

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 28 September 2016

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. R.P. Wortley)** took the chair at 14:19 and read prayers.

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

*Ministerial Statement*

### GLOBAL GIG CITY NETWORK

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (14:20):** I seek leave to table a ministerial statement made in the other place by the Premier, entitled Memorandum of Understanding Global Gig City Network.

### ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (14:20):** I seek leave to table a ministerial statement made in the other place by the Minister for Health, entitled new Royal Adelaide Hospital.

*Question Time*

### RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:20):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing a question to the Minister for Water and the River Murray on the subject of reservoir protocols.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK:** At the outset I would like to once again thank the minister for his offer of providing me with a briefing, which I note has been moved from this week to next week, but I am still greatly looking forward to it. In light of the events of two weeks ago my questions for the minister are:

1. What specific changes have been made to SA Water's protocols in relation to the current weather events?
2. Has the minister received his report from SA Water yet into the event of two weeks ago?
3. To what extent has the north-south interconnector been utilised to manage water in the dams, or is that like the Adelaide desalination plant, an unused asset or, in the common parlance, a white elephant?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (14:21):** I thank the honourable member for her most important questions. It gives me an opportunity to correct some of the commentary that has been run on the wireless today by members of the opposition.

**The Hon. J.M.A. Lensink:** Talk about the protocols.

**The Hon. D.W. Ridgway:** He is not going to talk about difficult stuff.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** We could always talk about difficult stuff, the Hon. Mr Ridgway, but you might be a bit embarrassed by it. The government has—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The minister has the floor.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** Mr President, you have the Hon. David Ridgway in this place saying that members on this side are jokes.

**The Hon. D.W. Ridgway:** I am worried about the future of this state.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** And you have this character running around not worrying about the future of the state but worrying about the future of the backbench and who is going to get a spot on the backbench and who is going to miss out on a spot on the backbench. That is what the Hon. Mr Ridgway has been doing, but we will leave that for another day because there is more to be said about those stories, apparently. It is clear that members opposite do not understand and do not appreciate the issues to deal with—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Hon. Leader of the Opposition—

**The Hon. D.W. Ridgway:** Please chuck me out.

**The PRESIDENT:** I like having you in front of me where I can see you. Allow the minister to finish his answer.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** Thank you, Mr President, for your protection. It is clear from some of the commentary on the wireless today from opposition spokespeople, and those who pretend to be opposition spokespeople, that they don't understand the water system, they have no clue about how it operates. They do not understand water policy, and the public should be very concerned about Steven Marshall's plans for securing Adelaide's critical water needs. The fact is, they have no plan, they have no plan at all, and that was shown up today when the Hon. Ms Lensink was on the wireless on, I think, Mr Leon Byner's show where he asked about her plan and she said, 'They are coming soon. We haven't got them yet.'

**The Hon. J.M.A. Lensink:** It's called due diligence.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** Due diligence, something the opposition would know an awful lot about. They are certainly going through due diligence in their candidate selection, they are going as far as Singapore to get someone who has not lived here for 20 years.

**An honourable member:** Unbelievable.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** It is unbelievable, but that is what they have been reduced to. They are so desperate for a plan that they are out saying—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Allow the minister to finish his answer.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** They were out saying, 'We don't actually have a water plan', and, 'It's coming soon'—according to the Liberals their water plan is coming soon. We will wait and see with some eagerness what they are going to put before their community.

In terms of SA Water planning for weather events predicted by the Bureau of Meteorology, I can say that SA Water has been in contact with BOM over this week about these events. Contact was made again with BOM, I am advised, on Monday morning at approximately 10.30am. At the time, the BOM advised that there was potential for a significant weather event over Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29, clearing by Friday 30 September.

I was advised that rainfall could be similar to that received on Wednesday 14 September. A flood watch notification was issued at 11.52am on Monday 26 September, stating that rainfall totals within the system are expected to be 30 to 60 millimetres across the Mid North, Mount Lofty Ranges and Adelaide Metropolitan districts watch area, with some falls of 50 to 100 millimetres possible.

In response to this notification and in the knowledge that the catchment surface is currently saturated from the previous week's rainfall event, SA Water commenced a release of water from Mount Bold at approximately midday on Monday 26 September. The reservoir was approximately 90 per cent full at midday on Tuesday 27 September, I am advised. After further consultation with BOM, SA Water had continued releases overnight on Tuesday 27 September and Wednesday

morning, 28 September. The current discharge rate, I am advised, is 6,850 megalitres per day. This release rate will drop the level of the reservoir to approximately 82 per cent by midday today.

If inflows are received in line with the rainfall event of 14 September, SA Water anticipates that the water requiring release from the reservoir will be significantly below the levels that were released during the event due to additional available storage. However, it is important to note that there are creeks that empty water into the Onkaparinga catchment downstream of Mount Bold reservoir that can significantly influence the water level in the river.

During significant inflow events, SA Water aims to operate the reservoir to match outflow to anticipated inflow to maintain reservoir levels. Failure to do so could result in uncontrolled overflow of the reservoir, potentially impacting the structural integrity of the dam. SA Water will continue to receive updates from the BOM as the event progresses, and this information will be used to refine the Mount Bold management strategy, including further releases, if required.

Members of the community concerned about potential flooding should contact the State Emergency Service on 132 500 as the coordinating authority for flood events in the state. It is important to state that these are the usual protocols in place for SA Water when the catchment has been wetted up to the extent that it was last week. I think the other question the honourable member asked was if I had received my report yet from SA Water about last week's events, and the answer to that is not yet.

**The Hon. J.M.A. Lensink:** And the interconnector?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** The interconnector was built, as the honourable member should really know, to maximise the flow between the reservoirs and the provision of water through the desal plant and all of our catchments, essentially, and to level them up across the north and south of Adelaide. I can inform honourable members who don't know that in fact there was no interconnection between the two water systems in the north and the south of the city of Adelaide until that interconnector was built.

It maximises our ability to be flexible with the water that is used across the system, and the demand and the time of year, but it certainly wasn't built to transfer large volumes of water from water reservoir to water reservoir. I am not even sure if that is technically feasible in a sufficient amount to make any impact whatsoever.

#### RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:28):** I have a supplementary question arising from the answer. Has SA Water changed its protocols from two weeks ago?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (14:28):** I have already answered that question. SA Water has a very well determined and highly complicated protocol, which the honourable member is going to be briefed on.

**The Hon. J.M.A. Lensink:** I can't wait.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** I'm sure she can't wait for that, Mr President, it will be incredibly informative for her and she may make some more well-informed comments on radio than the ones she made today.

**The Hon. R.L. Brokenshire:** Don't become a Donald Trump.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** I don't think she will; she is too polite.

#### *Parliamentary Committees*

#### LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

**The Hon. A.L. McLACHLAN (14:28):** I bring up the 30<sup>th</sup> report of the committee.

Report received.

*Question Time***PRISON VIOLENCE**

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Leader of the Opposition) (14:29):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Correctional Services a question regarding the increase in prison violence.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY:** In response to a question from my honourable friend Mr Andrew McLachlan, the minister stated twice, in absolute terms, that there was no correlation between prisoner overcrowding and the recent increase in prison assaults. However, I refer to an article on 27 December 2015 printed in *The Advertiser*—just shortly before the honourable minister was anointed by one of the faceless men in the Labor Party to become a member of the Legislative Council. This article printed in *The Advertiser* stated that the union representing the correctional services officers, the PSA, highlighted, and I quote:

...that increases in violent incidents were not surprising, given the continued overcrowding of SA prisons.

Given this, my question to the minister is: does the minister accept that his comments are at total odds with the PSA, which represents all correctional services officers?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:30):** I thank the honourable member for his question. Of course, this government enjoys a good, productive working relationship with the PSA. I talk to the PSA rather regularly, as the professional representatives of the employees that work within the Department of Correctional Services. I stated yesterday, in an effort to give a direct reply to the Hon. Mr McLachlan's question, that we have not seen any evidence to suggest at all that there has been an increase in prisoner violence that is somehow related to overcrowding.

I know that the opposition would like to think that that was the case and will, no doubt, try to muddy the waters to suggest that is the case, but my answer was rather unequivocal yesterday and I don't resile from that at all. I have made it very clear that I haven't seen any evidence that suggests there has somehow been an increase in prison violence, that is occurring at the South Australian Department for Correctional Services, that is, in any way, related to prison overcrowding.

**PRISON VIOLENCE**

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Leader of the Opposition) (14:31):** Supplementary question: how does the minister explain the significant increase in the incidence of prison violence, as outlined in his department's own annual report?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:31):** I have got a revelation for the Hon. Mr Ridgway: prisons are dangerous places. We put almost 3,000 prisoners in a correctional services facility. These people are in there because they have done the wrong thing, a large proportion of them are violent offenders themselves, and it shouldn't be surprising that, from time to time, incidents take place. The department seeks to—

**The Hon. D.W. Ridgway:** So, it's just a natural thing, increasing violence?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS:** The department seeks to manage the risk as best as they possibly can. I think, by and large, they do a good job, but I have not seen any evidence that suggests that somehow there is a linkage between the strain that currently exists on the prison system, in regard to prison numbers, versus prison violence. It is just that straightforward.

**PRISON VIOLENCE**

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (14:32):** My question is directed to Minister for Correctional Services. When did the minister last meet the PSA, and did the PSA raise any concerns about increases in the incidence of violence in prisons and prison overcrowding at that meeting?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:32):** I thank the honourable

member for his question. I am just trying to get the precise date, because I am in regular contact with the Public Service Association and, indeed, yes, it was last Monday 19 September at 9am when I met with the Public Service Association and a large number of their representatives, and they did not raise with me any questions regarding increases in violence and overcrowding.

#### STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (14:33):** I have a question to the Minister for Water and the River Murray. Can the minister tell the chamber about the state government's commitment to stormwater management projects?

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (14:33):** I thank the honourable member for this most important question, and I thank the Hon. Robert Brokenshire for telling the chamber what a great minister I am—by way of interjection, which is out of order, of course, Mr President.

**The Hon. J.M.A. Lensink:** I don't believe it.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** We've got the member opposite here, the Hon. Michelle Lensink, saying, 'I don't believe it,' but she doesn't even know what she is talking about. When she was on radio this morning she was suggesting that there hadn't been work done in this area of stormwater management in South Australia. What a load of hooley. There could not be anything further from the truth. The state government established the Stormwater Management Authority in 2007.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** This state government established the Stormwater Management Authority in 2007. Contrast that with the Liberals when they were last in government: they slashed the funding for stormwater management in half—that is what they did; they slashed it in half down to \$2 million. The state government has agreed to a 30-year funding commitment. What state government ever agrees to such a long-term funding agreement? This state government has, in recognition of the importance of the issue. Due to the importance of the issue we have entered into this long-term funding to give surety and a guarantee to local government whose responsibility it is to deliver on these issues.

This includes \$4 million a year indexed. The Stormwater Management Authority may use these funds for such activities as the preparation of stormwater management plans, carrying out works or the acquisition of land for stormwater management, community education and awareness programs, measures relating to water quality or pollution abatement, investigation, research and pilot programs. DEWNR advises that the amount of government funding provided to the Stormwater Management Authority for 2016-17 is about \$5.1 million.

I am further advised that, since September 2006, \$36.1 million has been approved by the Stormwater Management Authority for 112 projects. The Hon. Michelle Lensink was on the radio saying nothing has been done. We have approved 112 projects. She might like to note that and the next time she goes onto the wireless and talks to the community she has that information before her now. I will give her a little bit more. These projects include funding towards 33 metropolitan and 28 regional floodplain mapping and planning projects and 37 metropolitan and 14 regional infrastructure work projects.

In 2015-16, the projects supported included: the Hargrave Street gravity main in the City of Port Adelaide Enfield; the Whyalla Stormwater Management Plan for the City of Whyalla; the Lower Sturt Catchment Stormwater Management Plan in the City of Mitcham; the Mortlock Terrace Catchment Flood Mitigation Options Study in the City of Port Lincoln; and the government has also made a commitment to the Brown Hill Keswick Creek Management Plan. We know that this catchment is at significant risk of flood. The area and its residents are on high alert right now as we are about to experience another rainfall event, a significant rainfall event if the Bureau of Meteorology's forecast is accurate.

The catchment area covers land within the councils of West Torrens, Adelaide, Unley, Burnside and Mitcham. The area was identified as a significant flood risk as early as the 1930s. I am advised that a one in 100 year flood event could potentially damage up to 5,000 properties, impact on the Adelaide Airport, potentially the Ashford Hospital, road and rail transport across the catchment area and significantly impact businesses.

The plan to reduce flood risk will include investment in the South Parklands and Glenside detention basins, lower and mid-Brownhill Creek upgrades, flow diversions from Keswick to Brownhill Creek, Ridge Park detention basin, diversion culvert at the Goodwood railway junction, Glen Osmond Creek upgrade works, Mount Osmond Interchange dam modification and an upgrade of Upper Brownhill Creek. However, we are yet to hear anything from Steven Marshall and his Liberals about support for this plan.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** Point of order, Mr President.

**The PRESIDENT:** Point of order.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** It is my understanding that the practice of this house is to refer to people by their title not by their name.

**The PRESIDENT:** I think the minister should keep aware of that.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** I was not, in fact, referring to the honourable member, the member for Dunstan, I was referring to 'Steven Marshall, leader of the Liberal team', which is what they use in all the propaganda they are putting out at the moment. We have not heard if they are going to fund it.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** Point of order, Mr President. I ask you to rule on my point of order considering the minister seems to be defying you.

**The PRESIDENT:** When referring to someone in the other house or a member of parliament do refer to them by their title.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** They have a number of titles and this is the title: leader of the Liberal Party. We are yet to hear anything from him, and nothing from this mob opposite. They have been pushed today and Michelle Lensink said, 'We'll have something soon'—The Hon. Michelle Lensink said, 'We'll have something soon.' Nothing yet, Mr President; not a word. What a shame for those residents across Adelaide who are at current risk of flood not to have a bipartisan commitment to this very important program.

While the relevant councils have primary responsibility for managing stormwater and drainage risk within their local council areas, the state government believes that this risk is so significant that it is prepared to provide significant funding for the plan and we have the councils onside at long last. I have written to the commonwealth government seeking its contribution towards this program. Federal Labor, of course, as we know, committed to funding during the recent federal election and the only party that we have not heard from is the Liberal Party. We have not heard from the Liberal Party at a state level; we have not heard from the Liberal Party at a federal level.

Why won't they commit? Why won't they commit to funding for this very important plan for these communities? Why are they not interested in the protection of people's homes, their property and significant economic generators of the airport, the rail terminal and the north-south corridor for transport? It really beggars belief.

We know that the project will provide significant benefits for the residents across West Torrens, Adelaide, Unley, Burnside and the Mitcham council areas. This is a comprehensive 20-year Stormwater Management Plan for thousands of residents across South Australia, and at the same time the Stormwater Management Fund has already been used by the authority to support a number of individual elements of the plan.

So, while the member on radio this morning suggested that we have not been investing in stormwater management projects, I remind the member and the house that some of the 112 projects already undertaken include:

- a contribution of up \$1.4 million toward the Ridge Park Detention Basin;

- a contribution of up to \$2.5 million towards the Goodwood Junction-Brownhill Creek diversion project; and,
- a contribution of up to \$380,000 towards Part B investigations.

South Australians are still waiting to hear whether the Liberal Party and Steven Marshall as leader will be supporting stormwater management and South Australia.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** On a point of order: the practice of this house is that the members of the other place are referred to by their title, as the member for Dunstan.

**The PRESIDENT:** Before the minister gets up, it would be more appropriate, if you are referring to the leader, to refer to the fact that he is the member for Dunstan.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** I stand corrected: Steven Marshall, the Liberal Party leader and member for Dunstan, leader of the Liberal team, is nowhere to be seen—vacated the area, missing in action. Steven Marshall, Liberal leader, member for Dunstan, is out on a holiday; he does not want to be part of this program. He does not want to support South Australians with their stormwater issues. The Liberals are vacant. Why have we not heard from them? It is because they are not supporting it, they are not going to provide any future plan at all, they are not going to provide any future funding for this important and comprehensive stormwater management plan to protect South Australians.

The member opposite spoke this morning about a lack of stormwater recharge projects. Again, not a clue about what has been going on in this state. These schemes diversify the state's water supplies and provide other amenity and environmental benefits. I am advised by my department and the Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board that they have invested around \$50 million in stormwater harvesting projects.

The honourable member on the wireless today said that nothing has been done. Well, \$50 million has been invested, and technical and in-kind support has also been provided along the way. Some of these projects include: the Morphettville Racecourse; the Grange Golf Club; Royal Adelaide Golf Club; Glenelg Golf Club; Waterproofing Northern Adelaide, Salisbury, Playford and Tea Tree Gully—

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS:** On a point of order: this is the second day in a row that the minister has provided an eight-minute answer to a government question, and this is an abuse of question time because he does it regularly, and he cuts out other members from asking questions.

**The PRESIDENT:** Can you get to your point, minister?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** The only abuse happens from that side of parliament. They are nowhere to be seen on an important policy issue to South Australians—Waterproofing Northern Adelaide, Salisbury, Playford and Tea Tree Gully—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** —Waterproofing the South, Onkaparinga, Botanic Gardens, Barker Inlet, Adelaide Airport, Oaklands Park, Ridge Park, Waterproofing the West, Charles Sturt Council, Waterproofing the East, Eastern Regional Alliance and Unity Park.

We are investing in these programs, as I said, and we have been working on these programs for many years to diversify our water resources. In 2009 and 2010, the government of South Australia led a successful bid of funding of eight stormwater harvesting and reuse projects across Adelaide through the Australian government's Water for Future initiative. The government and local councils made significant funding contributions to this project, including:

- Waterproofing the West, stage 1, \$68.6 million;
- Adelaide Airport stormwater scheme, \$9.8 million;
- the Unity Park biofiltration scheme, \$13.9 million;

- the Waterproofing Playford, stage 2, scheme, \$22.5 million;
- the Waterproofing the South, stage 2, \$29.9 million;
- the Adelaide Botanic Garden, First Creek wetland and aquifer storage and recovery scheme, \$10.4 million;
- the Barker Inlet stormwater reuse scheme, \$8.8 million; and
- the Oaklands Park stormwater reuse scheme, \$9 million.

The Hon. Michelle Lensink is saying that nothing has been done. Well, is she just vacant about these issues or is she actually misleading people? The government's proactive investment and collaboration with local government and the commonwealth government now means Adelaide has the capacity to harvest over 20 gigalitres of stormwater a year.

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS:** On a point of order: we are now up to 10 minutes for this answer, and I ask you to again ask the minister to draw to a conclusion.

**The PRESIDENT:** Minister, can you finalise your answer?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** I would be finished by now if I didn't have so many interjections and points of order, Mr President.

**The PRESIDENT:** I realise that.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** Our proactive investment and work with local and federal governments have seen us have a capacity to harvest—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** —over 20 gigalitres of stormwater a year. I am advised this is the highest amount in the country, yet the Hon. Michelle Lensink says today on radio, 'Nothing's been done.' We have the highest amount of water being recharged into aquifers in the country and the Hon. Michelle Lensink, on behalf of the Liberal Party, says, 'Nothing's been done.' Not only is the member opposite wrong, she doesn't even understand that we lead the nation in what we are doing with stormwater management.

Internationally, South Australia's stormwater harvesting and managed aquifer recharge expertise is well recognised, so much so that we are working on a potential economic opportunity to export our knowledge to places like Shandong and the state of Rajasthan in India. The member opposite might like to apprise herself of some of our state's nation-leading stormwater projects when she finally has her briefing with us, which can provide accurate information to the community.

**The Hon. J.M.A. Lensink:** Nothing to do with your government. They resist everything.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** That's right. We're the ones who are introducing it, we're the ones who are building it, but she says, 'It's nothing to do with you. Nothing is happening.' Despite the millions we are investing in this, despite the best record in the country, the Hon. Michelle Lensink says, 'Nothing to do with you.' That is as much as she knows—absolutely zero, over there.

Stormwater recycling is one of a number of actions taken by this government in order to diversify our water supplies to ensure a sustainable future. It is just a shame that the Liberal Party opposite, as shown today by the Hon. Michelle Lensink on the radio station with Mr Leon Byner, does not have the first idea about the projects that have been implemented over the last decade—not the first idea. What a shame it is for our state that the people who purport to be the alternative government are so vacant in this space.

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS:** Point of order, again, sir. The minister is just defying your direction. This is now 12 minutes and it is an abuse of question time.

**The PRESIDENT:** The minister is not defying my direction. I have asked him to get to a conclusion to his answer, but the minister is obviously upset about the fact that a member of this chamber has gone on radio and made comments—



*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** I can see it from here. He is now putting on record the achievements, obviously, of his department. Unfortunately, he must answer the question the way he sees fit. Minister, have you finished?

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** They are now complaining that I have been so well prepared to answer this question. All I can say is, yes, I do prepare, as a minister. Clearly, the Hon. Michelle Lensink never prepares before she goes on radio. She hasn't got the first clue.

#### **WILD DOG MANAGEMENT**

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE (14:47):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation a question about wild dogs.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE:** In April, the federal government drought support program concluded, thereby ending the only form of funding—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE:** Thank you, sir—that had allowed the employment of a wild dog trapper in South Australia. Since this funding ceased, Livestock SA has been calling on the state government to provide the necessary funds—about \$300,000—to employ two wild dog trappers, which would help ensure that wild dogs do not continue to move further south.

I am advised that, without a dog trapper, the wild dog population would continue to grow both inside and outside the Dog Fence, and we could see them move south into areas such as the Mount Lofty Ranges and even places like Croydon, Cheltenham and Mile End. The appearance of wild dogs in peri-urban and residential areas would cause havoc, to say the least. My questions for the minister are:

1. Does the minister agree that the control of wild dogs within the borders of South Australia is the responsibility of the South Australian government? That is a yes or a no.
2. Why is the South Australian government dragging its feet and allowing such an important position to remain unfilled?
3. Where is the state government's commitment to environmental protection and conservation, or do they expect the federal government to continue picking up the bill for this matter?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (14:49):** I thank the honourable member for his most important questions. Of course, the answer is already in his explanation: the federal government cut the funding. He said it came to an end, but you know that is semantics. The fact is the federal government cut the funding for these positions. You have the Liberals over there on the opposition benches, spinelessly refusing to stand up for our state and take on the commonwealth government, saying, 'Reinstate that funding, please, commonwealth government.'

They are going to see their good friends. The Hon. David Ridgway could utilise his position of leadership and go to see his good friend Christopher Pyne, the member for Sturt, and say, 'We really need you to reinstate this funding.' But what has he done? Nothing. Now we have the Hon. Mr Brokenshire coming into this place, raising his concerns about the federal government not funding this program, and the Liberals opposite just want to let the federal government off the hook. What spineless behaviour is that? Again, they are not standing up for South Australia. They find it impossible, as Liberals, to stand up to the federal Liberal government.

I can tell you, Premier Jay Weatherill never had that problem in standing up against the federal Labor government. When it was in the interests of our state, he was there standing up all the

time. Steven Marshall, Liberal leader, member for Dunstan, is never there standing up for South Australia. Never. He will never ever stand up against the federal Liberal government because it is not in his nature. He is the creature of the member for Sturt. He was created by the member for Sturt and he cannot go and ask him for anything. So, the Hon. Mr Brokenshire has already answered his own question.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The only person who should be speaking in this chamber at the moment is the honourable minister.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** To give him some further information to arm him, because at least he may join me—the Liberals won't—in contacting the federal government and asking for a reinstatement of the program, we both know, the Hon. Mr Brokenshire and I, that the number of wild dogs has increased in range land areas south of the Dog Fence in recent years, threatening the state's sheep industry.

The state government takes the matter of wild dog management very seriously, and considerable investment is made in managing wild dog populations. The state government and the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Have you finished your answer, minister? The actual behaviour of many in this chamber at the moment is really less than desirable.

*The Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** No, it is not a matter of view. The fact is—

*The Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** I am not here to debate it. I am here to give a direction. I do not want anyone else to talk. While somebody is on their feet, nobody should interject. You hadn't finished, minister?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** The state government and the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board believe that the best solution for wild dogs in the region is a long-term strategic approach that requires a long-term federal funding agreement. Although short-term approaches to wild dog management can be effective, the SAAL NRM Board believes that the most successful arrangement for wild dog management comprises both service delivery and compliance and best practice activities.

Inside the Dog Fence, the SAAL NRM Board is leading initiatives to improve wild dog control through the Biteback program. The SAAL NRM region's Biteback program is jointly funded by the SAAL NRM Board and the South Australian Sheep Industry Fund. Commonwealth funding has also assisted program delivery in 2015-16. Drought assistance funding from the Australian government was used to employ a dog trapper during the previous financial year but unfortunately this funding, as I said earlier, is no longer available; it has been cut by the federal government. Alternative funding opportunities are currently being investigated.

Investment in wild dog management remains a high profile issue for the SAAL NRM Board. The board will fund the following wild dog management activities in 2016-17:

- the employment of two Biteback officers who will provide wild dog bait injection services for landowners with properties to the south of the Dog Fence. The officers will also support the 22 established community action groups which have local plans that define the minimum levels of landholder participation and wild dog baiting and management;
- aerial wild dog baiting activities in areas that are difficult to access by land;
- the provision of subsidised dog baits and canid pest ejectors for landholders; and
- the provision of training via wild dog trapping workshops for landholders.

Biteback targets the control of wild dogs inside the Dog Fence by coordinating and supporting 22 community-based local area planning groups which were established to undertake district scale control activities. This approach has resulted in a substantial increase in landholder participation rates in wild dog control across the landscape. The biannual bait injection service provided to landholders has been boosted by the installation of freezers to help ensure a continuous supply of baits outside these times.

The state government recognises the success of this important program, and processes are underway to engage a statewide wild dog coordinator to roll out the Biteback program across all wild dog affected regions. This will include northern parts of the Eyre Peninsula, Northern and Yorke, and South Australian Murray-Darling Basin regions. The state coordinator will also implement actions from the forthcoming State Wild Dog Strategic Plan.

The development of the state plan has been overseen by the South Australian Wild Dog Advisory Group as part of its terms of reference. The state plan is the mechanism by which South Australia delivers its contribution to the National Wild Dog Action Plan, and the draft state plan has been circulated for consideration to 18 stakeholder groups, including NRM boards, the Dog Fence Board and Livestock SA. I am pleased to say it is being finalised for imminent release.

Having said that, I again encourage the Hon. Mr Brokenshire, and any Liberals with a spine, to stand up for our state, contact the federal government and ask it to reinstate the funding that it withdrew for the program.

#### PRISONER TRANSFERS

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (14:55):** My question is to the Minister for Correctional Services. Can the minister advise whether the frequency of prisoner transfers between correctional facilities has increased in recent years?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:55):** Prisoner transfers between facilities within Corrections is not uncommon. There is a whole range of reasons people transfer from facility to facility and bed management, of course, is only one contributing factor.

The nature of the prisoner's graduation through the prison system will often determine what prison they are in. Generally speaking, when people are put into custody to serve a sentence, or if they are on remand, they will commence their sentence either in the Adelaide Remand Centre or Yatala Labour Prison. They can then graduate through the system, because of good behaviour and the like, to facilities that are of a lower security nature than places such as the remand centre and Yatala Labour Prison.

In terms of specific prisoner transfer numbers, I do not have that to hand. Prisoner transfers are, generally speaking, conducted by G4S, which has been contracted by the state government or the Department for Correctional Services to manage the actual transportations that occur between prison facilities. I am happy to get some clarification on what the numbers are regarding transportations, but these are run-of-the-mill events that happen on a daily basis.

I am also happy to ascertain whether or not there has been a particular increase in prisoner transfers. I suspect there has been somewhat of a growth in that number as a consequence of the fact—as has regularly been articulated by myself and well documented publicly—that there has been a growth in the prison population, somewhere in the order of 10 per cent, over the last financial year. We have seen an increase in the number of people coming into the state's custody and, vis-a-vis, I would expect that would result in an increased number of prisoner transfers occurring. However, again, I am happy to seek the information from G4S and bring a figure back, if it is appropriate to do so.

#### PRISONER TRANSFERS

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (14:57):** A supplementary: perhaps I could first of all respond to the minister's undertaking. The number of—

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** Point of order: supplementary questions are to ask a question, not to enter into debate.

**The PRESIDENT:** Just ask your question, Hon. Mr Wade.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** On a point of clarification on the question he has taken on notice, I will make the point—

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** Point of order: supplementary questions must come to the question. You cannot debate either a new question or the original question or answer; you must ask a question during a supplementary.

**The PRESIDENT:** Ask the question.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** The minister referred to bed management as being only one reason why prisoner transfer would occur, so I ask the minister: how much spare capacity does the prison system need to maintain to ensure that bed management does not result in transfers that would not otherwise be required?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:58):** What I said in my previous answer was that bed space management might be one reason why there would be prisoner transfers but, to the best of my knowledge, it is not the predominant reason for prisoners being transferred from one facility to the other. As I stated, prisoners get transferred from different facilities on a day-to-day basis; it is par for the course.

Often it is as a consequence of a prisoner's security rating changing, the nature of their status within their graduation within the prison system; if someone behaves well and demonstrates their capacity to be able to be transferred to a lower security prison. Perhaps it might be a particular need; they might have declared a desire to educate themselves in a particular skill set or it may be something to do with prison industries.

There are a whole range of variables that can contribute to whether or how prisoners are transferred or when they are transferred or, indeed, where they are transferred. The honourable member asked if I had information available for him in terms of the numbers of prisoner transfers. I have made it clear that I am happy to undertake to seek that information and, if it is appropriate to do so, share it with the honourable member.

#### PRISONER NUMBERS

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (15:00):** Supplementary: I ask the minister, does his department have a target of proportion of beds to be maintained as vacant so that bed management does not cause unnecessary prison transfers within the system?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:00):** The target of the Department of Correctional Services is to make sure that prisoners are housed safely and securely in a manner that the South Australian public would reasonably expect.

#### PRISONER NUMBERS

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (15:00):** So, is it the minister's advice to this house that the department does not have a target of vacant beds to avoid bed management?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:00):** My answer, Mr President, is that the department's primary target and objective is to make sure that we have enough beds in the system to be able to manage our prison population in such a way that keeps South Australians secure.

#### PRISONER SUPPORT AND TREATMENT

**The Hon. K.L. VINCENT (15:01):** Supplementary: are prisoners ever transferred with the objective of getting them better services; for example, if they have particular access needs or

psychiatric care requirements? If they do have those requirements and have a treatment plan in place while in prison, would that be honoured in the new prison to which they were transferred?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:01):** I thank the honourable member for her important question. The answer to her question is: yes, often the needs of the prisoner, particularly regarding health needs or needs around services, will be a variable in their transfer. So, if, for instance, it is determined that a prisoner may be better serviced with a particular need of theirs in a different facility, that is a factor that will contribute to whether or not the prisoner is transferred. That is, indeed, common.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

**The Hon. J.M. GAZZOLA (15:02):** My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. Can the minister update the chamber about the State Emergency Service's recognition at the recent South Australian Training Awards?

**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 question, in the knowledge that he, of course, takes an interest in the training that exists within our community as an important service. Earlier this month, the Training and Skills Commission hosted the South Australian Training Awards, the peak state awards for vocational training and education, recognising quality, innovation and excellence in training.

It is a great event and a fantastic opportunity to acknowledge and reward individuals and organisations that excel in training and the delivery of training. I am very pleased to inform the honourable member, and also yourself, Mr President, that at this year's ceremony our very own South Australian State Emergency Service was the winner of the 2016 Medium Employer of the Year. Training is essential to keep our emergency services personnel safe. The SES is made up of a diverse volunteer workforce that reflects the communities they serve.

I know the SES and its management works hard to ensure that there is a range of options available to members when it comes to the acquisition and maintenance of skills and knowledge. I have to say that, based on my own experience, seeing the SES in action during their training nights as well as deployed to real-life emergency incidents, they wholeheartedly deserve this outstanding recognition. Only last month I had the pleasure of attending the Noarlunga SES unit's regular training night in Lonsdale. Together with the members for Fisher, Reynell and Kurna, it was an extraordinary sight to behold.

I think I have mentioned before that it was a particularly cold and wet evening. While others might find themselves keeping warm at night, enjoying a warm meal, our SES volunteers were out there giving it all. I must say, all of us present were taken aback by the incredibly diverse range of skills that were on display within our State Emergency Service. It showcased not just their incredible talent and expertise, but also their high regard for safety and continuous improvement.

Access to high-quality national accredited training ensures that State Emergency Service members have the skills they need to perform a diversity of roles, such as conducting bluewater marine search and rescue missions, rescuing people caught in floodwaters or stranded on cliffs, extricating injured people trapped in vehicles after road accidents, searching for people who are lost and climbing up onto rooftops during a storm to attach tarps that will protect homes from further damage.

The culture of a commitment to training is always apparent to me no matter which unit I go to and one which this government is proud to support through the recent state budget, where we committed an additional \$6.2 million to bolster volunteer training through the introduction of nine full-time training positions. It was great to see a number of these volunteers join me last Tuesday night in the Old Chamber for a chance for this government to say thank you for the outstanding work they have done throughout a wild winter period, which has seen the SES respond to more than 7,300 calls for assistance, more than double what they would have otherwise seen in a normal winter.

I commended the Chief Officer, Chris Beattie, on his commitment to ensuring our SES volunteers are amongst the best trained in the world. He is absolutely right when he says that, in the

emergency services sector, training is not nice to have but it is essential in enabling the service to provide emergency response capabilities for the South Australian community. As we reflect upon what has been an incredibly busy and extremely tumultuous season for the SES, it is fitting that they should be recognised for their efforts to ensure our state has the very best when it comes to emergency response and in supporting the invaluable work that the SES volunteers do.

I say this because I know that, as we speak in the comfort of this chamber, no doubt there are many SES volunteers, ably assisted by many CFS volunteers who have also been responding productively and efficiently to many of the events that have occurred during the course of this winter, out there in the service of the state and other members of their community. Their resilience, their commitment, their sincerity and, above all, the humility by which they go about their work continues to amaze me and they are to be commended. We thank them for their service, particularly on days like today.

### YATALA LABOUR PRISON INCIDENT

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:07):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Minister for Corrections on the topic of working with the ALRM.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** As the minister is aware, and as we are all keenly aware with regard to the Morrison death in custody, the ALRM has issued a public statement. In that statement they have stated that this incident highlights the need for government to urgently address the situation of overcrowding in prisons, the over-representation of Aboriginal people in custody and the need for greater resources to support and assist Aboriginal people in custody.

They have further called for the development of a memorandum of understanding between ALRM, Correctional Services and SAPOL, with a view to ensuring no further incidents occur in the future and to develop clear protocols and processes for transparency. My question to the minister is: does he accept that such a memorandum of understanding is required and will he implement and seek to make this happen?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:08):** I do not think a memorandum of understanding is required for the department to be able to facilitate the service of the unique needs that exist amongst Aboriginal offenders who find themselves within custody. Of course, I am happy to sit down with the ALRM and any other advocacy group advocating the cause and the interests of Aboriginal people, particularly those who find themselves in custody. I am happy to sit down with them at any stage and discuss the merits of any proposition they may have.

I want to restate for the record that I have not seen any evidence or suggestion that somehow overcrowding has had anything to do with the incident that transpired at Yatala Labour Prison last Friday that consequently was related to the passing of the prisoner to whom the honourable member refers. I have not seen any evidence or suggestion from the department, or any information presented to me, that suggests that is the case.

The honourable member is right to point out that we do have an over-representation of Aboriginal men and women within our correctional services system. Somewhere in the order of 22 per cent of the South Australian prison population is Indigenous. That figure is simply way too high, particularly considering that the Aboriginal population of South Australia is in the order of 3 per cent. It is a dramatic over-representation, and it is something that is of great concern to me. I think it is of great concern to many members of the community who are concerned for the interests of Aboriginal people.

I think the Department for Correctional Services is to be commended for the effort that it makes in order to seek to service the unique needs of those people who find themselves in custody who are of an Indigenous background. Let me just give a couple of examples of programs the department has in place to address this. There is the Aboriginal Services Unit. The Aboriginal Services Unit was established to service the needs of the department's Aboriginal stakeholders. It works across the Department for Correctional Services in partnership with Aboriginal community organisations, including the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement and other government departments.

It develops and delivers culturally appropriate targeted services and programs to Aboriginal prisoners and offenders. The unit assists Aboriginal prisoners and offenders with their reintegration into the community. Another example is the Aboriginal Elders Visiting Program. The program consists of volunteer Aboriginal elders who visit prisoners across the state. The visits are conducted monthly and offer support in a culturally appropriate manner. Aboriginal elders assist prisoners in re-establishing and strengthening their connection to family and the Aboriginal community.

The best thing that we can do to address the concerns around over-representation of Aboriginal people in custody, and indeed one of the best things we can do to address the strain that the honourable member referred to on our prison system, which we never hide away from, is to do something that is not just a short or medium-term strategy which will cost the South Australian taxpayers an awful lot of money, like building new facilities and having more beds, but to do something about the revolving door that exists within prison systems that we see across the west, and indeed throughout Australia.

Currently, as I have mentioned repeatedly in this place, we have a recidivism rate, or return to Corrections rate, that is in the order of 46 per cent. Now, 46 per cent is better than the national average. Already, South Australia is ahead of the game, but I genuinely believe that we can do more, which is why we have set a target of trying to reduce the rate of return to Corrections by 10 per cent by the year 2020. That is a bold and ambitious target. Work is already underway as we speak. It is bolder than anything that you guys have ever come up with.

On Friday, we have a meeting with stakeholders across the correctional services sector to work out what policies we can focus on and what efforts we can make to try to reach that target. It is going to be a big effort. It cannot just be the state government that is going to deliver services to get this result. We have to be focusing not just on what we are doing with people when they find themselves in custody, we also have to be looking at what services we are providing to people post custody and that particularly includes Aboriginal people post release.

I have spent a bit of time talking to Frank Lampard and representatives of APOSS. APOSS is an outstanding not-for-profit organisation seeking to work with Aboriginal offenders who have been released, to address their cultural needs and provide them with services that are uniquely targeted to the needs of Aboriginal people, with the view of reducing the likelihood of them returning to incarceration. These are organisations—

**The Hon. R.L. Brokenshire:** You need a budget for it, too, not just meetings.

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS:** These are organisations that we want to be engaging with to see what ideas they might have—ideas that may not cost that much money and would make a big difference to the likelihood of whether or not someone reoffends post release. We have a strategy in place to take on the demands that exist in the prison system in the short, medium and long term. We are going to get on with the business and see if we cannot make a substantial shift in the focus of Corrections policy in this state.

#### **YATALA LABOUR PRISON INCIDENT**

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:14):** Supplementary: this was the first time Mr Morrison had been in custody. He was on remand awaiting the return of a home detention bailing priority at the time and had not been convicted of any charges. If not for overcrowding then why was this man in Yatala prison?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:14):** There are a couple of things that I will point out: the reason that he was in Yatala Labour Prison was because he was remanded into custody as the result of some rather serious charges that were brought against him, including that of rape. That was why the court decided to remand the gentleman into custody. In terms of what facility he was in, the chamber should be aware that, and I am advised, remand prisoners go to prisons across the state not just the Remand Centre.

There will be a whole range of things that will contribute to where a person is remanded into custody. We have remand prisoners not just in the Remand Centre or the Yatala Labour Prison but we also have remand prisoners, as I understand, in places like Port Lincoln. It is not uncommon for

remand prisoners to be in places outside of the Remand Centre itself. To answer your question, the reason why the deceased gentleman found himself in Yatala Labour Prison was because a court made a decision as a consequence of the serious charges that were brought against him, including that of rape, that he should be remanded into custody. That is why he found himself in Yatala Labour Prison.

#### YATALA LABOUR PRISON INCIDENT

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHERE (15:15):** I have a supplementary question. Based on the minister's answer, can the minister inform the chamber whether South Australia has the highest remandee percentage of any state in Australia?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:16):** I am not in a position to be able to inform the house of that but what I can say is that the remand rate is high. Currently, the remand rate in South Australia, as of today, is 41.26 per cent.

#### YATALA LABOUR PRISON INCIDENT

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (15:16):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Correctional Services questions about deaths in custody.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS:** In the Coroner's findings for the 2013 inquest into the death of Mr Mark William Payne while in custody, the Coroner, Mr Mark Johns, in his remarks about the Department for Correctional Services' investigation prior to the commencement of the coronial inquest, stated:

Certainly, no proper explanation was available at the commencement of the Inquest and it is quite plain that the Department...had not made a concerted effort to obtain an answer prior to the commencement of the Inquest. It is particularly concerning that the Department would not have done so as soon as possible after Mr Payne's death, and certainly no later than the commencement of the Inquest. In fact, it would seem that the first time a serious effort was made to arrive at an explanation was when the Inquest had started and the Court demanded a proper explanation.

The opposition has been advised that the departmental investigation the Coroner referred to was some six to seven months after the commencement of the inquest. Given this, my questions to the minister are:

1. Will the minister direct the Department for Correctional Services to actively assist the SAPOL investigation into the recent death of the inmate in DCS custody?
2. Will the department be directed to prepare for the Coroner's inquest?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:18):** To answer your questions, I have directly communicated to the chief executive of the department of corrections that it is my expectation that the Department for Correctional Services cooperate fully with SAPOL in the conduct of its investigations. I have been advised that that is occurring. I have spoken to the police commissioner himself who indicated to me that the department is cooperating with the police investigation, as we would reasonably expect to be the case.

There has not been any evidence to suggest to me that anyone has anything to hide and I would expect that the Department for Correctional Services is fully cooperating with SAPOL major crime, which is overseeing this investigation. Of course, SAPOL major crime, as members opposite would well know, represents some of the finest men and women to work within SAPOL. They are an elite investigative unit. I have to say that gives me an awful amount of confidence that we will be able to find out exactly what did transpire during the course of events that occurred last Friday.

Regarding the coronial inquest, which I believe was the second part of your question, the Hon. Mr Dawkins, it is my expectation that the same principle applies and that the Department for Correctional Services complies with all of the requests and demands that are made by the Coroner during the course of the inquest.



I am advised that immediately post the gentleman's passing away in the early hours of Monday morning, the Department for Correctional Services submitted, very quickly, the paperwork—in fact, I am advised it was done before 6am on Monday—that the death had taken place, and that would necessitate the process commencing with the Coroner. I am of the understanding that the department will work with the Coroner in due course to make sure that his inquiries and investigations are able to be facilitated so he, too, can make a contribution to finding out exactly what it is that took place last Friday.

#### YATALA LABOUR PRISON INCIDENT

**The Hon. A.L. McLACHLAN (15:20):** By way of supplementary question, minister, have the four correctional services officers who were involved in the incident been provided with legal counsel, and is it at the expense of the department?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:20):** A number of prison officers were involved in the incident last Friday afternoon, and I have received advice from the Department for Correctional Services that some of those members (I cannot say whether it is all of them, but I suspect it is) have engaged legal representation during the course of the investigation. I understand that Tindall Gask Bentley are representing some of those prison officers.

I am not aware that any of those expenses are being met by the Department for Correctional Services. I am happy to confirm this, but I think that those prison officers are getting access to legal services with the aid of their industrial association, which in this case would be the Public Service Association.

#### PUBLIC SERVICE

**The Hon. J.A. DARLEY (15:21):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Police a question about the Public Service.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.A. DARLEY:** As I mentioned last week, the Premier recently outlined at least three times in the media that he wanted to improve the performance of the public sector. At the Budget and Finance Committee meeting recently, the Chief Executive of the Department of Premier and Cabinet outlined things being done to improve performance in their department. Can the minister advise what is being done to improve the performance of the Public Service in his agencies and departments, including senior management levels?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:22):** The Premier has made it very clear that he expects ministers to be playing a role in terms of making sure that our Public Service is operating as efficiently and productively as possible, which of course at a ministerial level speaks to our engagement with chief executives. I (including at a point later this week) have had meetings with each of my chief executives to talk about performance management of themselves to ensure there is that ministerial accountability between chief executives and ministers, to ensure they are pursuing productivity and to make sure they are getting on with the business of officially managing their own agencies.

I think the honourable member asked me the question in the context of being the Minister for Police; of course that is a conversation that is taking place between myself and the Commissioner of Police as well.

#### *Matters of Interest*

#### RIO PARALYMPICS

**The Hon. J.A. DARLEY (15:23):** I rise today to speak about the Paralympics and Australia's Paralympians. The Australian Paralympic team deserves accolades and recognition after their outstanding performance at the Rio 2016 Paralympics earlier this year.

Our team of 177 athletes competed across 16 sports and finished an impressive fifth in the world. Our Paralympians won a total of 81 medals, including 29 bronze, 30 silver and an astonishing

22 gold medals, which is almost equal to the entire medal haul for our 2016 Olympic team, who came home with a total of 29 medals, comprising eight gold, 11 silver and 10 bronze. Australia has participated in every summer and winter Olympics, and this year South Australia sent nine athletes as part of the Paralympic team. South Australia had three medal winners in Rio.

Kieran Modra of Hallett Cove competed as part of the men's cycling team and won a bronze medal for road cycling in Rio. Kieran has competed in seven Paralympic Games and medalled in six of them, including winning gold in Athens in 2004 for the 200-metre sprint and the four-kilometre time trial. He also won a bronze medal in the 110-kilometre road race in the same year and became the first athlete to compete in all five cycling events at the Paralympic Games. These achievements resulted in Kieran being named the 2004 Male Paralympian of the Year. Kieran also competed as part of the Australian Paralympic athletics and swimming teams, in addition to cycling.

Twenty-one year old Samuel Von Einem competed in the table tennis and won Australia's first table tennis medal in over 30 years. Rio 2016 was Samuel's debut as a Paralympian, after only receiving confirmation of his eligibility in 2015. Winning silver at his first Paralympics is an incredible achievement and I hope Samuel's athletic career will continue.

Brayden Davidson won a coveted gold medal in the men's long jump. Brayden first discovered his talent on the athletics field after initially aspiring to compete as a Paralympian rower last year. Brayden broke a world record by becoming the first T36 athlete to jump over five metres in long jump. T36 athletes are those who have been classed with coordination impairment. Winning a gold medal at his first Paralympics is an outstanding achievement for Brayden.

I was saddened to see that these athletes did not and do not receive the same amount of recognition as their able-bodied counterparts. The coverage of the Paralympics on free-to-air television was a fraction of what was afforded to the Olympics and South Australia has failed to hold an official public welcome home event for our victorious Paralympians. These results of our Paralympic team are incredible and I want to take this opportunity to congratulate each and every athlete who represented our country in Rio. The achievements of our Paralympian team show that they really are superhuman.

#### **RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE PROGRAMS**

**The Hon. A.L. McLACHLAN (15:27):** I have spoken before on the need for affirmative action measures such as quotas for the employment of veterans in the Public Service. I now seek to inform the chamber of the programs that the Returned and Services League (RSL) are delivering to the veteran community in South Australia. The RSL was formed in 1916 in order to provide welfare services to those who had served in the First World War. Over the last 100 years, the RSL has developed into the largest ex-service organisation in Australia, with 137 sub-branches in South Australia.

I have previously alerted this chamber that homelessness is a serious problem among the veteran community. In 2009, the national Homeless Veterans Survey found that 3,000 veterans across Australia were experiencing homelessness, and it is likely that this number is higher. RSL LifeCare has developed the Homes for Heroes program to develop a response to this crisis. Homes for Heroes is the only 'dedicated homeless accommodation for contemporary veterans in Australia'. The program originated in New South Wales but has since been adopted in South Australia, with 16 single rooms available in North Adelaide.

The program not only provides accommodation but also offers a rehabilitation program requiring participants to enrol, volunteer and mentor in education and training. The New South Wales Liberal government announced in June this year that they would commit \$1 million to assist in rental subsidies for homeless veterans. I call on the South Australian government to invest in a similar initiative in South Australia and take the lead with New South Wales.

Another program launched by RSL-SA this year is RSL Active, which will assist veterans with the challenges they may face when they transition from military to civilian life. The program currently offers spin classes, cycling, walking groups and kayaking. RSL Active also includes employment programs and training to assist veterans in transitioning to civilian careers. The RSL is hoping to expand this program to include families, with activities such as camping trips. They also want to explore gardening and cooking activities in the future.

I believe RSL Active is a particular program that is needed for contemporary veterans, as it is an outlet the younger generation of veterans are more likely to connect with. As Stewart Cameron, President of RSL Queensland, says about the challenges of encouraging the younger veteran community to join the RSL:

I simply asked this young man what would be required for him to join the RSL, and essentially he said, 'Take away the bar and take away the pokies machines and build me a new gym and I'm here.'

Retired Major Andrew Johnstone is of a similar view:

Younger people are joining to make changes, they want less formality, more technology and they want social activities away from the pub. They are not interested in war stories over lots of beers.

Johnstone has formed the Far North Coast Younger Veteran Outreach Program through the RSL. The participants in the program meet at a local cafe for coffee every fortnight. It is a credit to the RSL that it is evolving to accommodate all generations of veterans, to ensure no veteran is left behind. Another program, Operation K9, is an RSL-SA assistance dog program that works in conjunction with RSL-SA and the Royal Society for the Blind. Veterans and those currently serving in the ADF who have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) relating to their military experience can be assessed for eligibility by Operation K9.

Operation K9 provides an assistance dog to veterans with PTSD to assist with social situations and the effects of PTSD. The assistance dogs are trained to turn on lights, collect medication, wake and comfort the client and open doors. Currently, 10 assistance dogs have graduated through the program, nine have been placed with individuals, and one has been placed with the 16th Air Land Regiment at the Woodside barracks.

Chris Rapson, who served in Afghanistan, was assigned Perry. Rapson says this program has transformed his life:

I had a nervous habit where I'd rub the back of my neck, but since getting Perry, I rarely do that because he's trained to notice the signs if something isn't right.

Sadly, the program does not receive any government funding. However, the program has two private companies supporting the initiative: Saab Australia and Daronmont Technologies. It also relies on public donations. The program costs \$25,000 for the required training and veterinary bills for each assistance dog, with the client required to cover the cost of the dog food. The programs the RSL and RSL South Australia are implementing are vital to the wellbeing of our veterans and those currently serving, and should be strongly encouraged and further supported by the community and the government alike.

## STRETTON CENTRE

**The Hon. J.M. GAZZOLA (15:32):** Recently, I went with the member for Light, Mr Tony Piccolo, as his guest, for a tour of the Stretton Centre, which is an organisation that explores and enables job creation for local people across Adelaide's northern suburbs. Stretton was founded by the City of Playford, the University of Adelaide and Renewal SA at their Munno Para headquarters in 2015, with over \$11 million from the Australian government's Suburban Jobs Program and the Playford Alive Initiatives Fund.

Stretton's core objective of facilitating local jobs for local people contributes significantly to improving community wellbeing, developing new industry and generating employment opportunities for those in the north. The closure of Holden presents new challenges for the northern suburbs, in the face of a rapidly changing economy and environment. The northern region is also one of the most rapidly growing areas in SA, giving rise to the importance of the Stretton Centre.

The Playford library service at Stretton has become an integral and strategic part of how Stretton engages with the community. Stretton and the library staff work collaboratively and proactively to engage the community in literacy, STEM and the digital economy. Facilities include free wi-fi, digital manufacturing, visual reality goggles, board games and curated games consoles.

In particular, Stretton's proximity to the hugely successful Playford Alive Town Park and Mark Oliphant College has contributed to Stretton being frequented by a large number of local children. Today, the library at Stretton has welcomed over 126,000 customers. In addition, approximately

3,400 people have used Stretton's meeting room spaces on the first floor for education, research, business training, community engagement and corporate functions.

Cabinet met at Stretton in November 2015 and 90 people attended a children's university event this year during the school holidays. Stretton also provides co-working accommodation for businesses and key stakeholders, such as Housing SA and Business SA. Creative stationery company Sail and Swan, one of eight small businesses operating from Stretton, employed its first staff member on 26 September.

TAFE SA training events offered at the Stretton Centre include Red Cross training, tender writing workshops, a guide to starting your own business workshop, and health and safety representative training. It is noteworthy that the accommodation at the Stretton Centre is also 'meaningfully green'. The 'meaningfully green' building design, as it is described on the website, means that the centre uses less water, less power, smart design to help with heating and cooling, and materials that are cost effective and have low environmental impact.

The University of Adelaide, one of Stretton's founding partners, continues to have a strategic research relationship with Stretton, and Flinders University plans to use Stretton's workspaces to support the research and reporting elements of the Minister for Social Housing's \$50,000 Stretton Fellowship in 2016-17. Economic development is supported at Stretton with the South Australian Young Entrepreneurs Scheme (SAYES), Elizabeth Community Bank (Bendigo) and web marketing company Clientology, a Stretton co-worker, partnered to deliver the new Northern Adelaide Entrepreneur Scholarship.

Stretton has promoted and participated in local and very successful Meet the Buyer events. Stretton helps local companies become aware of and apply to federal and state government funding initiatives such as the \$10 million Small Business Development Fund under the Northern Economic Plan. To date, Stretton has assisted five companies to successfully apply to the fund, creating 21 new jobs.

In conjunction with the City of Playford, Stretton is supporting Investment Attraction South Australia to facilitate new investment in the northern region. The state government has committed to delivering a node of the Innovative Manufacturing CRC from Stretton. The Department of State Development is supporting the delivery of the Northern Adelaide Jobs portal in 2016-17 with approximately \$20,000 in funding support.

The state government's \$4.7 million Adelaide Gig City investment will bring gigabit per second broadband speeds to Stretton, facilitating their ability to compete on a global scale. It is with confidence that I can say a lot is being achieved within the Stretton Centre, and I am optimistic about the potential of more opportunities being created north of the city, with the Stretton Centre at the support helm.

Stretton was awarded the prestigious Jack McConnell Award for Public Architecture in 2016. The jury said that Stretton was 'an architecturally accomplished focal point for the wider northern suburbs community'. Stretton is now in the running for the National Architecture Awards which will be announced in November 2016. Again, I thank the member for Light, Mr Tony Piccolo, for arranging the tour. I also thank Mr Dermott Cussen for the tour and wish him well with his plans for the future of Stretton.

## ILLICIT DRUGS

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:37):** I rise to give my matters of interest speech today on the topic of illicit drugs, a topic which I have spoken about a number of times in this place, and I will continue to do so. Illicit drugs are again in the spotlight with a number of recent reports revealing the extent of illicit drug use across this country. Recent reports, including ones I have previously cited in this place, show that the use of illicit drugs is alarmingly on the rise, not only across Australia but in South Australia.

Reports such as the University of South Australia's wastewater study, the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's Illicit Drug Data Report and the final report of the National Ice Taskforce all provide valuable insight on current trends relating to the use and distribution of drugs, as well as providing an overview of the performance of law enforcement in Australia and South Australia.

Reports show that the weight of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), or 'ice' as it is called in some cases, with respect to seizures is that they have increased by an astonishing 478 per cent in just one year. SAPOL deserve credit for their tireless work in this area; however, this figure is equally concerning as users of illicit drugs are clearly ignoring the substantial harm that these substances can cause to themselves and others.

Also of particular concern are the statistics revealing that the average doses of methamphetamines have doubled from roughly 150 per week in December 2011 to 300 per week in December 2015. Unfortunately, South Australia has the second highest number of users of ice in Australia at 1.4 per cent of the population, approximately 40 per cent higher than the national average.

Many users of illicit substances are not only harming themselves but often putting the safety and security of other lives at risk as well. Drug drivers are, of course, a good example; they risk their own life, they risk the lives of their passengers and also the lives of other motorists on the road. All too often we have seen the devastating impact of this, with 21 per cent of drivers and riders killed in road accidents between 2010 and 2014 having the presence of illegal street drugs in their system. I note that the minister in this place has quoted 24 per cent as the most recent statistic, and I understand that is the case for the last 12 months.

Instances of drug driving increased from 1,525 detections in 2014-15 to 1,808 in this financial year. I very often find myself reading a new story about parents dropping off kids and driving in school zones whilst under the influence of illicit drugs; I have seen a number of those articles in *The Advertiser* and elsewhere in recent times. Unfortunately, there are a number of people who fail to understand that illicit drugs and driving, especially, do not mix.

What is also concerning is that the Motor Accident Commission report revealed that there are now more drug drivers than drink drivers on the road. Although there are a number of ways to address the issue of illicit drugs, there is no easy solution. Education, early intervention, awareness, treatment and other preventive actions clearly have a positive impact, and Family First supports and encourages them.

The recent MAC campaign, in conjunction with SAPOL, to end drug driving has also had a welcome effect. South Australia is said to be the nation's leader in drug driving enforcement, conducting more tests per capita than any other state or territory. However, as I have previously raised with the Minister for Road Safety and for Police, people are simply not getting the message when it comes to drug driving, and I think the statistics I have just outlined prove this conclusively.

Evidently there is need for adequate deterrence within legislation to curtail the presence of illicit drugs in the community, and it is our role in this chamber to stand united and declare that we will not tolerate them, especially when it comes to driving. Specifically in relation to drug driving, there is a need to reinforce that driving is not an entitlement; people have to earn a licence, and in that sense it is a privilege of sorts.

I anticipate the outcome of the review instigated by the Minister for Road Safety into South Australia's drug driving laws, and I call on the government, the minister and the Attorney-General to reconsider the penalties for drug driving in South Australia, as clearly the current deterrents are not working.

#### **SHOP DISTRIBUTIVE AND ALLIED EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION**

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (15:41):** I would like to talk about the arrogance, the power, the influence and the control that the shoppies union, the SDA, has over the current Labor Party and the Labor government in South Australia. Three recent events are illustrative of this power.

There were the circumstances last week in the parliament when the shoppies union, and the right in particular, deliberately chose to embarrass the Premier whilst he was away by defeating his bill on gender equity that he personally championed. He has since indicated that he was very angry about the shoppies union and the Labor right organising the defeat of that bill while he was not even in the house or the chamber.

We have also seen confirmation in the last week that the Hon. Mr Malinauskas, a favoured son, one of the union bosses from the shoppies union, has now settled on a new property in one of the trendy, inner suburban areas of the Hon. Mr Atkinson's seat of Croydon, preparing to take over the seat at the next state election. In the last week or so we have also seen the elevation of the godfather of the Labor right, Senator Don Farrell, firstly back into the Senate after having been defeated by Premier Weatherill in his bid to become a member of the House of Assembly at the time of the last election, and subsequently being elected to the Senate, and now being elected to the position of deputy opposition leader.

This, of course, follows on from a recent example of the power and arrogance of the shoppies union when two prominent members of the shoppies union—Mr Malinauskas, then head of the shoppies union, and minister Jack Snelling—waltzed into the former premier's office, tapped him on the shoulder and said, 'Goodbye, Mick,' and proceeded to kneecap a former premier, one being a member of the caucus and one who was not even a member of the caucus but just a member of the shoppies union. I should not say 'just a member of the shoppies union' because clearly the shoppies union has considerable power in South Australia.

Why does it have that power? A check of the Electoral Commission's disclosure of donations since the Labor Party was elected shows that the shoppies union has admitted to donating, or making contributions of, \$2.57 million to the Labor Party since the Labor Party was elected in South Australia. In the last year alone, a combination of their donations and something they refer to as 'other contributions' added \$330,000 to the state Labor Party.

As a former Independent in this house and now Independent in the federal parliament says, 'That sort of money buys a lot of control.' Certainly, that is self-evident. When one looks at the register of interests that has only just been released for all members of parliament, one sees in South Australia that the following members all list that they are a member of the SDA union: Atkinson, Bettison, Digance, Kenyon, Koutsantonis, Odenwalder, Picton, Ngo, Snelling, Vlahos and Malinauskas.

When one looks at a caucus of about 32, control of that, therefore, means about 17 votes. When the shoppies union controls 11, you therefore control the right faction of the caucus, and if you control the right faction of the caucus, as we have seen, you control the direction of the Labor government in South Australia. So, the shoppies union, with their 11 members—signed up and pledged to support—controls the right and therefore then also controls the direction of the government. As we have seen, when they decide to get rid of a premier, then that is the end of the premier.

We also see key staff appointments. The Premier's chief of staff, Mr Romeo, is very well connected to the shoppies union, and many other ministers—time does not permit—have shoppies union associations in terms of their staffing members. There are many within the Labor Party who are very concerned about what they see as the shoppies influence on the government. They believe it is cancerous in terms of both its arrogance and its influence. There is a strong belief that, as they have kneecapped one premier in the past, the shoppies union is now getting ready to kneecap another premier.

### **YATALA LABOUR PRISON INCIDENT**

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:47):** I rise to call for an independent investigation into the assault and consequent death of the inmate at Yatala. As we are all well aware, Mr Morrison was an Aboriginal man who has died in custody in the South Australian system in this past week. As we are also aware, it is well over a quarter of a century ago that the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody investigated this issue and made so many recommendations that have not been taken up.

I want to rise today to talk about this issue because I think that in this day and age we do need an independent investigation into this particular incident. This was a man who was 29 years of age, who was a fisherman, who was a father, who was an artist and who died without ever having been convicted of a crime.

The ALRM has issued a press release, which I am sure many members are aware of, calling for an independent investigation. I think a light needs to be shone upon this issue, as it does into this

chamber. This is a serious issue, and while I think we have heard some sides of the story, we have not heard the side of the story from the man's family. Indeed, they have taken to social media, raising some quite serious concerns. The ALRM has reported that it was a significant period of time before they were even informed of this situation and that, indeed, there were two critical incidents, rather than simply one.

They have called for action and an independent inquiry because they have many concerns about just what went on in this past week in Yatala prison. This man ended up dead when he was in the custody of our state. His sister posted on social media that he has bruises all over him. We do know that while he was facing a charge, he had not been convicted of any crime.

We also know that the family has called for an independent investigation and I think with good reason. There are discrepancies between the stories, there are discrepancies as to whether there were one or two critical incidents. There was certainly no access by the Aboriginal Visitors Scheme or anyone who could ensure that this man received immediate medical treatment. We need to ensure that we have all sides of the story told in this particular matter.

There is a man who has been put in a prison, who was never convicted of a crime, who is now dead, who will never get to tell his story. He deserves his story to be told, and the only way I think that can happen is through an independent investigation. While, of course, it is right and proper that SAPOL investigates this, and that indeed the Coroner investigates this, I think the community trust will only be restored if there is also an independent investigation. That investigation needs to have full access to any CCTV footage and to all relevant materials, as well as the ability for those who support this man to tell their stories.

While I have enormous sympathy for those workers who were injured in this case, they will be legally represented and they live to tell their stories, their stories will be heard. The words of Mr Morrison will never be heard in this case, but the evidence should be put forward and should be put forward in an independent way. There is a young girl who now has no father, there is a family left without a sibling. The family is rightly concerned that due processes were not followed; they were denied appropriate access to him in the hospital situation, and they have gone to both media and social media to raise those concerns, which I think warrant an independent investigation.

### **RACISM**

**The Hon. G.E. GAGO (15:52):** Racism is a malevolent force which we have not yet succeeded in defeating. To the contrary, in recent months it has reared its head more fiercely and brought to the forefront of our global society tensions over race and culture.

Particularly in the wake of Britain's historic vote to leave the European Union, reports of racism and racist attacks against Europeans, including their neighbours, the Irish, and their largest migrant community, the Polish, have been pouring in. The attacks have been so shocking that the Polish embassy issued a statement saying that it was shocked and deeply concerned by the incidents of abuse against Poles and other Eastern Europeans. The trend was so noticeable that it spurred a social media hashtag: #PostRefRacism.

Europeans are not the only victims of this disturbing trend, with the ever-present scourge of Islamophobia rearing its ugly head yet again. On Facebook, a video of members of the far right English Defence League waving flags with racist motives, such as 'Refugees Not Welcome', screaming obscenities outside a Birmingham mosque, have been posted.

This trend of racism and far right extremism is not isolated to Britain. We have a situation around the world where fringe groups fighting immigrants, touting slogans about putting their country first and shirking the evil influence of multiculturalism, is growing and gaining political traction. In the United States, Donald Trump has denied that he is racist, while simultaneously proposing horrendous policies, such as tagging the Muslim population, calling his supporters, who had beaten a homeless Latino man, 'passionate' and implying that a man who was beaten by his supporters for protesting in the Black Lives Matter campaign deserved the beating, saying, 'Maybe he should have been roughed up. It was absolutely disgusting what he was doing.' All this in the name of 'make America great again', as if multiculturalism or immigration is ruining America.

Here in Australia we are not immune. During 2015, there was a spate of anti-Islamic rallies held by the group Reclaim Australia, and even attended by a Queensland federal Coalition MP, George Christensen. Protestors at these events argued that they were not racist, despite comments reported by the ABC, such as, 'I want my kids to have the same upbringing as I had,' 'I want our kids to be able to sing the national anthem, have Christmas carols at their school and not have to put up with the hijab,' 'Why do they need to build their own mosques and their own schools when they can send their kids to our schools?'

It is incredibly telling, is it not, that no such question is asked about why Catholic parents, for instance, choose to exercise their right to educate their children in Catholic designated schools. The notion that acceptance of Islam and Islamic peoples in our society is somehow diminishing our society is insidious and no better than the racism that was held against Vietnamese refugees in the wake of the Vietnam War and German refugees in the wake of World War II, and all the racism that has been an ever-present spectre in that post 1788 history of the Australian Aboriginal people.

In the recent federal election we had multiple fringe parties campaigning on racist platforms, such as Pauline Hanson's One Nation, which has won four Senate seats, and the Australian Liberty Alliance, which was launched by the far right anti-immigration Dutch MP, Geert Wilders, who plastered the streets of Australia with political campaign material touting political correctness as wrong: 'We will stop Islamic immigration,' 'We will stop the Islamisation of Australia.' Ms Hanson has repeatedly claimed that she is not racist, only a defender of Australian values. This is despite an over 20-year career attacking first Asians, then Muslims, and also taking aim at Aboriginal Australians.

Ms Hanson made headlines recently when speaking to a young man helping to film the SBS documentary *Pauline Hanson: Please Explain!* for saying, 'You're not going to tell me you're a refugee, James, are you?' When the man said no, that he was Aboriginal, Ms Hanson expressed surprise that he was Aboriginal and said that it was nice to see that he was actually working. Ms Hanson has professed that we are being swamped by cultures not our own and that Islam is not a religion at all. The One Nation website professes its religious aspect is flawed and that it is rather a totalitarian political system. Her party even calls for the prevention of Muslim politicians being sworn into parliament on the Koran. I will leave it there.

#### *Parliamentary Committees*

### **ABORIGINAL LANDS PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE: ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16**

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:57):** I move:

That the report of the committee, 2015-2016, be noted.

This is the 12<sup>th</sup> annual report of the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee and my third as the presiding member of the committee. The committee is responsible for reviewing the operation of the Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 2013, the Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984 and the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act 1981. The committee also has the responsibility of reviewing the operation of the new Aboriginal Lands Trust Act three years after its commencement.

The committee discharges its responsibilities in part by visiting Aboriginal lands and Aboriginal communities, by maintaining strong relationships with the Aboriginal landholding statutory authorities, inquiring into matters of importance to Aboriginal people and their communities, and by inviting representatives from those authorities to appear before the committee to give evidence.

During the past year, the committee visited dialysis service providers in the Northern Territory to determine how sustainable dialysis services could be delivered to Aboriginal South Australians and in particular the APY lands. The committee was aware that Anangu requiring dialysis were having to leave their homes and relocate to Adelaide, Port Augusta or Alice Springs with family members for treatment. This dislocation was adversely impacting the patient's health, their families and their community.

In April, the committee visited the Aboriginal community Kabulwarnamyo in West Arnhem Land. The Kabulwarnamyo community, through its business development company Warddeken Land Management, won the 2015 national NAIDOC Caring for Country Award for its work in Indigenous protected area management. The community was very impressed to learn how this small



remote community developed successful business opportunities by partnering with the commercial sector, the Australian government and philanthropic sources.

This partnering was critical in building infrastructure and generating income streams and employment for the majority of the members of the community, as well as funding a school with a full-time teacher. The committee believes that some of the Warddeken business development concepts could also be applied in certain circumstances in South Australian Aboriginal communities. Funding from corporate philanthropy is emerging as an important resource for not-for-profit and community organisations.

The committee's planned visit to the APY communities of Ernabella and Umuwa, as well as Yalta and Oodnadatta, was cancelled due to the funeral of a prominent member of the APY Executive. However, the committee did travel to Yappala Station in the Flinders Ranges to hear traditional owners' concerns about the federal government's proposal for a low and intermediate-level nuclear waste facility near Hawker. The committee also travelled to the Aboriginal Lands Trust holdings of Nepabunna, Iga Warta and Marree.

The committee heard evidence from 26 witnesses during the course of the year, including a number who gave evidence in regard to the feasibility of the construction and operation of a dialysis centre at Ernabella in the APY lands. The evidence was strongly supportive of the establishment of a permanent dialysis centre in the APY lands. The committee worked with the state government and the intended service provider, Western Desert Dialysis, to ensure that any potential logistical issues were resolved, and in July this year the state government offered its support for the establishment of a permanent dialysis centre at Ernabella.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**The Hon. T.T. NGO:** Yes, hear, hear! It was good work from the committee. The committee commends Western Desert Dialysis, the Australian government and the South Australian government for delivering this important initiative to the APY lands. In addition, following on from the committee's recommendations that came out of the inquiry into the Stolen Generations Reparations Bill 2010, I would like to thank the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation for establishing the \$11 million stolen generations reparation scheme in November 2015.

The scheme will provide up to \$6 million in ex gratia payments to members of the stolen generations and allocate a further \$5 million to a stolen generations community reparations fund. There will be a community consultation process to determine how this fund could be used, and I look forward to seeing the outcome of that consultation.

During the year, the committee also raised a number of issues on behalf of Aboriginal people and communities with respective commonwealth and state ministers and their agencies. The committee feels it has an important role in advocating for Aboriginal South Australians.

Committee members again showed their support for Aboriginal Australians by attending a number of different events, including the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations and the National Reconciliation Week breakfast in Adelaide. As always, the state and commonwealth agencies provided considerable information, which greatly assisted the committee with its work, and I thank those agencies for their support and following up on matters that arise at meetings and at committee hearings.

I take this opportunity to thank individual members of the committee: the Hon. Terry Stephens; the Hon. Tammy Franks; Mr John Gee, the member for Napier; Mr Eddie Hughes, the member for Whyalla; and, finally, Dr Duncan McFetridge, the member for Morphett. The committee membership has not changed since I have been the Presiding Member, which is a good sign that things are functioning well, I hope. A lot of that also goes down to the work of our committee secretary, Jason Caire, who I would also like to thank.

Finally, to all the Aboriginal communities, organisations and their representatives who have given their time and provided evidence and valuable insight to the committee during the year, I say thank you.

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

*Motions***AFL NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (16:08):** I move:

That this council—

1. Congratulates the AFL for establishing the National Women's League;
2. Wishes the players all the best for the inaugural 2017 season; and
3. Recognises the important role that providing elite sporting pathways for women plays to encourage girls to participate in sport.

Roughly 25 per cent of Australian Rules football players Australia-wide are women. Last year, 195,000 women across Australia played the sport. Since 2015, there has been a 60 per cent increase in the number of women and girls playing club Australian Rules football in South Australia. There are 17 clubs and 27 teams in the open women's and over 18s competitions in the South Australian Women's Football League. Since last season, there has been a 15 per cent increase in the number of girls participating in Auskick. Clearly, women and girls want to play football and are doing so in increasing numbers. Despite this, only men have been able to compete fully at the elite level. Needless to say, an AFL National Women's League has been a long time in the making.

Honourable members may or may not be aware that women have been playing Australian Rules football since World War I. Originally, exhibition games were organised by a group of retailers to provide entertainment and raise funds for soldiers, among other causes. There are some reports that women continued to play for teams in subsequent years. However, the real push towards an organised competition for women began with the establishment of state-based women's football leagues, the first of which was created in Victoria in 1981, and then came Western Australia in 1988. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

*Parliamentary Procedure***SITTINGS AND BUSINESS**

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (16:11):** I move:

That the house do now adjourn.

I do so because a Code Black has been called in terms of the state's electricity supply. The Emergency Management Council is meeting very shortly. I need to be a part of that, as does the minister. The lower house has also adjourned to deal with this state issue. I seek the concurrence of the house to now suspend our business and reconvene tomorrow.

Motion carried.

At 16:12 the council adjourned until Thursday 29 September 2016 at 14:15.