

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, 29 September 2016

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. R.P. Wortley)** took the chair at 14:17 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.

*Parliamentary Procedure*

### PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

Hydroponics Industry Control Act 2009, Annual Report 2015-16

South Australian Rail Access Regime Review—Final Report dated August 2015

Report under Section 47 of the Criminal Investigation (Covert Operations) Act 2009

together with a Ministerial Statement by the Attorney General

Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Annual Report 2015-16—Summary Report pursuant to the Criminal Investigation (Covert Operations) Act 2009

*Ministerial Statement*

### EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (14:18):** I seek leave to table a copy of a ministerial statement made in the other place by the Premier, entitled Power Outages Caused by Extreme Weather Events.

### EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (14:18):** I seek leave to table a copy of a ministerial statement made in the other place by the Minister for Health, entitled Extreme Weather Impact on State Hospitals.

### EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:19):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS:** Before I begin, I would like to once again take the opportunity to provide my thanks to the dedicated men and women of our state's emergency services. I am confident when I say that I can speak for everybody in this chamber, and indeed all South Australians, when I express our deep gratitude for the dedicated service they provide to keep our state safe.

The state is currently enduring a weather event of significant severity, including unprecedented occurrences, such as the twin tornadoes observed near Blyth in the Mid North. This weather event was caused by a number of separate incidents that combined to lead to a power outage across the whole state. Before I continue, I would like to acknowledge that while power has been restored to more than 90 per cent of the state, there are parts that remain without power, particularly in the north and Eyre Peninsula.

Similarly, as the situation is ongoing for people in those regions, the weather event is also continuing across the state. Through the middle of today in Adelaide, we have been in what the

Bureau of Meteorology describes as a lull. However, forecasts from the bureau indicate more storm fronts will strike the state this afternoon and into the evening. As a state and as a community, we need to maintain our levels of preparedness as we start to clean up from the effects of earlier storm fronts.

I am advised that at 12.15pm today, a private dam to the north of Greenock broke. The SES issued emergency warnings to the township, urging people in the Greenock area to closely monitor local conditions for the risk of flooding. At 1.45pm today, the SES also issued a flood emergency warning for the Clare and surrounding areas, as water levels continue to rise in the Hutt River. Locals should check and follow their emergency flood plans and prepare for flooding in their area. Move items of value to a safe place. If your plan is to leave or you are not prepared, consider leaving now. Only leave if you are certain that the path is clear to a safer place. With all floodwaters, the message is always the same: if it's flooded, forget it.

Severe hail struck in multiple locations across the state, including Cleve, Cowell, Port Broughton and Snowtown, while gale force winds lashed multiple locations across the state. The state has also been battered by destructive winds, with gusts of over 100 kilometres per hour, sufficient to break transmission lines by severely damaging more than 20 transmission towers, with some even torn from the ground. Compounding the problems with transmission lines being pulled down near Port Augusta, I can report that there were lightning strikes directly hitting power generators. Approximately 80,000 lightning strikes hit the state.

The severe weather has required emergency services responses across the state. Over 1,000 taskings have been received across the State Emergency Service, the Metropolitan Fire Service and the Country Fire Service. Flood salvage, trees down and storm damage responses have been required across South Australia. My advice is that the Government Radio Network is performing well through this incident, with no interruption to voice services. As with any major incident, performance of the network will be continually monitored.

Local SES impact assessments are currently being conducted in Gilbert Valley and Blyth, with first responses due this afternoon. As I stated earlier, the weather event is ongoing. I call on South Australians to remain vigilant and encourage people to prepare for further impacts. Since Monday, some 300 tonnes of sand and 155,000 sandbags have been distributed from SES depots. I am heartened by the efforts people have taken to prepare themselves for this extreme weather. In addition to this event not yet being complete, the Bureau of Meteorology also advises that additional rainfall is forecast for the coming Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. With this rainfall coming to already saturated catchments, flooding risks will again be monitored.

The work of our volunteers through what must be the busiest winter on record for storms and flooding has been exemplary. I cannot thank our volunteers and the men and women who combine to help our communities in times of emergency enough for their valuable contribution.

#### *Question Time*

### **POWER OUTAGES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Leader of the Opposition) (14:24):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Emergency Services a question regarding the 000 service.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY:** In November last year there was a blackout of 100,000 homes and residents of the West Coast could not contact their emergency 000 services to report emergencies. It has been widely reported that the same situation occurred again last night. My question to the minister is: why has the government not ensured that the 000 emergency services are available to all South Australians in statewide emergencies?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:24):** As I referred to in my ministerial statement, I have been advised that one element of communications—and I will come to 000—which is critical during the course of any emergency event is, of course, the South Australian

Government Radio Network. As I previously advised, that seems to be working well and backups are operating well where mains power has failed. Regarding 000—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS:** The 000 service is something that the government and I have been asking questions about ever since the event unfolded. My understanding is that 000 has performed well in terms of the services that are provided in terms of calls coming in. There is always a risk in terms of people's inaccessibility to 000 in the event that their phone goes flat or they don't have access to a phone or, indeed, if they don't have access to a working landline. That remains a situation that we are continuing to monitor.

By and large, I understand that the genuine overwhelming majority of South Australians had access to 000 and the services that allow for 000 to operate—for example, the Comm Cen at MFS headquarters—were manned up to full capacity to be able to deal with any incoming load as a result of the event. The only advice I have received regarding people's access to 000 was in regard to those people who don't have access to a phone themselves, which is quite distinct from the capacity to take incoming calls. We continue to receive advice regarding that as the situation unfolds and particularly on the Eyre Peninsula where power outages are still ongoing.

#### **POWER OUTAGES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Leader of the Opposition) (14:26):** There was widely reported unavailability last night. Are you saying that you think it is mostly due to people not having a landline or a phone that was working, not the service itself not working?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:27):** That is the advice I have received, yes.

#### **POWER OUTAGES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Leader of the Opposition) (14:27):** I have a further supplementary. Is the minister aware of any serious incidents that were unable to be reported due to the 000 service being unavailable at any time last night?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:27):** I want to be clear and I want to state what I have already stated before just for the sake of clarity. There is no suggestion and there have been no reports that the 000 service has gone down at any point or has not been able to deal with the incoming calls. Capacity has been lifted throughout the course of the event. I received advice on that throughout the course of the afternoon and into the evening and, indeed, this morning. The only risk to people not having access to 000 is if they themselves at their end don't have access to an appropriate phone service.

In answer to your question, no, I have not been made aware of any reports where people's lives have been endangered as a consequence of them not having access to telephonic services to access 000.

#### **POWER OUTAGES, SA WATER**

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:27):** My question is to the Minister for Water and the River Murray. What is SA Water's contingency plan for power failures affecting its assets, including pump stations, water treatment plants and gates, and what preparation did SA Water undertake in the lead-up to this event?

**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 thank the honourable member for her most important questions. SA Water has contingency plans in place, of course, for these sorts of issues. They generally apply to backup generators and also letting water out of systems if that is what is required or, indeed, filling up tanks and systems so that the gravity

feed water systems from those tanks will be sufficient to supply communities should the power go out.

It is the general policy of SA Water to talk closely with the SES and the Bureau of Meteorology in preparation for these events. We have gone through this previously. I am advised that the major sewerage treatment plants had backup generators so that the water could be kept pumping through, even those that are gravity fed, and also the water tanks, the header tanks that exist around the state, were filled up. My advice is that where there are sewerage issues that rely on energy or electricity to pump them through, we have a plan in place where teams will go out with generators and supply electricity to clean out those pits, and they will do that on a regular basis to try to reduce any risks to the community.

#### **POWER OUTAGES, SA WATER**

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:29):** Supplementary: can the minister provide a list of assets, which were affected by the power failure?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (14:29):** All assets are affected by the power failure; the question is—

**The Hon. J.M.A. Lensink:** Which aren't operating.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** All SA Water's water assets are operating, all SA Water's sewerage assets are operating. As I said, the only issue is for those areas where there is currently no electricity. The provision we have in place for those is that we have filled up the header tanks so that there is sufficient water supply in those places. If the electricity stays out, we will have to go and either take generators around or manually fill those header tanks. Those contingencies are being kept under advisement by SA Water. In terms of sewerage assets, the ones I mentioned, small pits or sewerage assets where we rely on electricity to do the pumping, where they don't have electric backups because they are so small and supply so few places, we are physically going around with teams with the generators to do that pumping to keep those pits emptied.

#### **POWER OUTAGES, SA WATER**

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:30):** Supplementary: does the minister have a list of which of those sewerage outlets are a problem, and will he provide them to us?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (14:30):** No, I don't have such a list, although I am sure SA Water does, and, if the honourable member would like, I can ask them to provide it.

#### **POWER OUTAGES**

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (14:30):** I seek leave to make an explanation before asking questions to the Minister for Emergency Services in relation to the power outage.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** The police commissioner, in his capacity as the state coordinator, declared a major incident yesterday using his powers under the Emergency Management Act 2004. My questions to the minister are:

1. At what time was the major incident declared, and in what form was it promulgated?
2. When has the State Emergency Management Committee met in regard to this incident, both before and during?
3. Will minutes of those meetings be publicly released?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:31):** The honourable member is quite right, and I thank him for his question. The police commissioner, yesterday afternoon, as the

state controller, did declare yesterday's incident as a major incident. That declaration took effect from 5.30pm yesterday afternoon, and the appropriate paperwork ensued.

The Emergency Management Council is the body the honourable member is referring to. That has met on multiple occasions. It met, most recently, at 9.30am this morning. Another meeting has been scheduled for 5pm this afternoon. Two meetings took place yesterday—or it may have been three meetings yesterday; I'm just trying to collate that together from memory. There was one yesterday evening at 9pm; there was one earlier in the evening—and I'll get the precise time and make that available—and there was also a State Emergency Council meeting convened yesterday morning, which was held here at Parliament House.

#### POWER OUTAGES

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (14:32):** Could the minister advise—I presume that we're talking about the same body, but in the act it is called the State Emergency Management Committee. So, I was wondering, when was the first meeting of that committee in relation to the current incident?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:33):** For the sake of accuracy, I am inclined to take that on notice. You also asked the question earlier, Mr Wade, regarding minutes. Again, I'm also happy to take that on notice and, if it's appropriate to release those minutes, I am sure they will be in due course.

#### POWER OUTAGES

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (14:33):** Supplementary: my reading of the Emergency Management Act is that a declaration of a major incident can only apply for 12 hours. Is it the minister's understanding that the declaration has been renewed?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:33):** No, I am happy to advise that the honourable member is quite right: the declaration lasts for a period of 12 hours. At that point the state controller has the option of renewing the declaration or allowing it to lapse. The state controller does also have the ability to withdraw a declaration earlier than 12 hours. The police commissioner advised, at our last meeting yesterday evening, and I spoke to the commissioner late last night, that he was still monitoring the situation in terms of what was likely to happen regarding the extension of any such declaration, and he would make a decision in due course this morning. I was advised this morning that the police commissioner allowed the declaration to lapse, and at that point the major incident declaration concluded at 5.30am this morning.

#### EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

**The Hon. K.L. VINCENT (14:34):** Does the declaring of a major incident, as the minister has just identified, result in the invoking of the use of Auslan interpreters, the same as it would for a declared emergency? Are there two terminologies for the same thing in this context?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:34):** I thank the honourable member for her question. For all intents and purposes, yes, in this particular instance. In light of the advice that I shared with the chamber yesterday afternoon of the state's intention to use Auslan interpreters in a way that was consistent with the discretion of the state controller, which up until the declaration yesterday from the police commissioner was indeed the State Emergency Service, and you would have seen, hopefully, through television broadcasts that have taken place that Auslan interpreters were present.

For the sake of clarity, again, I will explain. A declared emergency is different from a declared major incident; there is a distinction. In respect to your question, the State Emergency Management Plan changed and it refers to Auslan interpreters, and specifically refers to a declared emergency, which was not what took place; it was a declared major incident. So, for the purposes of the specific provision that you refer to in the State Emergency Management Plan, that was not enacted.

In any event, Auslan interpreters were made available and present at all press conferences, and certainly all the ones that I have witnessed (and I have been at almost all of them, or to the best

of my knowledge I have been at all of them) there has been an Auslan interpreter present but that was done in accordance with the respective state controllers or authorities exercising their discretion to ensure that they were present and that is what has occurred.

#### **EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS**

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (14:36):** In relation to the use of Auslan interpreters, would the minister undertake to review the policy in relation to the use of Auslan interpreters, considering that, as I understand the minister's answer, he is distinguishing between a section 23 major emergency and a section 22 incident? If the events of recent days have been a major incident, it clearly can be a very significant event to which all South Australians are entitled to fair communication.

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:36):** There will naturally be reviews in due course because this has been such a significant event. There is not currently any plan by me, but I am open to looking at this, as reviews ensue, about changing it. As it stands, there isn't any intention to do that because, by and large, I think all would agree, the system has worked in respect to Auslan interpreters. They have been present at every press conference that has been undertaken. The appropriate authorities have been exercising their discretion as is appropriate to ensure that they have been present and they have been. What I would say is that until such time that I am presented with evidence that the current system has not worked, I would not see any need to review that specific clause.

#### **EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS**

**The Hon. K.L. VINCENT (14:37):** Does a declared major incident, as opposed to a declared emergency, bring in any other differences in terms of, for example, in hospitals where people need generators for medical equipment or the surveillance and monitoring of elderly people? Are there any other differences in that regard?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:38):** I understand that, in respect of the issues the Hon. Ms Vincent just raised, they were treated in the way that they would regarding their own emergency management arrangements, like within health, for instance, around generators and the like, so to the best of my advice the answer to that question would be no.

#### **EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS**

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Leader of the Opposition) (14:38):** Supplementary question: I am certainly not intending to debate this, but you had a meeting yesterday morning, didn't you? What was the name of that meeting that was held here? Was the prospect of a statewide blackout discussed at that meeting, given that the weather bureau had given us the warning that there was a one in 50 year weather event coming?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:38):** The meeting that took place yesterday morning was the Emergency Management Council. The Emergency Management Council is a cabinet subcommittee and, as such, that meeting is subject to cabinet in confidence.

#### **EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS**

**The Hon. J.M. GAZZOLA (14:39):** My question is to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation. Will the minister inform the chamber about how your government agencies have responded to yesterday's extreme weather event and power outage?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (14:39):** I thank the honourable member for his most important question. Yesterday, the state experienced unprecedented and severe weather events which resulted in power outages throughout the state. I am advised that the Bureau of Meteorology has said that this is a one in 50 year event, with gale force winds reaching up to 140 kilometres per hour in some parts of the state. The bureau has forecast heavy rain and ocean swells of up to 10 metres. I am also advised that over 80,000 lightning strikes have been reported in this state.

The State Emergency Service continues to be the control agency as we prepare for further severe weather this afternoon. I am advised that all government agencies are in a heightened state of preparedness. Of course, one of my agencies, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, continues to provide hydrology, mapping and incident management support to the SES. Critical data centres are on alert and DEWNR monitoring sites are providing essential information to assist with incident management. I am further advised that DEWNR will consider requests for operational support from the SES as they arise during the next 24 to 36 hours.

For the safety of visitors, DEWNR has closed all parks and reserves today in the Mount Lofty Ranges, Kangaroo Island, the Southern Flinders Ranges, Spring Gully Conservation Park and the Clare Valley. These parks will be closed until at least 2pm tomorrow while DEWNR undertakes risk assessment of campgrounds and other infrastructure.

Some park closures have also occurred in the Riverland, including Katarapko in the Murray River National Park, Chowilla Regional Reserve and Chowilla Game Reserve. The Mount Lofty and Wittunga botanic gardens closed yesterday and they are closed today. As a result of the weather forecast today, including severe wind gusts, the Adelaide Botanic Garden closed at 11am today. I am also advised that it is the first time the garden has closed since Queen Elizabeth's visit in the 1950s. I think this underscores the unprecedented nature of the storms affecting the state.

DEWNR will continue to monitor proposed rainfall and storm activity. Pending further rainfall, DEWNR may extend park closures. DEWNR teams will continue to undertake assessment of damage to parks, gardens and icon sites over the next 24 to 48 hours. Regional natural resources centres will reopen as power is restored across the state. In terms of water, it is important to reassure South Australians that tap water is still completely safe to drink. All metropolitan water treatment plants are fully operational, with adequate filtered water storage. I am advised that there is sufficient supply available to the metropolitan area.

All metropolitan sewerage treatment plants are fully operational and all but one—that being Wynn Vale—metropolitan sewerage pumping stations have full power. All pump stations are operational, even though nine of the 350 are experiencing faults. Crews are being deployed to address faults, as there has been a number of overflows during power outages. SA Water is deploying their customer service team and clean-up crews to affected properties in order to minimise disruptions to the community as much as possible.

In our regional areas there are ongoing issues as a result of continuing power outages that are being managed. Port Lincoln experienced a power outage again at 12.30am, I am advised, and backup generators are being used to operate sewerage systems. There is adequate water supply available through storage and we are seeking backup power supplies to continue supply beyond current tank levels. Whyalla currently has adequate water supply available through storage.

Crews lowered levels in all sewerage pump stations overnight and will continue to closely monitor them. Sewerage treatment plants and the network for Whyalla require additional generator support to maintain service. I am advised that additional generator support can be sourced. In the north of the state, Port Pirie and Port Augusta both have adequate water supply available through storage. Crews lowered levels in all sewerage pump stations overnight and will continue to closely monitor them.

Sewerage treatment plants and the network for Port Pirie and Port Augusta require additional generator support to maintain service. I am advised that also will be made available. The Barossa and Mid North's continuing power outages are making communication to the area difficult. I am awaiting further updates on this area of concern. I am advised that the Riverland, Mount Gambier, Yorke Peninsula, Adelaide Hills and the Fleurieu Peninsula all have water and sewerage services fully operational.

The chamber should also note that our coast will be affected by this weather event. DEWNR has received several warnings from the Bureau of Meteorology since Tuesday afternoon. The latest warning at 10.21 this morning has upgraded the storm surge prediction. We are expecting a significant sea level this afternoon at Port Adelaide of about 3.4 to 3.8 metres chart datum. This high water level may cause more beach and dune erosion along the Adelaide coast.

There has been significant sand carting and pumping over the past years, as part of the Adelaide Living Beaches strategy, and this has reinstated dune buffers in vulnerable areas, which will help protect the coast somewhat from this storm. The high winds have filled the Glenelg and West Beach boat harbours with seagrass. DEWNR is prepared to start cleaning the harbour once the weather event has passed. I would like to remind all members of the public that at this time they should continue to check SA Water's website, Twitter, Facebook and customer service centre for updates and general information regarding interruptions to water and sewerage services across the state.

The SA Water customer service centre is fully operational and will be taking customer inquiries and calls. I am also advised, in terms of the operation of Mount Bold, that all gates are open to 300 millimetres, which is the maximum release of about 6.8 megalitres a day, and at 1pm today the reservoir is sitting at 90 per cent capacity.

### EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE (14:45):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Climate Change, representing the Minister for Health, a question regarding the extreme weather event of yesterday and the consequences of that event.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE:** I think most people in South Australia would acknowledge that yesterday was an extreme event, and we cannot blame the government for the high transmission power poles blowing over. Likewise, the spin that the government has put on the privatisation of ETSA by the former government had nothing whatsoever to do with the traumatic conditions yesterday.

The reality of yesterday was that this government has failed South Australians because it has not delivered on an interconnector that then premier Rann acknowledged and promised to build in 2002, and also, not only did they not build another interconnector but they failed to do anything about power generation. From a macro point of view, major disaster and a bad news story for South Australia that says to businesses looking to come here, 'Are we going to have an electricity supply?'

My questions, therefore, on the micro front are: has the government, particularly the health minister, paid proper attention to power generation backup at all of our hospitals, and can the minister confirm that the Port Augusta hospital yesterday, when the power went out, tried to use its generator, which then failed, potentially putting plasma and other lifesaving products, and also the wellbeing of the patients, at risk?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (14:47):** I thank the honourable member for his most hypocritical question, but I can advise, in relation to the detail of it, that he can refer to the ministerial statement made by the Minister for Health in another place, which he probably should read before he stands up here and asks a question. But, what an utter act of hypocrisy on behalf of the Hon. Mr Brokenshire. This bloke, this honourable member, was a member of the Liberal government that stopped the interconnector being built to New South Wales in the first place.

The Hon. Rob Lucas, trying to maximise the amount of money he got from privatising ETSA, stopped the interconnector to New South Wales being built, and you were part of that government, you were part of that decision-making, and here he is coming in here, the biggest hypocrite, after the Hon. David Ridgway, in this chamber. Goodness gracious me! What hide has this bloke? He has more front than John Martin's, this bloke—he has got more front than John Martin's! I can tell you—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! We don't want a six-way debate here. The honourable minister is trying to answer the question; allow him that right.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** I can tell you that this bloke has more front than bloody John Martin's. It is incredible to me that he could stand up in here and ask a question about the



interconnector and make that sort of impassioned plea for its being built. He was part of the government that stopped it being built. He was part of the failed Liberal government that stopped that interconnector being built. The Hon. Robert Lucas over there was the one who took the decision, because he wanted to maximise the sale, the privatisation, of the state's assets of ETSA.

#### EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Leader of the Opposition) (14:48):** Then why did your former premier, the Hon. Mike Rann, promise to build an interconnector to New South Wales on being elected in 2002?

**The PRESIDENT:** Minister?

**The Hon. R.I. Lucas:** No answer!

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Ms Lee.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Hon. Ms Lee has the floor.

*The Hon. D.W. Ridgway interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Will the Leader of the Opposition please refrain from being rude to his colleague on his side of the chamber? The Hon. Ms Lee.

#### GOVERNMENT RADIO NETWORK

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (14:49):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Emergency Services questions about the Government Radio Network and mobile phone towers.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.S. LEE:** With last night's statewide power blackouts, many South Australians were without, and some are still without, mobile and landline coverage. The Government Radio Network and mobile phone towers rely on battery backup which only lasts about eight hours. My questions to the minister are:

1. What is the government's plan to ensure both civilian and emergency services phone and radio communications are not compromised due to system failure, particularly when they have to wait for a long time?
2. Why has nothing been done to put in place a plan B, as evidenced by recent failures, to address communications errors and reduce public anxiety?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:50):** I believe there were two components to the honourable member's question, some laden with innuendo and lack of fact more than others, but there were two components and I will deal with them in separate parts. The first one was in respect of landlines and mobile phone towers being in use. They are services that are delivered by private providers, following another round of privatisation by our political opponents at the federal level, but Telstra is the main service provider in respect of landlines and mobile phone towers.

I have been grateful for being in receipt of information from Telstra during the course of the morning, and as of 11.35am I was advised by Telstra that there were 145 mobile sites out of service, which is a number that is substantially down from an earlier figure of 381 which was reported to me during the course of the day.

Telstra are to be commended for their work thus far in trying to bring mobile service towers back online as they can, and I understand they are doing everything they reasonably can to be able to provide what is, in many respects, an essential service to so many South Australians. Telstra, like any other part of the community, provides significant services which are reliant upon substantial pieces of infrastructure which have been affected as a result of the extraordinary weather event that we have already discussed here this morning.

In respect of the South Australian Government Radio Network, I have already stated within my ministerial statement that the advice I have received is that the Government Radio Network has performed well throughout the course of this incident thus far and, just prior to walking into the chamber, I have been advised that the Government Radio Network was continuing to operate well, as planned, which is testament to the enormous amount of work and substantial investment that the government has put into the system over many years.

#### **GOVERNMENT RADIO NETWORK**

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (14:52):** A supplementary question: the new MFS Intergraph computers being installed on MFS trucks rely on mobile phone coverage. What backups are in place when the mobile phone coverage fails?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:52):** I have not received any advice suggesting that mobile phone coverage throughout metropolitan Adelaide has failed at any point, and thus far the machinery that relies on mobile phone coverage within MFS vehicles has continued to operate as planned. So, there has been no failure, despite people opposite salivating over the idea of things going wrong within our emergency services, which I think is utterly shameful—nothing along those lines has occurred whatsoever. Furthermore, the Government Radio Network systems still exist, I am advised, within MFS trucks and vehicles, in any event.

#### **GOVERNMENT RADIO NETWORK**

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (14:53):** A supplementary question: in 2011, then acting police minister, Bernard Finnigan, wrote to the federal government and detailed the effects of a prolonged power failure on emergency services communications and public alert systems. Why has nothing been done to limit failures when such a major incident happened yesterday?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:53):** This state government has invested \$154 million into the Government Radio Network. The Government Radio Network, throughout the course of this event thus far, as I explained and advised earlier, has been performing exceptionally well. The Government Radio Network is the envy of many other jurisdictions throughout the country. We continue to monitor its ongoing performance. Of course, sustained power outages present a risk to the Government Radio Network, but thus far it is performing as planned and as designed.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **VISITORS**

**The PRESIDENT:** I would like to welcome students from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart who are in the gallery today. Welcome.

#### *Question Time*

#### **NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY**

**The Hon. G.E. GAGO (14:54):** My question is to the Minister for Police. Can the minister inform the council about the significance of 29 September to police organisations across Australia?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:54):** I thank the honourable member for her question, because 29 September is a significant day in the Australian policing community. It marks National Police Remembrance Day, one of the most important days on the police calendar. National Police Remembrance Day is a day for all Australians to pause and honour the bravery of officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. We also remember those who have passed away through illness and other circumstances.

In 1989, police commissioners across the country instigated National Police Remembrance Day, agreeing that 29 September would be a day of remembrance and would be accompanied by services. Unfortunately, due to the incidents unfolding with the weather, I was unable to attend that

service. The date of 29 September was an appropriate day to be selected, as it falls on the Feast Day of St Michael, the patron saint of police.

In South Australia a service is held every year at the Wall of Remembrance at the police academy, and both the commissioner and I were deeply disappointed not to have been able to participate in this morning's service due to our commitments in the ongoing response to the severe weather that has struck our state in the last 24 hours. However, I understand that the service was held to mark this important date, and I thank my colleague in the other place, the member for Little Para, a former police officer himself, and my colleague in this chamber, the Hon. Terry Stephens MLC, for ensuring that our fallen officers and those across the nation were paid the respect they deserve.

The National Police Remembrance Day service brings together representatives of the armed forces, law enforcement agencies, emergency services and key support organisations within the policing community, families of fallen members and the wider community of South Australia, and affords a moment of reflection and remembrance of those officers who have fallen in the line of duty endeavouring to keep our community safe.

South Australian police have been serving our community for over 177 years, and the South Australia Police Honour Roll commemorates the 61 South Australian members who have lost their lives whilst serving our communities. Thankfully, we have not lost an officer in the line of duty since 2002.

**An honourable member:** And let's hope we don't.

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS:** Indeed. A National Police Memorial has been established in Canberra, and was first dedicated on 29 September 2006. Jointly funded by federal, state and territory police services and the Police Federation of Australia, it records the name, rank, jurisdiction, place and date of death of the 754 police officers killed since Constable Joseph Luker of Sydney died in 1803. The names of officers who died whilst on duty in the preceding 12 months are added as part of each year's service.

I have had the great privilege to serve as Minister for Police for almost nine months, and my respect and appreciation for the work police do has only grown. I am thankful for this opportunity to acknowledge the important role police officers play in our community and the significant sacrifices they make regularly in order to keep our communities safe. In addition to those officers who have lost their life while on duty, there are the countless numbers of police men and women who have been injured while on duty. I would also like to pay tribute to them.

Every loss of a police officer is a solemn reminder of the dangers they face in the line of duty and the immense expectations that we, as a community, place on them to protect us. I thank all those members who are wearing a Police Remembrance Ribbon for their support and their contribution to SA Police Legacy, the charitable organisation that provides a range of services to police families.

Today's day of remembrance is timely, given what has unfolded since severe weather hit the state, and I think it is only right that I make mention of the tremendous effort and commitment shown in the last 24 hours by our police and emergency services workers. Overnight, at the front of Parliament House, police officers marshalled traffic into the late hours of yesterday evening through inclement weather; other officers were called to events that arose from the extreme weather. We saw an extraordinary event occur—indeed, we are currently witnessing an extraordinary event occurring—and our police men and women have done an outstanding job.

I think one small example of that, which had a significant impact on so many people's lives, was yesterday afternoon, with the quick action of police in attending so many traffic intersections throughout metropolitan Adelaide to guide people home safely. They do this type of important work throughout our state, and we thank them for their incredible service on this important day.

#### **EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS**

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:59):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Minister for Climate Change on the extreme weather event.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** As we know, we are in the midst of an extreme weather event in this state that saw our state have a power blackout over the course of last evening and, indeed, some parts of our state continue to be without power. I note that some, in both political and media circles, have claimed that this event was caused by too much wind power, and South Australia's reliance on renewables and in particular on wind power.

Given that this is a one in 50 year storm, and indeed Tony Wood, the author of the Grattan Institute report, which has been relied on in recent weeks by people attacking renewables in this state, has said that it was not the wind power that caused this blackout, what is the minister's response to those who have called for an independent inquiry? What is the minister's response to how this state will tackle climate change into the future? Does the minister expect to see more extreme weather events in the near future?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (15:00):** I thank the honourable member for her most important questions. I am rather disappointed in some of the responses to what has been happening in our state over the last 24 hours.

**The Hon. G.E. Gago:** They should apologise to the South Australian public.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** Indeed, the Hon. Gail Gago hopes, probably forlornly, that some of these people should apologise to the South Australian public about some of their comments. It is sad that some people have sought to politicise a severe weather event for their own political ideological ends, when this government and the state, our emergency services volunteers and our police are all about community safety and getting through this event with no great damage to the state or to our community, and trying to keep people safe.

As the Hon. Tammy Franks said in her introduction, I am advised that the storms are a one in 50 year event, highlighting, I think, the unusual but very significant nature of what we are experiencing right across the state. These storms caused something that, I was told at a briefing with the Bureau of Meteorology at EMC last night, saw, across the whole storm front, more than 80,000 lightning strikes right across the state. These storms impacted our power network and resulted in power being lost—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** I am very capable of making the comment myself. Can members please stop chatting behind the minister while he is giving his answer because it is very hard to follow. Minister.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** These storms have impacted our power network and resulted in power being lost across the state. Both ElectraNet, the owners of South Australia's transmission network, and the Australian Energy Market Operator, the regulator who operates the national electricity market, have made it clear that the power outages were as a result of these damaging and unprecedented storms. In a statement ElectraNet has said:

The storm has caused significant damage to the transmission network...Current information indicates that three out of the four transmission lines moving power between Adelaide and the north of South Australia, and 23 towers across the network have been damaged.

**The Hon. D.W. Ridgway:** I thought it was only 22.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** Well, this is a quote I am repeating in parliament, Mr President. I'm not going to correct it. It may very well be correct itself. I am also advised that the federal energy minister has acknowledged that the severe storm is the cause of the loss of power across the state.

As I understand it, when pressed on ABC radio, the Leader of the Opposition himself, the member for Dunstan, finally conceded the outage was a result of the storms. Of course, this has not stopped him and others of his state colleagues, the singing circus he has behind him, blaming

renewable energy generation. In fact, they were very quick to jump into that. They might like to get acquainted with some of the facts.

Again, as the Hon. Tammy Franks mentioned in her explanation, energy market expert Mr Tony Wood from the Grattan Institute told ABC News:

There's no evidence to suggest this was caused by too much wind power, or the dependence on wind power, or anything else, or would have been any different if any of the power stations that had been shut down earlier this year had still been operating.

If you've got a wind farm or a coal-fired power station at the end of a transmission line, and that system either is taken out by storm or is forced to shut down to protect itself from a storm, it doesn't matter what the energy source is.

It is pretty clear to me that those opposite in this chamber and in the other place have had their heads stuck well and truly in the sand and that they clearly have a vendetta against renewable energies. They miss no opportunity whatsoever, even when it is not in the state's interests, to get on that bandwagon and attack renewable energy.

Clearly, they are not really worried about the facts of the matter. They are not really worried about giving the public correct information. All they are interested in doing is pushing that wheelbarrow of theirs that wind energy is bad, and they will take any opportunity, regardless of the facts of the matter. Regardless of the expert opinion that is trying to inform the public, they get on the bandwagon and try to obfuscate matters for their own blind political and ideological ends.

**The Hon. D.W. Ridgway:** The energy minister was told 14½ years ago that too much wind was a risk.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** I am reminded—

**The Hon. D.W. Ridgway:** I was on the committee.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** I am reminded that the last time they attempted this was in July. The state opposition has been accused of making up the numbers and feeding made up numbers to a media outlet which, to their shame, published them without fact checking, in an attempt to discredit wind energy. As one outlet said of the state Liberals' spectacular stuff up at the time:

...the errors were so bad that they might have been funny, were it not for the fact that so many in the conservative side of politics, and mainstream media too, accept them at face value.

It is time to stop this blame game and attacks on clean energy. It is time to get behind the government and our community when we are trying to deal with this unprecedented weather event. It is not just me saying this. Noted commentators right around Australia are starting to kick up on this. I refer to an article in *The Guardian*:

Is this a new low: politicians using a natural disaster to push a fact free agenda?

Unburdened by evidence, anti-wind campaigners used the South Australian blackout to kick off a debate about renewables while others waited for facts

Not them, not the opposition. The article goes on to say:

Normally natural disasters are off limits to politicking—

Normally, Mr President, to most decent politicians—

at least in the period straight after the event. So it was pretty awful watching politicians and commentators pushing their anti-renewables message on the back of a once in 50 year storm that hit South Australia and knocked out the electricity grid.

These baseless claims led bulletins despite energy industry experts, upon actual analysis of the situation—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** I will repeat, Mr President:

These baseless claims led bulletins despite energy industry experts, upon actual analysis of the situation, reporting that there was no evidence that renewables are in any way linked to the power outage.

The outage is more likely to have something to do with the 80,000 lightning strikes and the winds that knocked over 22 transmission poles. Who knew violent storms could knock the power out?

I guess there was a little sense of irony in that sentence, or sarcasm perhaps. It continues:

It is hard to imagine how coal fired power would have remained on without a grid for the electricity to flow through.

A pretty simple proposition, ignored by the Liberals opposite. Continuing:

Just before the grid shut down, renewables were not offline. Wind energy was busy producing almost 1,000 Megawatts of electricity. The problem was not a lack of renewable power, but a storm-ravaged grid that couldn't get it to the consumers.

There is more, but I will not bother quoting any more. People can look it up for themselves, those who are minded to do so.

**The Hon. R.L. Brokenshire:** You seem a bit upset.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** Well, I am upset, the Hon. Mr Brokenshire, because people have been exploiting a situation for their own personal interests and disregarding the interests of the state. I can only again point very briefly to another article, in *The Sydney Morning Herald*:

South Australian blackout 'nothing to do with renewable energy': experts

I will just briefly outline a few sentences. This is of some historical significance:

In August 2003 in the US state of Ohio, a single overloaded power line touched a tree limb and short-circuited.

The cascading electricity outages that resulted plunged 50 million people into darkness, including millions of consumers in Canada, and became the biggest blackout in North American history.

A subsequent investigation stressed that the king of all blackouts was a 'grid issue' not an issue of power generation.

Energy market experts—

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS:** Point of order: we have reached that eight-minute mark again, which the minister seems to like getting to every day, and it is reducing the amount of time for questions.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** What number? Give me the number of the order.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS:** I ask the President to ask you to conclude—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** The point of order will be heard in silence. Minister, get to your answer.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** I have a very good answer, Mr President. The honourable member, in introducing this point of order, couldn't refer to a standing order number for you because there is none.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins:** Well, it's eight minutes, the length of time you can take for—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The reason it takes so long is because there is so much interjecting.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** Exactly. The quote continues:

Energy market experts on Thursday said South Australia's statewide blackout during a once-in-50-years storm was similarly nothing to do with that state's mix of power generation and high reliance on wind energy.

Hugh Saddler, a senior principal consultant at infrastructure specialists Pitt & Sherry said the SA shut down has 'absolutely nothing to do with renewable energy'.

'It's a transmission system failure. It's a rare event but one that has happened in various places around the world, including much larger events in the US and Canada'...

I could go on even further but honourable members can look it up for themselves if they have an interest. Some people have been saying, 'This has never happened before in Australia. How did it happen in South Australia? It's never happened anywhere else.' I have advice from a press release put out by the Climate Council which, unlike many other releases that are relied on by other honourable members, is actually referenced. It states:

Have storms affected a whole state's electricity supply in Australia before?

Whilst a severe weather event causing a whole state to lose power may be unprecedented in Australia, there have been severe weather related black-outs to hundreds of thousands of people in Australia, such as:

In 2009, more than 500,000 homes without power in Victoria due to a heatwave.

In 2011, more than 200,000 houses lost power in Victoria due to storms.

In 2013, 250,000 homes in Queensland lost power due to storms.

In 2015, 200,000 businesses and households in New South Wales faced extended blackouts of up to a week.

It is just beyond me that members of the Liberal Party would exploit the state's situation right now to push a political ideological view about energy. Hopefully, this might make it simpler for them to understand. We have the fabulous Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, on 891, I think, this morning, asked by presenter Clarke a question about the power outage and he said this:

So when the generator pops it pops and there's nothing you can do about it but also if you have the physical power being ripped out of the ground, mate, you can have your power being made by nuclear or angels, mate, it's not going anywhere if you don't have a tower to carry it...

Maybe that is simple enough for those members opposite in the Liberal Party to understand. This was a systems grid problem. It is something that we are addressing and getting to on behalf of the whole state as we go through this very severe weather event—and it is not over yet. For them to try to exploit this for rank, base political ideological views is an absolute shame on them.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Does the Hon. Ms Lensink have a supplementary?

#### **EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS**

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (15:12):** Yes, arising from the answer. If, as the minister claims, wind energy was providing adequate generation supply, why on earth was Pelican Point cranked up last night?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (15:13):** This just goes to show that you can never trust a single word the Liberals say in question time. The honourable member did not repeat my words at all. In fact, I was quoting from other sources and here she is misinterpreting it wilfully and trying to twist it around to try to fit into her warped world view about renewables. She will be judged for this, just as her party will be judged for this, just as her leader, the member for Dunstan, will be judged for this—taking advantage of a severe weather crisis. When the government is trying to get on and keep the community safe, they are out there running around with their biased views about renewable energy.

#### **POWER OUTAGES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (15:13):** I seek leave to make an explanation—

**The PRESIDENT:** Is it to the minister?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** Yes.

**The PRESIDENT:** He had to take a very important phone call.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** Well, it is question time.

**The PRESIDENT:** Unfortunately, under these extreme circumstances, there could be some information he needs.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** Mr President, the Hon. Mr Lucas may like to ask his question, and I will attempt to help him.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** You would be no help at all.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! He might be back in a minute. The Hon. Mr Dawkins, would you like to have yours now?

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS:** Mine is to the Minister for Police.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Ms Vincent, your question is to whom?

**The Hon. K.L. VINCENT:** Also to the Minister for Emergency Services.

**The PRESIDENT:** Under the circumstances, we will hold the clock.

The minister now being present, activate the clock. The Hon. Mr Lucas.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I seek leave to make an explanation prior to directing a question to the Minister for Emergency Services on the subject of yesterday's event.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The minister was asked a question earlier in question time today about 000 services and on two separate occasions he was unequivocal about denying that there had been any advice or any suggestion that the 000 services had gone down. In fact, *Hansard* records him as saying:

I want to be clear and...state what I have already stated before just for the sake of clarity. There is no suggestion and there have been no reports that the 000 service has gone down at any point or has not been able to deal with the incoming calls.

Yesterday, SA Police News tweeted the following advisory:

Triple Zero services down in some in some isolated areas. Attend nearest hospital, police or fire station if needed. [police.sa.gov.au/sa-police-news...](http://police.sa.gov.au/sa-police-news...)

That official advisory from SA Police is clearly contrary to the advice minister Malinauskas has given this house on two separate occasions this afternoon, when asked a direct question.

He was asked it first and he gave that response, he was then given the opportunity to clarify, and he got antsy about it all and put on the record again, 'There is no suggestion and there have been no reports that the 000 service has gone down'. My question to the minister is: was the SA Police official advisory yesterday not telling truth about 000, or is minister Malinauskas this afternoon not telling the truth about the 000 service?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:20):** I am happy to repeat what I said earlier today: I have not received any advice from anybody that the 000 service's capacity to be able take calls at any point has gone down.

#### **POWER OUTAGES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (15:20):** Supplementary question: is the minister indicating that this particular official advisory from SA Police News, advising all South Australians in relation to 000 services, was untrue? It is in clear contradiction to—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!



**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** —the statement the minister gave to the house on two separate occasions this afternoon. Whom are we to believe, the minister or SA Police News, in terms of its official advisory? What is the minister trying to cover up?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:24):** I have to say, I am utterly appalled at the attempt by the Hon. Mr Lucas to try to politicise what is a very significant event—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Let the minister answer the question.

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS:** I provide, as every minister does, the most clear information that I possibly can—that is honest with the general public—through this forum. The advice that I have received from people regarding the 000 service is that the 000 service remains live and utterly capable of taking incoming calls. I advised earlier that there may be issues with people being able to access 000 because of them not having access to working landlines or working mobile phones and the like. That is the advice I have received. I am happy to give updates as the afternoon goes on, if that situation has changed, but the advice I have received is consistent with what my remarks have been.

I have to say to the Hon. Mr Lucas: no wonder people have stopped listening to you, Rob, no wonder. Playing these word games when we have a significant emergency on and trying to undermine people's confidence in our emergency services through the course of an event is utterly appalling. Quite frankly, you should be ashamed of yourself.

#### **POWER OUTAGES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (15:23):** Supplementary, Mr President.

**The PRESIDENT:** Does it arise from his answer? If you are going to ask the same question, there is no point in asking. But if it is arising out of his answer, go for it.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** Will the minister undertake, given the conflict in the statements, to now contact SA Police and bring back urgently, this afternoon, a clarification of this particular official advisory from SA Police News so that we can be advised officially from SA Police whether or not the information they gave yesterday to all South Australians was accurate or not?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:23):** The only undertaking that I am willing to make is to make sure that South Australians get the best possible service they can from this government, by ensuring that we are remaining calm, not playing word games with people, and getting the information that we receive out there as quickly as possible, which is precisely what we have been doing.

#### **POWER OUTAGES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:24):** Supplementary: in bringing back further information to this place—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** —will the minister refer us all to the press release that went along with that tweet that noted it was the powerlines that were out, not 000?

**The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:24):** I thank the honourable member for her question: she clearly has the interests of so many South Australians at heart when she asks pertinent questions about the services that are available to people. I have been advised that 000 is up and running at full operational capacity. Additional staff were called in to 000 yesterday afternoon to be prepared to accept any additional calls that come in as a result of the state undergoing a significant emergency.

### MINECRAFT COMPETITION

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:25):** I have a question for the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation. Will the minister tell the chamber about the recent success of the Minecraft competition that was run as part of the connecting residents of the north and south with nature projects?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (15:25):** I thank the honourable member for his most intriguing and important question. At the last state election the government of South Australia committed to investing \$10.4 million to encourage Adelaideans and other visitors to visit our metropolitan parks.

The project: connecting residents of the north and south with nature, used co-design principles to ask local communities how they wanted this money spent. Over 11,000 people participated in the project and were involved in southern and northern co-design teams, ministerial round tables, free park open days and submissions to the YourSAy website. I seem to recall a number of MPs or members of their offices attending.

This feedback has allowed the government to recognise the importance of rangers for the community, as well as improvements and upgrades to facilities like camping and picnic grounds, walking and cycling trails, information hubs, nature play spaces and scenic lookouts. This has led to the investment in nearly 40 infrastructure and education projects, including the creation of five new rangers, plus eight seasonal staff, to carry out trail maintenance, as well as works to northern parks and southern parks.

One of the innovative ways we engaged with the public about this investment was through a Minecraft design a park competition. Students worked together to think about their favourite things about parks and what they like to do in them, and then created their ideal park by using the world-building computer game, Minecraft, of which I had absolutely no knowledge whatsoever until it was brought to my attention by some younger staffers.

The competition attracted national and international media for its innovative blending of technology with learning, and provided students with an excellent opportunity to learn more about park design and their natural environment. Linden Park Primary School's year 4 class won the competition with its fantastic leafy sea dragon national park. They actually did a YouTube video of that fabulous entry, and it is quite intriguing; I encourage honourable members to look it up. It is bound to be on the school site, but you can do a little search engine search—whatever they are called—and look for—

**The Hon. R.L. Brokenshire:** Google it up.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** Well, that would be a proprietary name, the Hon. Mr Brokenshire—I'm sure there are others. We don't want to support one.

**The Hon. R.L. Brokenshire:** It's the only one I use.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** That's an endorsement from you. I think I probably use Firefox myself, but there you go. As I said, they have done a YouTube video of this leafy sea dragon park, it is all in 3D and it is incredibly interesting and fun to watch.

**The Hon. R.L. Brokenshire:** Sounds good.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** It is good. Their design included all the important things that park visitors need, plus some exciting new ideas—some of them are very exciting. Essentials were included, like accessible toilets, picnic and barbeque areas, walking and cycling trails, a campground and even a cafe. I really enjoyed the inclusion of fun and imaginative things like the maze, the pirate ship in the playground and, of course, the giant leafy sea dragon that people could climb. Because the students' design was so interesting and innovative, the government invited them to spend time with a qualified design team to help create the new play area at Morialta Conservation Park.

The students' contributions can be found in the final park design, which includes a five-metre climbing structure in the form of an eagle's nest, as well as balancing logs and platforms of varying heights. When the park upgrades are finished there will be a lovely little plaque recognising the work

of the Linden Park Primary School students in creating and designing the playground, and they should receive the benefits of that success of theirs.

I am especially pleased to report that the students' design work has gone on to even more awards. The students entered their original project in the national iAwards. The iAwards are run by the Australian Information Industry Association, and recognise organisations and students at the cutting edge of technology and innovation.

I am very happy to say that the students won the South Australian junior students category, beating many excellent entries from an incredibly talented field. The students then went to Melbourne to represent the state in the national awards. The Linden Park Primary School, I am advised, won the national junior students category, and that is a fantastic outcome from one of our great South Australian primary schools. Given the very tender age of the students, their success on the national stage has been all the more impressive.

Linden Park Primary School will now be entitled to represent Australia at the Australasian awards in Taipei, in December 2016. The prestigious awards aim to raise awareness about information technology and the community and bridge the digital divide—something that these students are clearly doing a fantastic job of. I wish the Linden Park Primary School year 4 class the best of luck for the Australasian awards this December. They have a bright future ahead of them, highlighting the importance of engaging with the broader community about the natural environment and how it can excite so many people, particularly those of the younger generation.

#### *Bills*

### **APPROPRIATION BILL 2016**

#### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 27 September 2016.)

**The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS (15:31):** I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill for 2016. I will attempt, through my contribution, to address the many falsehoods the Labor government is peddling to South Australians in this budget. The Treasurer believes the budget position is sound and that the state is saved because he delivered a surplus—but it is not a true surplus. We know, on this side of the chamber, that the only reason the budget is in the black is because the Treasurer flogged off the Motor Accident Commission, one of the only cash cows of the government.

This improved the bottom line by \$403.5 million. This was coupled with cumulative dividends and equity of almost \$2 billion over the past three years. This means, without the Motor Accident Commission, the government's budget position is dire. Unfortunately, for the South Australian taxpayer, this surplus has not come about by structural reform and improvement in the budget, but by a crude pillaging of assets. This surplus is unsustainable as a result and cannot be used as an example of prudent financial management, as much as the Treasurer likes to pretend.

Embarrassingly, the Treasurer believes his own fanciful commentary that the Labor government has built this surplus as a buffer against Brexit, federal instability and global financial uncertainty. A structural improvement to the budget, through a sustained reduction in government spending, is the only way to truly achieve surplus or, at the very least, a balanced budget. As I have said repeatedly in this place, once government spending is under control, taxes can be abolished or reduced to a minimum in order to see quality services well funded.

So, where can government spending be reduced? There are plenty of examples in the current budget: all the hundreds of millions of dollars that the government has spent on jobs plans, all to see the state's unemployment rate rise higher and higher. Clearly, these plans are not working and are a money pit. The Northern Economic Plan is a good example of this, to which the Treasurer has just committed a further \$24.2 million. Government does not create jobs—private enterprise does. Imagine if all the money spent by this government over their 14 years on job creation was given back to businesses and individuals in the form of payroll tax cuts and stamp duty relief. Where would the state be, in terms of jobs growth and investment?

South Australia could be the most competitive state in the commonwealth, and people would be flocking here to invest and start businesses. Not to mention that everyday South Australians would find it easier to enter the property market—something that is becoming almost impossible for younger Australians right across the country. What if Arrium's payroll tax bill was able to be wiped? Surely, this would be the most direct way, from a state government perspective, to assist the company in keeping the steelworks open and ensuring the job security of the workers of Whyalla? Instead, this government has spent \$50 million on upgrading steelworks infrastructure in order for it to be an attractive asset to sell.

Is this the role of government? I would not have thought so. The Treasurer believes his returning of \$670 million of state taxes to businesses has created 6,000 new jobs in South Australia, yet recent employment figures show that the state actually lost 3,700 jobs. That is a fair miscalculation. It just goes to show that payroll tax relief is not targeted enough and it requires more thought.

For instance, why are only small enterprises targeted? I understand this encourages start-ups, but what about established manufacturers? Is there any surprise that our large manufacturers are closing down in droves when we consider the costs of doing business in this state? These fanciful job creation claims cannot be believed and neither can the Treasurer's claim that \$4,000 grants will lead to the creation of 14,000 jobs over the coming two years. This is nonsensical. A \$4,000 grant could hardly be considered an incentive.

I consider education to be a core function of government, and as a result some spending is justified. However, the government has committed over \$1 billion in this budget to the upgrading of our schools and the question has to be asked what the benefit to our children is. Given that the state's NAPLAN results are some of the worst in the nation, I think we are entitled to ask whether the current policy and spending programs are working.

Sadly, with Labor, the answer to everything is increased spending, but clearly the government needs to be smarter. The question is whether they are capable of being smarter. I think, after 14 years, South Australians have lost hope of that happening. This is a tired government, incapable of reinvigorating the state. The Treasurer talked about \$135 million being spent on 'initiatives to attract and create new industries'. It is incredibly frustrating that the Labor government does not understand that this is not the role of government.

This is \$135 million that could go back to business, and we would see the private sector create the industries of the future through the innovation inherent in a competitive market. The funding of an industry attraction agency is a further example of the government having the wrong priorities and the wrong approach. If the government provides the right economic environment, then naturally business and industry will flourish.

Some interesting spends on infrastructure are worthy of mention, including \$48 million upgrading diesel railcars. One would think that electrification would render such a spend redundant. The government has dragged its heels on the Gawler line for too long. The \$56.1 million spend on 198 additional prison beds at Mobilong, Mount Gambier and Port Augusta will barely address the problem of overcrowding in the state's prison system. This is something that we, on this side, have been questioning the Minister for Correctional Services about this week, with disappointing revelations.

The minister and the rest of his government are failing on corrections. Of course, overcrowding forces a spend on programs to hasten prisoner parole, and the government is spending \$10 million to this effect. It is extremely disappointing. The Treasurer complains that the state has to fund \$527 million in order to make up for a commonwealth funding gap and that this money is hard to come by. However, this is not good enough. The Treasurer could easily find this money if unbudgeted spending was reined in.

In the four departments of DPTI, DCSI, DECD, and Health and Ageing, there was at least \$444 million of unbudgeted spending. This is the government not keeping spending under control or spending it on what it says it will. If this much unbudgeted spending is going on, what is the point of the budget documents? How can the parliament be satisfied that the substance of what is being

debated in the Appropriation Bill, and the related budget measures bill, is actually what the government is spending taxpayers' money on? This should be of great concern to South Australians.

South Australians should be outraged that their cost of living is going up for the sole reason that this Labor government and the Treasurer cannot spend within their means. They have no concern for the taxpayers of this state who are largely small business people and mum-and-dad investors who are forced to pay for this government, only to see their hard-earned money squandered. As convention dictates, I commend the bill to the council.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Leader of the Opposition) (15:38):** I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill 2016. Clearly, we know that the government is keen to pass this bill. I suspect that there will be some issues with it if we do not pass it today. The state will plunge into further turmoil.

**The Hon. J.M.A. Lensink:** Chaos.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY:** More chaos. Clearly, one of the biggest issues facing this state is jobs. We have seen the unemployment rate continually rise and fluctuate, but we are still the worst in the nation. Something that really concerns me is that our youth unemployment rate is now 13.5 per cent and our underutilisation rate is the highest on the mainland at 16.8 per cent. Labor made a promise of 100,000 new jobs by 2016, Mr President: 11,140.

There were a whole range of comments made, I think, when the Premier spoke recently at the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He was almost trying to lower people's expectations, wanting people not to have a high level of expectation that we were going to improve. It was unbelievable. The Premier is on the record as saying, 'If we are able to do that and at the same time keep growing in terms of employment, it will be an extraordinary achievement.'

The title of a leading article published on InDaily was, 'Jay's pride in SA's unemployment rate has business leaders in disbelief'. I will not go on with too many of the comments of business leaders, but there was a collective shaking of heads in disbelief in the room, given how many people are struggling and how many people are unemployed. The Premier does not seem to be taking that seriously.

In terms of our state and our state pride, I know that for some of the agencies funded part of their funding agreement is to engender state pride. I think that is an outrageous abuse of government resources, to have people expected to tell South Australians what a good job it is doing when people can clearly see it is doing a very poor job indeed.

If we look at the state debt, and the financial position that we find the government in, the net operating balance, the government's projected surplus will only come about by selling off assets. It has sold off Forestry at the bottom of the market, then the Lotteries, then the Motor Accident Commission. This is coming from a government that says there will be no more privatisation. It says one thing and does another.

The state's debt is now forecast to peak at \$14.2 billion, up \$700 million from the Mid-Year Budget Review. This government's economic mismanagement is costing South Australian taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars every year in interest just to service a debt accumulated by this recklessly spending government.

The government's economic mismanagement has meant that it has had to dig deep into the pockets of hardworking South Australians. For three consecutive budgets the emergency services levy has gone up, for South Australian households, businesses, schools, charities and other community organisations, over \$90 million every year since the remission was removed in 2014-15.

In this budget we have seen an increase in the solid waste levy; taxis, chauffeurs and ride sharing trips will attract a new \$1 levy; there will be a 15 per cent wagering tax; and parents working in South Australia under 457 visas will have to pay for their children to attend public schools. This is a cost of about \$5,000 for primary school and \$6,000 for secondary school. It is sad when a government gets on the tax treadmill; its only solution is to continue taxing. Of course, the Treasurer will boast that he has a surplus budget, but it is actually a surplus derived out of taxing hardworking South Australians.

No minister opposite is keen for us to progress this, but I want to make a couple of quick comments on some of my portfolios. With agriculture, food and fisheries we all know the importance of this great industry; whether it is from the sea or the land it really is important. We know that the agricultural industry is worth over \$18 billion to our economy and directly employs over 37,000 people; almost one-quarter of the state's economic activity is generated from primary industry, and the sector employs almost five times as many people as the mining sector.

Despite these facts the government continues to cut funding from programs, cut R&D, and neglect our primary industries. From this \$18.2 billion industry we saw only a pathetic \$1.2 million in new initiatives in the 2016-17 budget under PIRSA. Sadly, this city-centric government focuses on where it thinks it can get votes in the next election, not on what is going to grow the economy.

In the 2016-17 budget we saw a \$100 million cut to the PIRSA budget over the forward estimates from \$255 million to \$166 million and, one of the things I think is the most alarming, the government has withdrawn funding for the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics, which is roughly \$1 million a year. This is a centre that does a whole bunch of pre-breeding work for our grain producers. It is important to have this work done, and the government of the day, the minister's office, the cabinet, has seen fit to withdraw funding of \$1 million from a sector that produces \$18 billion for our economy.

In relation to the drought loans, we had a particularly tough season, and only \$3.7 million was distributed to farmers out of a total allocation of \$60 million. Only six of the 730 loans nationwide were awarded to South Australian farmers, yet PIRSA and this government have seen fit to use \$2.65 million of the money made available to administer the loans. It is almost as much money as the farming community received to administer the loans. Only one dairy loan, which we have for the dairy industry at the moment, has been approved to date. Water and livestock are not being used as security by PIRSA for these particular loans. In response to a question last week, as published in this week's *Stock Journal*, minister Bignell says:

South Australia's legislation is slightly different. While PIRSA does take into account water licences when assessing property values, water licence arrangements in South Australia do not provide financiers with an ability to register a formal security interest over a water licence.

Surely, the easiest thing to do would be to commit to bring in some legislation and change it so the water licence can be recognised by lenders. It is an asset, they charge the levy on it and they charge a fee for their water licence. If what minister Bignell says is accurate and they are not legally structured, then bring in some legislation. Minister Hunter is in this chamber. If it is a tradable asset, surely we should be able to structure it in such a way that the banks can take security over it. In the future I expect we will find that the water may be more valuable than the land.

In relation to Mobile Black Spot Program funding for regional South Australia, the government has only contributed an insufficient amount of \$2 million in round 2. We only received 11 of the original 499 towers because we did not contribute any funding. This \$2 million equates to less than 2 per cent of the \$104 million contributed by other states. It really does show how serious this government is in relation to supporting regional South Australia. The Loxton Research Centre is now 12 months late. The Sterile Insect Technology Facility in Port Augusta is now 18 months late and \$800,000 over budget.

I was going to focus on electricity but I am not going to talk a lot about it. In question time today I asked minister Malinauskas about the early meeting they had yesterday before the event occurred, which I think he replied was a subcommittee of cabinet and subject to cabinet confidentiality. I did see his colleague, minister Hunter, nod when I asked, 'Were you briefed that this was likely to happen because it was a one in 50 year event that we were having, and the weather bureau was saying we haven't had winds and rain like this since 1964?'

**The Hon. I.K. Hunter:** I wasn't nodding.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY:** Minister Hunter said he was not nodding. Your head was moving up and down—

**The Hon. I.K. Hunter:** I might have been nodding off.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY:** You might have been nodding off perhaps. Nonetheless, the question I would pose is: if they were briefed that the system was vulnerable to a one-in-50-year storm, were they briefed in 2002, when premier Rann said he would build an interconnector—we accept an interconnector would not have made much difference in this event—that our system is vulnerable to an event like this?

The commentary today has been about a high-level Australian Energy Market Operator inquiry by the regulator. I think we need an inquiry at a COAG level by the energy ministers and a local inquiry to look at what happened in the event. Nobody has been looking at our infrastructure and asking, 'What do we need to do to it? Let's have an inquiry to see what needs to be done to make sure we are not vulnerable and this does not happen again.'

If it is a one in 50 year storm, it may happen again in 50 years; who knows? Treasurer Koutsantonis said we had a one in 1,000 year event not long ago. What I want to know is: what is being done to make sure our infrastructure is enhanced and made robust enough to withstand these events? The minister opposite talks about climate change and says that we on this side of the chamber are all deniers, yet he constantly tells us that we are going to have more severe weather events. I would like to know what his government is doing to make sure that we are protected from those severe weather events.

I would like to touch on the Tatiara Creek early flood warning system. I raised that a couple of weeks ago in question time. Minister Hunter and others have said, 'You don't want us to spend money in regional South Australia.' I think it is about \$150,000. I lived on the Tatiara Creek, I used to swim in it, I used to catch yabbies in it. I know how it floods. There is no mountain range or big range of hills where you get a flash flood. It is about 50 or 60 kilometres long and it is gently undulating country. If it rains in Victoria, we know what the rainfall is and yes, if it is a wet year the water will get a bit higher. It just seems a strange thing.

He says the local council supports it. I know how these things work. Somebody in an agency has said, 'I have a good idea: we will put this early warning flood system in.' They tell the council they are going to do it. The council has no say in whether they want it or not, and it is built. It is a good example of the minister's department saying, 'We have a good photo opportunity. We will put this in.' This creek is running right now. It runs 2½ to 3 years in 10. Farming practices have changed. The minister says we have climate change, and so I expect we will see this early warning system. When it runs 2½ to 3 years in 10, it does not flood; it just runs. Right at the moment, it is running a moderate stream. I expect it will pick up a bit because it has had a bit of rain on it.

It is interesting the easy way this government can just spend money because it sounds like a good idea, without actually having a look to see whether it is good use of that money. Maybe that should have gone into country health or suicide prevention; there are a whole range of projects that \$150,000 could have gone into in the Tatiara community that would give lasting benefit, rather than an early warning flood scheme.

I am intrigued by the Mid North forests. Tomorrow is the last day, I think, of September. The future of those forests was to be announced by the end of September, so I assume we will see something from minister Bignell in the next couple of days. I hope it will be before the end of September, not like his wine industry development scheme that was promised on 1 July 2016 and is still not available; it has reduced by nearly \$1 million and people have no idea exactly what the new scheme is. It was originally the Cellar Door Liquor Subsidy Scheme; it is now called the wine industry development scheme, and some committee has been put together. The government gave a commitment that it would commence on 1 July and we have still heard nothing.

Just quickly, a couple of things to do with tourism. Recently, the government announced the Great Wine Capitals of the world. We have always been a bit sceptical. Melbourne was that and they gave it away. During the parliamentary break, I took the opportunity to travel to Argentina and went to Mendoza, which is also one of the world's Great Wine Capitals. I met with the Great Wine Capitals people there. They said, 'It is a good program, but you have to invest; you really have to invest in it.' Part of the program is that you host the international conference one or two years after you join. I asked how many people went to that conference, and they said it was 62 people, so I do not see that this Great Wine Capitals is going to boost our tourism.

They have said to me, 'You have to invest. From a tourism and industry point of view, you have to invest to capitalise on it.' I know we are going to pass this bill today, but maybe the minister could bring back a reply in the budget measures bill. What I would like to know is what budget—PIRSA, tourism, Brand SA, all of the organisations—has been set aside to capitalise on the Great Wine Capitals of the world? It is fine to say we are going to join it—it is about \$30,000 or \$40,000—but it is leveraging off that to actually get a benefit from it. Surely, there has to have been a budget allowed for that.

It is interesting that our percentage, or our share, of the international travellers market is going down. We do have increased growth in tourism, but other states are growing more quickly, so there is clearly something we are doing wrong in South Australia. We are all trying to do the best we can. I managed to get the proponents of the World Whiskies and Spirits Conference to put a bid into the bid fund, and thankfully that was supported. Next year, in August, we are going to have the World Whiskies and Spirits Conference, and we are optimistic that we may get it for two more cycles, and there could be up to 1,000 delegates each time. I think we are all trying to work and grow our tourism sector.

I will finish quickly. I think the most alarming incident in tourism in my time as the shadow minister for tourism was the collapse of Elite Systems and the government washing their hands totally of it. The government told those poor small businesses that they should do their due diligence. They had a contract, a brand-new contract, with Elite Systems. Those small businesses that did business and signed deals with Elite Systems trusted that the government had done their due diligence, and they lost, collectively, about \$1 million.

It is interesting to note that the government was happy to compensate the small business of the Kangaroo Island Surf and Music Festival. With Word Adelaide, the South Australian Tourism Commission lost \$700,000. It really interests me that they are not interested in supporting these small businesses. The Clipsal event is designed to be a great event—and it is a great event—and it is there for small businesses to benefit, whether it is a pub or a restaurant or somebody providing labour. They failed them on every count.

The taxpayers are also owed about \$600,000 and the small businesses are owed about \$1 million between them—and the government has washed its hands. Even Nigel McBride, the head of Business SA, said they should do their due diligence. I am really surprised that Mr McBride would say that because they had a contract with the government. The ink was barely dry: it was dated May, it started in December and these people started doing business with them in August. I think it exposes the government when they say you should do your due diligence. Not one person in this chamber has ever run a successful small business, or even run one whether successful or unsuccessful.

You have run a business, Mr President, but you do not like me to refer to your days in the gasfitters union where you had a lovely cash business on weekends with the gas company's backhoe, so I will not talk about that. Even in the House of Assembly virtually none of the Labor Party, none of the government members, none of the cabinet ministers, have actually run a business and so for them to say, 'Oh, you should just do your due diligence'—they did their due diligence because they had a contract with the government and I think it is a disgrace how this government and the South Australian Tourism Commission are not prepared to support those small businesses.

With those few words—and I do hope I get an answer on the Great Wine Capitals of the world and what budgets have been set aside to promote that—I support the bill.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (15:56):** I rise to close the debate. I thank honourable members who made a contribution to this most important bill, and I especially thank the chamber for its cooperation and its speedy passage this afternoon.

Bill read a second time.

*Committee Stage*

Bill taken through committee without amendment.



*Third Reading*

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (15:57):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

*Ministerial Statement***EMERGENCY WARNING**

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (15:58):** I seek leave to table a ministerial statement made in the other place by the Hon. Jay Weatherill, Premier, entitled Emergency Warning.

**EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS**

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate Change) (15:58):** I also table a ministerial statement by the Minister for Health, entitled Further Information about Power Outage Across SA Health.

At 15:58 the council adjourned until Tuesday 18 October 2016 at 14:15.