that isn't 100 per cent accurate.

When left with the choice between accuracy and speed, I think it's absolutely appropriate that SAPOL prioritise accuracy. Nevertheless, I will be seeking assurances from them that we do provide answers back to honourable members and, indeed, whether that be formally or informally, as quickly as possible. Policing, and our community safety, is not a partisan issue but something to which I think everyone in this chamber is wholeheartedly committed. When honourable members ask questions that have at their heart concerns about providing community safety, then I will be all too keen to make sure we provide that information to them as speedily as possible.

#### MINISTERIAL LIAISON OFFICERS

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE (15:14):** By way of supplementary question, can the minister advise the house how many ministerial liaison officers SAPOL has provided to his office?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:15):** I am advised that I currently have one ministerial liaison officer on staff within my office.

#### ELECTRICITY PRICES

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (15:15):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation a question about South Australia's electricity prices.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.S. LEE:** The Australian Energy Regulator State of Energy Market 2015 report contains significantly bad news for South Australia's business sector and for job seekers, as businesses are set to have high electricity prices this year. In a *Financial Review* article dated 15 December 2015 it was outlined that South Australian businesses will face electricity futures contract prices of \$87 to \$90 a megawatt hour from 2016, which is more than twice the Victorian future prices and nearly twice that of New South Wales.

Manufacturers Australia says that competitiveness of manufacturers is being eroded by rising power prices and unpredictable energy markets. It was reported in the *Australian Financial Review* that this is putting future investment at risk because big manufacturers invest on time horizons of between 10 to 20 years and need stable low prices that compete with offshore rivals. My questions are:

1. How does the minister intend to cushion South Australian industry from impacts of sharply increased electricity prices?
2. How will the minister ensure South Australia remains competitive with electricity prices in order to attract manufacturers?
3. What actions has the minister actually taken so far to lower the cost of electricity in South Australia?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:17):** I thank the honourable member for her question and her interest in this area. The Minister for Energy in another place is the minister responsible for electricity, and I will see whether he has anything that can supplement the brief remarks I will make for the honourable member.

Energy prices are one of many input costs for businesses, particularly manufacturing businesses in South Australia. The government held an energy forum round table towards the end of last year, where various companies were able to share the ways they are mitigating costs of electricity to make South Australian businesses even more competitive. One major way to reduce the electricity price input for businesses is for greater interconnection between states, and I note the Heywood interconnector to Victoria is being heavily upgraded in the near future.

### KANGAROO CREEK DAM UPGRADE

**The Hon. J.M. GAZZOLA (15:18):** My question is to the Minister for Water and the River Murray. Will the minister provide an update to the chamber on the progress to date of the Kangaroo Creek dam upgrade?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (15:18):** I thank the honourable member for his most important question. The Kangaroo Creek dam is located on the River Torrens in the Adelaide Hills and is a critical part of SA Waters infrastructure, supplying water through the Hope Valley Reservoir and water treatment plant. The dam, constructed in the late 1960s, was the subject of a dam safety review undertaken in 2014 as part of SA Water's large dam portfolio risk assessment. The review was also necessary due to the updated Australian National Committee on Large Dams, Guidelines on Dam Safety Management (2003)

SA Water has implemented a long-term program of works to ensure all dams under its control meet the ANCOLD guidelines. This approach is consistent with other water utilities across the country and represents best practice in dam safety management. The report on the Kangaroo Creek dam recommended increasing the spillway capacity and strengthening the dam structures to withstand seismic loadings. The dam safety upgrade project will increase the flood capacity of the dam spillway and improve the dam's resistance to earthquakes.

As a result, the community living and working downstream of the dam will be safer and exposed to less risk due to the dam safety upgrade project. In 2013 SA Water appointed consultants to complete the concept design and proceed with detailed design, and on 23 November 2015 cabinet approved the contract to be awarded to a local South Australian contractor, Bardavcol. Bardavcol began work in January 2016 and the first part of the construction will focus primarily on excavation of the widened spillway, and it is expected that the dam embankment will be increased by approximately five metres and the spillway widened by 30 metres.

During the design process, SA Water has been working with contractors to solve complex technical issues. For example, soil from the spillway excavation will be placed on the downstream side of the embankment and a complex system of haul roads will be constructed to ensure that the bulk of the excavated material will be transported on internal roads, thus avoiding congesting public roads adjacent to the dam.

This upgrade will not only provide essential infrastructure but it is also providing local employment opportunities. I am informed that the project will see the equivalent of up to 220 full-time workers directly and indirectly employed on this project over the next three years, including four local graduate engineers who will receive outstanding experience and on-the-job training.

The project also involves the purchase of \$2.5 million worth of new machinery that will have the effect of supporting local companies from which they are purchased. The total budget for the project is \$94 million, and it is anticipated that the upgrades will be completed by mid-2018. Importantly, community feedback has been considered in the detailed project planning process prior to construction commencing and key stakeholder groups are being kept informed as the project progresses.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE (15:21):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Police.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE:** With your concurrence, sir, this the first time I have asked a question of the minister, and on the record I congratulate the minister on his appointment and I also congratulate the Leader of Government Business in this house on his promotion. I also congratulate the former leader of government business, particularly on her efforts in modernising the sitting hours of this house. It is just unfortunate that the executive of this government did not always appreciate loyalty amongst ministers and members of their government.

**The PRESIDENT:** Can you get to your question?

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE:** With that, I return to my explanation. The Weatherill government savagely cut occupational health and safety rights and entitlements to our committed South Australian police officers from 1 July last year—a savage right that one would have expected to always be protected and enshrined, particularly for our police officers, especially I would have thought, by a Labor government.

However, that is not the situation and we have seen a committed and rightful campaign by the Police Association of South Australia on behalf of its members. Family First currently have a bill before the parliament and the police are different—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** This is not a second reading speech; it is a brief explanation.

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE:** The police are different to—

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** Point of order: I think it is a standing order in this place that when there is business before the house it is not to be referred to in questions.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE:** To complete my explanation—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE:** —there is a point of difference between protecting police on their duty and others, and—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** The honourable member has the right to ask his question in silence, just as the appropriate minister has the right to answer that question in silence, so please give them the respect they deserve. The Hon. Mr Brokenshire.

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE:** I thank you, Mr President, for your protection. The police are different: they are the only ones who have to go to all incidents under their oath when they take office as a police officer. My question to the minister is: will the minister, as someone who understands workers' rights as well if not better than most in the cabinet, join with me and other colleagues who believe in righting a wrong, to fix this problem as a priority and reinstate to the police what they duly should have and do need as a matter of priority and urgency?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:23):** Thank you to the Hon. Mr Brokenshire for his question. I am not the relevant minister for return to work—I think that is a point worth making; however, I will make the following remarks. The return-to-work reforms that were passed by the parliament some time ago and came into effect last year were an important piece of economic reform that this government saw as critical to be able to improve the return-to-work levy that applies throughout the state of South Australia to many businesses.

Those reforms and that legislation are something that this government stands by and is incredibly proud of. Under that new piece of legislation, there is a whole range of entitlements that are provided for to all South Australian employees, and that includes members of the South Australian police force. The South Australian public should be aware of the fact that South Australian police officers do have existing entitlements under the Return to Work Act.

What the Police Association is doing is mounting a campaign, and they are to be commended for representing their members, arguing that police officers should be treated differently to the rest of the South Australian workforce. They argue, as the honourable member outlined, that police officers who are sworn officers should be treated differently because they have a whole range of responsibilities that ordinary South Australian workers do not have to contend with. I stated on my

first day of being sworn in as the Minister for Police that that was an argument I was willing to listen to, and that remains the case.

It is an argument I am now actively listening to. I have already met with the Police Association on more than one occasion, giving them the opportunity that they should be afforded by the Minister for Police, for them to be able to articulate their arguments and for the police minister to be able to examine the strength of those arguments, and that is a process that remains ongoing. If anything were to change on that front, I am sure that a minister responsible for return to work legislation, or changes or return-to-work reforms, being the gentleman in the other place, will have plenty to say about that in due course.

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE**

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (15:26):** Supplementary: given that the minister has indicated he has met with the Police Association to listen to their submissions on this issue, as a result of those discussions has he taken up those concerns with the responsible minister?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:26):** It would be entirely a reasonable question and I thank the honourable member for it. Like I said, I have had multiple meetings with the members and the leaders of the Police Association of South Australia and, as one would reasonably expect any minister to do, I do speak to my cabinet colleagues when they raise issues that pertain to their portfolios, so I have had discussions with the Attorney-General. But, as it stands, the return-to-work legislation provides for a whole range of entitlements to police officers, and that remains the case and that is currently the government's policy.

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE**

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (15:27):** Supplementary arising from the minister's answer: is it correct that the Minister for Industrial Relations told the Minister for Police that he was not going to be changing the policy?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Wait one second. Give the minister time to think about it. A lot of the discussions are confidential. The honourable minister.

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:27):** Thank you, Mr President. The Hon. Mr Lucas is someone who has a wealth of experience in this place, and I know that Mr Lucas has been around long enough to well know that the decisions that take place between cabinet colleagues, particularly within cabinet, are subject to cabinet in confidence.

#### **FUR SEALS**

**The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS (15:28):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for the Environment a question regarding long-nosed fur seals.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS:** The hardworking excellent member for Hammond, Mr Adrian Pederick MP, has referred to me a number of reports and investigations into the overpopulation of long-nosed fur seals along the South Australian coastline. Given that 10,000 fur seals consume over 400 tonnes of seafood per day, my question is: what is the effect on commercial and recreational fishers of this overpopulation of fur seals?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (15:28):** I thank the honourable member most sincerely for his question of me on this very important topic. It is important that we come to the issues that really need to be based on good science, about where do the fur seals eat—and, of course, it is offshore. But we will come to that.

The South Australian government takes concerns expressed by our local communities, fishery organisations and traditional owners about the impacts that long-nosed fur seals may have on the Coorong and Lower Lakes area very seriously. We have listened and we are taking action to



ensure that impacts from seal interactions are kept to a minimum. The state government does not support the culling of long-nosed fur seals. We know from the best available evidence that culling would be ineffective, as culled seals would simply be replaced by new seals.

Culling would fail to address the impacts being felt by commercial fishers and could also create welfare and safety issues for seals and fishers. Other options, such as relocation and sterilisation, have proven to be costly and ineffective in other parts of Australia, and we can use the experience of seal interactions and government interventions in Tasmania to point to the failure of these management options.

The South Australian government has taken a number of steps to help fishers and local communities mitigate these impacts. The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and Primary Industries and Regions SA are working closely with the Southern Fishermen's Association on a plan to mitigate impacts felt by the fishing industry from seal interactions.

This includes the state government investing \$100,000 in research into fishing gear, methods and deterrent devices, and I understand that the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, which is co-funded by the commonwealth and industry, has contributed more money to this project. Approximately \$260,000 of funding has now been secured to investigate alternative fishing gear and practices and to trial different seal deterrents.

On 12 September 2015, the government announced that it would waive 2015-16 licence fees and make other changes to provide fishing operators with additional flexibility. These changes include increasing the season length in which hauling nets may be used in Area 1 of the fishery by 106 days, permitting drum nets to be used by all Lakes and Coorong Fishery licence holders and increasing the number of relief days per licence holder from 28 to 90 days. I am advised that training for commercial fishermen to use seal deterrents such as crackers was held on 27 November 2015. The use of these crackers will inform research into the most effective ways of using crackers to reduce the impacts of seals on the fishery.

SA Water is to be commended for the alteration and fencing work it is doing at the Tauwitschere and Goolwa barrages. This work is designed to reduce the ability for seals to haul out onto these structures, and a key outcome of this work is to reduce the ability of seals to move from the Coorong side of the barrages into the Lower Lakes. Wildlife cameras have been installed to monitor seal activity at Tauwitschere. Rural Business Support, which incorporates Rural Financial Counselling Service SA, has offered to assist fishers with free, independent and confidential financial information and business support. Referrals can be provided to other services, such as personal and social counsellors.

As well as these steps, the government has established a high-level working group to address issues that have arisen from seal interactions. This working group is made up of representatives from relevant government agencies, local councils, natural resources management boards, environmental NGOs, research institutions and key industry groups. The Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (NRA) has also been invited to attend, I am advised.

DEWNR is committed to further discussing how the government can better understand impacts on Aboriginal culture, lands and waters and develop a sustainable long-term solution for the region. The working group had its fourth meeting on Thursday 26 November 2015, I am advised. DEWNR is undertaking a series of seal counts in the Coorong. I am told that the most recent count carried out on 6 January 2016 found 14 seals—13 at Tauwitschere Barrage and one on Goolwa Barrage.

Long-nosed fur seals are a natural part of the marine ecosystem, of course; they are not an environmental pest. The best available evidence shows that the increase in seal numbers in the Coorong and Lower Lakes area has not resulted in any broadscale negative ecological impacts to the area. DEWNR takes the health of the Coorong and Lower Lakes and wider environment very seriously and will continue to monitor environmental indicators in the area. I am advised that most of the fur seals' diet in the ocean is made up of redbait and lantern fish, which are small bait fish that have no commercial fishery in South Australia. They also eat arrow squid and leatherjackets.

I understand that the scientific advice is that, in fact, seals fish for their food offshore—up to 200 to 400 kilometres offshore, depending on the sex of the seal. Of course they come in and enjoy the surrounds of the Coorong while they are digesting that and then, when it comes time to feed again, they will go back offshore. That is not to say, as I have said before, that they do not see fishing nets as being a virtual smorgasbord for them and will take those if the opportunity arises. They also take fish that are coming through the barrages and are stunned by the sea water. Of course they would, but it is not the preponderance of their diet. Their diet mainly comprises redbait and lantern fish—those small bait fish—and squid which they catch a long way offshore.

### **PINERY BUSHFIRES**

**The Hon. G.E. GAGO (15:34):** My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. Can the minister advise the house about the work of the Cadell Training Centre CFS brigade in responding to the Pinery fire?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:34):** I thank the honourable member for her important question. We are all aware of the devastating impact of the bushfire that started at Pinery on Wednesday 25 November 2015 and spread to vast areas in our state's Mid North including Owen, Hamley Bridge, Wasleys, Kapunda, Freeling, Tarlee and Greenock. Two lives were lost, 31 people were injured and 91 homes were destroyed. Our deepest condolences are with the families affected and our thoughts are with the communities devastated by the fire.

I would like to reiterate the statement of the previous minister for emergency services (Hon. Tony Piccolo) in thanking the outstanding efforts of our emergency services, particularly the CFS, MFS and the State Emergency Service. The South Australia Police, SA Ambulance Service and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources should also be commended for their efforts.

I am also pleased to advise that, as Minister for Corrections, another one of my portfolio areas was involved in the firefighting effort on the day and is subsequently now assisting in the recovery efforts. As the bushfire burnt through many hectares last November, the Cadell Training Centre CFS brigade, manned by trained and qualified prisoners along with custodial staff, played its part in firefighting efforts seeking to maintain the fire fronts.

As the efforts turned to recovery, both prisoners located at Cadell and the Adelaide Pre-release Centre have commenced assisting with the clean-up. The Cadell Training Centre has committed two work gangs for three days a week, while the Adelaide Pre-release Centre has committed one work gang to the recovery efforts. The work gangs have been and will continue to assist the state recovery efforts in the removal of damaged trees and fixing fencing that was damaged by the fire to enable a speedy recovery for all the communities involved.

I personally think this is an absolutely fantastic initiative. It not only allows the prisoners, many of whom are close to release, an opportunity to give back to the community while acquiring new skills that will assist with obtaining employment upon their release but it also makes a real difference to those who have lost so much as a result of the tragic fires. The feedback I have received from the department's chief executive is that the efforts of the work gangs are being greatly appreciated and that prisoners are enjoying seeing the difference that they are able to make to the relevant local communities.

Last Saturday, 6 February, the Premier and I visited the Pinery fire area. We were fortunate enough to be able to meet with community members, including Hamley Bridge farmers, Brian and Carolyn Koch and Matthew and Denika Koch, and hear their inspirational stories of the local community pulling together in what are these incredibly difficult circumstances. The Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion in the other place is doing a fantastic job of overseeing that recovery effort, and Mr Vince Monterola, leading the recovery coordination from his base at the TAFE Gawler campus, is also to be commended.

I sincerely thank our firefighters and all involved in the emergency response effort for their outstanding efforts, including those people from the Cadell Training Centre and the Adelaide Pre-release Centre.

## INDIGENOUS INCARCERATION

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:37):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Minister for Correctional Services on the topic of Indigenous incarceration rates.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** As members are well aware, today is the annual Close the Gap Day and the report, as launched by the Prime Minister today in federal parliament, has results that can only best be described as mixed and disappointing. One area, of course, where we are not seeing any marked improvement relates to the incarceration rates of Aboriginal Australians. Indigenous Australians represent 3 per cent of the Australian population, yet 27 per cent of the prison population of our nation. Alarming, the representation of Aboriginal female prisoners is on the rise, up 74 per cent over the past 15 years, with Aboriginal women making up one-third of the total female prison population. My questions to the minister are:

1. What is the government doing to actively address this issue?
2. What priority will you give to this serious issue?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:38):** I thank the honourable member for her question on what is this important day with the release of the Closing the Gap report. One of the statistics that jumped out at me when I was receiving my incoming brief as the Minister for Correctional Services was the drastic overrepresentation of Aboriginals within the South Australian prison population. I am advised that, at 30 June last year, Aboriginal prisoners, both male and female, made up 22.26 per cent of the prison population in South Australia. Of course, when you compare that to the last census statistic of the Aboriginal population making up apparently about 2.3 per cent of the Australian population, one is horrified at the extraordinary overrepresentation of Aboriginals within custody in South Australia.

The honourable member also rightly points out that this over representation is amplified amongst the female population of women's prisons within South Australia. Approximately 30 per cent, I am advised, of the women's prison population in South Australia are Aboriginal, and amongst the broader community correctional population it is approximately 22 per cent. These statistics are way too high. Over-representation amongst the Aboriginal population in the prison population across the country is way too high and, as I said, a statistic that jumped off the page at me when I received my incoming brief.

It is a problem that this government has been conscious of for a period of time that goes well before, obviously, myself becoming a minister. Late last year, the Hon. Gail Gago and the former minister for correctional services launched the Department for Correctional Services women offender framework, an action plan to specifically target women offending, with the objective of trying to reduce women offending and, in turn, reduce the female population of prisoners throughout South Australia. Although that is not necessarily specifically tasked with looking at Aboriginal incarceration rates, it does look at women offending as a whole and trying to reduce that as best as we possibly can.

To address the issue more broadly, I will be meeting with Department for Correctional Services in light of these statistics that I have drawn to the council's attention to see what more can be done in this particular area and, as more initiatives come to light, I will certainly be happy to share them with the Hon. Tammy Franks. Furthermore, if she would like to take up the opportunity to meet with me and the department and then we can go through some of those issues that she might have a particular passion for, I would be more than happy to facilitate that.

## COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE

**The Hon. A.L. McLACHLAN (15:41):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Emergency Services a question in relation to the Country Fire Service.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. A.L. McLACHLAN:** Yesterday, in response to a question to the minister, he advised the chamber that the CFS trucks that do not have turnover protection in the same format as

others were going through a process of upgrade. I ask the minister: how many trucks do not have turnover protection out of the total number of trucks, and at what date will the works in progress be completed?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:42):** I thank the honourable member for his question. I did give a detailed answer yesterday about what exactly constitutes turnover protection and the importance that it can have for the safety of our volunteers out on the front line serving our community fighting fires in regional areas. I don't have those specific statistics at hand, but they are important statistics that I am more than happy to share with the honourable member. I'm happy to take that question on notice and make sure he gets the relevant answer to his question.

#### COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE

**The Hon. A.L. McLACHLAN (15:43):** Supplementary arising out of the minister's question: has the minister given any consideration to installing cab pump starting switches on CFS trucks to ensure volunteers are not forced to leave the safety of their crew cab during a turnover?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:43):** Again, I would like to thank the honourable member for his question. I am more than happy to take that on notice. That is not something that I have specifically turned my mind to, but I am more than happy to take that question on notice and establish precisely if that is something that has come into the CFS's contemplation.

#### MINING EMPLOYMENT

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:43):** My question is to the Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation. Can the minister tell the chamber how the state government is assisting local businesses to access new opportunities in the mining and resources sector?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:44):** I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in this area. Before I answer this question, I might be upright and answer the Hon. Tammy Franks who asked a question about the Automotive Workers in Transition Program and the expanded access to partners and spouses. I thought it was the case but I wanted to just triple check, but I can confirm to her that we will be taking the widest and most inclusive possible view of spouses or partner.

In relation to the Hon. Tung Ngo's question regarding how the state government is assisting local businesses to access new opportunities in the mining and resources sector, I am very pleased to advise that as part of the state government's Our Jobs Plan we have committed to support the development of industry-led clusters in many areas, including defence, creative industries, water, medical devices and the mining and resources sector.

The government recently entered into an agreement with the peak industry representative body and advocacy group for the ICT industry in Australia, the Australian Information Industry Alliance Association (AIIAA). The Australian Information Industry Alliance Association represents over 400 members and member organisations nationally, including global brands, international companies, and a large number of small to medium ICT companies. The agreement will support our commitment to a cluster in the mining and resources sector, with an Internet of Things-focused cluster for the mining and energy resources sector which will encourage innovation, facilitate collaboration and support access to new markets for companies exposed to the industry.

The state government will provide \$250,000 a year over three years to fund the cluster, which is designed to connect machines, devices and people to streamline the flow of information and to allow for real-time decisions. This investment will be critical to the competitive future of our mining and energy resources sector and to those companies that service this sector, providing the opportunity to make our local industry more productive and better able to maintain competitiveness in an increasingly volatile global market.

The AIIAA will take the lead to develop the cluster, which is expected to comprise technology firms, research organisations and supply chain operators in the mining and energy sector. I understand that a wide range of companies have already expressed their interest, including companies such as GE, IBM, Hewlett-Packard, Telstra, Santos, local South Australian SMEs such as IPACS Australia, and research organisations such as the Data to Decisions Cooperative Research Centre. The Institute for Mineral and Energy Resources has also indicated interest in being involved.

We have all the ingredients for successful innovation in this state. We have a strong research community, entrepreneurial businesses, high-quality education, and a proven ability to collaborate. Through this initiative we will maximise the potential for the resources, and particularly the resources services sectors, to grow.

The state government's commitment to expanding opportunities for the mining and energy sector is yet another example of our commitment to transform the economy. We know that the economy is in transition, and to grow we must capitalise on emerging opportunities. The Internet of Things is just one of the very real opportunities for our state. By 2020 it is forecast that businesses exposed to the Internet of Things will require an additional 4.5 million developers globally, which represents a 57 per cent compound growth rate year on year.

We know that the interconnectedness of devices, or the Internet of Things, is driving a major new technology trend, opening up opportunities for mining and energy resource companies in a whole range of areas. Companies that I have already seen in South Australia, like IPACS Australia, are using remote centres—in IPACS' case, its Mawson Lakes office—to provide predictive maintenance for equipment in remote mine sites. This allows maintenance to be provided when it is actually needed and properly predicted, to be provided with sensors rather than a schedule, which may lead to overservicing and increased costs. It is this type of activity that will further develop through the formation of this cluster.

A recent report, *Forecast: the Internet of Things, Worldwide*, found that, by 2020, 25 billion connective things will be connected, with a value of \$1.9 trillion. Our state has a number of innovative ICT firms and research organisations with the expertise, capacity and intellectual property that can capitalise on this opportunity; however, I think it is fair to say that we need things like clusters to take full advantage of these opportunities. In this light, investment is essential if we are going to make sure that South Australia takes its place in our economy and takes a maximum share of the opportunities that present themselves.

I look forward to reporting back to this chamber on the positive impact that this new cluster on the Internet of Things delivers in the near future.

### **ASBESTOS WASTE DISPOSAL**

**The Hon. K.L. VINCENT (15:49):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking questions of the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation regarding the dumping of asbestos.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. K.L. VINCENT:** Community concerns about the danger of asbestos have recently come to our attention after a constituent of mine discovered asbestos dumped in one of South Australia's premier tourism spots, Cleland Wildlife Park, last week. My questions to the minister are:

1. How many incidents of illegal dumping that include asbestos have been recorded by the department in recent years in South Australia?
2. What is the proper process that should be undertaken once dumped asbestos is reported?
3. Is the dumping reported to the Environment Protection Authority?
4. Is SafeWork SA notified?
5. What ongoing monitoring process does the department have in place for known dumping sites of asbestos?

6. Have there been any successful prosecutions for illegal dumping of rubbish, with or without asbestos, in national parks in South Australia?

7. Will the government consider funding free disposal to encourage responsible disposal of asbestos and related products?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (15:51):** I thank the honourable member for her most important question. The Environment Protection Authority regulates asbestos waste and minimises related environmental harm through the licensing of transport, storage and disposal. In addition, the EPA plays an active role in managing asbestos-related matters such as illegal dumping and site contamination.

The EPA offers guidelines and advice to householders on the safe removal, transport and disposal of asbestos through the EPA website and the EPA Asbestos Hotline. The EPA recommends that all asbestos removal should be undertaken by a professional removalist due to the risks involved. All persons removing, storing, transporting and/or disposing of asbestos waste are bound by the general environmental duty under the Environment Protection Act 1993 to take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent environmental harm. This includes taking the necessary safety precautions regarding the handling of asbestos, as outlined in the EPA guidelines.

SafeWork SA is the responsible authority for asbestos removal in the workplace and licenses asbestos removalists. SA Health and local councils who administer the Public Health Act 2012 also have a role and are able to provide information about public health risks from asbestos. Householders do not need a licence to remove asbestos, nor is an EPA licence required for the commercial removal of non-friable asbestos.

An EPA licence is required for the commercial removal of friable asbestos which licenses the remover as a producer of listed waste. Persons transporting asbestos waste for fee or reward require an EPA licence as a waste transporter. All landfills and waste transfer stations that receive asbestos waste have conditions on the EPA licences specifically relating to the receipt, storage and disposal of asbestos waste.

The EPA's illegal dumping unit was formed in 2011 to investigate the illegal dumping of commercial quantities of industrial, demolition and hazardous waste. This includes asbestos. The IDU also works with other government agencies and local government to provide advice and support for smaller scale dumping matters. In November 2014, the government launched an interagency website ([www.asbestos.sa.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.sa.gov.au)) which provides a single point of entry for the general public to access asbestos information to assist them to:

- safely deal with asbestos;
- ensure they are meeting their obligations under legislation administered by a number of different South Australian government agencies; and
- help them identify which agency to contact for more information, should the need arise.

From time to time, people do raise the issue about the cost of dumping asbestos in our prescribed dumps but, of course, that is a minor cost and would have no impact, I am advised, in terms of illegal dumping because the major cost associated with asbestos is the removal and the payment to an approved asbestos removal firm. In comparison, the dump charge is minimal.

### SUICIDE PREVENTION

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (15:53):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Police a question regarding suicide prevention training for SAPOL officers.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS:** The Hunter Institute of Mental Health is the leading national organisation dedicated to reducing mental illness and suicide and improving wellbeing for all Australians. For more than 20 years, that Newcastle-based institute has been delivering evidence-based mental health and suicide prevention programs from its northern New South Wales base, which I have had the pleasure of visiting on two occasions.

The institute has a program known as Mindframe which, along with guidelines for media reporting on suicide, also includes specific training and guidelines for police. The publication known as 'Mental illness and suicide in the media: a Mindframe resource for police' provides practical advice for police to support their interactions with the media when discussing events and cases which have involved issues of mental illness and suicide.

The resource was developed involving consultations with police services in each state and territory. The project itself aims to build the capacity of police to promote sensitive and appropriate reporting of situations involving mental illness or suicide. My questions to the minister are:

1. Has SAPOL adopted the Mindframe for police guidelines and training for its officers, particularly those performing front-line duties?
2. What, if any, suicide and self-harm prevention training does SAPOL currently provide to its front-line officers?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:55):** I thank the honourable member for his question. He raises a number of very important issues. The awareness of mental health in our community at large is forever on the increase, and justifiably so. So many Australians are, unfortunately, struck down by mental illness. The most severe culmination of mental illness comes in the form of suicide, which is always worthy of prevention.

I don't have any specific information regarding SAPOL procedures to be able to deal with suicides in the context in which you have asked the question, but I am more than happy to take that question on notice and provide the honourable member with an answer accordingly. Furthermore, I would also be interested in gaining information regarding the program with which you have familiarised yourself over in Newcastle.

#### **NATIONAL PARKS ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM**

**The Hon. G.A. KANDELAARS (15:56):** My question is to the Minister of Sustainability, Environment and Conservation. Could the minister inform the chamber about state government's online booking system for our national parks and how this is assisting visitors meet their needs?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (15:57):** I thank the honourable member for his most important question. The state government has invested heavily in improving facilities and amenities in our national parks and reserves in an effort to encourage more visitors. We have invested over \$10 million in turning the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges into an international mountain biking destination and improving the facilities in the parks in the north and south of metropolitan Adelaide, in line with what the community has told us they wanted.

In addition to this work, we have begun rolling out an online booking system for national parks, and we are committed to investing \$500,000 in the 2015-16 financial year to further refine the booking system. This new online booking system offers a number of important advantages for visitors. It conveniently enables local, national and international visitors 24-hour access to bookings and information about park entry, camping and heritage accommodation in our national parks, all from a home computer, smartphone or other device.

It allows visitors to book a site up to 12 months in advance, making it easier and fairer for visitors and alleviating any worries about whether a site will be available on any particular day. Online bookings also mean that visitors can turn up to their campsite whenever it is convenient for them. They no longer have to carry the correct amount of cash to pay at the old payment stands and, whilst we know that many park visitors want the convenience of booking and paying online, we also understand, nonetheless, that some people may not always have access to the internet or a credit card. These visitors can book and pay through a number of accredited booking agents, many of which are located en route to the national park.

The system has, I am advised, initially been rolled out in 10 parks across South Australia with great success. Revenue, I am advised, is up in all parks where the online booking system has been introduced, and for the first time in many years numerous campgrounds in national parks across

the state were fully booked for the 2015-16 Christmas and new year period, with most of the bookings being made through the online system.

The plan is to expand the online system to a further 38 parks. We will ensure that visitors are made aware of the changes as they occur, through signage, advertising and media releases, website updates and on the National Parks South Australia Facebook page. The state government will also continue to work with the public to improve the system as it is rolled out across the state. People can provide feedback and suggestions by emailing the online bookings project team at [DEWNR.OnlineBookings@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEWNR.OnlineBookings@sa.gov.au).

I understand that the following parks are on the online system and are operational as we speak: Coorong National Park, Liberty Conservation Park, Canunda National Park, Bool Lagoon Game Reserve, Beachport Conservation Park, Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park, Mount Remarkable National Park, Innes National Park, The Dutchmans Stern Conservation Park and Deep Creek Conservation Park.

#### *Matters of Interest*

### **ROBERT STIGWOOD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

**The Hon. J.M. GAZZOLA (16:00):** I would like to take this opportunity to note the passing of Mr Robert Stigwood, an international music industry icon who was born in Adelaide and raised in Port Pirie, who moved to London in the 1960s to try his hand at artist management. He began with the band Cream and went on to manage its iconic guitarist Eric Clapton, kickstarting his solo career. He most famously steered the Bee Gees to disco superstardom with the soundtrack to *Saturday Night Fever*. He promoted iconic musicals, including *Hair* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, throughout Australia and produced films including *Grease*, *Gallipoli* and *Evita*.

Described by Andrew Lloyd Webber as a great showman, Stigwood certainly opened doors and shone the light on some of the world's leading musical talent. Music critic Bob Lefsetz, in his piece on Robert Stigwood, said:

It was easier back then, no-one knew anything, there were few music business attorneys and the hoi polloi had no access to Don Passman's book. You had to take it on faith, that this person unveiling this yarn could truly make you a star. Robert Stigwood could. And that's why who were there remember him.

In honour of the self-made entrepreneurial music giant and ex-South Australian, the Robert Stigwood Fellowship Program was launched in 2014. Proposed collaboratively by a team including Martin Elbourne, Thinker in Residence and author of *The Elbourne Report*, Becc Bates of the Music Development Office and Stu MacQueen of Wonderlick Entertainment, the program is run through the MDO and offers mentoring, tailored funding and invitations to industry conferences and workshops; it acts as a 'surrogate manager' for rising talent. The fellowships awarded annually provide personal and professional guidance and support in the development of musicians and industry entrepreneurs locally and globally.

There have been a number of successful Stigwood Artist Fellows to date, including emerging international star T-Kay Maidza who, along with Stigwood Fellow Timberwolf, scooped the South Australian Music Awards pool; punk legends in the making, The Grenadiers; festival favourite Jessie Davidson; and notable SA music award winners and nominees, Skies, Horror my Friend, L.K. McKay and Oisima.

In 2015, Robert Stigwood was inducted into the South Australian Music Hall of Fame and remembered for his incredible presence and achievements behind the scenes of those he promoted. In 2016, let's remember him by continuing to support the MDO in its tireless work by opening doors for young musicians and all those involved in the live music industry and acknowledge the magnitude to which South Australians can influence the world in business, music, art and vibrancy. In January 2014, Mr Stigwood wrote a letter to Premier Jay Weatherill which stated:

Dear Premier Weatherill, thank you for your letter regarding your plans for a Scholarship programme. It is very kind of you to think of me in such a prestigious way. When I first came to the UK I did not lose my heritage as a lad from Adelaide. I would be delighted if my name was used to support the initiative in line with your government's priorities. Adelaide in my youth we always regarded as a vibrant City even though I can't say that I complied with the 6pm closing laws in those days!



I would be delighted to give any co-operation you require and I am very happy to be able to do something for my home state. All good wishes, kind regards, Robert Stigwood.

I would like to acknowledge for their contribution to this piece Dan Crannitch, project manager, Robert Stigwood Fellowships; Jon Lemon, sound engineer extraordinaire; Karen Marsh and Becc Bates of the Music Development Office; and Bob Lefsetz. Vale Robert Stigwood.

### FUND OUR FUTURE

**The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (16:04):** I rise today to speak about the Fund Our Future campaign. Last week, Australian Greens senators Scott Ludlam and Janet Rice announced that the Greens are throwing our support behind the Fund Our Future campaign, which is a plan that ensures people living in the expanding outer suburbs of Adelaide's capital cities have access to the same services as inner city residents.

The Fund our Future campaign was launched last week as an initiative of the National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) which represents 24 of Australia's fastest growing municipalities, including the City of Playford and the District Council of Mount Barker in South Australia. In fact, the National Growth Areas Alliance is currently chaired by our very own City of Playford mayor, Glenn Docherty.

The Fund our Future campaign is a response to the fact that population growth has exploded in the outer suburbs over the last decade but there has been nowhere near the same growth in essential services for the residents of those suburbs. Analysis commissioned by the National Growth Areas Alliance and conducted by SGS Economics and Planning has found that the almost five million residents of these areas are significantly disadvantaged and have demonstrably poorer access to health and transport infrastructure when compared to what is available in neighbouring areas closer to city centres. They also found that the infrastructure backlog currently stands at over \$50 billion, with more than \$20 billion needed to keep infrastructure on a level playing field to the year 2031.

The campaign is calling on the federal government to establish a dedicated infrastructure fund for fast-growing outer growth suburbs to address the infrastructure backlog and future proof these areas. People are encouraged to email the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. The campaign has a proforma email for residents of the City of Playford to use which reads as follows:

To

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister of Australia

The Hon. Bill Shorten, Leader of the Opposition

The City of Playford is one of the fast-growing suburbs on the outskirts of Australia's capital cities. Five million Australians—and counting—already call areas like ours home, but in just 15 years, the population will have jumped by half again to around 7.5 million people.

Residents in our areas lack the same access to quality roads, public transport and health facilities as those who live closer to city centres. Too often we are forced to drive for hours to get to work and basic services, which means high fuel costs, stress and time away from family and friends. I call on you to commit to

- A policy shift and a dedicated national infrastructure fund to address the infrastructure problems in our fast-growing outer suburbs and 'future proof' them as they continue to grow.
- Fund Our Future—Finish the Gawler line rail project which is a prime example of a desperately needed infrastructure project that is shovel-ready, but waiting for Federal Government support.

We need the Federal Government to fund the completion of the electrification of the Gawler rail line and possible extension to Tanunda. This would drastically improve the commute for thousands of residents who work or study in the city. It would also open up the northern suburbs, Gawler and Barossa as a more viable location for business, employment and education.

Successive governments have failed to fund and build the infrastructure that fast-growing areas like the City of Playford need and deserve.

Continuing population growth is further compounding the problem. As the years roll on, the scale of the problem will become bigger: more congested roads, more pressure on scarce public transport and stretched health facilities.

My community has been denied long enough. A growing community should be a vibrant resource, but instead we are being held back. My intention is clear—my vote in the Federal election will be guided by a commitment to these vital projects.

That is the proforma letter that residents of the City of Playford are urged to send to federal leaders.

With populations in our outer suburbs growing at double the national rate and predicted to remain strong for the next 25 years or more, investment is urgently needed for infrastructure projects and public transport as well as education and health facilities. Access to local education and health services, combined with easier and less time commuting, will also ease road congestion and it will improve people's quality of life and reduce the cost of living. For our cities as a whole to function effectively and fairly, these growing outer suburbs need this investment so that they may be connected with the opportunities that others take for granted. They are merely asking for a fair go, for the same opportunities as communities elsewhere.

The Greens are pleased to support the Fund Our Future campaign and to echo the campaign's call for the federal government to rethink its infrastructure policy and create a dedicated national funding mechanism to fix the infrastructure problems of fast-growing outer suburbs in the long term.

#### **STANBURY, MR D.**

**The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS (16:09):** I rise today to acknowledge one of South Australia's unsung heroes. There are many people in our society who are quiet achievers, helping out where needed and answering the call to public service. They do not do what they do for accolades and are surprised and humbled to receive them when they are recognised.

One of these people is Des Stanbury, who sits in the gallery today with his family, Beryl, Louise and Michael, accompanied by John Lewis, the CEO of Harness Racing South Australia. I have known Des for many years through his involvement with the Liberal Party, of which he has been a proud member for over 45 years.

He is the Lobethal branch president in the electorate of the member for Kavel—Mark Goldsworthy, affectionately known as the Marvel from Kavel—and he has held a number of other positions in the party. Des currently serves on our state council. I thank Des and his family for making the effort to come to this place.

I have on my desk a trophy, and this trophy is the reason I want to acknowledge Des today, as it is symbolic of many years of service and dedication rather than any one specific achievement. Everyday people who give their lives quietly in service are the backbone of communities all around Australia. This trophy is the Distinguished Service Award from the Australian Harness Racing Council and it was awarded to Des earlier this year at the Adelaide Cup celebration.

Mr Mark Carey, Chair of Harness Racing South Australia, accompanied the Stanbury family and me for lunch today. Indeed, I was fortunate enough to be an invited guest at the Harness Racing Adelaide Cup celebration along with the Hon. David Ridgway and Mr Tim Whetstone, the member for Chaffey. It was quite fortuitous because Des was actually the MC of the event, and Mark Carey did a wonderful job of surprising Des by introducing Mr Geoff Want, who is the Chairman of Harness Racing Australia.

Des was a little bit confused as to why Mark was taking over, but he dutifully sat down. Mr Want went on to talk about a person who had made a wonderful contribution to harness racing in South Australia and indeed was the recipient of one of the most prestigious Harness Racing Australia awards. I asked Des today at what point during the speech he worked out that the award was for him and it was not until his name was actually read out, which just goes to show what a humble fellow Des is.

Des has served on the South Australian Harness Racing Council for many years. He has served as its vice president and was director for eight years. Des is more than deserving of the award, as many involved in harness racing would agree but, as I mentioned, it is symbolic of many years of service and dedication.

In addition to his involvement with the Liberal Party and harness racing, Des has been a volunteer firefighter with the Country Fire Service for over 54 years with the Lobethal brigade, where

he is also the finance officer. On top of the service to his local brigade, he also serves as the logistics officer for the Onkaparinga group and he is an incident management consultant for region 1, where he was part of the response to the Sampson Flat bushfires recently.

This level of volunteering would be too much for many of us to fit into our lives. However, on top of all this, Des was also a football umpire in country South Australia for 26 years, umpiring all across the state, in places such as Ceduna, Kangaroo Island, the Murraylands, Renmark, the Mid North and Clare. This was of course during a time when matches had only one official umpire; I am not sure there are too many in this chamber who remember those days.

To give members an indication of the level of dedication, Des would catch the bus on Friday night all the way to Ceduna, get off the bus, umpire a game of football and then get back on the bus and come all the way back to Adelaide. I am not sure that that sort of dedication to communities exists these days. It is really quite outstanding. I can only hope that the players and spectators were a bit fairer on him as a result of those sorts of efforts. We all know how much sporting officials cop the ire of the fans.

For many years, Des was on the SANFL selection panel for umpires, such was his commitment to officiating our great game. Just in case this weight of service is exhausting people, I should mention that Des turned 80 last month and shows no sign of stopping his service and dedication to politics, volunteer firefighting and his community in general.

On behalf of everyone in this place and the people of South Australia whom I represent, I wish to thank Des Stanbury and the many like him in this state who give themselves in service without the expectation of accolades. Des, you are a true champion.

#### ZAHRA FOUNDATION

**The Hon. G.A. KANDELAARS (16:14):** Recently, I caught up with the 2016 Young South Australian of the Year and a nominee for the Young Australian of the Year, Arman Abrahamzadeh, to discuss the progress of the Zahra Foundation. Arman is an extraordinary individual who is respectful and humble about his achievements. He and his sisters, Atena and Anita, have had to endure the severe pain of the death of their mother, Zahra, who was tragically murdered in front of 300 people at the Adelaide Convention Centre in 2010.

The event certainly changed the lives of Arman and his sisters forever. Apart from losing their mother, Arman and Atena, young adults at the time, were thrust into the role of parenting their young teenage sister, Anita. They also had to deal with the subsequent murder trial of their father and a Coroner's inquest into the death of their mother.

Sadly, domestic violence for the children was a normal part of family life, with their mother constantly living in fear of their dominating father. Arman is a White Ribbon Ambassador and he is passionate about advocating for better legislation to protect women and children. He speaks to schools, sporting clubs and police cadets.

In 2015, along with his sister and with the help of the Central Domestic Violence Service, he established the Zahra Foundation of Australia to assist women in crisis and empower them with education and financial independence. The Zahra Foundation was officially launched by the Premier, Jay Weatherill, on 5 September 2015 at the Adelaide Convention Centre—the very place where Zahra lost her life as a result of domestic violence in March 2010. The launch was attended by many of us from this place.

The newly established foundation is designed to support South Australian women and children experiencing domestic and family violence. The foundation specifically aims to address financial abuse and disadvantage created as a result of domestic and family violence through delivering programs and services that promote the economic empowerment of women. There is an extensive body of research and evidence, including the ANROWS State of Knowledge paper, 'Building effective policies and services to promote women's economic security following domestic violence', which demonstrates the impact of domestic violence on women's economic security.

The Zahra Foundation of Australia relied on this and other research conducted by UniSA researchers, Dr Sarah Wendt and associates, which discusses the long-term impacts of domestic

violence on housing and employment. The work of the foundation to date has been a collaboration between the three children of Zahra Abrahamzadeh and six South Australian regional community-based domestic violence services.

Five months on, the foundation has received over \$120,000 in financial support and connected with local and corporate businesses to support the delivery of their financial literacy programs. Since September 2015, the Zahra Foundation has benefited from over 10 community fundraising events including schools, workplaces and government departments.

To date, the Zahra Foundation has successfully delivered a six-week financial literacy program in the western region, and it will continue to deliver and develop a range of programs with inclusion of accredited modules for training through 2016. These programs will provide women with financial literacy skills and practical tools and create pathways into education and employment. The Zahra Foundation, in connection with PKF Kennedy, will be launching a series of four one-off sessions for women with the focus on financial advice. The workshops will run over the next 12 months, and they will be officially launched with a fundraiser in March this year.

Since March 2015, Arman has spoken at over 30 events and shared his personal story with over 5,000 people. Arman continues to promote the important role men play in addressing the issue of violence against women, as well as the importance of economic empowerment and education for women. Financial abuse and disadvantage affected his family personally. Arman is an inspirational South Australian and a role model for us all.

### CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (16:19):** It is with great honour today that I rise to speak about the many celebrations of the Lunar New Year in South Australia. This year is the Year of the Fire Monkey—let's hope we do not need to set this chamber on fire to actually have some robust debate. The first day was Monday, 8 February, of this week, which coincides with the start of our parliament sitting week. May I take this opportunity to wish everyone here a very happy new year. Of course, the Hon. Tung Ngo and I are celebrating the Lunar New Year, so I wish him and his family a great year ahead.

In the good spirit of the season, let's get ready for some monkey magic for 2016. The monkey is a highly intelligent, witty and resourceful animal, so just watch out for all those cheeky monkeys coming out from everywhere! The Lunar New Year is one of the most important festivals for China and across Asia and for the many Asian communities living around the world. In South Australia, according to the 2011 census data, over 37,000 people were recorded to have Chinese ancestry and about 15,000 with Vietnamese ancestry. No doubt these numbers would have increased since 2011.

In addition, we also have thousands of international students from Asia, more than 10,000 from China alone. This demonstrates the strong connection we have with Asia and how we truly embrace the Asian cultures. The Chinese and Vietnamese communities are the two largest communities celebrating the Lunar New Year in South Australia. Therefore, it is no surprise that many organisations have put in enormous energy and resources to organise events over the 15 days of the Lunar New Year period.

Due to the vibrant nature of our multicultural society, the Chinese, Vietnamese and Asian communities in South Australia are stretching the festivities over a seven-week period, with the first Lunar New Year event starting as early as 23 January, up to the final event on 1 March 2016. So, with two weeks of parliament sitting as well as so many Lunar New Year events, it is keeping me pretty busy. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of the community leaders and organisations who have invited me to be a part of their celebrations. I wish to put on the record my deepest gratitude to the Chinese, Vietnamese and other Asian associations for preserving their wonderful cultures and sharing the Lunar New Year traditions with the South Australian community.

I would like to acknowledge and convey my sincere thanks to the following: the Vietnamese Farmers Association of South Australia, the Malaysia Club of South Australia, the China Business Network of South Australia, the Commonwealth Bank, the Australia China Friendship and Development Association, the South Australian Zhu-Lin Buddhist Association. I had an interesting conversation with the chief abbot, Jiewen Shi, on the new year's eve of the new year. He was asking me about parliament sitting and was very interested to know what politicians actually do. I explained to him about the type of debate and legislative framework, etc., happening in parliament. He then

asked me whether I will speak about the Chinese New Year and about the community and I said I would do so, and I am doing it right now.

I also spent the first day of the Chinese New Year at the Quan Am Temple, the Vietnamese temple. Then, SAMEAC had the Premier's reception yesterday. The Chinatown association organised a big dinner and the Hon. John Dawkins; the Hon. Gerry Kandelaars; minister Zoe Bettison; Mr Gardner, the member for Morialta; Rachel Sanderson, the member for Adelaide; Vincent Tarzia, the member for Hartley; and David Pisoni, the member for Unley, were also there, so it was a really big night.

I would like to continue my acknowledgement of the ANZ Bank, the Vietnamese Community in Australia—SA Division, the Overseas Chinese Association of South Australia, the Teo Chew Association of South Australia, Chinese Welfare Services of South Australia, the Australian Chinese Medical Association of South Australia (I think the Hon. Stephen Wade is going to that dinner), the Hong Kong Grocery Centre, the Australia China Friendship Society of South Australia, the Hong Kong ABA and the Hong Kong Economic Trade Office. All these events just keep going and going, and I want to place on the record my thanks to all the associations for their outstanding contributions, which enrich South Australia as an exciting multicultural state.

Time expired.

### **NO STRINGS ATTACHED THEATRE OF DISABILITY**

**The Hon. K.L. VINCENT (16:25):** As members would be aware, I have been very proud to be the patron—although I personally prefer the more gender-neutral term 'ambassador'—of No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability for some years now, from 2011 I think. Members may also know that my association with the company has existed since 2004, when I did my high school work experience there. Although I do not have much time to dedicate to artistic pursuits at the moment, given my more than fulfilling parliamentary role, continuing as ambassador for No Strings has given me a great opportunity to continue to contribute to the future of the arts through a company I am very much indebted to.

And what an exciting time to be the ambassador, as we move into a new chapter, farewelling Dr PJ Rose, our long-serving artistic director. PJ is an incredibly strong woman of many talents. She has a PhD in contemporary political theatre, she has worked as radio producer, a lecturer, director, cab driver, and probably everything else you can think of in between. She has been involved with No Strings as its artistic director on and off since about 1997, managing many successful programs, such as 2connect, a program pairing emerging artists with professionals to create work on a common theme, Preparing the Garden, another development program for emerging artists, and, of course, organising the annual end of year showcase.

We may have had disagreements over the years about procedure and about how things should be done in the company, but I have never once doubted PJ's commitment and loyalty to No Strings. She has been a wonderful mentor and a fierce friend to me, and I thank her for her work and ongoing friendship.

As I said, it is a very exciting time as on leap year day, 29 February this year, another mentor, kindred spirit and personal hero of mine will leap into the role of new artistic director. Many in this chamber would probably already know actor, writer and director Alirio Zavarce for his work on many award-winning productions, the most relevant to this speech being *Sons & Mothers*, a No Strings Attached production about seven men with disability and their personal relationships with their mothers. Under Alirio's leadership *Sons & Mothers* picked up several awards and toured the country, arguably becoming the company's most recognised and most successful production to date.

Whether it is telling his own story as a migrant and self-labelled 'adopted son of Australia' from his native Caracas in Venezuela, or facilitating the stories of people with disability, or running the True North Youth Theatre Ensemble, giving artistic and social opportunities to young people in our state's northern suburbs, who are often disenfranchised and isolated, Alirio's work is always about amplifying the voices of those we do not always hear. For this reason, and for many others, I cannot think of a better person for this exciting new role.

Alirio always demands an extremely high artistic standard, both of himself and of others, but at the same time his work is always genuine, real and human. He is a man of great bravery, humour and wisdom, and I am sure I speak for all involved with No Strings Attached when I say that I am very excited to see what he makes of his new role and to assist him in it where I can. PJ and Alirio, congratulations on everything you have achieved and will continue to achieve. You are extraordinary people and I look forward to continuing to work with you. I am so lucky to consider you part of my family.

### **SOUTHERN VALES CHRISTIAN COLLEGE**

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE (16:29):** I rise to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Southern Vales Christian College, both campuses (the one at Morphett Vale and also the one at Aldinga). Mr Acting President, you would recall that when Mr Stuart Leggett was member for Ashford he went on from this parliament to become a senior educator at the Aldinga campus.

In November last year I was again invited to the 2015 seniors presentation night, and for that I am grateful. It is very invigorating when you go to the presentation night to listen to a very committed and dedicated Ms Jenny Nelson, principal of the Southern Vales Christian College, and also Mr Les Kowald, and to see such committed teachers, educators and such enthusiastic and energetic young people, many of whom are about to complete their time at the Southern Vales Christian College and then go on to the next stage of their future.

It is great to have a choice in education, be it public or independent and, in my opinion, particularly when you have the choice of a Christian education. The Southern Vales Christian College stands out as one of those great colleges that is committed to an all-round education for young people. I also want to pay tribute to Pastor Martyn Manuel who is the head pastor at the Harvest Australia Church, which is on the adjoining campus to the Southern Vales Christian College, Morphett Vale campus. He is also the head of the board, and he should be proud of himself and his board for the work they are also doing. Martyn follows on from his father Pastor Barry Manuel, who has worked tirelessly since the inception of the Southern Vales Christian College.

I have seen a lot of great opportunities for South Australia come out of that college. I have had one of the students become a trainee in my office and they were one of the better trainees we have had. They have gone on to bigger and better things as well. This college offers a very focused high-achieving academic year 12 SACE course, but it also offers excellent vocational education and training courses including what is very beneficial to the south, that is, educating young people in hospitality and tourism. It is also great to see that Ms Sandra Scott, executive officer for South Australia of the Christian Schools Australia, also supports this college.

Music and sport are also a focus of the college and, as I say, over the 20-plus years that I have been associated with the Southern Vales Christian College, I have seen some great work being done in that school. These students are all residents of the south. Some of them go interstate or even overseas to further enhance their life experiences and career, but many of them know the great opportunities in the southern region, and after finishing college and other education they have settled down to be great long-term contributors to the south.

As I said at the beginning, parents deserve an opportunity, as do students, for a choice of education. I believe we have a good balance in South Australia between public and private, and I see some excellent education opportunities occurring at both. On this occasion, I particularly want to say how great this college is and they should hold their head up very proudly indeed. The other thing they strongly teach these young people is how to integrate into the community, how to help each other in the community, and, of course, the Christian values that the college is founded on. That adds to auguring well for those students throughout their life.

I finish by saying that I have worked with a number of very committed and dedicated principals in this college. At the end of the day, in my opinion, the school is only as good as its senior leadership, and I commend Ms Jenny Nelson, a much-loved principal of those campuses, for the incredible work she does in leading what is an excellent education team for the Southern Vales Christian College.

*Parliamentary Committees***STATUTORY AUTHORITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE: ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15**

**The Hon. G.A. KANDELAARS (16:35):** I move:

That the report of the committee, 2014-15, be noted.

As members are aware, the Statutory Authorities Review Committee is a multipartite parliamentary standing committee whose five members are drawn solely from the Legislative Council. I am pleased to present the 63<sup>rd</sup> report of the committee, the Annual Report of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee 2014-15. This report is the 19<sup>th</sup> annual report of the committee and my second as Presiding Member.

It provides a summary of the committee's activity for 2014-15. During 2014-15, the committee met on 14 occasions, commenced an inquiry into the Environment Protection Agency management of contamination at Clovelly Park and Mitchell Park, and continued its inquiry into the State Procurement Board. It has also received the Treasurer's response to the inquiry into Funds SA's report recommendations. In April 2015 the committee, together with the Economic and Finance Committee, also hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees (ACPAC).

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is the primary independent regulator for environment protection in South Australia. On 28 July 2014, the committee resolved on its own motion to inquire into the EPA's management of the contamination at Clovelly Park and Mitchell Park, with particular reference to the assessment and management of the risks to public health by the EPA and related agencies. The committee received written submissions to the inquiry from six interested stakeholders, and during 2014-15 heard evidence from 28 witnesses. The inquiry's final report is expected to be completed shortly.

The inquiry into the State Procurement Board commenced in 2014-15, during which the committee heard from further witnesses. The inquiry's final report was tabled in December 2015. In April 2015, the Economic and Finance Committee and the Statutory Authorities Review Committee hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Australasian Council of Australian Public Accounts Committees (ACPAC). The conference was held at Adelaide Oval and attended by close to 100 delegates from the Asia Pacific region. The conference theme was Inquiring Minds—Public Accountability, and the conference provided a broad platform for thought provoking conversations and debate in the areas in which public accounts committees operate.

In conclusion, I thank members of the committee—the Hon. Dennis Hood, the Hon. Rob Lucas, the Hon. Tung Ngo and the Hon. Stephen Wade—for their work on the committee for 2014-15. I look forward to continuing to work with them into the future, albeit I must say that we have just changed—

**The Hon. R.I. Lucas:** You've been sacked!

**The Hon. G.A. KANDELAARS:** No, I haven't been: the Hon. Tung Ngo has decided to leave the committee. I also wish to thank—

**The Hon. R.I. Lucas:** You've just been demoted.

**The Hon. G.A. KANDELAARS:** Well, that's for the committee to decide.

**The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins):** The honourable member should ignore the interjections.

**The Hon. G.A. KANDELAARS:** I will. I also wish to thank the committee staff members for their service, which has been invaluable over the past year.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (16:39):** I rise to speak briefly to the noting of the report and to make a couple of brief points. I too thank the other members and the hardworking staff of the committee.

By way of interjection, unruly as it was, I did allude to the fact that I understand that the Hon. Mr Kandelaars is about to be sacked as chair of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee but, as he pointed out, he has not yet been sacked—we will have to decide that at the coming

meeting. All I can say is that I will be doing all in my power to make sure he is sacked as the chair of that committee.

Whilst I cannot indicate the deliberative vote, certainly the Hon. Mr Gazzola comes highly recommended from the left of the Labor Party and, I am advised, well suited to the position of the chair of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee. He has already been furiously lobbying members for support to take over the position as chair of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee.

I want to make some brief comments, and the first is to note in the report the Treasurer's response to the inquiry into Funds SA and funds management in South Australia. I do not want to go through all the detail of that, but I want to acknowledge that, to the government's credit, it has acknowledged the work of the committee in relation to looking at funds management. I have to say that, without going into the detail, the report and the transcript will show that there was an unseemly stoush going on between Funds SA and the Motor Accident Commission at the time.

The committee made some recommendations in relation to a way forward with that issue. The government's response—which in the circumstances was fair enough—was that the government had made a separate decision in relation to the privatisation of the Motor Accident Commission, and that probably in and of itself resolves the need to reconcile the differences between the Motor Accident Commission and Funds SA in relation to their respective investment strategies. However, there were some other recommendations, and the government has obviously taken on board some of those and indicated a willingness to look at some of the others.

I want also to comment briefly on the other two reports. This is the 2014-15 annual report, but it does refer to the work the committee was doing and has now concluded in two other areas; one relates to the Environment Protection Authority and the other to the State Procurement Board. The only point I want to make—because the recommendations can be judged by those who want to look at the committee's report—is that it has been the experience before that one of the values of the work of the committee is that sometimes, through the passage of time and the focus on the work of a statutory authority, the evidence they give before a Statutory Authorities Review Committee leads to, during the passage of an action or review by the committee, changes being instituted by the statutory authority to its operations.

I do note that in relation to both the Environment Protection Authority and the State Procurement Board, during the time the committee was casting a spotlight on perhaps some of the inadequacies of the agencies' performance, the agency at least in part responded and made changes which the committee could then report on. In relation to the EPA, it did relate to some changes in terms of disclosure and its website and information that was provided which was being canvassed by the committee, and changes were implemented by the agency before the committee actually reported. Again, I think that is a testament to the worth of the committee's work, and valuable changes in terms of the operations of some of these agencies are achieved even prior to the formal reporting of the committee and a response by the government to the recommendations of the committee.

Finally, we have commenced work on the Motor Accident Commission terms of reference, but that is more in relation to the 2015-16 work of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee. With those brief comments, I support the noting of the report.

Motion carried.

#### *Motions*

#### **HURN, MR B.**

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. R.L. Brokenshire:

That this council—

1. Expresses its deep regret at the passing of Mr Brian Hurn OAM, former mayor of the Barossa Council and former president of the Local Government Association; and
2. Places on record its appreciation of his distinguished service to local government and to the broader community.

(Continued from 9 December 2015.)



**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (16:45):** I am proud to rise today to support the motion moved by the Hon. R.L. Brokenshire on 9 December last year to honour the service to local government and the community of Mr Brian Hurn OAM. In fact, like the Hon. Mr Brokenshire, I had leave from this chamber and attended the funeral on 27 October last year for the late Mr Hurn. I will probably disappoint the Hon. Mr Lucas because I will not delay the house to the extent that the Hon. Mr Brokenshire did in his 40-minute speech in moving this motion.

Brian Hurn was well known to many members of this chamber, certainly to those who have been here for some time, because I think probably in the latter stages of the last Liberal government he was the president of the Local Government Association of South Australia, but Brian, of course, was very active in local government circles over many, many years. He was the chairman of the District Council of Angaston for some 10 years after a relatively short period as a councillor prior to that.

Of course, when the district councils of Angaston, Tanunda, Barossa and part of the Mount Pleasant council came together to form the new Barossa Council, he became the inaugural mayor of that council and served in that role for some 17 years before he decided not to seek re-election in the elections which took place in November 2014.

Brian Hurn was well known to many around South Australia, obviously through his local government involvement, and I think the number of representatives of councils from right across South Australia at his funeral in the Angaston Uniting Church was indicative of that. He was, however, extraordinarily well regarded in sporting circles, and that was on a statewide basis and also certainly within country sporting fraternities.

As a young farmer from Angaston, he used to travel what was quite a significant distance to Adelaide in those early days to play district cricket with Kensington. Of course, as a young man of only 19, he played for the South Australian Sheffield Shield side in an international match. I think it was against the visiting Englishmen or the MCC. I am not 100 per cent certain of that, but I know he took five wickets as a 19 year old against an international touring side.

He went on to play Sheffield Shield cricket for South Australia for a number of years, despite the fact that he was based on the farm at Angaston, which must have been a real challenge. He was, of course, part of the winning South Australian 1963-64 Sheffield Shield side. Sadly, we have not had enough of them since then, but those of us who grew up in that era with an interest in cricket remember that side very well—particularly the influence of Les Favell, Garry Sobers and Ian Chappell, etc.

Brian was very proud to have been part of that, and he continued his interest in cricket throughout his life. We heard at the funeral that, in his later days, even though he was not that well, with his granddaughter Ashton, who is known to many of us in this building, he was actually able to go to a test match at Lord's and that was something he had always wanted to do.

The other area I would like to say a bit more about in connection with Brian Hurn is his passion for country football. For many years, as well as his role as mayor of the Barossa, he also held at the same time the position of president of the Barossa Light and Gawler Football Association. That was an extension of his passion and love for the Angaston Football Club as an administrator but he also had a distinguished playing career in what was then the Barossa and Light Football Association well before Gawler came into it.

He was extraordinarily well regarded and remains so in the football community in that part of South Australia. He was twice the leading A-grade goal kicker in the Barossa and Light in 1957 and 1963, and he also won the best and fairest medal in 1970. I am not sure what the name of it was at that stage; the Barossa and Light have had a tradition of changing the name of that medal. It is now called the Schluter medal, but he won that in 1970.

Brian Hurn, as was said during the funeral, loved the Barossa. He also loved regional South Australia and would go to any length to stick up for regional South Australia but he also loved his state. My colleagues who knew him would say that he kept members of parliament on their toes. If you came into his patch, he did not mind pointing at you in the chest and asking you what you were going to do for his patch, but he was also fair.

He was compassionate with many people in his area who I think had some personal difficulties. He worked very strongly through the Uniting Church at Angaston. He had a passionate faith and certainly the service in that Angaston Uniting Church was one which featured a couple of very well-sung hymns. Those who understand the Methodist art of singing will understand that that is what Brian liked.

In conclusion, the card that was given out on the day for the late Brian Morgan Hurn OAM indicated that he lived from 4 March 1939 until 18 October 2015 and described his time here with us as a wonderful life.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. A.L. McLachlan.

*Parliamentary Committees*

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15**

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (16:56):** I move:

That the report on the operations of the committee, 2014-2015, be noted.

In moving the motion standing in my name, I rise to speak briefly to note the report of the work of the Budget and Finance Committee 2014-15. I do not propose to go into detail in relation to the work of the committee. As I have indicated on many previous occasions, I think the worth of the committee is apparent to all members of the chamber.

I think one of the valuable aspects of the work of this particular committee was the provision originally moved when it was first established to have participating members in the committee. I believe it is the only committee that we have established which allows that particular provision. I think it is worth merit consideration in terms of potentially the work of other committees. I think over its period probably most members of the Legislative Council have either served as members of the committee or have participated and come along and asked questions on particular policy areas or portfolio areas of interest to those particular members.

In addition to its usual work of looking at the budgets and finances of the departments and agencies, it has continued its oversight work on the new Royal Adelaide Hospital project. Again, to refresh members' memories on that, the reason it picked up that particular issue was that the Public Works Committee decided that it would not undertake its normal process of looking at a major public work undertaken on behalf of the government of the day and the taxpayers of the state, and so the Budget and Finance Committee has picked up an ongoing body of work in relation to the new Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Again, I think the worth of the committee has been demonstrated in recent hearings, both late last year and early this year, when the spotlight was able to be thrown on some aspects of the operation of the process of managing the contract and the process of moving to the new Royal Adelaide Hospital site. The committee will take further evidence on that issue again next week.

Another ongoing issue the committee has taken evidence on has been the issue of water pricing in South Australia. Again, there has been a separate motion to establish an inquiry into water pricing in South Australia. The government was not disposed to supporting that so the Budget and Finance Committee has picked up a modest body of work there in relation to allowing a number of the major stakeholders with differing views on water pricing in the state to put their views. The witnesses who gave evidence on that issue before the committee included both past and present members of ESCOSA, SA Water and Treasury. With those few words, I move that the report be noted.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. S.G. Wade.

At 17:02 the council adjourned until Thursday 11 February 2016 at 11:00.