

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, 29 May 2018

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. A.L. McLachlan)** took the chair at 14:15 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 community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to the elders both past and present.

Parliamentary Procedure

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

The PRESIDENT (14:16): I have a statement to make in relation to some procedural matters before I ask if there are any petitions and continue with our standard procedure. On the previous sitting day, the council gave leave for the Minister for Human Services to make a personal explanation. I would like to provide clarification to honourable members on the standing orders and procedures for making personal explanations. Standing order 173 states:

By the indulgence of the Council, a Member may explain matters of a personal nature although there be no question before the Council; but such matters may not be debated.

Importantly, 'indulgence of the Council' has been ruled to mean the unanimous consent of the council. Members should remain aware that they have received such leave of the council and confine their statements to matters personally affecting the member. With regard to personal explanations, Blackmore states that:

...such latitude is permitted as is essential to the explanation. Hence reference to a former debate, and even reference to 'another place' is not objected to. But a Member must confine themselves strictly to the matter of explanation...must not introduce other subjects, or discuss other Members' remarks.

In relation to debate on questions currently before the council, standing order 175 states:

A Member who has spoken may again be heard, to explain in regard to some material part of the speech on which the Member has been misquoted or misunderstood, but shall not introduce any new matter or interrupt any Member in possession of the Chair.

Odgers refers to the use of personal explanations as procedures 'to respond to some misrepresentation...in an earlier debate...or in some other form or publication' and states that the explanation must relate to matters personally affecting the member. Such explanations cannot be used simply to respond to arguments raised in debate. To use the procedure, the member must claim to be misquoted, misunderstood or misrepresented.

As May's *Parliamentary Practice* advises, it is expected that members wishing to make a personal explanation by indulgence of the council will first inform the President of the particulars of the explanation in order for the President to be able to assess whether the explanation remains within fair bounds. Members should also advise the chamber under which standing order (173 or 175) they seek to make the explanation. As May recommends:

The indulgence of a Personal Statement is granted with caution, since it may lead to irregular debates.

PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT (14:18): I wish to bring to the attention of the council a further matter in respect of my intentions in the role of President. I have decided not to attend my party's regular Legislative Council party room nor the joint party room. When the council elected me as President, I promised the chamber that I would faithfully and honourably serve the council to the best of my abilities. It is my view that the President should not only be but should also be seen to be independent and impartial of the day-to-day political debate.

I understand that this is the practice of many other presidents and speakers in other Australian jurisdictions. In coming to this personal decision and advising the council, it is not my

intention to reflect negatively on the decisions of my predecessors. It is my view that this is a matter for each president upon their election to the chair.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the President—

Auditor-General Supplementary Report for the year ended 30 June 2017—Consolidated Financial Report Review

By the Treasurer (Hon. R.I. Lucas)—

Regulations under the following Acts—

Legal Practitioners Act 1981—Fees

Rules of Court—

District Court—District Court Act 1991—

Criminal—

Amendment No 6

Supplementary—Amendment No 5

Supreme Court—Supreme Court Act 1935—

Criminal—

Amendment No 6

Supplementary—Amendment No 5

By the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Hon. D.W. Ridgway)—

Outback Communities Authority—Report, 2016-17

Regulations under the following Acts—

Harbors and Navigation act 1993—Fees

Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law (Application) Act 2013—Fees

Motor Vehicles Act 1959—

Fees

National Heavy Vehicles Registration Fees

Passenger Transport Act 1994—Fees

Ministerial Statement

NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:21): I table a copy of a ministerial statement relating to a national redress scheme for victims of institutional child sexual abuse made earlier today in another place by the Attorney-General.

SOUTHERN EXPRESSWAY

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:21): I table a copy of a ministerial statement relating to actions to address rock throwing on the Southern Expressway made earlier today in another place by the Hon. Stephan Knoll, the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government.

GRANDPARENTS FOR GRANDCHILDREN SA

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:21): I table a copy of a ministerial statement relating to Grandparents for Grandchildren made earlier today in another place by my colleague the Hon. Rachel Sanderson, the Minister for Child Protection.

*Parliamentary Procedure***ANSWERS TABLED**

The PRESIDENT: I direct that the written answer to a question be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

*Question Time***SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION**

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:26): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment.

Leave granted.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: On 30 April 2018, John Baker, Joint Managing Director of KWP, was reported in *The Advertiser* as saying:

...it surprised me and I asked specifically whether the Minister had been across this decision and I was told categorically that he had and also we were then subsequently told that, you know, thirty seconds it had gone to the Premier's office.

He went on to say:

...my understanding from the response is that the Minister had been aware of it and had signed off on it and I was told, and this wasn't prompted, this was unprompted. I was told in the same conversation that it'd gone to the Premier's Department.

This is in relation to the new state government's decision to award a lucrative contract in tourism to a Victorian company. My questions to the minister are:

1. What was the exact process for the approval of this contract?
2. At what stage of this process was the minister or the minister's office informed of this contract going to an interstate company?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:27): I will refresh the memories of the members present regarding the process. In late 2017, under the Labor government—a government that the member opposite was a cabinet minister in—the procurement committals of the State Procurement Board approved the acquisition for the establishment of a new contract for the provision of creative service of the SATC.

The process was initiated and largely completed under the previous Labor government. Two of the 35 companies were shortlisted. So 35 companies applied or showed interest, and two were shortlisted prior to the state election. It has now been publicly stated that the tender process involved 10 steps before the final agency was chosen. Each of those steps was designed to ensure the agency selected gives South Australia the best opportunity and the best value for money.

Since the announcement of that contract, as I said earlier in an answer to a question, I met with the chief executive and the chair of the SATC board to clarify the process and confirm the actions that will be taken to ensure South Australian companies would be in the best possible position to win the future contract. This state government always supports South Australian companies and expresses disappointment if and when they are not the winning bidder, and we remain committed to supporting them in any possible way in the context of a fair and competitive market.

When I became aware of this—my recollection is that it was, I think, on a Friday but I can't remember the exact date, whatever that date was—I requested further information. I then left on the Sunday for an overseas trade mission to start the process of opening our trade offices and do some bidding for an incentive event. As soon as I got back I had a meeting with the chair of the SATC and the chief executive—I will repeat—to confirm the actions that would be taken to ensure that South Australian companies would be in the best possible position to win future contracts.

We have dealt with this before. I am not quite sure what the former minister is digging around for. We made sure that TBWA will be using, wherever possible, as much South Australian local content as possible. It is a matter that was dealt with some weeks ago. As has become clear, I was aware just prior to going overseas. I wanted more information because I wanted to understand what

had happened in the whole tender process. At no stage was I given the opportunity or was I under any obligation to approve it. The contract was approved by the Tourism Commission and I was never given any opportunity nor do I have any role in the approval process.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:31): I have a supplementary question: at the very end of his answer, the minister said the contract was approved by the Tourism Commission. Can he please give more information about specifically who approved this contract?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:31): I will have to take that on notice because my recollection is that the process—but I will have to bring back the detail—was initiated under the Labor government, and I am sure that former minister Bignell would have been aware. The matter went through the whole procurement process in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the State Procurement Board. My understanding is that, as soon as the internal decision was made, it was approved by the SATC, but I will bring the details of exactly who approved it.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:31): I have a further supplementary question arising from the original answer: the minister informed this chamber that it was the Friday, before this became public knowledge three days later that it had been awarded to an interstate firm, when he was informed of the decision. Who informed the minister of that decision on the Friday?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:32): My recollection is I received a notification on that Friday.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: A phone call or email?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: A recollection on that Friday.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:32): I have a further supplementary arising from the original answer.

The PRESIDENT: One more.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Who informed you of that on that Friday—what person?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:32): The SATC.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:32): I have a further supplementary arising from the original answer.

The PRESIDENT: I will allow it.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Who from the SATC informed the minister?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:32): I received some notification in writing from the SATC.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:33): Final supplementary on that—

The PRESIDENT: I will allow one more.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: —arising from the answer: will the minister, just for the sake of clarity, confirm that on the Friday before this became public he received notification in writing from the SATC that this contract was to be awarded to a Victorian firm? I would caution him to think very carefully about how he answers this question—

The PRESIDENT: No, don't give him a warning.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: —given his previous answers.

The PRESIDENT: Leader of the Opposition, you are not here—

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Think very carefully, Ridgy.

The PRESIDENT: Leader of the Opposition, order! You are not here to give the minister free advice. It's the last supplementary.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:33): As I said, I was given some advice and I sought further information regarding, as I said earlier in my response, that advice as to exactly how the process had taken place and what involvement the former Labor government had in the whole procurement board process.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Your next question—

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:33): Very final one, Mr President—

The PRESIDENT: No.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: —were you informed in writing on Friday?

The PRESIDENT: Leader of the Opposition, if you have another question, the next question you ask will be question No. 2 for you. Please take the call.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:34): I have a question for the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment. Did he receive advice in writing on the Friday before the information became public that the contract was to be awarded to a Victorian firm in relation to a lucrative advertising contract for SA Tourism?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:34): My recollection is that I did, but I will double-check. I did get some information; I sought further information. It was interesting timing that I, unfortunately, was going on a trade mission on the Sunday and was not able to meet with the SATC chair or chief executive until my return some seven days later, but I will double-check all of the records.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:34): Supplementary arising from the answer: given that the minister has a recollection of receiving it in writing, from which individual did he receive that advice, in writing, on the Friday?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:35): I will have to check the records.

REX AIRLINES

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:35): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question about Rex Airlines of the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: The Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development acknowledged last week that the recent announcement by Rex Airlines that they were reducing their weekly flights by five times a week return between Adelaide and Mount Gambier will have an impact on the tourism industry. Has the Minister for Tourism sought advice about the impact of the reduction of flights on the tourism industry to Mount Gambier and the broader Limestone Coast?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:35): I thank the honourable member for her question. As the member would be aware, the Minister for Regional Development did make some comments in relation to the withdrawal of the Rex services. I have had a number of meetings with the Minister for Regional Development and, as members would be aware,

we recently revisited the Regional Visitor Strategy, and I will be in the South-East talking to operators in the very near future to gauge that impact.

It is disappointing when a regional airline reduces services, and we are doing everything we can to talk to Rex about getting that airline back in service and servicing Mount Gambier.

REX AIRLINES

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:36): Supplementary arising from the answer: given that the minister has indicated that he has not sought advice on the impact the reduction of flights will have on the local tourism industry, can he please explain why he has not sought such advice?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:36): The question from the member opposite is bizarre. It stands to reason that it will have an impact: you lose a service, it will have an impact on regional South Australia. I have regular meetings with officials from the SATC. I will be in the Limestone Coast region talking to people. It beggars belief that the member opposite would ask such a question. Of course we know about the impact on tourism—of course there will be an impact on tourism.

There are a range of different people and operators in the tourism sector and in regional South Australia who all have a different view on the impact, but all of them accept that there will be an impact on tourism in the Limestone Coast area. One of the very important reasons that we, in the lead-up to the last election, announced a cycling trail from Adelaide to Melbourne—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: Members opposite laugh! Cycling tourism—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The minister is on his feet.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: Clearly, members opposite do not see that tourism and cycling tourism are an important part of our state's tourism offering. I remind them that we have the Southern Hemisphere's greatest cycling event here—the Tour Down Under, which was a Liberal event—but you would not want to support that!

We are constantly looking at ways to enhance tourism in our regions, especially in the Limestone Coast. We all acknowledge that there will be an impact on tourism when you lose an air service. It does not matter which country town, which region, or which city, for that matter. The withdrawal of those services always has an impact on tourism.

REX AIRLINES

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (14:38): Supplementary arising from the original answer: the minister on his feet said, 'We're doing everything we can to talk to Rex Airlines'. Who in Rex Airlines has the Minister for Tourism spoken to about the withdrawal of this air service?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:38): I have had a number of discussions with people—I cannot recall the name off the top of my head. I know the Minister for Regional Development spoke to Rex Airlines in the first couple of days. The SATC is in constant contact with the airlines. This morning I met with two different airlines on other issues to do with South Australia's economy. We are in constant contact, whether through me or through the Minister for Regional Development, with Rex Airlines.

REX AIRLINES

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (14:39): A further supplementary—I will try once more. Has the Minister for Tourism spoken to anybody in Rex Airlines about the withdrawal of this air service?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:39): I will have to check my records of the people I have spoken to. As members would be well aware, the Minister for Regional Development took the lead on this issue. He has spoken at length with Rex, and I had meetings with him the first time he became aware. At the end of the day, as I said earlier,

it is always disappointing when air services are withdrawn, but unfortunately they have been, and we will be doing whatever we can with Rex, but it will take some period of time to restore that service.

HOUSING RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Hon. J.S. LEE (14:40): My question is to the Minister for Human Services. Can the minister provide an update on the funding arrangement for housing research?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:40): I thank the honourable member for her question. I am delighted to provide an update on funding arrangements for housing research.

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) has been funded to deliver the National Housing Research Program through a multilateral agreement involving all state and territory governments and the Australian government since 2000. South Australia has provided annual contributions to AHURI since 2000, with some records incomplete due to machinery of government changes. I seek leave to table a set of annual funding arrangements for that organisation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: Within the current funding year, 2017-18, letters of agreement regarding South Australia's contribution to AHURI of \$124,519.80 were exchanged between federal Treasurer, Scott Morrison, and South Australia's former treasurer, Tom Koutsantonis. The former state Labor treasurer signed a letter to the federal Treasurer as follows, 'Dear Scott, Give us all your money—or else.' Sorry, I was just kidding. It was:

Thank you for your letter which seeks funding of \$124,519.80 for the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) for 2017-18 from the South Australian Government to match funding provided to AHURI by the Commonwealth Government.

I confirm that South Australia will commit to provide this funding which will be finalised through a one year funding agreement.

I can understand that some form of collective amnesia may have set in amongst members opposite, but the line of questioning from them in the last sitting week was just a sheer embarrassment. I did warn them when I returned to parliament before we rose that they were throwing one of their own under the bus. My concern at that stage was for the member for Ramsay, who I have found to be a decent member and a very amiable minister, as opposed to some of the adolescent behaviour that we have seen from other members. However, unfortunately, the Australian Labor Party has thrown its current leader, the member for Croydon, and his leadership rival, the member for West Torrens, under the bus.

PORT RIVER DREDGING

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (14:42): My question is to the Hon. David Ridgway, representing the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, the Hon. Stephan Knoll, regarding the dredging in the Port River and plans to dump 1.55 million cubic metres of spoil into Gulf St Vincent. Can the government provide a copy of any report or assessment conducted by Flinders Ports showing different options for dumping the spoil at sea and on land, and supply detailed costings of those options?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:43): I thank the member for his question. Of course, this has been a subject of much discussion over many months. There are some important facts and figures the member is requiring, and I will take his question on notice and refer it to the Minister for Transport in another place to bring back an answer.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Supplementary, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: Hon. Mr Pangallo, I'm not sure you can ask a supplementary on a referral. I am prepared to listen to it before I rule it out of order. Would you like to have a go?

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: No, no, it's okay.

The PRESIDENT: Well, 10 out of 10 for trying, but there's no way you can get a supplementary on that. The Hon. Ms Bourke.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:43): My question is for the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment. What process has the minister commenced to review the decision to award a tourism promotion contract to an interstate company?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:44): I thank the honourable member for her question. It is a four-year contract that was awarded, pretty much as I said earlier, under the rules laid out by the former Labor government. As always, there are concerns when South Australian companies don't get these contracts, so I know that the Industry Participation Advocate is doing some work with the creative industry sector. I don't know the actual details of it, but I know that he is doing some work to try to get that sector more up to speed. I also know that there is some work being done to make sure that local companies get to participate in whatever way they can with these creative services.

I have made the chief executive of the SATC and the chair aware, and I haven't been to a board meeting as such but a number of board members, that we need to make sure that we get, of course, always value for money and the best possible services, but we also like to think that we can make sure that we can grow those at home and that we'll have companies locally when those contracts become available again the next time around that will be able to participate in that tender process, and hopefully we will see a South Australian company that is successful.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:45): A supplementary question arising from the answer: just confirming that you haven't asked your department or anyone to conduct a review of this process.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:45): I didn't think the member's first question was about the review, but as members will recall, the Premier and I had an extensive meeting with the chairman and the chief executive to go through the whole process as to how it was on the Monday—and I forget the particular date—I think it was, before the first sitting and opening of parliament. My understanding is that all of the unsuccessful tenderers were offered a debrief as to why they weren't successful. I don't know if any or all of them have taken that up.

The honourable member would realise that it is a four year—it is a two plus one plus one, so it is at least two years. I have had a number of discussions. I haven't asked them to formally review why it was done because it was a process that was undertaken over about six months. I am aware of the process. I am aware of the rules. The State Procurement Board approved the whole acquisition. So it was done under the previous government's rules. I haven't asked for—

The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Leader of the Opposition, restrain yourself.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: I have not asked for a formal review but, of course, as we work through the next year or two with a whole range of things that this government will be doing about growing South Australia's economy, we will be looking at a whole range of things to do with tenders and contracts. In particular, I want to make sure that our creative services industry here is well-equipped to look to winning contracts next time, but I haven't undertaken or instigated a review in about the, what is it, five weeks since this became public.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:47): A further supplementary arising from the original answer: is the minister satisfied that there are absolutely no other possible contracts in any of his portfolios for which these processes may lead to an interstate company getting the work, and hence no need for any sort of review whatsoever?

The PRESIDENT: It is on the boundary, Leader of the Opposition, but I am going to allow it.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:47): I don't know, Mr President. I have no idea what contracts the previous Labor government entered into. I have no idea about any previous—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Let the minister respond to your question. You're not assisting, Leader of the Opposition. The minister has the call. He's on his feet.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: I have not been advised of any other contracts but anything is possible with this former government. We saw what happened with this whole process. So if it pleases the minister, I will get another briefing, but my advice from the chief executive of the SATC, or the head of industry and investment—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Let the minister speak.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: —none of them have any contracts that I am aware of but I will seek further information and inform the member opposite if I have any extra information.

HOMELESSNESS

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (14:48): My question is directed to the Minister for Human Services. Will the minister provide an update on the potential learnings from upcoming national housing and homelessness conferences?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:49): I thank the honourable member for his question. The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) provides a national forum for discussion and development of housing and urban policy, creating an opportunity for state governments and the Australian government to coordinate and share knowledge in the absence of COAG structures around housing policy.

On 29 May, which is today, AHURI is hosting a national conference in Canberra, entitled 'Ready for Growth: Affordable Housing Supply Solutions'. The conference will address a range of affordable housing questions and will be informed by new AHURI research. A number of policy researchers have mined outcomes from the UK to see how we can replicate models here in Australia, particularly in harnessing resources in the non-government sector.

One of the keynote speakers happens to be the Hon. Doug Cameron, shadow minister for housing and homelessness. He is obviously quite happy to be associated with this organisation. I note that on 6 and 7 August AHURI is hosting a conference in Melbourne, called Ending Homelessness Together, at which the Hon. Doug Cameron, shadow minister for housing and homelessness, will be delivering a keynote address. The government of Victoria is the main sponsor. I note that AHURI has not been subject to an investigation by the government of Victoria as alleged by the Labor Party.

The most recent AHURI conference to be held in Adelaide was on Wednesday 19 October 2016, entitled 'The Future of Housing Assistance'. The plenary speaker was the Hon. Zoe Bettison, who spoke on the topic of 'Investigating the future of housing assistance in Australia'. Unfortunately, the Labor Party has misled the people of South Australia on this issue and has clearly misled the media, resulting in the publication of a headline which is at best misleading: 'Firm selected to audit SA's future housing under investigation over mobster links, says Labor.' As I stated in last question time, AHURI is a respected national organisation and Labor can't be trusted to be truthful.

ELDER ABUSE

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (14:51): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Health and Wellbeing questions about elder abuse.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL: The topic of elder abuse has been prominent in the media and in public consciousness over the last two years, including scandals involving the Oakden nursing home and other aged-care institutions. Part of the parliament's response was the creation of a joint

select committee into elder abuse, which reported in October last year, and I understand that the minister was an active participant in that inquiry.

Many of the recommendations involved putting pressure on and working with the federal authorities to ensure consistency of standards and appropriate funding levels. However, one recommendation that lies squarely with the responsibility of the state government and the state parliament is recommendation 4, which calls on the South Australian government to introduce a bill to develop a new South Australian adult protection act. The report notes that this was also a key recommendation of the previous report to parliament in 2011, entitled 'Closing the Gaps: Enhancing South Australia's Response to the Abuse of Vulnerable Older People'. My questions are:

1. Is the minister able to inform the council about progress towards state legislation to deal with elder abuse?

2. Will the government commit to broad community and stakeholder consultation in the preparation of a bill, which I would expect would have widespread public and political support?

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:53): I thank the member for his question. The Marshall Liberal government made a pre-election commitment to adult protection legislation. The member is quite correct to highlight that the previous government ignored the recommendations of the 2011 Closing the Gaps report, which specifically recommended that South Australia have adult protection legislation and an adult safeguarding unit. The report of 2011, written by Professor Wendy Lacey, has been reiterated by the report of the Australian Law Reform Commission. I think it was tabled in May last year. Again, as the honourable member highlights, it was a specific recommendation of the joint select committee.

While the fire alert signal was sounding:

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:55): I move:

That the sitting of the Legislative Council be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

Motion carried.

Sitting suspended from 14:56 to 15:12.

The PRESIDENT: Honourable members, we will proceed with question time as arrangements have been made for us to attend the Governor a little later. The Hon. Mr Wade, please continue with your answer.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: I thank Mr Parnell for the question.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Let the minister answer the important question.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: Mr President, I am classified as an older worker, but I am currently not yet eligible for a Seniors Card; nonetheless, I will continue my answer in relation to elder protection. As I have highlighted, the former government failed to take up the recommendation of the 2011 Closing the Gaps report and enact elder protection legislation. This government made a commitment leading up to the last election that we would do that as an early priority. One of the drivers for it being such a priority was the fact that the Oakden case may well have been brought to the attention of the authorities earlier if elder protection legislation was available.

I do want to stress though that elder protection legislation is not fundamentally about residential aged care. There is a series of systems in place to try to protect people who are in residential care, particularly residential aged care. Elder protection applies to them, but it applies much more broadly. It is the understanding of those who study this field that the prevalence of elder abuse is much higher in the broader community and we shouldn't diminish awareness of this issue by not recognising its broader application.

If I can recall the member's question, you were particularly concerned about whether the government was going to deliver on its commitment and what consultation would be involved. The issue of consultation was something that exercised my mind when I was appointed as the minister:

when to do the consultation, whether to put out options and then put legislation into the parliament or to take another approach.

After consultation with stakeholders, my department and fellow colleagues in the government, I have decided to bring a settled bill, if you like, to the parliament. A bill has been drafted, relying significantly on the advice of Professor Wendy Lacey, the author of the 2011 Closing the Gaps report. Cabinet has authorised me to have a bill drafted. That bill has gone to what I would call targeted consultation, both within and without government. I can't vouch that each of these stakeholders were actually involved, but I can give you an indication of the clusters of stakeholders that we are envisaging, some or all of whom I trust were able to be involved.

Obviously, there are South Australian government stakeholders, such as the Attorney-General's Department, SAPOL, the Office of the Public Advocate, the Legal Services Commission, the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Public Trustee and the Office for Women, as well as community organisations, such as COTA and the Aged Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS), and UniSA. We also engaged people who were engaged in the Oakden process, both people from the oversight committee and also people affected as friends and carers of people in relation to Oakden.

That targeted consultation process is coming to an end. I will then be taking a cabinet submission forward with the finalised draft, and it is my hope and expectation that that bill will be tabled towards the end of June. I think the honourable member referred to the fact that there is likely to be broad support. I certainly hope that is the case, and I certainly hope that the council, and for that matter the house as well, sees the wisdom of the model being put forward.

It is very important that we have a body that has the powers to investigate issues and to pursue information, but the advice that is reflected in the community discussion up to this point, and will be reflected in the bill, is not that we don't need another police force. One of the reasons why we need an investigation agency like this is that older people and other vulnerable adults often feel very uncomfortable calling the police in on a matter that may involve one of their own family members. We need to have an approachable body. We need to have a body that is both approachable and empowered, that actually has the capacity to investigate and pursue matters but that can work in a positive multidisciplinary way to protect vulnerable adults and, if you like, try to restore the relationships.

In many of these relationships, people want the abuse, financial or otherwise, to stop, but they don't want to lose the relationship. As I said, the government is very committed to delivering on its commitment. That work is in progress. I recognise the need for consultation. We have done some targeted consultation, and we would be very keen to have the general community consultation that comes with the parliamentary debate.

GLOBELINK

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (15:19): My question is to the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment. Has the work on the \$20 million business case for GlobeLink actually commenced? If it has, who is doing the business case, when did it commence and what is the finishing date?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (15:19): I thank the honourable member for her questions, which are very similar to a question the Hon. Mr Hanson asked last sitting week, I think. My answer would be very similar; the Hon. Stephan Knoll, the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, would be the lead agent for that particular work. I will refer that question to him and bring back an answer.

STATE REGIONAL VISITOR STRATEGY

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:20): My question is to the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment. Could the minister please explain and update members on the release of South Australia's Regional Visitor Strategy and the opportunity for growth in the regional visitor economy?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (15:20): I thank the honourable member for his longstanding interest in regional tourism. On Sunday, the state

government launched the Regional Visitor Strategy, which outlines opportunities to grow South Australia's regional visitor economy by \$1 billion and create another 1,000 new jobs. The strategy outlines the potential to grow regional visitor expenditure in our 11 tourism regions from \$2.6 billion to \$3.6 billion. It will drive South Australia's 11 tourism regions to begin to work together to contribute to the state's target of \$8 billion in visitor expenditure by 2020.

The strategy outlines new opportunities and challenges for tourism and provides a blueprint for what needs to be done to drive the state forward. Currently, South Australia's regional tourism generates some 40 per cent of the state's total \$6.6 billion visitor expenditure and accounts for over 13,000 regional jobs. However, our regions are all different, so it's not a one-size-fits-all approach but an aligned effort.

Given that I have been accused many times in this place of waxing lyrical about the previous government's achievements, I should paint them in some context here and note that the groundwork for this very positive strategy—the first of its type in the state's history—did, I suspect, get prompted by the previous government's complete ignorance and abandonment of South Australia's regions and the failure to deliver an effective regional structure. In 2015-16, realising that work needed to be done, the regional chairs undertook a review of regional tourism structures.

Throughout that early work, they recognised that there were considerable resources available within the various tiers of government and industry which can be better mobilised by developing a clear set of goals and priorities covering all regions. This is a collaborative approach which I and the Marshall government very much support, and it is a priority in our approach to government.

The Regional Tourism Chairs Forum, along with the SATC, established a steering committee to drive the development of the strategy, which focuses on regional South Australia as a whole, fosters cross-regional collaboration and identifies top-level priorities and projects to meet our 2020 target. The implementation will be led by the Regional Visitor Strategy steering committee and has the potential to grow the regional visitor expenditure from \$2.6 billion to \$3.6 billion.

The strategy which has emerged is the outcome of intensive individual meetings with all 11 tourism regions during 2017. The strategy is a collaboration, as I said earlier, between many stakeholders, including the Local Government Association of South Australia, Regional Development Australia, the South Australian Tourism Industry Council and the SATC. Just as important as the plan itself, if not more, will be its implementation. I am very pleased that throughout June, July and August, I will be involved in a series of industry events throughout the 11 regions in South Australia.

A major focus of these workshops will be the key measures needed to implement the Regional Visitor Strategy, to implement it well and to maximise its ability to enhance the visitor experience in South Australia and boost industry jobs so that we can realise our visitor expenditure goals. I would like to thank the SA Tourism Industry Council for all its work in putting that specific workshop program together, and I congratulate the steering committee, particularly its chair, Mrs Helen Edwards, key players who contributed to the strategy and the SATC.

The new state government is acting swiftly on tourism's current challenges and will work with the regions to deliver stronger outcomes for the community. We recognise that our regions need to attract more visitors who stay longer and spend more in South Australia, creating new jobs. I am very eager to get moving on the Regional Visitor Strategy—a very positive step towards realising the great potential of South Australia's wonderful regions.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENTS

The Hon. J.A. DARLEY (15:23): My questions are to the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, representing the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government. Can the minister advise:

1. Whether a direction has been given to DPTI planning division to suspend assessment of council development plan amendments and ministerial DPAs? If so, is this because resources have been redirected to the design code project of the new Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act?

2. How many DPAs are currently awaiting approval, the dates they were submitted and when they are likely to be considered?

3. Whether the minister is aware of the negative economic impact this is having in the areas where these DPAs are located?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (15:24): I thank the honourable member for his question and, as members would be aware, his strong ongoing interest in planning matters. I will take that question on notice and refer that to my colleague in another place and bring back an answer.

OVERLAND TRAIN SERVICE

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:25): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: Since becoming minister, has the Minister for Tourism met with Great Southern Rail, which are the operators of *The Overland*, to discuss the impact that GlobeLink may have on its operations in providing a railway passenger service between Adelaide and Melbourne?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (15:25): My recollection is that I have had a meeting with Great Southern Rail, but I will check the records. We had a range of meetings in the first 30 or 40 days. It is interesting, the members opposite are obsessed with GlobeLink and it is nice to know that they have an interest in regional South Australia.

The Hon. J.E. Hanson: It's tourism, Ridgy.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: The member opposite interjects 'tourism', but I will check my records about whether I have met with Great Southern Rail. As members opposite would be aware, there has been quite an avalanche of people wanting to meet with us to talk about the exciting plans the Marshall government has for South Australia, our economic future, how we want to get the economy moving to try to get us off the bottom of the league table in pretty much all indicators.

I will double-check my records, but we are certainly meeting with stakeholders on a range of issues on a regular basis and, of particular interest to the members opposite, the lead minister for that particular project will be the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government and Minister for Planning. The honourable member asked the question last week and I said I would take questions relating to that on notice, and I did today. So if I can bring back some further information, I will, but I will also refer that question to the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government.

OVERLAND TRAIN SERVICE

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:27): Supplementary: which league tables are we at the bottom of as a state?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (15:27): There are a number of indicators where we have the lowest population growth; the lowest employment growth; we have low growth in visitor numbers and economic activity—there is a range of them. Maybe it was an exaggeration to say the 'bottom of the league tables' but we are behind on a lot of national indicators. Something that this government is focused on is trying to get us back to the top or close to the top.

OVERLAND TRAIN SERVICE

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:27): Supplementary arising from the original answer: can the minister outline in his discussions that he has had with Great Southern Rail, whether or not he also raised *The Ghan* and the *Indian Pacific*, which are also lines which that particular organisation operates?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (15:28): I will check my records.

INNOVATION IN AGEING CHALLENGE

The Hon. J.S. LEE (15:28): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister update the council on how South Australians are exploring projects for better ageing?

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:28): I thank the honourable member for her question. Last Thursday, I had the pleasure of attending the Creating Better Neighbourhoods Innovation in Ageing Challenge pitch. The challenge was run by the Australian Centre for Social Innovation in partnership with the Office for the Ageing and reflects the Office for the Ageing's new approach to allocating grant funding.

In place of traditional grant processes, the Office for the Ageing has been applying a model through open challenges. The pitches for this challenge were given on the day. This approach has proven successful in bringing together a broad spectrum of the community to find better outcomes for older South Australians, engaging government and non-government organisations, the community, aspiring entrepreneurs and older South Australians themselves.

In my discussions with participants at the event, they were able to highlight linkages that they had made through the pitch event, whereby quite disparate organisations, having heard each other's pitches, could see the possible opportunities for collaboration. In 2016 and 2018, the Office for the Ageing held what they called a State-wide Conversation with Older South Australians; a dialogue which identified important factors for ageing well. These included: a sense of community, safety and security, opportunities to make a contribution and the need for strong connections across generations to build trust and challenge ageism.

It is interesting to note that three out of those four elements are, if you like, communitarian values. They are not individualistic values. In other words, the ageing community cannot achieve those goals without engaging the broader community. It was quite logical, therefore, when the Office for the Ageing developed a challenge based on that dialogue that it wasn't actually a challenge focused on older people. It was a challenge focused on building better neighbourhoods.

On the day, there were 14 applicants who made their pitch in relation to that challenge. They were quality pitches and they showed how they would create the connected communities that would benefit everyone. It was my pleasure to be there and announce the successful applicants. I won't take the time of the council to explain all 14 projects but let me highlight those that were successful and received grants: \$100,000 has been allocated over 12 months to help the ideas chosen with mentoring for the project teams and project guidance towards making them sustainable into the future.

The four pitches that won over the judges were: the Australian Association for Environmental Education, the Test Kitchen, Art Engineers and the Unity Project. The Australian Association for Environmental Education SA Chapter will use its \$25,000 grant for a project called Bringing Back the Butterflies, a project to encourage people to add native butterfly-attracting plants to their front gardens and verges, and signposting will be used to entice passers-by to stop and chat with householders.

The Test Kitchen will use a \$65,000 grant to extend its existing lifestyle village social dining program into suburban neighbourhoods, encouraging a village vibe and reducing social isolation. Art Engineers will use its \$10,000 grant for a project called Art Around the Table, which will use its mobile art studio, the Art Bus, to inspire neighbours to gather for art workshops in front gardens and garages. The Unity Project promotes increased interactions between neighbours by connecting those with similar interests, and that project has been offered ongoing mentoring.

As I said, it was my privilege to be part of that event and part of the ongoing conversation with older South Australians about improving wellbeing. Sometimes what people need most is not the next grand plan to transform their health but a community that is willing to engage. I commend the program to the council.

SOUTHERN SUBURBS INCIDENT

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:33): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Hon. Michelle Lensink, Minister for Human Services, representing the Minister for Child Protection, the Hon. Rachel Sanderson, some questions.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Last night, Channel 7's 6pm news carried a report about a disturbance on Saturday night at a residence in Adelaide's southern suburbs where a 14th birthday party was being held for one of the occupants. According to the report, the event had been advertised on social media and allegedly invited guests to attend and bring their own alcohol and illicit drugs. Gatecrashers were blamed for a wild brawl that broke out and police attended.

Surprisingly, there were no arrests and no reports about underage alcohol consumption or if there was a presence of drugs. Neighbours reported that it wasn't the first time they had called police complaining about the occupiers of the house and that there are wild parties held there on most weekends. My questions to the Minister for Child Protection are:

1. Has her department been made aware of complaints about the occupants and the potential risk to minors who reside there?
2. What action has been taken to investigate past complaints and the latest incident?
3. Is the property where the incident took place owned by Housing SA?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (15:34): I thank the honourable member for his question. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to watch *Today Tonight* last night—

The Hon. F. Pangallo: The Channel 7 news.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: Channel 7 news, I'm sorry. So we will need to review that footage, and I will undertake to make investigations with my department as well as referring the matter to the Minister for Child Protection.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:35): My question is to the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment. Given that the credit unions have pulled out of sponsoring the Christmas Pageant, will the minister advise what meetings the ministers have had, who with and when to resolve this matter?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (15:35): I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in the Christmas Pageant. As members would be aware, the credit unions announced a week, 10 days or a fortnight ago that they will no longer be sponsoring the event after this year, so we are looking for a new sponsor. I have had a number of meetings of a confidential nature that I am not able to share with the chamber today, but I am very confident that a new event sponsor is in negotiations with the SATC around the event.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: It's not the Northern Territory government, no. As members would be aware, I made very clear that our great iconic Christmas Pageant was not for sale to another state government. We didn't want camels and double-plugger thongs. If the Hon. Mr Hanson wants to stick a camel down his chimney at Christmas, he can. Most people probably would still settle for the traditional Father Christmas and some reindeers, but if he wants to use camels he can do whatever he likes in his house. It is entirely up to him what he does in his house. We probably shouldn't even reflect on what might happen in his house in this chamber.

I assure members opposite that I am very confident that a new sponsor is already in negotiations with the SATC. We don't let the grass grow under our feet—we act. I am very confident that at some point in the future—it is a commercial arrangement around the amount of money, the number of years, the advertising, the campaign that goes with it, so they are really all commercial negotiations with a potential sponsor, but I am very confident that at some time in the near future I will be able to announce a successful sponsor of the 2019 Christmas Pageant.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (15:37): A very quick supplementary arising from the original answer: can the minister confirm that it is a South Australian company that his Tourism Commission is in discussions with?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (15:37): I thank the honourable member for his question. I am certain that it is a South Australian company.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Franks.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: A final supplementary—

The PRESIDENT: No, I made the call, Leader of the Opposition. You're too slow. You were making too many noises. The Hon. Ms Franks has the call: respect her.

HEALTH SAFE ACCESS ZONES

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:38): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing on the topic of health safe access zones.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: As the health minister—and I imagine many members of this council—would be aware, there has been a trend to health safe access zones (or in the UK they are referred to as health buffer zones) to ensure that those people attending a clinic for reproductive health purposes, or to support someone attending those reproductive health services, enjoy safety, dignity and comfort in access to that health access service.

Around Australia we have seen moves to implement safe access zones in Victoria, the ACT and Tasmania. In previous weeks, a bill in New South Wales passed the upper house and is due to be debated in the lower house in the coming month. That bill provides a protection area of some 150 metres to ensure that those people and their supporters accessing those particular health services in that state will be free of what has been revealed to be harassment and, in fact, violence, in the New South Wales example, when they seek to access those services.

Here in South Australia, we have no such protection zone. I note that each year the 40 Days for Life campaign runs from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday, and indeed there are regular protests and visuals outside our reproductive health services in this state. The 40 Days for Life campaign boasts on their website that, since their inception in 2007, they have successfully closed 102 abortion facilities and indeed they boast that they have seen 184 abortion workers quit their jobs.

My question to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing is: what protections are afforded South Australians seeking health services and workers in those health services to ensure they have safe access to health services and a safe employment environment?

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:40): I thank the honourable member for her question. In terms of the relevant legislation, obviously the member is referring to abortion law, which in South Australia is contained within the Criminal Law Consolidation Act. There are provisions in the Criminal Law Consolidation Act which could have relevance in the context of protesters impeding in a threatening manner persons trying to access medical services, including medical termination services. Of course, that act is not committed to me, but I make that comment.

I note, as the honourable member said, Tasmania, Victoria and the ACT have laws authorising safe access zones around abortion clinics and that similar laws are before the New South Wales parliament. These laws recognise the right of people to access legally available services. However, they do raise issues in relation to freedom of speech. I notice that there are at least two legal challenges to the validity of the laws. The laws under challenge, I understand, are in Victoria and Tasmania, so I'm sure that the Attorney-General would be watching those cases, and this parliament may choose to have the validity of such laws clarified before it considers legislating.

HEALTH SAFE ACCESS ZONES

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:42): A supplementary question: the New South Wales bill is actually an amendment to the Public Health Act, so will the minister provide comment on the safety of the employees of the health system in this state?

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:42): In relation to that legislation, the legislation itself is committed to the honourable Leader of the Government in this place. In terms of my own responsibilities, I will certainly do everything to make sure that public health

officers going about their duty are not threatened or impeded. I am not aware of any case of that happening in Australia.

The Hon. T.A. Franks: In the news.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: I should say, in South Australia. Certainly since I have been minister, and including since I have been shadow minister, nobody has raised their concerns that they have been threatened or impeded as a health worker, but I am not denying that it doesn't happen. What I do understand is that there have been some, to be frank, horrific examples of violence against people, particularly in the United States, in the context of abortion clinics. I would urge all South Australians to live within the law.

These abortion clinics, some of them publicly funded, are operating within the law. If people want to change the law, they should advocate for that; they shouldn't take the law into their own hands.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (15:43): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking questions to the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment.

Leave granted.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: On 24 April this year, James Rickard, president of Adelaide Advertising and Design Club, said on ABC Radio Adelaide:

...it's interesting to note that the Minister came out last night and said that TPWA, the successful agency, is internationally linked and therefore can help SA Tourism with their business overseas and yet that wasn't part of the tender. Having the international credentials wasn't part of the tender and nor was it part of the brief.

My questions to the minister are:

1. Will he advise if international connections or experience were part of the tender process for the lucrative contract that went to a Victorian company?
2. Is he aware what weighting they were given in the tender process?
3. Does he have any idea, if they weren't part of the brief, why he has been quoted as saying how important they were on radio?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (15:44): I thank the honourable member for his question. My understanding is that they were part of the brief. I don't believe that I made any comments in relation to the comments that Mr Rickard attributes to me. I don't believe I did.

The Hon. K.J. Maher: Have you taken it up with him?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: I don't particularly—

The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Leader of the Opposition, allow the minister to answer your question. Allow the minister to respond to your own question.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: Thank you, Mr President, for your protection. In relation to weighting, my understanding is that the only weighting in the brief was for, I think, 15 per cent—I think it is 15 per cent but I will have to check that—for a South Australian participant, not any weighting around whether there was international capability or not. As I said, it is my understanding that weighting was only around South Australian businesses, not around any particular content, offering or capability that they had.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (15:46): A supplementary arising from the answer: just so we are clear, regarding the comment that James Rickard made that it was interesting to note that the minister came out last night and talked about the international necessities, do you deny that you made such a comment at any stage that gave rise to that quote?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (15:46): Thank you for the supplementary from the member opposite, the so-called supplementary—

The PRESIDENT: It is a supplementary and the Leader of the Opposition was actually putting it in context to assist you, minister.

The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Leader of the Opposition, allow him to answer your own questions.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: As I said, I don't recall making any comments publicly in relation to there being any particular international content. That is not my recollection. I am just checking 24 April; was that the date?

The Hon. K.J. Maher: That's the date they reported.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: I am just trying to see—

The PRESIDENT: This is not time to have a discussion. Minister, just answer his question.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: Mr President, that was a date when I think I was in Guangzhou. My recollection is that I was in Guangzhou or travelling to Jinan, so I am not really sure what comments I made in the media that Mr Rickard may have been referring to.

The PRESIDENT: I will allow one more question because it took us a little time to switch the clock off and, as is the custom, I could take one from the crossbench, if there are any crossbench questions. The Hon. Mr Pangallo.

PORT RIVER DREDGING

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:47): I can finish my last one. My questions again are to the Hon. David Ridgway representing the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, the Hon. Stephan Knoll.

1. Can the government and Flinders Ports provide evidence on which they are relying upon that the dredged material from the Port River is non-toxic and will not cause damage to the seabed and fisheries, and would not be contaminated by the Pacific oyster mortality syndrome, which if spread could devastate the state's oyster industry, and the spread of *Caulerpa taxifolia*, one of the worst—

The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Pangallo, ignore the Leader of the Opposition and please proceed with the question.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: —the spread of *Caulerpa taxifolia*, one of the worst invasive species of algae in the world and currently found in parts of the Port River?

2. Has the Liberal Party received political donations from Flinders Ports, its holding company Flinders Ports Holdings Pty Ltd or any of its shareholders: Infrastructure Capital Group, the Motor Trade Association of Australia Superannuation Fund Pty Ltd, Equip Super, State Super New South Wales and Statewide Super?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (15:49): I thank the honourable member for his question and his ongoing interest in matters in South Australia. I will take that very important question on notice and refer it to the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, the Hon. Stephan Knoll, and bring back an answer.

Parliamentary Committees

ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:50): By leave, I move:

That pursuant to section 21(3) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991 the very hardworking the Hon. T.T. Ngo be appointed to the committee in place of the Hon. C.M. Scriven (resigned).

Motion carried.

*Address in Reply***ADDRESS IN REPLY**

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from 17 May 2018.)

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:51): In closing the Address in Reply, I will be very brief because Labor members in the chamber warned me not to get between the Leader of the Opposition and the prospect of a sausage roll over at Government House. His Facebook posts are resplendent with sausage rolls, both large and small, that he has devoured across all of South Australia.

In thanking all honourable members, in particular I thank new members who made first speeches in the Address in Reply debate, namely the Hon. Clare Scriven, the Hon. Emily Bourke, the Hon. Frank Pangallo and the Hon. Irene Pnevmatikos. On behalf of all members, but in particular my colleagues, I also congratulate my colleague the Hon. Dennis Hood on his contribution. The quality of that contribution was measurably improved by the new perspective the Hon. Mr Hood has on matters as they relate to the state of South Australia.

I thank all other members for their contributions. The Address in Reply debate is one of the few opportunities members have to wax lyrical about all issues of concern to them. Not all new members were able to make their first speeches. We understand the Hon. Connie Bonaros will make her first speech at a later occasion. I have already indicated to the Hon. Frank Pangallo, on behalf of the government, that we will accommodate the honourable member's wishes at whatever time is of her choosing and the Hon. Mr Pangallo's choosing, whether it be in the Supply Bill debate, which will commence this week, or whether we make a separate resolution of the council to allow the Hon. Connie Bonaros to make her first speech in the chamber.

With that, I thank honourable members for their contributions. We look forward to presenting the Address in Reply to the Governor in the very near future.

The PRESIDENT: I remind honourable members that His Excellency the Governor will receive the President and the members of the council at 4pm today for the presentation of the Address in Reply. I ask all honourable members to accompany me to Government House.

Sitting suspended from 15:53 to 16:29.

The PRESIDENT: I have to inform the council that, accompanied by the mover, seconder and honourable members, I proceeded to Government House and there presented to His Excellency the Address in Reply to His Excellency's opening speech adopted by the council this day, to which His Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:

Thank you for your Address-in-Reply to the Speech with which I opened the First Session of the Fifty-Fourth Parliament.

I am confident that you will give your best consideration to all matters placed before you.

I pray that your deliberations will add meaning and value to the lives of our South Australian community.

*Bills***DISABILITY INCLUSION BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 9 May 2018.)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (16:31): I rise to make a contribution to the second reading of the Disability Inclusion Bill on behalf of the opposition in this place. The Labor opposition is proud of the fact that, when in government, we ensured that South Australia was one of the first jurisdictions in Australia to sign up to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. We are proud of the fact that, as a result of this Labor commitment, South Australia will also be one of the first jurisdictions to achieve full scheme implementation.

We recognise that the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will mean better care, increased choice, more control and greater participation in everyday life for people living with disability. It will focus on ensuring that every community member can participate in every aspect of community life and in our economy. In light of the transition to the NDIS, the objectives that are broadly embodied in the Disability Inclusion Bill are necessary to better clarify this state's role in providing much-needed support to people with a disability.

I note that the bill broadly focuses on rights and inclusion, which is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the National Disability Strategy. The bill aims to legislate to ensure that consideration of the issues faced by people living with disability in South Australia are integrated into policy and programs that impact them. A strength of the bill is the strong focus on disability inclusion planning, specifically, the requirement that a state disability inclusion plan be developed every four years.

The opposition supports the requirement that state government departments, statutory bodies and local councils must develop and implement their own disability access and inclusion plans every four years. Meaningful disability access and inclusion plans are essential if we are committed to achieving key policy priorities for people with disability in South Australia. I understand that these plans will seek to address the barriers and specify the action required to ensure that people with disability can contribute and participate more fully in their communities.

It is important that there is provision to make regulations for a Community Visitor Scheme, particularly in light of the review into how such a scheme may be impacted at a federal level under the NDIS. We support the inclusion at part 7 for the establishment of a scheme for a community visitor or visitors, should the need arise.

The opposition intends to move two separate amendments once we arrive at the committee stage of this deliberation. The first amendment seeks to establish an independent disability advocate to safeguard the rights of people with disability and ensure that South Australians get the support they are entitled to under the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The advocate would provide a stronger voice for people with disability and help improve service delivery, business practice and social inclusion.

It is intended that the independent disability advocate would be established within the office of the Equal Opportunity Commissioner. I look forward to speaking to this amendment later in the debate and articulating the specific powers and functions that an advocate will need to achieve these objectives.

The second amendment seeks to double the number of people with disability employed within state government. The purpose of the amendment is to ensure government is responsible for increasing the proportion of the state public sector workforce with an identified disability from 1.36 per cent to 3 per cent.

We know that in South Australia, more than one in five people—around 350,000 people or 21 per cent—report having a disability. We also know that financial security and employment have been identified as key policy priorities by people with disability in South Australia, and so it is imperative that meaningful employment that provides security for people with disability is available in the South Australian public sector.

I note that some amendments are going to be moved by the Minister for Human Services, and the opposition would like to have time to address those and consider them in due course. I thank the council for enabling me to put these remarks on the record in relation to the Disability Inclusion Bill. While the opposition supports the intent of the bill, we look forward to its passage through the Legislative Council and through the parliament being strengthened by our amendments to provide certainty and support for those living with a disability in our community as we transition to the full implementation of the NDIS.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (16:35): I rise briefly to indicate the Greens' support for the second reading stage of the Disability Inclusion Bill before us. In doing so, I refer members to my remarks on the Disability Inclusion Bill that was brought before the last parliament under the previous government. We were prepared to support it then and we are prepared to support it now. We are somewhat disappointed that it did not pass the parliament in a timely fashion prior to the prorogation

of the previous parliament. Of course, new disability legislation is required within the transition to the NDIS and in moving from a state funding model to the new federal funding model.

The focus of this new bill is to provide that legal framework to support a whole-of-government approach to access and inclusion for people with disabilities, including achieving that very necessary positive cultural change. In moving from that state funding model, the Disability Inclusion Bill places a particular focus on the rights of persons with disabilities, as defined by the United Nations convention. The Greens welcome reference to our human rights in all legislation and certainly welcome it in this one.

The bill outlines the roles and responsibilities of the state government in disability following the transition to the NDIS. This includes advancing the interests of people with a disability through mainstream programs and policy development, particularly in relation to the national disability scheme and in understanding disability access and inclusion planning, including a requirement to develop a state disability inclusion plan to coordinate and guide disability access and inclusion plans prepared by state government departments and local councils. This bill also empowers the state government to make safeguarding regulations deemed necessary in the NDIS environment.

The bill defines the state government's role in creating accessible and inclusive communities, and supports South Australia's role in the National Disability Strategy. While the NDIS will cover specialist disability support, people with disability also access mainstream services provided by the state government. I note, for example, the National Relay Service and the concerns at the moment with the diminution of funding to that service, which will in fact restrict access, not just to disability services for those people who are deaf or hard of hearing, who need those essential services, but to many other services. I reiterate the Greens' concerns that have been previously raised in this council with regard to that issue.

I thank the previous minister, minister Hildyard, for her briefings. I thank the current minister, minister Lensink, for her briefings with regard to both of these bills. I note that we have a series of amendments. Whereas before we had a raft of amendments from the Hon. Kelly Vincent, the former member for the Dignity Party, we now have a series of amendments from both the opposition and the government, some of which address the concerns that were raised by the Hon. Kelly Vincent.

The Greens, at that time, expressed our concerns with ensuring that a community visitor was a must in any legislation and certainly appreciated previous minister Hildyard's assurances that the use of the word 'may' was simply for the transitional nature of that particular time, which of course has now passed, well and truly. We are interested to ensure those hard-won gains. It took so long for South Australia to embrace a Community Visitor Scheme in this state, and I commend the Hon. Michelle Lensink for her work in that.

I also note that I had some work done in ensuring a community visitor in the mental health space in my previous role as a policy officer for the Mental Health Coalition of South Australia, dragging the then health minister kicking and screaming by forcing that change through the parliament rather than through the machinery of government. I note, with great concern, that there is a time factor here—a pressing time factor—with regard to the screening mechanisms and that that really needs to be put in place urgently.

With those few words, I look forward to debating both the government amendments, some of which address the Hon. Kelly Vincent's concerns raised last year, and also the new opposition amendments to their own bill, which is now presented here as a government bill, yet again. I welcome the leadership that they are showing from the opposition benches that was not shown from the government benches. I look forward to the debate.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. D.G.E. Hood.

At 16:41 the council adjourned until Wednesday 30 May 2018 at 14:15.

*Answers to Questions***BUILDING BETTER SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

In reply to **the Hon. T.T. NGO** (3 May 2018).

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer): The Minister for Education has been advised of the following:

The decision to move year 7 into high school does not change the provisions of the *Education Act 1972* (the Act) in regard to the closure or amalgamation of government schools.

Part 2A of the Act specifies that a government school can only be closed or amalgamated in one of two ways:

1. A school community closure process where parents vote to close a school; or
2. A decision by the Minister for Education after giving due consideration to the report and recommendations of a committee that has conducted a review.