

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 14 November 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*

### LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

**The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS (14:16):** I bring up the 11<sup>th</sup> report of the committee.

Report received.

### PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Treasurer (Hon. R.I. Lucas)—

Reports, 2017-18—

Electricity Industry Superannuation Scheme

Essential Services Commission of South Australia

ReturnToWorkSA

SA Metropolitan Fire Service Superannuation Scheme

State of the Sector

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

Reports, 2017-18—

ForestrySA

By the Minister for Human Services (Hon. J.M.A. Lensink)—

Reports, 2017-18—

Coast Protection Board

Native Vegetation Council

*Question Time*

### KORDAMENTHA

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:18):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing regarding KordaMentha.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** The tender release by the government, entitled 'CALHN Restructuring and Financial Turnaround Implementation Services', page 4, part B, states:

KM—

that is, KordaMentha—

has also been engaged to provide 2 FTE appropriately qualified KM staff to temporarily fill vacant Manager, Business Operation positions in the Critical Care and Surgical Directorates. These staff will carry out the duties of these positions for CALHN and report on a day-to-day basis to a CALHN employee...

Last week, the minister was unable to confirm to the council that KordaMentha staff have indeed filled two management positions in the critical care and surgery directorates of CALHN. Given the minister has had a week to check and reflect, will he confirm whether KordaMentha staff are indeed fulfilling manager positions in CALHN and was the appointment of two KordaMentha staff to fulfil such manager positions in CALHN in compliance with the Health Care Act and the Public Service Act?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:20):** I am advised that some KordaMentha staff are taking on roles within the CALHN management structure, roles that I am advised were vacant at the time. The fact of the matter is that we have made it clear all along that the KordaMentha team will work with the CALHN team in this process. This is a cooperative relationship between the KordaMentha team and the SA Health team.

#### KORDAMENTHA

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:20):** A supplementary arising from the answer: did the KordaMentha staff appointed to the manager positions in critical care and surgery have access to patients or patient records, and were they present during any patient treatment?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:21):** To clarify, my understanding is that these people have not been appointed to Public Service positions. They are undertaking roles within the CALHN management. I will seek the further information that the member seeks and come back to him with an answer.

#### KORDAMENTHA

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:21):** Can the minister confirm whether the vacant positions within CALHN, being business operations managers in the critical care and surgical directorates, are public servants, or not?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:21):** My understanding is that the roles the honourable member refers to are public sector roles. The fact that a private consultant is undertaking some of the functions of that role doesn't mean that they have been appointed to the Public Service.

#### KORDAMENTHA

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:21):** Further supplementary: has the minister sought advice from, or been granted approval by, the Public Service commission in relation to these appointments and whether he has contractually appointed someone to a public sector position without an appropriate process?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:22):** That is not my understanding of what has been done, but I will make inquiries.

#### KORDAMENTHA

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:22):** What is the payment of the two KordaMentha staff who have been given what seem to be public sector roles at CALHN: is it the standard Public Service rate, or is it the hourly rate charged by KordaMentha?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:22):** My understanding, and I will seek advice, is that the services of these people are within the KordaMentha contract.

#### KORDAMENTHA

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:22):** I will rephrase the supplementary, and it will be the final one: is the rate that is within the KordaMentha contract the standard Public Service rate, or is it a different hourly rate charged by KordaMentha?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:23):** It is not my understanding that the KordaMentha rate is in any way related to the public sector rate.

**SHANGHAI TRADE OFFICE**

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:23):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment regarding the Shanghai trade office.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** Yesterday in question time, the minister indicated that, so far, the Shanghai trade office had a staff of one person only. A departmental briefing for the inspection tour of Shanghai states that accommodation was required for seven staff: a trade commissioner, three trade staff and three SA Tourism Commission staff. My questions to the minister are:

1. Will there be seven staff in the Shanghai trade office or has that plan been abandoned?
2. Why aren't the SA Tourism Commission and the Department for Trade, Tourism and Investment co-located in the same building, similar to the Victorian model?
3. Why is there no public information available about how to contact this office?
4. Will the contact information be made publicly available and, if so, when?
5. Did any private business from South Australia attend the opening and, if so, who?

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:24):** I thank the honourable member for her ongoing interest in the Shanghai trade office. In answer to perhaps the second question, some of the early thoughts are that maybe co-location with Tourism would be a good idea, but the SATC and most of the tourism state bodies prefer to be located with Tourism Australia. They have a much better relationship with Tourism Australia and work closely together with Tourism Australia. For example, some of the incentive bids that we have been involved in with the Infinitus Group, and Nu Skin more recently, Tourism Australia has played an important role in that. So I think that some of the synergies for tourism make some sense.

At this point in time we have Xiaoya Wei. Xiaoya Wei is our only employee, but part of her brief is to then populate the office with, initially, at least one extra person. Our original policy commitment prior to the election would be to shift the position that's currently in Shanghai to Guangzhou; and we have Alice Jim, as I mentioned yesterday, who is based in Hong Kong.

Our initial response would be that we have some capacity for expansion within Austrade, within that particular building. Obviously, it's our intention to get the person—the director is there and she is coming to Adelaide shortly. She has obviously been selected, but she is coming for a visit for a few days to actually get the final briefings from the department. Then we will put somebody in Guangzhou and, of course, support Alice Jim in Hong Kong, and then the judgement will be made on a needs basis as to when we put extra people on.

It's interesting that the member opposite quotes a departmental briefing. I am interested to know the source of that departmental briefing because I don't recall—I may be wrong, but I don't recall us having any contemplation of putting three SATC people in an office in Shanghai, so I would be interested to know the source from which she is quoting.

**SHANGHAI TRADE OFFICE**

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:26):** Supplementary: I am hoping the minister might answer the other two parts of the question, which was: why is there no public information available about how to contact the office? Will the information be made publicly available and, if so, when? Did any private business from SA attend the opening and, if so, who?

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:27):** I beg the member's pardon, I did accidentally omit them. I am sure that there would be a website, telephone numbers—everything—an email address. I would be surprised if that's not up on the website now. Of course, the office was only opened a week ago but it is operational, so I would assume that, and I will take that on notice.

**The Hon. E.S. Bourke:** Was it there yesterday?

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY:** I will take that on notice. I am sure that the hardworking staff of the Department for Trade and Investment are listening to this and looking at me at the moment on their computer. I am sure they are probably making that information available.

There were a number of South Australian companies present—I will get the full list, but there were a number of companies and officials from Austrade. Obviously, some companies had representatives in China. We had an event later that evening that encompassed a range of South Australian companies that were up there for the Chinese International Import Expo, and some members of the South Australia Club were at that event as well.

#### SHANGHAI TRADE OFFICE

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (14:28):** Why is the minister happy to condone his agency paying the rent on an office for seven staff when at the moment it's only employing one, and his ambition is only to increase it to a staff of two?

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:28):** I find it strange, and that's why I am interested in the source of the honourable member's information for her question because I don't recall ever seeing a departmental brief with three staff from the SATC—from the three staff from the SATC. So I am interested in that.

The office—we have negotiated with Austrade a particularly good deal. There is room to expand. It won't hold seven people. I honestly don't know where the honourable member has got that information; I don't recall seeing it. It may have been in early discussions, but I certainly have no recollection, and I will be asking my department as to where—if that is a South Australian Department for Trade and Investment internal brief, I will be interested to know its source.

So we don't have an office for seven with one person. That's a ridiculous statement from the member opposite who seems to have, in the last few days, decided not to wear a tie anymore. I don't know whether he has had another accident with his soup or whether that is a new approach to the dress standards in this wonderful chamber.

#### SHANGHAI TRADE OFFICE

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:29):** Supplementary: for the information of the minister, the briefing was a property search for the trade office and it was sourced through freedom of information.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:29):** I thank the member for giving me that information.

#### SHANGHAI TRADE OFFICE

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:29):** Further supplementary: the minister has stated that these policies and the Shanghai trade office are designed to improve our state's share of exports. Can the minister explain then why the state's share of exports dropped from more than 4 per cent in March this year to 3.3 per cent in September 2018, including our worst September monthly exports to China figure since 2012?

**The PRESIDENT:** That's not a supplementary. That's a new question, so I am not going to ask the minister to answer. Perhaps another Labor member can ask that on your behalf later on in question time. The Hon. Ms Bourke.

#### SA PATHOLOGY

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:30):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing regarding SA Pathology.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE:** In the state budget, the minister outlined a path for outsourcing SA Pathology work for local health networks. The Chief Medical Officer, Professor Paddy Phillips, recently appeared before the Social Development Committee and was asked if there would be an impact if tests had to go interstate. He said, 'Yes, there would be.' When asked if there was a private provider in SA who would currently provide such analysis without SA Pathology, he replied, 'Not for the food side, I would have thought.' My questions to the minister are:

1. Has SA Health raised any concerns with you regarding the risks to public health investigations of the outsourcing or privatisation of SA Pathology?

2. Will the minister guarantee that he will not privatise laboratories of SA Pathology that are needed for public health investigations?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:31):** As is often the case with opposition questions, they include statements of fact that are not statements of fact. The honourable member suggests that the government has made a decision to privatise SA Pathology; that is simply not true.

SA Pathology will undergo an external review to identify opportunities for improvement in order to provide appropriate care in a sustainable way into the future. PricewaterhouseCoopers has been appointed to undertake the review, commencing in September 2018. It will take approximately six months to examine in detail the public and commercial services provided by SA Pathology.

In that sense, it is a very similar process to what was undertaken by the former Labor government in 2014, which actually included a recommendation that SA Pathology services in country South Australia be privatised, so it is somewhat hypocritical of the Labor Party to say that it is inappropriate to even ask the question.

In terms of the access to testing services because they might need to go to the private sector, my understanding is that there are already tests that SA Pathology is not able to do, and some tests do already need to go into the private sector. Of course, we would expect PricewaterhouseCoopers to look at the availability of services in terms of scope, quality and timeliness, and I can assure the house that the government does not have a predetermined position. We are awaiting the outcome of the review, and we think that that will take approximately six months to complete.

#### SA PATHOLOGY

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:33):** Supplementary: has the minister discussed the Chief Medical Officer's concerns about the privatisation of SA Pathology and, if so, what was discussed?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:33):** The Chief Medical Officer, as far as I am aware, has not raised any concerns with me about the budget proposal. I certainly would not characterise the budget proposal as a privatisation but, putting that aside, I am not aware of any concerns being raised with me by the Chief Medical Officer in relation to the government's external review of SA Pathology.

#### SA PATHOLOGY

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:34):** Further supplementary: will the minister guarantee that your proposed changes to SA Pathology will not result in infection and food samples needed for public health investigation having to be sent interstate?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:34):** If the honourable member is asking me whether our commissioning of an external review is forcing samples to go interstate, obviously it is not. A bunch of consultants looking at issues in relation to SA Pathology is not sending any tests anywhere.

#### SA PATHOLOGY

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:34):** Further supplementary: will the minister guarantee that your changes to SA Pathology will not impact upon the time frame for getting test results for outbreaks or diseases and food infections?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:34):** I'd refer the honourable member to my previous answer.

#### PREVENTATIVE HEALTH

**The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS (14:34):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the minister update the council on the government's action on preventative health?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:34):** I thank the honourable member for his question, Mr President, through you. The Marshall Liberal government was elected with a strong commitment to preventative health, and our first budget has demonstrated this. One of the commitments of that budget was \$1 million for rural and regional communities to support preventative health initiatives under the banner SA Healthy Towns Challenge. Recently, I was able to announce the six winning applications for the inaugural round.

The six winners, who will each receive a share of the \$250,000 allocated to this year's challenge, are the following: firstly, the Fregon Anangu School in the APY lands, with a project centred on visits by youth to address health and wellbeing issues contributing to obesity and diabetes; the Dunjiba Community Council in Oodnadatta where the funding will support a bike-gifting program to build a community-owned fleet, upgrade a bike track and run maintenance workshops, among other activities; UnitingCare SA in Port Pirie, where the activities of the Port Pirie Community Foodhub will encourage healthy eating, disease prevention and minimising lead absorption; the Community Cooperative Store in the Barossa, which aims to increase rural people's motivation and capacity to be active and eat healthily in a supportive community context; the Wakefield Regional Council, with the production of a community garden that comprises complementary programs, including a weekly green gym and nutrition and dietetics workshops—

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** Point of order, Mr President: the minister appears to be reading almost directly from the SA Health website, so that is already on the public record.

**The PRESIDENT:** Minister.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** It is a valid point of order. Refrain from reading publicly available information.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** The dietetics workshop provides a shadehouse to engage people in their community and to contribute to positive physical and mental health and wellbeing; and lastly, to the Wudinna District Council, where the program aims to enhance and develop shared walking paths.

The applications give a snapshot of the wide range of health concerns in regional communities and the passion within country communities to address them. It stands in stark contrast to the appalling failure to invest in preventative health by the former Labor government. Following the 2012 McCann review, the former Labor government significantly disinvested in preventative health, completely disregarding the social and economic determinants of health. This government is very proud to be putting back in place a holistic approach to health so that right from the earlier prevention stages right through to the acute care we're providing South Australians with a range of health services they need, not just a hospital-centric approach such as Labor's failed Transforming Health experiment.

### CHILD PROTECTION

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (14:38):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Human Services, representing the Minister for Child Protection, a question in relation to a child abduction matter while in state care.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS:** Last month, two young brothers aged three and six years old, in state care, were allegedly abducted by their mother during a supervised access visit and taken interstate. It is alleged the boys, who are biological brothers but live separately, were taken by their biological mother in Murray Bridge during what was supposed to be an access visit supervised by child protection workers at a departmental office. Fortunately for all concerned, the children were found safe and well in the company of their parents the following day, interstate. My questions to the minister are:

1. Can the minister provide an update as to the investigation into the matter, committed to by the minister at the time?
2. Will the minister undertake to provide this council with a copy of any findings in relation to the matter?

3. Can the minister confirm what if any actions have already been taken regarding the incident and in terms of ensuring that it is not repeated again?

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:39):** I thank the honourable member for her questions. On behalf of the minister in another place, I will take them on notice. I should point out that the child protection legislation, similar to the mental health legislation, contains certain provisions which prevent disclosure of certain matters to those who are involved in the administration of those acts, so my understanding is that that will constrain somewhat the response. But I will endeavour to get as much information to the honourable member as possible and bring it back to this place.

#### KORDAMENTHA

**The Hon. J.E. HANSON (14:40):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Given that the minister has now had a week to check, can he tell the council whether he signed a contract variation with KordaMentha for \$1.98 million, as required by Treasurer's Instruction 17?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:40):** I took that question on notice, and it will be responded to in the appropriate time frame.

*Members interjecting:*

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

#### WI-FI HOTSPOTS

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (14:40):** My question is directed to the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment on an important project supporting the tourism industry in South Australia. Can the minister please provide an update to the council on the rollout of 60 wi-fi hotspots in our key tourism locations, and how this is important to the South Australian tourism industry?

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:41):** I thank the honourable member for her ongoing interest in South Australia's tourism industry and, in particular, in connectivity. Some time ago, the SATC embarked on a partnership with Telstra Air, Australia's largest wi-fi network, to deliver 60 wi-fi hotspots in key tourism locations that align with the six touring routes that we promote.

For context, the road trips brand entails six different routes: the Epicurean Way, the Explorers Way, the Mighty Murray Way, the Seafood Frontier, the Coastal Way and the Southern Ocean Drive. This great wi-fi initiative is providing connectivity for visitors at some of South Australia's most iconic and remote locations, allowing free access to unlimited data for one hour per day, using their smart phone, mobile device or laptop.

In May, I was pleased to be involved in the unveiling of one of those hotspots in Hahndorf. At that time, nine hotspots had been switched on in Hahndorf, Moana, Moonta Bay, Angaston, Beachport, Port MacDonnell, Victor Harbor, Tailem Bend and Kingscote. I am pleased to report that, as of today, 59 of the 62 sites have been delivered, and I think we got excited and decided to do extras rather than just 60. The remaining three are going live this month, and they are Port Lincoln, Elliston and Kimba.

As of about a month ago, over 8,000 users had utilised a wi-fi service, and the SATC is monitoring use and looking to gain data like regular numbers and the country of origin. To highlight the availability of free wi-fi, the SATC has commenced the installation of signage at each of the wi-fi locations. The signs provide local information and touring route information. The wi-fi hotspots provide visitors with free access to the internet for up to one hour per day.

Social media hashtags help users post content on social media platforms monitored by the SATC, and the quick response, or QR codes, on each sign can be scanned by Chinese visitors to obtain the translated information. This is another great step towards enhancing the visitor experience and allowing guests to make the most of their time in South Australia. We know that people want to be able to locate our restaurants, use our maps and share experiences and happy snaps online in real time with no language barrier.

We are nearing the completion of this exciting initiative, and the wi-fi hotspots that are listed are on the southaustralia.com website. While I speak of websites, I think the honourable member in a previous question asked me about the Shanghai office: it is on the Department for Trade, Tourism and Investment's website, I have been advised, so maybe she might like to have a closer look.

I encourage all of you—you, Mr President, all the members of the chamber, all the staff and people listening—to promote our great state and our great regions, utilise the service and share your travels using the hashtag #seesouthaustralia.

#### WI-FI HOTSPOTS

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:44):** Supplementary: I note that one of the hotspots is at Port MacDonnell, just around the corner from my house; it is very nice. How does a local business have their name and details included in that hotspot so that local tourists can access all of their local services?

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:44):** Of course, those people are in the local community—many local businesses are involved. The hotspot is connectivity, not a web page, so it's connecting users. You've been to a restaurant, you've been to the Beachport Hotel or Rivoli Bay and you've been down to visit Bob Sneath—or has he moved from Beachport now?—and it is connectivity, so you can share the experiences at those iconic tourism destinations and local businesses. It's not a website they get listed on; it's the ability to connect the traveller with the rest of the world to share photographs, experiences, the food and wine and the wonderful natural beauty we have in our great state with the rest of the world rather than being a website.

#### WI-FI HOTSPOTS

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:45):** Supplementary arising from the original answer: can the minister please inform the chamber about which company is being engaged to provide these services?

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:45):** I will just repeat it, Mr President, because I'm sure he was probably listening. It was Telstra Air, Australia's largest wi-fi network. Telstra has been in partnership with the SATC to deliver this service, and some of them will use it. In terms of satellite technology, because they are so remote Telstra are keen to make sure they help provide this service, so some of it will be provided by satellite and not by landline.

#### WI-FI HOTSPOTS

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:45):** Were the members of the Liberal Party caucus briefed on this before the announcement, as members of the Liberal Party caucus were briefed before the announcement of stage 2 of the mobile federal government's Black Spot funding program?

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:45):** Firstly, I will respond to the member opposite that we don't have a caucus: we have a party room. My recollection is that I became aware about a week prior to the first one going live in Hahndorf that this was an initiative of SATC and Telstra. I think it is a wonderful partnership that will now deliver connectivity to 62 sites across South Australia and allow our great number of increasing international travellers to share their wonderful experiences with their family, friends and the rest of the world via social media.

#### WI-FI HOTSPOTS

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:46):** Supplementary arising from the original answer: is the minister aware of which executives from Telstra are responsible for the rollout of this program?

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:46):** No, I'm not aware of the—

**The Hon. K.J. Maher:** Can you take it on notice?



**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY:** Well, I can take it on notice if that satisfies the member opposite, but I don't know. There is probably a dedicated team that does wi-fi work for Telstra. I don't know, but I will take it on notice and if I can bring back some information I will.

#### KANGAROO ISLAND TOURISM

**The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (14:47):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Tourism about tourism threats to Kangaroo Island.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. M.C. PARNELL:** News outlets are today reporting about a leaked environment report which shows the extent of oil contamination in the event of a major spill in the Great Australian Bight. Areas from Albany in Western Australia to the mid New South Wales coast would be affected. So it's no wonder that a number of tourism operators on Kangaroo Island, which is much closer to the danger, have joined the campaign against oil and gas drilling in the Bight. Back in 2016, the proprietors of Kangaroo Island and Victor Harbor Dolphin Watch, in a submission to the Senate, referred to:

...the extraordinary threat offered by a catastrophic event such as an oil spill which would devastate the pristine environment which characterises the Great Australian Bight and cause irreparable harm to the creatures which inhabit it and the people dependent upon it for their livelihoods. The risk is simply too great.

More recently, Kangaroo Island tour guide Linda Irwin—who apropos of nothing is the cousin of the late Steve Irwin—was part of a protest outside the fossil fuel lobby conference in Adelaide, and she said:

The Kangaroo Island tourism industry relies on the environment remaining pristine...

What would put all of this and livelihoods at risk is an oil spill.

We contrast these views with those of newly elected Mayor of Kangaroo Island, former state member for Finniss, Michael Pengilly, who was quoted in *The Advertiser* as saying:

I don't oppose it...Our economy revolves around the oil industry, we have to have energy.

My question for the Minister for Tourism is: does the minister agree with tourism operators on Kangaroo Island that offshore oil and gas drilling poses an unacceptable risk to the environment upon which their livelihoods depend, or does he agree with his former Liberal Party colleague that the opportunity to extract more fossil fuels from the marine environment is a higher priority?

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:49):** I thank the honourable member for his question. It is interesting. I think that a large spill anywhere, whether it's in the Great Australian Bight or anywhere around Australia, would have a significant impact on the local environment, community, fishing, tourism, all of that. But this was an interesting proposal and, at the moment, there is still only exploration potentially planned for the Great Australian Bight. Clearly, all the approval processes are matters for the federal government, and I can't recall the exact—

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

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY:** NOPSEMA. I also know the state agencies will have some role in it. Certainly, if there was a large spill, we would see a significant effect on a whole range of activities: fishing, tourism, the lot. I am not going to be drawn into talking about the former member for Finniss, the newly elected, although elected with a large majority. Clearly, the local community has embraced the return of one of their own back to the—not gracing the halls of this place but going back to the island.

I will certainly be advocating the strictest approvals and controls because I don't want to see a large spill ever, anywhere at all. I will be making sure, and I will be making representations to make sure, that the work of NOPSEMA and others make sure they take into consideration the risks that any potential spill would cause and the damage it would cause not only to our tourism industry but our fishing industry and all of the other industries that could be impacted by that.

### PUBLIC SECTOR HEALTH APPOINTMENTS

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (14:51):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing questions to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing regarding health public sector appointments.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** It was a Liberal election commitment, I understand, to create a stand-alone Chief Public Health Officer, separate from the Chief Medical Officer position. I understand also that Professor Paddy Phillips, the current holder of the combined position, said:

It's not defined as to whether it should be combined or separate. Whilst that one position is an important position in a legislative sense, I don't think one person necessarily makes a difference.

My first question to the minister is: when will the government deliver on its commitment to create a stand-alone Chief Public Health Officer; has Professor Phillips been informed he will be losing the combined position; and when will the new person start the role?

My second question relates to a question already directed to the minister earlier today. Has the minister now received any further or better advice that he can provide the chamber—indeed, he is required to provide the chamber—on the KordaMentha appointments and whether they are a breach of public sector appointment policy? And if he has not, will he, as a matter of urgency, bring back to the chamber any further or better advice that he receives?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:52):** I thank the honourable member for his two quite separate questions—

**The PRESIDENT:** Yes, I was going to comment on that but the minister was on his feet. The minister can certainly answer the first one, if he so chooses.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** In relation to the government's policy, the government policy remains that there will be a separate Chief Public Health Officer.

**The PRESIDENT:** Would you like a supplementary?

### PUBLIC SECTOR HEALTH APPOINTMENTS

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (14:52):** Supplementary: my questions did relate to health sector appointments, even though they relate to different areas of the health sector. Has the minister received any further or better advice that the appointments made by KordaMentha to those public sector officers are a breach of public sector appointment policy?

**The PRESIDENT:** That is a separate question. I allowed your first question. You can't put two questions into the one question. The second question is not a supplementary.

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** With respect, sir, they were both about public sector health agency appointments, separate but different.

**The PRESIDENT:** I appreciate that but you are drawing a long bow on that connection. I am generally generous. I am fairly generous with these things, but they were two completely different topics, as far as the President is concerned, but feel free to ask it in your next question. The Hon. Mr Hood.

### AUSTRALIAN TOURISM DATA WAREHOUSE

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (14:53):** My question is for the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment. Can the minister update the chamber on how SATC's work around the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse is giving our tourism operators a strong digital platform to promote their wonderful tourism products and experiences?

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:53):** I thank the honourable member for his ongoing interest in the Australian digital activities within tourism. Members may be aware of a national platform for digital tourism. It is called the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse. It is owned by all the state and territory government tourism organisations and Tourism Australia. It is used to provide product listings on our state and territory government tourism

websites as well as to provide information to other tourism related websites, and it is free for operators to list on.

The data provided by the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse—ATDW as I will refer to it now—is an integral part of the SATC's website southaustralia.com. It is the innovative digital infrastructure that underpins Australian tourism's competitive advantage in digital marketing and distribution globally. The ATDW is the central location for collecting and storing up-to-date information and data for South Australian tourism operators across the country. The data is made available to all state and territory organisations, including Tourism Australia, via a service agreement.

The way that businesses market and distribute their products and services is changing quickly. Recognising that the success of our operators, and therefore the visitor economy in general, is so reliant on businesses using digital platforms, the SATC is pushing hard to get operators on board the ATDW. Throughout my visits to the tourism regions, the SATC was constantly driving the point that operators needed to be listed on the ATDW to be a real part of the action.

ATDW leads and referrals are crucial for tourism operators because they are qualified leads who want to purchase direct from the tourism operator. Direct traffic to operator websites means that operators can sell direct to consumers and avoid paying commissions of up to 30 per cent to global online booking agents, which keeps money in South Australia and boosts our local tourism economy.

That push is clearly resonating with the industry. Since 1 July, total ATDW listings have increased by 93 per cent, and 569 new listings have been added since January 2018. These are 569 South Australian products and experiences that a consumer could previously have missed out on that will now be on the menu as part of their South Australian itinerary. As an example, just for November the ATDW had around 260 live events listed, and I know that SATC staff are working tirelessly to make sure these listings are constantly updated.

The most exciting part of these additional listings is that they are generating more interest in South Australia. Tourists are seeing that we have a plethora of unique and authentic offerings, hundreds of hidden gems that are being unearthed through this digital platform, and the more listings we put up the greater amount of traffic we get to southaustralia.com. We are following that up by adding more operators to the data warehouse and actively seeking more product to add to our listings.

When we look at the financial year-to-date figures, product views this financial year have increased by 264 per cent and ATDW leads have increased by 90 per cent. In October, there were 240,000 product views, a 278 per cent increase compared to September last year—I repeat, a 278 per cent increase compared to September last year. In August, there were 43,000 ATDW leads to the southaustralia.com website, a 95 per cent increase on last year.

To complement and leverage off these great results from the ATDW, we have our Rewards Wonder campaign, which is activating all the digital and social media channels and funnelling it through to southaustralia.com. Since 24 September, when SATC did its reveal of the Tell Us Where teaser campaign, we have had enormous numbers of Australians visit the site—488,000 visits, an increase of 7 per cent over the same time last year. A total of 65,035 leads have gone to South Australian tourism operators via their ATDW listings on southaustralia.com, up 96 per cent on the same period last year.

We are on track to exceed 400,000 leads to operators this financial year, based on our track record, and will pass last year's total by the end of January 2019. South Australia is leading the pack and pushing our state to the front of the mind of tourists as they make their decisions in an incredibly crowded and competitive market. I believe we are challenging our potential visitors: many of them may feel they know our state, but we have so many unique and authentic experiences which will reward their wonder when they look into what South Australia has to offer.

I really encourage our operators to share those secrets with would-be tourists and get on board with the ATDW so that they can help market themselves to the world.

**PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT**

**The Hon. J.A. DARLEY (14:58):** My questions are to the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, representing the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development:

1. Can the minister advise whether the independent review into PIRSA's fisheries and aquaculture cost recovery practices has been completed?
2. Can the minister also advise the final cost of this independent review and whether PIRSA intends to review the cost recovery policy as it applies to other areas of the department?

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (14:59):** I thank the honourable member for his ongoing interest in the fishing sector and the marine environment. It was a policy that we took to the election that we would have a review of the cost recovery process within the fishing sector in particular, and I know that has been undertaken. All the details that the member has asked for, I will refer to the Hon. Tim Whetstone in another chamber and bring back a reply.

**WELLBEING SA**

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (14:59):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing regarding Wellbeing SA.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.T. NGO:** I note that, in a forum that I won't name, Professor Paddy Phillips, the Chief Medical Officer, said about Wellbeing SA: 'the election commitment wasn't very detailed about what functions would fit into it', 'the form and budget will need to follow the functions that end up being specified' and 'we don't have a start-up date'. My question to the minister is: why was there no money for Wellbeing SA in the 2018 budget?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:00):** Through you, Mr President, I make the point that the government will deliver on all of its election promises, promises that were made for a four-year parliamentary term. I know the honourable member is impressed by the Treasurer's budget, which overwhelmingly delivered on the election commitments of the government, in stark contrast to a Labor government which, over 16 years, fell short of delivering on its commitments to the South Australian community. I am thinking particularly of the three times they announced the emergency extended care unit at Modbury Hospital and it still wasn't delivered. I am also thinking of the Modbury eye hospital, which was announced in 2015 and never delivered.

The Labor Party might like to show some patience. Eight months into a four-year term, we are not going to apologise that we haven't delivered everything yet. What we have done, in relation to structural reform of the health department, is in July this year this parliament passed the board governance reform, one of the most significant reforms of health in this state ever. The former Labor government abolished boards in 2007, boards which were fundamentally based on a hospital-based system. Ours is based on LHNs and regions. It is not at all surprising that the government is focusing its reform effort on making sure that local health networks and board governance is well structured and viable.

I am actually surprised by the Hon. Tung Ngo's line of questioning considering that the Leader of the Opposition, in the context of the Auditor-General's discussion, was saying, 'Are we sure we are not rushing the board governance reform? Is it all a bit much for the health bureaucracy to get dizzy and lose track of the reform agenda?'

**The Hon. I.K. Hunter:** You haven't even answered the question. You have gone everywhere but. 'Nothing to see here.' You are hopeless. You're not even across your brief.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Hunter!

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** I can assure you that they are not. As I said to the Leader of the Opposition yesterday, this government is delivering on board governance and it will do so in a sustainable and strong way. That's why Wellbeing SA will be consulted on in due course. We don't

expect the health bureaucracy to deliver board governance reform at the same time as delivering on the government's policy on Wellbeing SA.

In relation to Wellbeing SA, we are focusing on board governance reform at this stage. Early next year, we will be consulting on Wellbeing SA. The fact of the matter is that the better prevention policy and the targeted prevention policy, two very strong policies in our government's set, two policies that undergird the Healthy Towns Challenge that I earlier mentioned—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** You might like to look at a dictionary for that one. Two policies that reflect this government's commitment to preventative health, in stark contrast to Labor's lack of interest in that area. We will get on to consulting on Wellbeing SA. We will get on to delivering wave after wave of reform, but let's have the first wave wash through before you get impatient for the next.

*Members interjecting:*

### ENTERPRISE BARGAINING

**The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS (15:04):** Question time is much more enjoyable than it used to be, I have to say. My question is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer update the house regarding a meeting he held recently with AEU reps on enterprise bargaining negotiations?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Let the Treasurer speak.

**The Hon. J.E. Hanson:** Are you on Instagram, Rob? Have you checked Instagram? There might be stuff on there you don't like, too.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Hanson, we have all heard that. Let's move on. I would like to hear from the Treasurer.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:05):** Thank you; so would I, Mr President. I thank the honourable member for his question. It is correct that I had a meeting, I think last Friday afternoon, a very cordial and productive discussion with my friends and colleagues from the leadership of the AEU, where we discussed matters of shared interest, in particular the enterprise bargaining negotiations.

As I acknowledged last week in response to a question from an honourable member, to be fair to the AEU representatives, I think there have now been more than 20 meetings between government negotiators and AEU representatives, and the very early meetings did not make as much progress as many would have wished. That was because there was a newly elected government, we were bedding down a budget and the government negotiators were obviously not in a position to give too much detail in terms of decisions that had clearly not yet been taken by the government.

Can I say in general terms something I outlined to the AEU leadership, and I know that they were warmly supportive of this particular decision from the government: we have established a new process with the industrial relations directorate within Treasury. The process is that, 12 months prior to the expiration of an enterprise bargaining arrangement, as Treasurer I will write to ministers reminding them that, within six months prior to the expiration of an enterprise agreement, their department or agency needs to have a management position on the sorts of issues they wish to raise with employee associations in terms of enterprise bargaining agreements so that, as we enter the end period of one enterprise agreement, the government is in a position to engage constructively with union representatives.

It seems just to be a common-sense proposal, but it might shock members to know that, under the 16 years of the former Labor government, it was not a policy proposition the former government adopted. I think the Minister for Health would be aware that there were various agreements with SASMOA where, when you had discussions with them, they said, 'They have been there and they have not been renegotiated for two or three years, and there has been no action by the government and government bureaucrats in terms of engaging constructively with union representatives.'

I think that is an appalling practice in terms of governance, and it treats employee associations with disrespect, frankly, in relation to what constructive enterprise bargaining arrangements should be. So as I said, the AEU representatives, whilst they would not have warmly embraced everything that we discussed at the meeting, nevertheless warmly embraced that particular changed policy approach from the new government to engaging with the employee associations on enterprise bargaining arrangements.

In relation to the other issues, it is fair to say, without going into the detail, that the AEU restated their position on a number of issues. I sought information from them and they sought information from me in relation to the government negotiations. They provided an update in terms of the most recent meeting, and I took away a number of issues for engagement with the government negotiators in terms of future discussions. Hopefully, we can arrive at a mutually agreed compromise position in terms of the bargaining arrangements.

The final point that I will raise, and I think it was raised with me last week, is that I did take the opportunity to express my concerns about the behaviour of one AEU rep from Woodville High School, whom I did not name. Without going into the detail of the discussion, the AEU leadership were aware of the concerns that I had expressed. I sought no specific undertaking from them at that particular meeting.

I did, however, highlight the fact that the government, and I as the responsible minister, view dimly that sort of behaviour by union representatives, that is, engaging students in a political way within their classroom in furtherance of their industrial cause. As I said, I sought no specific response in relation to that other than indicating to them that, having identified it publicly, if it was to occur again I would continue to call out to union representatives in a public way if that behaviour was to continue. I would hope that the AEU representatives would take that on notice and engage constructively.

As I said to them, we obviously respect their lawful right to protest against a government's position in relation to enterprise bargaining in a lawful way. That is, they can protest outside a minister's offices, electorate offices and in the streets, and indeed do whatever is their lawful entitlement to do so—we acknowledge that—but they certainly, in my view, have no entitlement to adopt the sort of approach that the AEU rep at Woodville High School flagged she was going to adopt with the students in her classroom.

#### VALUER-GENERAL

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:10):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Treasurer a question regarding the Office of the Valuer-General.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** A constituent has contacted me saying that, for the first time in 20 years, the Valuer-General has issued a landowner's return: a demand that he disclose all commercially relevant information about his commercial property, or face a \$2,500 fine. The constituent says that the Valuer-General only recently revalued his property with a 10 per cent increase in the past year and he fears that this landowner's return will be used to extract even more revenue from commercial property owners.

My question to the Treasurer is: have all commercial property owners been issued with a landowner's return, and will this be an annual event? What is the purpose of the landowner's return? Is this another attempt to generate more revenue from landowners already struggling under the weight of land tax? How many commercial property owners have been issued with a \$2,500 fine for noncompliance?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:11):** I am happy to take the honourable member's question on notice and refer it to the responsible minister. The Valuer-General, under a previous government, did report to the treasurer but the Valuer-General now reports to minister Knoll. So I will take advice through minister Knoll's department.

What I would highlight for the benefit of the honourable member is that, irrespective of which particular minister they report to, the Valuer-General is a completely independent office in relation to his or her practices in terms of valuation. That is, neither the treasurer in a past life, or indeed minister Knoll, is in a position to be able to direct the Valuer-General in relation to valuation practices and

procedures. Of course, we also have the added complication with the former government's privatisation of the Lands Titles Office and the potential overlap between the Valuer-General's role and that privatisation as well.

With all those caveats, I will take the honourable member's questions on notice and refer them to the appropriate minister, who will then need to refer them to the independent Valuer-General, and bring back a reply to the member.

#### KORDAMENTHA

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (15:13):** I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking a question of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing regarding public sector appointments.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** Earlier today in question time, the minister confirmed that the manager, business operations position in the critical care unit and the manager, business operations position in the surgical directorate unit of health were public sector appointments and that presumably the Public Sector Management Act would apply. The minister also indicated that, pursuant to the agreement with KordaMentha, they were contractually obliged to appoint KordaMentha staff to fill those positions. These two things seemingly cannot be true at once.

My questions to the minister are: has the minister received any further updates or information in relation to this during question time so that he can fulfil his obligations to the house to bring back information at the earliest possible opportunity or risk misleading the house?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:14):** Thank you—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Leader of the Opposition, you have asked your question. Minister.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** Thank you, Mr President. I would like to make it clear in relation to the honourable Leader of the Opposition's statement—there wasn't an explanation of the question—that I don't confirm either of the imputations that he included in his statement. In relation to the honourable member's question, I have not received additional information since questions were asked earlier in question time with which I could add to the answers that I have already given. I understand that the business managers were left vacant. I understand that the KordaMentha staff are not public servants.

#### TREASURY DEPARTMENT STAFF RELOCATION

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:15):** My question is to the Treasurer. Could the Treasurer update the chamber on the movement of Treasury public servants to the Port Adelaide offices?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:15):** I am happy to do so. There seems to have been some degree of media interest in recent days in relation to the move of very excited Treasury staff to the Port Adelaide office. About 170 very excited Treasury staff moved there in around about May or June of this year. They are soon to be joined by enough Treasury staff to populate a couple of extra floors. That move will occur, so I am advised, in the period between early December through to late February or early March.

I am told that Treasury staff this week are being given what might be the equivalent of orientation tours of Port Adelaide, just to allay some of their perhaps misconceived or preconceived notions about the merits or otherwise of working in an office building in Port Adelaide. They will be assisted by some of the existing staff who have been down in the Port Adelaide building for a number of months now.

I think they will also be assisted by some local people with involvement with the council, and others, who will show them, firstly, the important issues in terms of transport options—where train stations and bus stops are vis-a-vis the Port Adelaide office and where car parking options are available—but also, I think, highlight some of the joys and attributes of Port Adelaide that anyone who works down there may well be able to enjoy, should they be some of the lucky Treasury staff

who get to move into the final two floors. My understanding is that most of those tours are being conducted this week for interested public servants within the Treasury office.

I think I have put on the public record that the sooner we can actually move staff into the Port Adelaide building the sooner we will be able to stop the payment of dead rent down at Port Adelaide. However, I think as I have previously identified, some of the staff are coming from a current lease that we have at Westpac House, which will mean the payment of dead rent through to the end of next year. I know minister Knoll's department is anxiously trying to find people who might be in private sector accommodation willing and able to move into this dead rent option that we potentially have in Westpac House through next year. I have not had an update on that. If I can get an update on that, I will provide the honourable member with a further response in due course.

#### **TREASURY DEPARTMENT STAFF RELOCATION**

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:18):** Supplementary: has the Treasurer identified any other further decentralisation of the public sector, other than the Port Adelaide site?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:18):** Absolutely not.

#### **ENDOMETRIOSIS**

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:18):** Lucky Port Adelaide. My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing on the topic of endometriosis. Can the minister please update us on South Australia's progress towards fulfilling the National Action Plan for Endometriosis, with particular reference to the schools and education part of that plan?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:18):** I thank the honourable member for her question. As the honourable member is alluding to, the federal government recently launched the National Action Plan for Endometriosis. It was launched on 26 July. The commonwealth government also announced an extra \$1.2 million in funding to support implementation of the national action plan, bringing the commonwealth funding commitment to \$4.7 million.

As I think I have previously advised the chamber, the state government is actively looking at a proposal in relation to an education program for girls, which has been put forward by the Pelvic Pain Foundation. The Menstrual Health and Endometriosis program pilot, funded by the Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia, was held in 2017 with 10 South Australian secondary schools and has been formally evaluated. Federal funding was involved in that program.

South Australia, particularly the Minister for Education and myself, have been working with the Pelvic Pain Foundation on a second program. In that regard, we have been consulting with clinicians in terms of the final shape of the project. My understanding—and I can get the information for the member—is that the project proposal has been finalised following clinical input, so the state government will be continuing to progress that proposal. As I said, it's a joint venture between the health department and the education department, and we are also having conversations with our federal colleagues.

I hasten to add, though, that it's not the only thing the state government is doing in the area of endometriosis. South Australia is undertaking commercial trials in conjunction with the prevention and recovery care unit at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, with two pharmaceutically sponsored trials having completed ethics approval which will be starting recruitment in the next months. It's very important that we not only continue to increase awareness amongst young women about endometriosis, which is the focus of the Pelvic Pain Foundation process, but that we also do what we can to strengthen the pharmaceutical research that assists young women in this area.

#### *Matters of Interest*

#### **GREEN TRIANGLE TIMBER INDUSTRY AWARDS**

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (15:22):** Thousands of people contribute to the forest and timber industries in South Australia. Recently, I was pleased to be able to attend a fantastic showcase of a thriving industry which is innovative in silviculture, harvesting, haulage, logistics, timber processing and more. The inaugural Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards were held in Mount Gambier on 26 October, with more than 450 people gathering to give well-deserved recognition to some of the companies and individuals who have shown particular dedication and skill within the forestry



industries. The member for MacKillop was also in attendance, as well as the federal member for Barker.

The evening was a fantastic showcase of a thriving industry which is innovative. There were many worthy nominees and recipients of awards, with categories including regional and community development; safety excellence; work, health, safety and environment; distribution and logistics; and a trainee award. However there are three who I would like to particularly mention.

We know that women play a vital role in the forestry and timber sector, despite many people assuming that it is almost exclusively a male industry. I was particularly pleased that the awards included a category of outstanding contribution to the timber industry from a female. This award included a requirement that the person be recognised by both peers and employers as making an outstanding contribution to the industry.

Linda Cotterill was the winner of this award. Linda has over 20 years' experience in the timber industry and is currently a harvesting manager at OneFortyOne Plantations, following a long period with Green Triangle Forest Products (GTFP). Her experience includes management, silviculture, contract development, production and supply, and equipment standards. Her outstanding contribution included the mentoring of other foresters, co-creating DVDs for primary schools that showcase the forestry industry and, recently, significant work with SafeWork SA and LITA, together with major industry players, to initiate fatigue management improvement in the region. Linda has a Bachelor of Science in forestry and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and is certainly a very worthy winner.

Courtney Pink was runner-up in this award. Courtney has achieved a huge amount within the industry at a very young age. By 22 she had completed a degree as a forester and is now an asset manager at SFM Environmental Solutions. She developed industry system documents, specifications and quality control guidelines while overseeing the establishment of 1,900 hectares of timber plantations.

She successfully completed the regional leadership course supported by FWPA and has worked on a number of environmental projects. Courtney audits and monitors contractor compliance with work health and safety systems and environmental performance. The forest operation safety plan that she developed for silviculture and harvesting operations is now used day to day by the other foresters, and she also works alongside CFS volunteers in bushfire situations. Courtney shows great care for the wildlife that live around forests, taking injured animals to the vet and even hand-rearing several baby kangaroos, and she is considered a great ambassador for the future of the industry.

The Lifetime Contribution Award was won by Leonie Stapleton of Timberlink Australia. Few can boast the kind of career legacy Leonie Stapleton has left, with over 40 years of experience in the local forestry industry. Leonie began work in the industry in 1973 for southern Australian perpetual forests (Sapfor), in what was then definitely a very male-dominated industry. She dealt with the purchase and export of woodchip, accounting for infield chipping and chip transport contractors, overseeing systems for quality and moisture control, export facility safety and market analysis.

Her career continued, with roles managing project cash flow, purchasing, reporting and safety systems for site construction, and she was a key member in the capital project team for the construction of the Portland woodchip terminal, which is now the largest woodchip port in the world. She has been recognised as a great communicator, particularly cross-culturally in her dealings with international importers. Leonie is considered a true role model for men and women in the forestry industry and is very deserving of recognition for her lifetime contribution to the sector.

Recognising the contribution of women in the industry was one important part of the Green Triangle Timber Industry Awards. Congratulations to all the winners and all the nominees in all of the awards. Well done to the GTTIA committee and the entire industry for getting together to support these inaugural awards and recognise all the exceptional individuals and businesses that are part of this industry. I was honoured to be a judge for the awards and, with everyone else in the industry, I am looking forward to next year's event.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:27):** I rise to speak on a very significant occasion that I am sure we would all have commemorated in some manner one way or another last Sunday, and that is of course the 100-year anniversary of the armistice between the allied forces and Germany, signalling the formal end of World War I. This pivotal event in history came into effect at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour on 11 November 1918, marking the formal end of World War I, which is of course the reason we have the important tradition of observing a minute's silence on this date and on this hour each year to remember those who have served our country during combat.

It is incredible to reflect on the fact that some 420,000 men, aged between 18 and 44, from a population of just 4.9 million at the time, chose to enlist in service. That is 420,000 of 4.9 million, approaching 10 per cent, which constituted almost 39 per cent of the adult male population. Just under 35,000 of these were South Australians.

It is important to note that it was not just men who went to war, of course, but many Australian women volunteered in various capacities, serving in countries such as Egypt, France, Greece and often close to the front lines where the carnage prevailed. The spirit of adventure and the opportunity to see the world was no doubt a primary motivator for these men and women to contribute to the war effort, as was their desire to engage in service and their innate sense of duty and responsibility.

Ultimately, as we are all too aware, some 60,000 soldiers were killed and more than 155,000 were injured in some of the most horrific conflicts in history, including those that took place in Gallipoli, in the Middle East and on the Western Front. In 2016, I had the privilege of visiting a number of the battlefields in France, including some of the very famous ones in Fromelles, Mont St Quentin, Le Hamel and Villers-Bretonneux. As a result of this experience, I gained a far greater understanding and a deeper appreciation of the tremendous sacrifice made by many Australians who fought in the first AIF in some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable. Two of the most significant events I had the honour of participating in around those places that I just mentioned were various commemorations, which were incredibly humbling and extraordinarily appropriate, given the tremendous sacrifices that occurred at those places.

Members may be aware, in fact, that my father is also a returned serviceman who served in Vietnam in 1968. He was a regular soldier. He enlisted of his own free will and was a soldier in the Army prior to the formal commencement of Australia's involvement in Vietnam. He tells some horrific stories, I can assure you, sir, of happenings over there. It has been something that I have always held dear, that our returned servicemen and servicewomen deserve the greatest respect. I have no doubt that each member of this chamber took the opportunity to commemorate the end of the Great War, as it was called, on Sunday just passed.

### FOODBANK SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:30):** I rise today to speak on Foodbank South Australia and the absolutely outstanding work it does for some of the most vulnerable and needy people in our community. Thank heavens common sense prevailed yesterday when the Prime Minister did a backflip on the federal government's plans to cut Foodbank Australia's funding, planning to redistribute the money among three charities instead of two, including SecondBite and OzHarvest. Just why and how the decision was made in the first place beggars belief, but at least the Prime Minister was quick to read the emotions and feelings of the community and moved immediately to reverse its decision, wiping the egg off his face by giving Foodbank more funding.

Now that that decision has been made at a federal level, the time is nigh for the Marshall Liberal government to step up to the plate to ensure the brilliant work Foodbank SA does in South Australia not only continues but is able to grow and prosper to meet the increasing demands of people in need. Like most people who are aware of its existence, I am in awe of the work Foodbank SA does. I have toured its headquarters at Edwardstown and recently visited its warehouse in Whyalla as a member of the Select Committee on Poverty.

In simple terms, its core function is to feed those in need by redistributing surplus food. The organisation is the largest hunger relief organisation in South Australia by a long shot. Last year alone, Foodbank SA provided enough food for over five million meals. It does this by working closely with food producers, manufacturers and processors who have surplus but still edible food they wish

to get rid of for various reasons. If the product is out of specification, close to date code, has incorrect labelling or damaged packaging, is excess stock or a deleted line the food can not be sold.

Foodbank SA says as much as 30 per cent of all food produced is unsaleable for a variety of reasons so, instead of this food finding itself in a bin, the organisation and its large network of supporters and volunteers swing into action. By various means, this food finds its way to Foodbank's four warehouses throughout the state and again, through various means, that food then finds its way to the people in need.

Over 560 charities and 460 schools can access the food and distribute it to adults and children in need as food parcels, school breakfasts, prepared meals and food hampers. Another way is through its brilliant food hub outlets, which are basically mini supermarkets where people in need are able to purchase food for much greater value for money. To be able to access these hubs, which are currently located in Bowden, Elizabeth, Edwardstown and Mount Gambier, individuals are assessed by welfare partners who issue them with a voucher, which is then used at one of the hubs.

While Foodbank SA does an outstanding job feeding people in need, demand for its services continues to be stretched. That is why it approached all political parties during the last state election requesting \$2.5 million a year in funding over the next four years, after which it would be self-funding. It currently receives \$250,000 a year from the state government.

Foodbank SA's Greg Pattinson said that with this funding the organisation would be able to deliver at least eight new food hub outlets in metro and regional areas as well as remote Indigenous areas, implement a new adult food education program in sustainable cooking and eating at each of these hubs, get food to more regions of South Australia at a lower cost and continue to underpin food supplies to school breakfast and lunch programs in South Australia either directly or through its charity partners.

Foodbank SA also has plans to introduce mobile food hubs, a bit like a local council mobile library, that can be driven around the suburbs to ensure more people in need are able to access food. The \$10 million over four years that Foodbank SA is asking for is a good investment. If Foodbank could no longer operate, the cost to the South Australian government would be more than 10 times the funds being requested. Foodbank is not asking to be fully funded; it will aim to grow its fundraising and sponsorship programs through reduced reliance on the government in coming years.

Maybe thought should be given to shelving the proposed and problematic right-hand tram turn from King William Street into North Terrace, a project that is set to cost taxpayers \$37 million, and redirecting those funds to organisations like Foodbank SA—surely that will be money much better spent.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (15:35):** It is widely recognised that domestic violence is a prevalent issue in South Australia with all sides of the chamber having policies to work towards bringing an end to this problem. Australian police are confronted with thousands of cases of family violence every week. It is primarily a gendered crime with the majority of violence being perpetrated against women. Recent ABS figures convey that one in six Australian women have been subjected since the age of 15 to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or previous cohabiting partner. Children who witness or experience domestic violence become two to four times as likely to experience partner violence themselves as adults in comparison to people who have not.

Today, I will be focusing on the impact domestic violence has on migrant women. I will do so because, whilst, overall, migrant women report similar levels of domestic violence to other women, the impact is aggravated by the pressures of the migration experience generally. Partner visas comprise 83.3 per cent of all family migration, and 30.2 per cent of all migration to Australia. We need to appreciate that issues surrounding visa status have a detrimental impact on migrant women who experience domestic violence. It is used as a control measure to increase the woman's dependence on the perpetrator for both economic security and residency rights.

The fears surrounding migration and domestic violence are rife, with inadequate or misinformation surrounding threats of deportation, visa cancellation, and separation from children. Consequently, migrant women experiencing domestic violence feel isolated and tend to endure the

violence for prolonged periods of time before seeking assistance. Keeping in mind the addition of family and community pressures, they are also more driven to attempt to resolve domestic violence without ending the relationship, in the interest of the children and preserving the family unit. We need to ensure that we address the barriers in our regulatory framework to ensure that migrant women can navigate the justice system, can engage with police, and are able to request assistance through support systems such as interpreters.

We need to appreciate that migrant women have limited knowledge about their legal rights in relation to family violence and, likewise, there needs to be further promotion of cultural awareness across justice and support systems. The government should be concentrating on measures that can be implemented to support and encourage migrant women: to provide education; to be able to navigate through support systems available in our state, particularly in the arena of family affairs; to build awareness and assistance for mental and physical health issues; and to enhance independence by recognition of their skills and qualifications.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting the strong women from the Council for Women of Diverse Cultural Background, where we discussed various issues of concern including the ratios of workers to residents in aged-care settings; visa workers and the potential for exploitation; and navigating domestic violence in South Australia as a migrant woman. Fundamentally, we discussed the various avenues where there are service gaps between government departments, which is preventing migrant women's ability to participate in our community.

As I mentioned earlier, all sides of the chamber have policies to combat and stop domestic violence in our society. We want to encourage women to come out and report it, but for many migrant women there is inadequate financial or emotional support to enable them to do so.

During my discussion with the council we spoke of a woman who had reported her husband for the violence inflicted on her family. He was sentenced to three months' gaol. However, during that period she will not be able to generate an income as she cannot work, nor can she access Centrelink. Many would say, 'But she can leave the country.' She can, but her young children cannot—and if she did, who would care for them? She is alone.

The matter is complex, and the stress and impact on the family's mental health is immeasurable. The only option available is an application for a 1410 Family Violence Provision from the federal government which, in itself, is complex and can take up to 10 months. In the case we discussed, the woman's husband will be out of gaol before she is able to obtain security. This is one example of the many inconsistencies in the system where the crossover of state and federal initiatives is counterintuitive.

The community wants to see an end to domestic violence, SAPOL believes in a zero-tolerance approach to domestic violence, and both sides of the council believe in working towards eradicating domestic violence. In the interests of this state, more needs to be done to advocate and break down the barriers associated with domestic violence.

Time expired.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

**The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS (15:41):** I rise today to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the guns falling silent on the Western Front after four long years of war. On 11 November 1918, the German leaders agreed to sign an armistice, signalling the end of the First World War.

Throughout those four years more than 333,000 Australians served and more than 60,000 lost their life. Up to a third of these fallen soldiers were left without a grave or place of memorial for their loved ones to visit. After World War II, what was once known as Armistice Day became Remembrance Day, to honour those who were killed in both horrific wars. Today, we commemorate the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts.

On Sunday I attended the Remembrance Day service at the Payneham RSL. I was honoured to attend this commemorative ceremony, to lay a wreath on behalf of the Premier, and to pay my respects to the memory of those who were wounded or who paid the ultimate sacrifice in armed conflict. Present at the service were dignitaries including the president of the Payneham RSL sub-branch, Mark Lawson-Kent, and the vice president, Scott Jeffrey.

After the service I attended the clubrooms, very progressive and family-oriented clubrooms, and I congratulate the committee on the good work it is doing with current day veterans, in particular. I was pleased to be joined by the Premier of South Australia, the Hon. Steven Marshall, and the Speaker of the other place, the Hon. Vincent Tarzia.

This year, in an Australia-first commemoration, paper poppies were dropped from the sky over North Terrace. Tens of thousands of poppies were coloured red by local schoolchildren in an act of memorial to those who came before us. More than 850 schools participated in this memorable initiative, inviting our young people to pay their respects as part of this powerful, symbolic effort.

Traditionally we take a minute's silence at 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month to remember. We give thanks for the survivors and honour lives lost. This year most of Adelaide's public transport services stopped and the traffic lights in the city remained red as a sign of respect. On Remembrance Day Australians nationwide take the time to observe this silence. It is a simple yet powerful act of unity and reverence. We pay our respects not only to those who served but to those who lost loved ones because of the war and those who continue to grieve for the fallen.

It is important that we take a moment to stop, commemorate and honour those who fought to protect our freedom, and for us to acknowledge the hardship they experienced, their courage, bravery, sacrifice and loss. War impacts not only soldiers but their families as well, families who lost their loved ones to war and families who have seen their loved ones struggle, upon their return, with the terror and aftermath that war leaves behind.

I take this moment to acknowledge and thank the veterans, the fallen and their families, who have sacrificed so much and who fought so bravely for our beautiful country. I thank them for their determination, dignity and strength. Lest we forget.

#### **TOORAK BURNSIDE BOWLING CLUB**

**The Hon. J.A. DARLEY (15:44):** I rise today to speak about the Toorak Burnside Bowling Club. As patron of this club, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge their 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. For background, the club was established on 18 July 1918 by a group of community-minded residents of the new suburb of Toorak Gardens. The group agreed to privately fund and establish bowling greens, croquet lawns, grass tennis courts and a clubhouse with two billiard tables and a bar.

In its early years, the club flourished and was a popular venue for socialising. In 1953, the women's bowling division was created and the game of lawn bowls became so popular with both men and women that the club decided to disband the croquet club. The sport's popularity continued to grow, so in 1959, the club decided to sell the billiard tables to make room for afternoon tea and post-game refreshments for bowlers.

In 1972, the increasing costs of running a member-funded organisation took a toll on the club and they were forced to disband the tennis club and sell the accompanying land. Unfortunately, financial pressure continued to rise and the club made the decision to sell their most prized possession, the greenkeeper's cottage, which was generously donated by one of the club's first trustees, Mr Otto Von Rieben.

In 1982, the club held a major three-day bowls tournament which raised considerable revenue. The treasurer of the club and a committee member planned to deposit the revenue raised the following Monday after the event. However, to their disappointment they discovered that the club had been robbed. In 1983, in response to the robbery, the club held a successful fundraising auction. Five years later, the club suffered another loss when faulty electrical equipment caused a fire. Fortunately, the damage caused was covered by insurance. However, one loss that could not be recovered was the missing Galway trophy, awarded to the club by the governor of South Australia.

The 1990s saw the rise of the digital age and a decline in the number of new members joining the club. This change forced many clubs to close across Adelaide. In response, the Toorak Bowling Club reached out to other clubs to propose mergers. After negotiations, they eventually merged with the Burnside RSL Bowling Club. The merger transition was quite successful because both clubs shared the same values for heritage and tradition. In acknowledgement of the history of the Burnside RSL Club, the Diggers Day tournament was added to the club's annual calendar.

In 2000, the Toorak Burnside Bowling Club was still under financial pressure and needed a complete financial restructure, so the property was purchased by the Burnside council with a lease-back arrangement. In 2010, the clubhouse was subject to an arson attack, started by vandals who were searching for petty cash. Unfortunately, great damage was done to the ceiling area of the clubhouse.

Reflecting on this time, the club members view the arson attack as an event that united its members. It provided them with an opportunity to work together to overcome hardship. It also allowed them to come together to rethink the future layout, design and functionality of the clubhouse that exists today. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of this forward-thinking club for not only overcoming the arson attack but a number of obstacles they have faced throughout the years. I am proud of their past achievements and wish them the very best for the next hundred years to come.

### MARRIAGE EQUALITY SURVEY

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (15:48):** Tomorrow, Thursday 15 November, marks the one-year anniversary of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey results being announced. One year ago tomorrow hundreds of South Australians stood together in Hindmarsh Square, soaked from the rain and exhausted from a year-long campaign. Honestly, we were quite concerned. Consistently, the polls were in our favour, but the gap was narrowing. We had had good responses at doorsteps and on the phones, but we also had negative ones. Our opponents were getting more and more desperate and becoming more and more outrageous with their lies and nastiness. For every story of love, celebration and community, there were also stories of hate, fear and discrimination.

I do not normally—and we do not normally—expose ourselves to such odious attacks if we can help it, we usually insulate ourselves from them by carefully choosing who we socialise with and censoring our own behaviour in public and when we are interacting with service providers, but we opened ourselves up to this abuse because we were fighting for our rights. We were fighting for our rights in a situation that was forced on us by an ineffectual Liberal prime minister who could not unite his own party behind climate policy, let alone marriage equality.

So same-sex couples across the nation were to be subjected to a nationwide vote on our civil rights because parliament could not bring itself to legislate. We were being told that we would not be allowed to access this basic legal recognition of our relationships unless millions of other people were allowed to decide whether their fellow Australians should be treated equally. When the ballot became a certainty, a reality, it was clear to us that the time to try to improve the process was over, and we had to go out into the hustings. We accepted what was to be and went to work on a nationwide campaign to win that fight.

At the beginning of the survey process, we took a gamble: we put our money on Australians backing marriage equality and being willing to express that on their survey forms. After thousands of collective hours of rallying, doorknocking and phone canvassing, as we know, that bet paid off: 7,817,274 people voted 'yes' on the survey, 61.6 per cent of those who responded. To put that into context, there were only 17 federal parliament seats out of 150 that had a majority 'no' vote. It was a resounding endorsement of equality.

Australians had used their survey papers to make clear that same-sex couples should be treated equally under the law. South Australia should be particularly proud: 592,528 South Australians voted 'yes', 62.5 per cent of respondents. Not only did we beat the national average for 'yes' votes as a proportion of responses, but we beat the average participation rate, too. Not a single federal electorate in this state voted 'no'. Where Australia said 'yes', South Australia shouted it. That is something for us all to be proud of in this place.

Since the commonwealth Marriage Amendment (Definition and Religious Freedoms) Bill passed the House of Representatives on 7 December last year, more than 5,000 same-sex couples have been married. No longer do couples need to travel overseas, away from family and friends, to get married: they can do it right here at home. By June this year, more than 160 same-sex couples had tied the knot in our state. A South Australian couple, James Hemphill and Andrew Chatterton, were among the first same-sex couples to marry on 9 January, the first day that same-sex couples could marry in Australia without a special exemption.

For thousands of other couples around the country, the passage of marriage equality meant that the marriages they had formerly had to travel overseas to obtain were now legally recognised back home—marriages like mine. Importantly, the warnings issued by some conservatives of a slippery slope from marriage equality never came to pass, as we knew they never would. We see now more clearly than before what lies they were. An Essential poll from March this year found that 65 per cent of Australians believe that people of the same sex should be allowed to marry, an increase on the survey result and an affirmation of last year's 'yes' vote. Support is still growing.

One year on, it is timely for us to reflect on just how emphatic a victory we had and just how important marriage equality is. I would like to pay tribute to the many people who worked for decades to make this change and the many more who came on board in the last couple of years. Members of state and federal parliaments, members of this parliament, an array of advocacy groups and, most importantly, passionate LGBTI people from all walks of life—including past and current members of my office, staff like Tom Mooney, Bel Marsden, Patrick Stewart, Iacovos Digenis, Shobaz Kandola and Tara Bates—all worked tirelessly to see this wonderful victory brought about.

I would also like to thank Joseph Scales and Abbie Spencer from the ASU, my union, for their campaign and their support. From the official campaign organisers operating out of Gay's Arcade to the hundreds of volunteers and community groups across the state, the campaign was determined and effective, and we won. I am very proud of those campaigners, and I am very proud of South Australians coming together as a community to deliver such an emphatic 'yes' vote.

#### *Bills*

### **SUPPORTED RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES (AGED CARE FACILITIES) AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:55):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Supported Residential Facilities Act 1992. Read a first time.

#### *Second Reading*

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:56):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce today my very first private members' bill, the Supported Residential Facilities (Aged Care Facilities) Amendment Bill 2018, which seeks to have closed-circuit television cameras installed in aged-care homes in South Australia. This bill has been prompted by a litany of elder abuse cases in our community, culminating in the shocking behaviours against mentally incapacitated residents at the government-run Oakden facility, which has since been closed.

The mistreatment of the elderly and quality of care will be explored in detail in the coming royal commission, which will begin taking evidence in South Australia. Abuse of the elderly, whether a deliberate act or just through gross negligence, is a stain on our society and we must do more to stop it. The cover-ups must stop and accountability must be paramount.

One in two Australians will find themselves needing aged care. By 2056, 22 per cent of the population will be 65 and older, while the number of people with dementia will top a million. This means that there will be greater demand for accommodation to meet those needs. That will put additional pressure on aged-care providers and their staff.

There are 240,000 Australians in aged care today. We have a responsibility to ensure the best standard of care is provided to our most vulnerable citizens and that this is delivered in a safe and dignified setting during the final years of their life. We must ensure the welfare of the people that families or legal guardians have entrusted into the hands of care providers. This can be done in several ways, including proper governance, management oversight, effective training and support to staff.

However, as we have seen, even with the best intentions of management and owners of aged-care facilities, failures to adhere to proper practices have occurred and, in so many cases, with shameful, disturbing and unexplained outcomes. Defenceless, innocent residents have died as a

direct or indirect result of negligence, mistreatment, assaults or accidents that could have been avoided. This is shameful.

Often, families are at a loss to discover what went wrong unless they decide to take the law into their own hands. Noleen Hausler, a trained nurse, did exactly that. Suspicious and concerned by the lack of appropriate response from staff and management about the state of her father, Clarence, who had dementia and could not walk or talk, Noleen placed a hidden camera in his bedroom at the Mitcham residential care facility in 2015. It caught aged-care worker Corey Lyle Lucas appearing to try to suffocate Mr Hausler, resulting in Lucas being convicted of aggravated assault.

Twenty years ago, I used hidden cameras to capture the cruel and hideous abuse that was going on in a nursing home at Beulah Park. I am so dismayed that we still need to be discussing the same kinds of issues today. If a camera had been in the room of Dorothy Baum at St Basil's Aegean Village nursing home in 2012, it would have revealed what really caused her brutal death, not the concocted story staff told police, that the bedridden and fragile Mrs Baum had caused her own shocking fatal injuries. It took an inquest to reveal that she was beaten to death by another resident with dementia.

If Oakden had been fitted with cameras, the systemic abuse from a toxic culture would have been prevented, saving families of residents the grief and heartbreak they continue to suffer. I will single out Mr Stewart Johnston, who is here today, Mrs Barbara Sprigg, Deanna Stojanovic, Patrina Cole, and Rina Serpo and her daughter Alma Krecu, who have been such a united and strong voice to make authorities and governments take notice and overhaul and improve our broken aged-care system.

Abuse in various forms continues to this very day, from a single and repeated act, neglect and lack of action, to financial, physical, psychological and sexual abuse. In 2016-17, the Aged Care Complaints Commissioner received around 3,600 complaints about residential aged care. Three per cent fell under the definition of abuse, but I suspect that this is just the tip of an iceberg.

In recent weeks, I have seen distressed constituents seeking urgent answers about family members in care. Susan Willimott and her brother Peter may never know if their mother, Debbie, received the appropriate level of care at a Prospect nursing home for a serious leg wound and whether it contributed to her death. They want an inquest.

Lawyers acting for Coral Green and her brother, Alex McEvoy, have written to the Coroner asking him to investigate the circumstances surrounding the alleged mistreatment of their late aunt, Barbara Sheppard, and her will being changed in favour of a home-based carer after she had been diagnosed with dementia.

David Kennedy and his wife, Cheryl, were told by a new nursing home proprietor that, despite an agreement with a previous owner, they could no longer use a camera in the bedroom to monitor the movements of Mr Kennedy's dementia suffering mother, citing the 2016 surveillances act. Well, there is a provision in that act that allows them to operate a camera if it is in the person's interest. The camera was not there because the Kennedys had misgivings about the level of care David's mother was receiving—they actually praised the care—but it did give them peace of mind, and on several occasions they were able to alert staff when they saw 82-year-old Joan alone in her room and in urgent need of assistance.

Mr Tony Van Vugt has written to me about being banned for seven days from seeing his brother at a facility at Largs Bay because, he claims, he blew the whistle too many times on poor practices he observed while closely monitoring the treatment of his brother following surgery. The ban has now been lifted, but with restrictions on his visits. All these claims may well be disputed by the care providers concerned; however, it is in instances like these that CCTV footage would be invaluable in either supporting or dismissing complaints.

Mr. President, it is upsetting to know that currently there are at least 10 aged-care homes in South Australia that are non-compliant—including St Basil's Aegean Village, which was at the centre of the Dorothy Baum inquest—and there are two others with sanctions.

Following recent exposés of dreadful elderly abuse on the ABC's *Four Corners* program, I believe an overwhelming majority of Australians would now support having CCTV cameras in all care



facilities. The UK is moving in this direction. A recent survey by one British care provider revealed that an overwhelming 87 per cent of relatives of residents and the majority of workers—63 per cent—at care homes are in favour of surveillance, while oddly only 47 per cent of residents supported the idea. Now is the time for South Australia to lead the nation on legislation.

This bill is simple in its structure. It amends the licence conditions of the Supported Residential Facilities Act of 1992. It requires a proprietor of a supported residential aged-care facility to install audiovisual equipment in the bedroom of each resident and in the common areas of the facility. Recordings would be monitored by authorised persons or a body that is independent of the facility and the proprietor. This will ensure footage cannot be manipulated or erased. Cameras in common areas would need to be in operation at all times.

Importantly, in the bedrooms of residents, cameras will be an opt-in measure after all the necessary consents are obtained either from the resident or, if they are unable to make that decision, from persons authorised to do so by law, like guardians and powers of attorney. The costs of installing and monitoring the cameras in bedrooms may be recovered from the resident.

Any concerns people may have about privacy breaches have been allayed with the advent of sophisticated cutting-edge high definition equipment which I outlined recently and which is currently being used successfully in the UK. Twenty-four/seven monitoring is done by an independent third party using trained observers—qualified nurses and social workers with full security clearances. They monitor and document activities of staff and residents, incidents and performance in care facilities and hospitals.

Another advantage is it can deter and detect criminal activity, with the information collected used in investigations and any subsequent prosecutions. Monthly reports to care providers as well as families of loved ones are provided. The personal safety and wellbeing of these vulnerable adults is and always should be the top priority. Aged-care proprietors should not fear cameras but welcome them if they assist in raising the bar on performance and quality standards. They can be viewed as a positive component in promoting their aged-care facility to the public.

SA-Best consulted widely to frame this bill. I would particularly like to recognise Ms Hausler, who is with us today, and her father Clarence, for their advocacy on this issue. Maybe we can call this 'Clarry's Law', because without his public exposure to highlight the need for CCTV, future vulnerable citizens would not be able to benefit from this type of reform. Also thanks to Mr Johnston—as I said, here today as well—representing the families of Oakden victims; aged advocate Ian Henschke; and specialist aged-care consultant Peter Vincent for their valuable contributions.

In closing, it was pleasing to see our parliament yesterday pass the Office for the Ageing (Adult Safeguarding) Amendment Bill, a bill that will not only protect people in care but encourage whistleblowers to come forward without fear of retribution.

I commend the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Hon. Stephen Wade, and the Marshall government on keeping their commitment, and I thank all sides of politics in both houses for supporting it. I will remind the Premier that as opposition leader in 2016 he wanted changes made to our surveillance laws to allow cameras in aged homes to be debated as soon as possible.

Pathetically, and before the Oakden scandal was fully realised, the Labor government showed no enthusiasm. I commend this bill to the Legislative Council and trust that it receives support from my parliamentary colleagues. It is the least we can do to show our gratitude to the generations who shaped this state and who may need our support in their last years.

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

*Parliamentary Committees*

#### **ABORIGINAL LANDS PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE: REPORT 2017-18**

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (16:10):** I move:

That the 2017-18 annual report of the committee be noted.

This is the first report of the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee that I have had the privilege to move as presiding member, and it is a great privilege to serve in that role. There has

been significant change in the last year for this committee, as with most committees, due to the election and the nomination of new members to that committee.

I would acknowledge that a significant amount of this report relates to the work of the previous committee, under the leadership of the Hon. Tung Ngo. I would also like to acknowledge the previous committee members: the Hon. Terry Stephens; Mr Jon Gee, from the other place, who at that stage was serving the electorate of Napier and is now the member for Taylor; and Dr Duncan McFetridge, the previous member for Morphett. I also acknowledge the current members of the committee: the Hon. Kyam Maher from this place, of course a former minister for Aboriginal affairs; the Hon. Tammy Franks, who has served on the committee for, I think, probably close to nine years now and has a close engagement with many facets of the Aboriginal community; Mr Eddie Hughes, the member for Giles in another place, who has also served on the committee for some time; Mr Sam Duluk, the member for Waite; Mr David Basham, the member for Finniss, who has served on the committee for a relatively short period and has subsequently resigned due to other commitments; and, his replacement, outside of this reporting period, Mr Fraser Ellis, the member for Narrunga.

The committee had a heavy sitting schedule over the reporting period, with a majority of that being on the follow-up from a trip to the APY lands in June 2017. The committee called a number of witnesses, who provided much needed attention to areas such as police presence in remote areas, funeral and coronial services to remote areas, access to dialysis services on country, and also understanding better the issues faced by community members in the Community Development Program across the APY lands.

Despite cancelled committee trips due to cultural business, and then in the lead-up to the election in March, many members were able to undertake individual trips, meeting with Aboriginal community groups and peak bodies regarding matters of interest for this committee. That work by individual members has continued since the election. Members are grateful for all Aboriginal community organisations and their representatives who have given their time, assisted with visits and provided valuable insight during those occasions.

In October 2017, the committee commenced its review into the operation of the Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 2013. During the reporting period, the committee took written and oral submissions for this review. It has been our privilege to listen to the lived experiences of Aboriginal people across South Australia. We are most appreciative of people giving so freely of their time and stories so that we might better understand their views with regard to this important piece of legislation.

The committee's commitment to Aboriginal affairs and looking into matters affecting the lives of Aboriginal people extended beyond community visits and witness appearances, with members showing support through their attendance at many key events throughout the year, including the City of Adelaide Lord Mayor's flag raising ceremony, the NAIDOC SA Awards, the Premier's NAIDOC Awards and the National Reconciliation Week breakfast, among others. All these events are important to members of the community to remain connected to Aboriginal communities and individuals. I would also like to mention that there have been a number of significant losses or passing of people within the South Australian Aboriginal community this past year, and the committee has paid its respects to these families during those difficult times.

In closing, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the work of committee members past and present for their commitment and dedication to the work of the committee, which of course is relatively unique in having its own act. I know that all members are committed to this ongoing work.

I would also particularly acknowledge the contribution of the committee's sole staff member, Ms Shona Reid. I think Shona's knowledge of the Aboriginal community across this state and beyond has been extraordinarily valuable to me, and I understand my predecessor the Hon. Tung Ngo feels the same way. I think the way in which Shona has worked with and for her community but also with the committee has the highest regard of those of us on the committee and all in the communities she deals with. We thank her very much for that. Her particular support for me as the presiding member has been much appreciated not only by me but also by my staff.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Aboriginal communities, organisations and their representatives that have given their time, assisted with visits and provided valuable insight to the

committee during the reporting year and also since that time. With those remarks, I commend the motion to the council.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. F. Pangallo.

### *Motions*

#### **ST JOHN AMBULANCE ANNIVERSARY**

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (16:18):** I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment in Australia of St John Ambulance;
2. Acknowledges the significant contribution that St John Ambulance has made and continues to make in support of the health and safety of every South Australian through the delivery of lifesaving first-aid services;
3. Acknowledges the invaluable contribution of St John Ambulance's highly skilled and qualified volunteers who dedicate their time to delivering emergency first aid and community-care services;
4. Acknowledges the important role St John Ambulance plays in strengthening emergency preparedness, response and recovery across the state, including through its ongoing support of the State Emergency Management Plan; and
5. Acknowledges the crucial first-aid training St John Ambulance delivers, including through its First Aid in Schools program.

Thank you, Mr President. I acknowledge that, in moving this motion, you are a longstanding and illustrious member of the St John Ambulance community. The year 2018 marks the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of St John Ambulance in Australia. Since its inception, St John Ambulance has played an integral role in the provision of health, safety and lifesaving first-aid services in South Australia. St John is a strong, well-known and trusted not-for-profit organisation which is highly visible in our communities as a first-aid provider, educator and responder and a leader in community building and social inclusion.

St John has a strong presence throughout metropolitan and regional South Australia. South Australians rely heavily on St John to provide first-aid services at events. St John depends on the dedication of over 1,000 volunteers in South Australia, an invaluable asset in the South Australian community. Since 1883, St John in Australia has emphasised community service through lifesaving health support services and the teaching of first aid to the general public. St John began teaching first aid in 1885. Initially, training was provided to police officers and railway workers as they operated in the fields at greatest risk of encountering injuries at that time.

St John first-aid vehicles have significantly changed over the course of time. Before the advent of the motor vehicle, these were horse-drawn carriages and, in the earliest days of St John in Australia, enclosed stretchers on wheels known as litters. St John volunteers would trundle injured people long distances so they could receive treatment at a hospital. This embodies the well-established dedication of St John Ambulance in providing health and safety service support to South Australians.

St John Ambulance carries on those traditions in accord with the longstanding values of the organisation, the most important of which is service to humanity. St John embodies a broad range of organisational functions and each function exists to serve the community. The most visible function of St John Ambulance is providing health and safety support in the community, including providing first aid during emergency situations. For example, during the Semaphore ANZAC Day service this year, St John Ambulance volunteers were called on to provide emergency assistance when a man collapsed and suffered a cardiac arrest. Without hesitation, St John volunteers administered lifesaving first aid and revived the man at the scene.

In 2017-18, St John SA attended more than 2,300 events, treated more than 18,000 patients and contributed nearly 80,000 hours to the service of first-aid events. This epitomises the fantastic work St John Ambulance does in delivering first-aid services. South Australians also call on the assistance of St John Ambulance during times of crisis, such as bushfires, storms and floods. St John

Ambulance works with other emergency response agencies to ensure the protection of the South Australian community.

However, St John Ambulance offers more than a response function; it undertakes significant planning and preparation for emergency situations. As a vital support agency to SA Health and the South Australian Ambulance Service, under the South Australian government's state emergency plan, St John Ambulance aligns its operational functions to, and I quote, 'prevention, preparation, response and recovery' functions of the management plan.

The assistance from St John Ambulance during emergency situations is critical in ensuring the safety of the South Australian community. Fundamental to St John operations are its first-aid training programs. Many individuals and businesses require first-aid training so that if there is an emergency, a person trained in first aid can be of assistance. The organisation invests a considerable amount of time into its first-aid training programs so that first-aiders have access to advanced technology and best practice first-aid training.

St John has also implemented the First Aid in Schools program, which teaches primary school aged children the basics of first aid and emergency response. The program has been running since 2013 and has been delivered to 50,000 primary school children in South Australia alone. An advocate of the schools program is 14-year-old Hayley Spencer, who used her first-aid training to assist a classmate suffering from a seizure in the classroom. She acted without hesitation to help her classmate while her teacher left to seek assistance. Hayley has been a St John volunteer since she was eight years old. Hayley's example shows that first-aid skills are invaluable.

I would encourage all schoolchildren to take up Hayley's advice and take advantage of the St John First Aid in Schools program. There may come a time where your vital first-aid skills are required to save a person's life. Hayley's story exemplifies the reciprocal relationship between St John and its volunteers. St John relies on extraordinary people who volunteer their time to serve their community. In return, St John volunteers receive critical life skills, garner the support of a well-respected community organisation and gain the ability to help a person in need of first aid.

In addition to providing health services and first-aid training, St John is active in the community. The organisation has implemented a multitude of community programs to improve health and wellbeing in our community. St John Community Care is one such example. The program enables the elderly to live healthier and more fulfilling lives by participating in a range of activities. St John volunteers assist older members of the community in a myriad of ways, from going out with them for a friendly coffee to accompanying them to a doctor's appointment. Aileen Guterres, for example, has been a St John volunteer for 12 years, and one of her clients is 85-year-old Mary Wallis. Mrs Wallis enjoys speaking about current events and meeting up for a cup of tea. For Aileen, the in-depth conversations they share help fill a personal void left by the loss of her late parents.

St John understands that independence, social inclusion and an active lifestyle are all important aspects of living a fulfilling life. However, in many ways St John's community programs are mutually beneficial, and highlight the satisfaction felt by volunteers and program participants alike.

It is important to say that as St John Ambulance is a not-for-profit charity it relies on bequests and charitable donations to perform its functions, and I would like to thank all those individuals and businesses who have donated to St John Ambulance over the years. Their contributions are incredibly valuable. I would also like to congratulate and pay tribute to each and every one of the highly skilled and qualified St John staff and volunteers who dedicate their time to deliver emergency first aid and community care services.

In particular, I pay tribute to the following people: Karen Limb, Chair of St John Ambulance SA; Michael Cornish APM, Chief Executive Officer of St John Ambulance SA; and His Excellency Hieu Van Le, Governor of South Australia, Deputy Prior of St John Ambulance Australia and Knight of the Order of St John. These individuals represent St John Ambulance with the utmost professionalism and dedication to the organisation.

I must knowledge St John Ambulance SA volunteers, and the outstanding work they have done and continue to do for the South Australian community. St John Ambulance depends on the selfless sacrifice of volunteers to deliver what is an invaluable service to the South Australian community. Their service and dedication is an example to us all.

For 135 years St John Ambulance has been a trusted and revered organisation within the South Australian community. As the Minister for Health and Wellbeing I congratulate St John Ambulance on its 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Australia, and I thank the organisation for the incredible work it has done and continues to do for the people of South Australia. I commend the motion to the council.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. I.K. Hunter.

*Parliamentary Procedure*

**VISITORS**

**The PRESIDENT:** I acknowledge in the gallery today the Chair of St John Ambulance, Ms Karen Limb, and the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Michael Cornish.

*Bills*

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (RATEPAYER PROTECTION AND RELATED MEASURES)  
AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 24 October 2018.)

**The Hon. J.E. HANSON (16:28):** I rise today to offer my commentary on this bill. No doubt while some in this place may come into contact with local government only when they might attend a function or perhaps with one of the many dozens of regulation bills we pass in this place with the council's name on it, avid listeners of my speeches in this place would know that I have a real and heartfelt connection to our smaller cousins in local government. In fact, I spoke about it in my first speech to parliament, and I take the opportunity to do so again now.

The Hon. Ms Scriven said, when introducing this bill to parliament, that the bill is appropriately named. I would agree with that, and I double down on it: the local government sector is very appropriately named as well. Local government is a sector that is all about the small and otherwise forgotten aspects of regulation and government. Anybody who has ever had any contact with it comes away admittedly sometimes frustrated, but nonetheless amazed at the level of detail it takes to the small tasks it can and does perform—always, of course, on that local level.

When I was elected to local government I would often stop and discuss with residents their concerns of the day. While having these conversations I often marvelled at the trust people seemed to have that their concerns were not just being listened to but that there was a real chance of them being acted upon.

Before we scoff at that it is worth considering the facts. Recent polling data has shown that politics and politicians, like ourselves, are now some of the least trusted industries by everyday people. Our federal colleagues seem unable to grasp the concept that the nation needs just one leader, at least for longer than 12 months. I invite any member elected to this place to say honestly to a resident that the concern that they raised with them today will receive the attention of a state bureaucrat tomorrow.

My point is this: people trust local government, and that is why this bill is so sorely needed. In recent times, it is a well-known fact that trust is being eroded in local government by the few at the expense of the many. We do not need to limit the capacity of councils to deliver vital services to local communities, but it is simply not good enough that Apple watches, Adelaide Oval roof climbs, golf memberships or trips overseas form part of the narrative of eroding trust in local government. We need to show leadership. We do not need more bureaucracy. We need to do something, and we need to do it now.

I previously stated that I have read many of the comments on this issue by those in the government in the other place. It appears from those comments made by the new government that it has concerns about council spending on matters it considers to be non-core business. For some

reason, the conclusion drawn by many of those is to grasp the problem at the revenue end. There appears to be some implication that by doing so the excesses will stop.

To use a metaphor: by capping the amount that the kids receive in pocket money they will stop buying sweets with the money that you give them. I cannot say that I follow this logic. I cannot say that I believe that the new government is entirely sincere in the logic itself. In its budget this year, I saw absolutely no caps on any of its spending, despite a belief that it engaged in the trite commentary of the budget black hole that we always hear. In truth, the state budget analysis shows that over 2,000 fees and charges went up by 2.3 per cent or more. So much for a cap on revenue.

One could say that the government's logic is perhaps to do as I say and not as I do, but this of course undersells the problem significantly. From those in the other place, I have heard expressed concern about regional investment that may not occur if council rates were capped and about the status of regional roads should rate capping be introduced. It is right that these concerns should be expressed; they are well-founded.

In fact, a regional council contacted me with a concern about comments made by the minister in July this year when he asked why no-one had been able to show to him why councils had required such large rate revenue increases. This council outlined that, while their increases had not been as high as the minister seemed to be implying, their council had identified through the legislative required creation of asset management plans that their community infrastructure was decaying. The issue was identified as being long-term underfunding or, in other words, that their rates had been too low.

I know that many on the government side would scoff at this one too, but in doing so they scoff at themselves as hypocrites. While they did nothing to cap any of their budgets in their overall revenues, they furthermore ignored that there is ABS data that shows as fact that local governments in our state have been the most efficient at spending in the nation per capita. That is right, local government national reports and ABS population statistics reveal that overall revenue per capita from local government in South Australia is the lowest in the country. To make this plain, our councils are the most efficient in the nation with the dollars they collect.

Further than this subjective evidence, there is also what we have seen in New South Wales where rate pegging has been introduced. It was introduced there and it did not result in cuts but simply increased debt and more charges from councils. Empirical evidence from the New South Wales rate pegging system shows that reducing rate revenue does nothing to slow council expenditure. Instead, data comparison conducted by Professor Dollery of the University of New England revealed that council expenditure remained high and council debt simply increased. User charges for basic council services became commonplace.

In South Australia, without rate capping, user charges are quite limited and, with some exceptions, usually constitute more of a price signal effect rather than a charge. But before we all rush to the silver-lined cloud of 'user pays', we have to acknowledge that user charges cost money to collect. For every dollar sought in every charge you pay, there is a fee to collect it of almost a third of that dollar. Extrapolating that over many services would drive up collection point pricing to inefficient and of course unsustainable levels, particularly in those regional councils.

Coming back to the point of our bill and my discussions around keeping trust in local government, all the capping in the world does nothing to stop waste and rorts. I have made mention previously in this place that, in 2013, there was an expert panel on local government reform. I encouraged this new government to seek out the advice provided by this panel in seeking to provide a remedy to its grievances with local government mismanagement. Judging by their attitude to rate capping not having changed, I take it that they are not listening to that advice, or perhaps I am simply regarded as white noise.

The report recommends a whole range of other things that should be done to improve the democracy, accountability and financial management of local councils, tools that are very instructive in governments. These include better financial oversight, reforms to council elections, performance monitoring of councils, meaningful community engagement and work between councils to get better efficiencies and services such as rubbish collection.

It is clear to me that the problem the new government and many I have spoken to have with local government is one of governance. Poor governance is eroding the trust they feel in their local representatives. Certainly, from the speeches I have read by its own regional members in the other place, a blanket approach to any legislation would not be supported if it resulted in degrading services and infrastructure in those communities, particularly in regard to regional road networks—rightfully so, because what is financially good in terms of infrastructure and services for Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Adelaide or Kangaroo Island will be as varied as the geography that makes up those locations.

In terms of good governance, however, there should be no difference between any of them, and it is to this end—better governance—that the bill before us is directed. While I do not see the need to step through all aspects of this bill, I want to make a few highlights in terms of addressing how it will create better governance. By putting in place boundaries for leadership, a tone is set for ethical and responsible decision-making throughout an organisation.

Key measures in this bill will address this by banning extravagant perks for CEOs. Rightfully, the public has been outraged for some time about a notably consistent theme occurring in the media about the extravagant perks of CEOs. While I feel I have to rush to note that local government is not alone in its leadership coming under scrutiny for extravagant perks, it is still no excuse. While I can do very little in this place to restrain the blatant extravagances of those in the private sphere, we can step in to stop it in local government, and we should.

While it is not widespread in council CEO packages, the fact is that Apple Watches and golf memberships, while they are not golden handshakes or ridiculous bonuses, forming part of remuneration packages does not just fail to meet the pub test: it is not fostering good direction and leadership for the councils that CEOs lead. We should limit remuneration to understandable allowances like vehicles or other work equipment, salaries and superannuation. This bill seeks to do that. It has been noted by the Hon. Ms Scriven in her second reading explanation that this bill will also address credit card use, gifts received and all non-land-based travel for members and staff.

While a significant governance issue, we all have to recognise that credit cards, travel and even gifts are a necessary part of the modern life of organisations. This bill seeks not to remove them but to increase disclosure of their use or their reception by members of council. Similarly, we cannot ignore that, in each of these areas, ethical and responsible decision-making is required for their use. A cost-effective balance is required, a balance that meets public expectations for their use while at the same time acknowledging that not every council will have the same level of use of these items. This bill attempts to achieve that balance with disclosure.

Over and above these ethical and responsible decision-making matters, we need to put in place an appropriate system of risk oversight and internal controls. Councils can help increase the likelihood that their organisation will deliver on its purpose by having them. Key measures in this bill will enforce the kinds of transparency and independent scrutiny on budgets and rates that will assist in this regard. Notably, there are a few things. Any new project of council valued at over \$1 million or more, and any new service valued at half a million or more (calculated to the life of that service) would require an impact statement. Similarly, CEOs would have to report on council overruns to the value of 110 per cent of the amount budgeted. Councils will also have annual reviews of council performance.

In all these fiscal matters, it is important to note that there is no binary logic being used by us in their implementation. By this I mean that these measures do not imply that all councils are not meeting these standards now. We do not need to see this kind of logic that leads councils to panic, to increase debt, to increase charges, to cut services as we have seen in what has occurred in New South Wales or Victoria. There should not be a view that somehow these performance indicators, reporting of overruns, nor provision of impact statements are directed at a race to the bottom in terms of service. The fact is that ratepayers deserve to receive high-quality services and value for money. This bill, through the measures I have outlined, aims to deliver both.

Lastly, I wish to highlight one aspect of the bill which I wholeheartedly support, and I am actually really glad to see coming into effect. That is, restraints upon vexatious or frivolous complaints between members for alleged code of conduct breaches. Through my work in the local government sector and, further, through my involvement in being directly elected into local government as a

member, I saw the critical failures caused by the worst abuses of making allegations that were petty and probably baseless. Regardless of the circumstances surrounding why allegations were made, too many times I saw the complete waste of time, money and, frankly, emotion that petty allegations, such as not returning a phone call soon enough, can make.

The fact is that these practices reveal some of the worst that haunt not just local government but which have caused the kind of loss in trust that we have seen in government generally in this nation. The bill, as I have said previously, seeks to stop the erosion of trust in local government. While this trust is not built by having a cop on the beat in every single formal or informal meeting of government—and, similarly, we live in an age where you cannot and should not just say what you want anymore—we still need a check and balance on complaints, and this measure really goes to the heart of that by placing a prohibition on frivolous and vexatious complaints to hopefully prevent them from occurring.

The fact is that this bill is effective governance. As a metaphor, the local government industry is a very large and finely tuned machine. Each council forms its own unique part of the machine in a manner that varies in its importance at any given particular time. If removed from the machine, aspects or policies of the councils—like the nuts and bolts that make up any metaphorical device—can look like pieces that do not or will not fit.

In this regard, and in summing-up, I wish to thank and congratulate a few people on this bill because it is not easy to tinker with a machine nor, as this bill seeks to do, tinker with the governance manual that guides its use. The member for Light and the Hon. Ms Scriven are to be thanked for their incredibly hard work on this bill. Similarly, while not wanting to leave anyone out, those members of the crossbench, including the Hon. Connie Bonaros, the Hon. Mr Pangallo, as well as the Hon. Mr Parnell—and you can say 'shucks' now if you like, Mr Parnell—have all assisted in the creation of this bill, and I sincerely thank them.

The hardworking employees and members of the Australian Workers' Union and the Australian Services Union need to also be thanked for their input and patience for an industry that I know is well dear to their hearts, as it is my own. Anyone who has ever been involved in local government will understand all too well when I say that the workings of the machine of local government are not always clear when it comes to opening your rates envelope. I have said before in this place that the fact that people do not like paying a bill is a bit of an easy political point to make. Alleging, therefore, that any cap will solve all the problems that may exist in the local government community, such as golf memberships, trips overseas or mismanagement of council budgets is another thing entirely. We do need to resolve those problems.

I know those opposite want to solve those problems. They can look to doing so by stopping the easy political point scoring and by supporting the government's measures in this bill. I know I will, and I hope to see that occur today.

**The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (16:44):** I stand today to speak on the Local Government (Ratepayer Protection and Related Measures) Amendment Bill. I do so because earlier this year I rose in this place and spoke about the need for effective measures to protect ratepayers and tackle local government rorts and waste. South Australians have had enough of the repeated abuses of ratepayers' money and decisions to undertake spending influenced by personal rather than public interests.

Unfortunately, numerous cases have occurred across the state, from maladministration over council-funded trade missions to the purchase of council-funded gifts with the pretence of aiding efficiency, that absolutely cannot be allowed to continue. There are very serious concerns in our community that require real solutions. South Australians deserve to have their rates used in a manner that will most efficiently improve the delivery of services and programs in the local area that are cost effective. The principles and clauses that reinforce this bill will allow it to protect ratepayers and ensure that they are pivotal in the decisions undertaken by council.

Among the key measures, the bill will enforce unprecedented transparency and independent scrutiny of council budgets and rates; ban unnecessary and extravagant perks for CEOs; compel council members and staff to publicly reveal expenses and credit card use for both members and



staff; crack down on non-land-based interstate and overseas travel; and empower the local government commission to deal with council complaints and disputes.

Importantly, this bill does not limit the capacity of councils to deliver the services local communities rely upon and wish to develop. It merely acts as a deterrent for the misuse or abuse of ratepayers' money. I refer to the example provided by my colleague the Hon. Clare Scriven, that rate impact statements will now be required for any new service valued at \$500,000 or more.

These statements will disclose the amount of revenue required to be raised from rates and the impact it will have on the different classes of ratepayers. This will allow ratepayers to assess whether the expenditure is justified. Furthermore, if councils are required to publicly disclose the rate impact above the cost thresholds, they are far more likely to be what communities want and are willing to pay for.

This bill will allow and require annual reviews of council performance to measure quantitative performance indicators to allow for cross-council comparisons. This is not to place pressure on councils but to provide ratepayers with a service quality measure to ensure value for money services and avoid the backlogs we have seen occur in New South Wales and Victoria.

The last measure I would like to mention is the provision to prevent members from making frivolous or vexatious complaints against other members' alleged code of conduct breaches, which waste both ratepayers' time and money. For example, a member would no longer be able to lodge a complaint against another councillor for not returning a phone call for a few days.

Yes, it is hard to believe that this occurs, but it has. In fact, a member of the other place did exactly that before her time as the member for King. That investigation cost the council \$900. This was in addition to another complaint lodged by the same then councillor, which after investigation was deemed to be too weak. This 'weak' complaint cost local ratepayers \$2,500.

These are but a few of the provisions to address transparency, accountability and efficiency from local government. I have listened to the call from local communities and I have engaged with local governments, associated organisations, unions and employees to obtain a clear perspective on how we can go forward in addressing the matter. What I have learnt is that the view of placing a cap on council rates, as proposed by the government, will not work. It would merely shift the oversight of the rating system from ratepayers to an unelected administration, ESCOSA, the same regulators for our water rates and, previously, for our electricity.

It has been the experience of neighbouring states that through the placement of a cap, communities could very well experience a reduction in services, reduced investment in infrastructure and backlogs in crucial maintenance. This belief has been reaffirmed by Ms Linda Scott, President of Local Government NSW, and councillor David Clark, Deputy President Rural of the Municipal Association of Victoria, based on the New South Wales and Victorian experience of rate capping.

At the heart of the issue, ratepayers want to see less waste, secrecy and rorting and an end to extravagant perks and unnecessary travel interstate and overseas. They want to be a part of a vibrant, responsive and effective local council that services the interests and needs of the local community. Many in this place share the same views which underpin this bill. We all want to ensure that local government is transparent and accountable. If we are to succeed in stopping the waste and rorts that have occurred in some councils in South Australia, the Local Government (Ratepayer Protection and Related Measures) Amendment Bill must be supported in this parliament.

I congratulate my colleagues, both in this place and in the other place, for their tireless efforts to ensure that this bill addresses the real issues of concern. I also thank members of the crossbench for their meticulous contribution to forming this bill and its provisions. Lastly, I ask the government to remain true to their commitment for legislative reforms to strengthen local government transparency and accountability and support this bill.

**The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (16:51):** The Greens will also be supporting the Local Government (Ratepayer Protection and Related Measures) Amendment Bill. I want to start by acknowledging the efforts of the member for Light in another place, Mr Tony Piccolo, and to put a challenge out to the government—that they could take a leaf from Mr Piccolo's book in relation to

how legislation can be drafted and amended and moulded in a bipartisan fashion. The example of this bill shows that it can be done.

I must have been to four, possibly five, meetings with members of the opposition and members of the crossbench where we sat down and went through draft after draft of this legislation to try to get it in the best possible shape. We sat down with representatives of the Local Government Association, a key stakeholder in this area, to see whether they had concerns about it, which bits they were happy with, which bits they thought needed more work, and at the end of the day a piece of legislation has been produced that will have the numbers to pass today—and I am very glad of that—but it is one that is the product of a collaborative effort.

I will also make the point that, whilst this bill does not deal with the issue of rate capping, it is certainly a response to many of the issues the government said they were trying to address with their rate capping response. What I would say is that, if the answer is rate capping then you are asking the wrong questions. When you look at what the government was pointing to as examples of things that had gone wrong in local government, rate capping was not the answer to any of them. It was the wrong solution to the problems that they have identified.

Other members have spoken today already, and we have talked about the behaviour of elected members and council staff, the idea of frivolous and vexatious complaints that cost us ratepayers a fortune in legal fees to resolve; there are issues of transparency, issues of accountability, issues of waste. These are issues that are dealt with in this bill, and they were not dealt with by rate capping. In fact, rate capping only had one guaranteed outcome and that was a reduction in the services and the quality of services that residents would enjoy. It was guaranteed to result in less maintenance. They could have called it the pothole bill or the collapsing footpath bill, because ultimately when you restrict the ability of a level of government to raise the resources that it needs to do the job that people expect of it, you are asking for trouble.

Interestingly, we have just had the local council elections. As we find with every local government election, there are some people who put their hand up whose only claim is, 'Vote for me for lower rates'. I can tell you I had a look at the results across a lot of council areas and I do not think those people did that well—if the best they could offer was lower rates.

Where I live, the mayor was elected on the basis of a whole lot of new initiatives and a whole lot of programs that had been neglected in the past. That is what attracted people's interest and that is what people voted for. Ultimately, the Greens' position on rate capping—whether it is rate capping, tax capping or whatever, at any level of government—is that it is an integral part of the democratic process. People vote for representatives that they entrust with the task of looking after their money, their taxes or whatever it is, and providing the services they want. At the end of the day, that is the discipline that applies at the federal level and the state level, and the Greens' position was that it ought to apply at the local government level as well.

If as a community we think we are being taxed too much, we don't vote for those people, we vote for someone else—that is how it works. Sure, you will have some people—in fact, one senator in New South Wales got elected on almost an anti-government platform, not believing in government at all, but those people are very much in the minority. As a rule, Australians get the balance about right. If your only claim is to say, 'Vote for us and you'll pay less tax, pay less rates,' those people historically do not do that well. Australians prefer people who have vision and people who are looking to make society better, not just make society cheaper.

I will not go through the bill clause by clause because we may or may not do that in committee—that will be up to the government, I think—but I will make what is perhaps an obvious point. I used to say this to my law students many years ago: you cannot legislate for good government, but what you can do in legislation is put in place the frameworks and the principles that make it hard for them to make bad decisions. There were a lot of double negatives in there, but you can make it easier to make good decisions by putting in good frameworks, frameworks that go to financial accountability, which make it clear that the public will know where the money was spent. Provisions like that make it much harder for people to make bad decisions—transparency and accountability, and similarly with waste.

The irony of the rate-capping issue is that simply saying to local councils, 'We're going to force you to raise less money,' did not actually do anything to deal with waste. You can waste a small amount of money or you can waste a big amount of money. I liked the Hon. Justin Hanson's lolly analogy: you give someone less pocket money and they will buy fewer lollies, but if they were wasting their money before they are still going to keep wasting it.

I will make the point that, whilst this legislation, as I have said, was a collaborative and cooperative effort of the opposition and members of the crossbench, the Local Government Association has said probably two things that stand out. The first is that many of these reforms are things that they were going to do anyway or that they would have put to the government as needing doing anyway. They were things that had been on their agenda for a while.

I went to a meeting at the LGA looking at how to deal with behavioural issues with local councillors long before this bill was ever drafted. In fact, I think it was even before the last election. Local government has been alert to some of these issues and they have been keen to deal with them. This bill does deal with many of them. However, there are other issues where I think it is fair to say the Local Government Association is not convinced.

I think that is the challenge for this parliament and the challenge for this government, because when this bill passes shortly, as it will, because it clearly has the numbers in this place, the government has a couple of options open to it. One is, in the lower house, it can just bury it. The government has the numbers down there and it can make sure it never sees the light of day and never gets debated. Or they can put the bill on the desk, pick it apart, make some further amendments or other suggestions and bring it back to us, because ultimately these are reforms that are all worth implementing in some form or another.

I am open to further reform. I am open to further amendments to these, but really the ball is now back in the government's court. The government must resist the temptation to take its bat and ball and go home. The government must resist the temptation to say, 'It's our way or the highway; it's rate capping or nothing.' Here is an alternative that deals with all the major problems at least that were identified over the last 12 months or so.

I look forward to the bill passing today, I look forward to the government giving adequate time to debate the bill in the other place, and I expect or hope that we will see it again, perhaps with some further amendments to consider. But, at the end of the day, I think this approach is a far better approach than rate capping, which, as I have said, would have done little more than reduce services and reduce the quality of life for people living in our local government areas.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:59):** I, too, rise to speak in support of the Local Government (Ratepayer Protection and Related Measures) Amendment Bill and echo many of the sentiments that have been expressed today and previously by other honourable members in this place. Can I begin by saying at the outset that SA-Best is delighted—absolutely delighted—that a centrepiece of its proposed local government reforms, the establishment of a local government conduct commissioner, is an integral part of the proposed new bill.

The bill is a common-sense compromise to the state government's proposed rate capping bill. I commend the Labor Party for advancing the bill with input from SA-Best and the Greens, as has been highlighted by the Hon. Mark Parnell. The government's proposed rate capping bill, we know, was never going to pass the pub test. Our party went to the state election with a very clear and concise opposition to it, and our decision was made even clearer when the government itself confessed it had not bothered to do any economic modelling on its proposed reforms.

The government's rate capping bill was nothing more than a populist move and a desperate grab for votes at the last election. There was absolutely no basis for the implementation of rate capping in South Australia. It has led to the loss of services in the Eastern States and will no doubt do the same here, services that ratepayers rely on. In actual fact, I believe many South Australians were sold a furphy on rate capping. As part of our research on this matter, we consulted extensively with a plethora of stakeholders and members of the community. One gentleman even went so far as to tell me not to oppose the Liberal's proposed rate capping legislation as, and I quote, 'I'm on a set income and can't afford my rates to go up.'

I think he was voicing the misconstrued views of many South Australians who believe that rate capping meant that rates would be capped, as in they would never increase again or, if so, rarely. That was never going to be the case, but the government never sought to correct that message. I have spoken to plenty of other constituents whose own view changed when they learned that the government's proposed changes will not result in rate reductions. Of course, that is what we have been led to believe.

As the level of local government closest to the people, local government is an integral and trusted part of our democracy and community. Think of our public libraries, swimming pools, community parks, support services, health and welfare services within people's homes, housing services, education services, and the list goes on. Unfortunately, local government is becoming increasingly squeezed by a combination of the shifting of responsibilities onto councils from other levels of government and a declining level of funding and resources to deliver these services.

This was comprehensively documented in the 2003 Australian government's Inquiry into Local Government and Cost Shifting, the Hawker report. The report also found that duplication and inefficiency across all levels of government amounted to more than \$20 billion per annum. Clearly, something needs to change. In 2013, the South Australian Local Excellence Expert Panel, headed by the Hon. Greg Crafter AO, made several recommendations to reform the local government sector, including a move towards regional local government; a closer working relationship with the state government, particularly with a focus on regional development; infrastructure provision and service delivery; a stronger role in strategic planning and environmental and natural resources management; and new strategies to build capacity with governance and administration.

In handing down its report, the expert panel formed the view that not to embrace change would be most unwise. We could not agree more. That said, as has been articulated by other members, some councils, their staff and elective members have done themselves absolutely no favours in bringing unwanted and unnecessary scrutiny upon themselves. The same can often be said for the Local Government Association that, rightly or wrongly, is at times subject to the same sort of criticisms as councils.

Of course, like other members, I could have listed a series of examples here of those sorts of instances but many have already been well documented and do not need repeating again. The fact that local government collectively is in debt to the tune of \$345 million, as reported in *The Advertiser* today, strikes at the heart of one of the objectives of this bill, namely that our rates are invested wisely in infrastructure and projects that benefit the community. At the state election, SA-Best made its position on local government reform crystal clear. We remain committed to local government reforms focused on finding better, more efficient ways of delivering services that communities need, want and expect but without compromising local decision-making and democracy.

SA-Best believes this new bill will make the current legislation even better and provide more efficiencies and increased services. The appointment of a commissioner to oversee the day to day governance of councils with investigative powers has been a longstanding commitment of SA-Best's local council reforms, and we are delighted that both the Labor opposition and the Greens see the practicality of its establishment and have supported us with this most important proposed appointment and inclusion in the bill. Any local government reforms should be based on three essential pillars, namely, accountability, transparency and efficiencies. The sort of measures contained in this bill will do exactly that and, importantly, result in council rate increases being better managed while crucial services are also maintained.

Other SA-Best components of the bill include a crackdown on credit card and travel expenses by members, performance standards and benchmarks for councils, and a root and branch review of the Local Government Act and Local Government (Elections) Act including mandatory rebates.

SA-Best was always concerned about the effect that rate capping would have on council services into the future. Interstate experiences have certainly indicated that rate capping has not worked, and the very fact the government has admitted it had not done any economic modelling on its proposed funding model should have given everyone the shivers. It is a bit like being told by your doctor to take a dose of medicine but you have no idea of the side effects of that medicine.

As I said earlier, local government is the closest level of government to the people. As such, councils need to be empowered and resourced to respond to the needs of their local communities, and they need to be accountable. There are, of course, a number of other measures which could be considered in the context of broader local government reform, and this is something that we are committed to seeing and others in this place—the Hon. Mark Parnell and the member for Light, Mr Tony Piccolo—are also committed to seeing by way of further review. That is why we have all agreed that a thorough review, as I have already mentioned, of the Local Government Act and the Local Government (Elections) Act be undertaken.

From our perspective, it is particularly pertinent that we consider matters connected with the establishment of benchmarking systems; cross-council collaborations; better collaborations with regional councils; rebates and exemptions from rates; diversity of representation; the establishment of a register of state-owned land under the care; control and management of councils; the use of citizens initiated referenda, whether binding or nonbinding, as a means of contributing and improving council decision-making through community involvement; the issue of compulsory voting; and, of course, the vexed issue of council amalgamations. Of course, in order to get a complete picture, it is also necessary to consider reforms in the broader context of cross-collaborations and/or overlapping roles and responsibilities between state and local government.

We also remain committed to a thorough review of the services and functions of state agencies to identify where those resources may be better reallocated and delivered through local government. We will not cap council rates. We believe councils need to be empowered and resourced to respond to the needs of their local communities. The Hon. Mark Parnell is absolutely correct in saying that you cannot legislate for good government or good governance, but you can provide the framework for good government and good governance, and that is precisely what we have done in this instance. Like us, as democratically elected local members, councils will be judged by their own communities at every election.

In closing, I too would like to thank the opposition and, of course, the Greens—the Hon. Mark Parnell in particular—as well as the member for Light, Mr Tony Piccolo, for working together in a multipartisan manner on this most important issue. Again, I could not agree more with the Hon. Mark Parnell that the government could definitely take a leaf out of Mr Piccolo's book on how to work collaboratively with the crossbench to come up with a workable and, above all, very sensible solution. We support the bill.

**The Hon. J.A. DARLEY (17:10):** I rise today to speak on the Local Government (Ratepayer Protection and Related Measures) Amendment Bill. At the election the government undertook to introduce rate capping for council rates. This was done earlier this year; however, the opposition and other crossbenchers did not agree to this proposition. Instead, the opposition undertook to introduce its own measures to address the concerns that ratepayers have over ever-increasing rates.

Councils have been reported as spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on legal costs in relation to disputes between elected members, thousands on golf club memberships, and thousands on overseas trips that the Ombudsman found were influenced by personal rather than public interests. It is no wonder that there is a feeling within the community that councils are not spending rates in an appropriate manner. Like the state government, councils do not have their own money: they have only ratepayers' money. Spending ratepayers' money this way can contribute to an increase in rates.

As such, the opposition has introduced this bill to ensure the operations and expenditure of ratepayer funds is more transparent. The bill will rename the Local Government Grants Commission to the Local Government Commission, and will charge it with the responsibility of reporting annually on quality and cost standards for services, equity and timeliness of service delivery, complaint-handling processes and other local government-related matters that the commission considers relevant.

The bill outlines a number of new reporting requirements relating to travel, credit card expenditure, gifts and the chief executive's salary. There will be new consultation and advertising requirements for councils in relation to their business plans and budgets, and new provisions relating to conduct at meetings and dispute resolution.

Overall I am supportive of the bill; however, I have concerns some of the measures may be a little heavy-handed. What is being proposed is more than is required of any other government. This does not mean it should not be done, but perhaps consideration should be given to raise the standards required for our and other governments.

I note the Local Government Association has indicated it has not finished consulting on the bill; however, there is still time to consult and negotiate on the bill between the houses. I look forward to the committee stage of the bill.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (17:12):** I rise to speak in support of the Local Government (Ratepayer Protection and Related Measures) Amendment Bill. Chances are that the American political journalist Norman Cousins was not thinking about council rate capping when he so aptly described history as being 'a vast early warning system', but his observation can be easily applied to the current debate because there are ominous history lessons from interstate council experiences sounding loud alarm bells about the perils of rate caps as the local government minister, Stephan Knoll, quixotically prances ahead with his wobbly policy ostensibly to restore faith in local government.

I note that the minister claimed that support for rate capping was reflected in last weekend's council elections. It is hard to see the evidence to support that, when 70 per cent did not bother to turn out to vote, or what direction his father Franz will now take after being elected a counsellor on the City of Adelaide following Knoll Senior's rejection of deregulating shopping hours.

Yes, governance reforms and improved efficiencies are needed along with more amalgamations, perhaps, but I do not think we have had real cause to lose confidence in our third tier of government, as Mr Knoll would have us believe. Save for the venial sins at Onkaparinga council and occasional bewildering decisions by a few flamboyant, stupid and eccentric popinjay civic leaders elsewhere, local government, both in the city and regions, has served its communities exceptionally well. In the past two years, the average rate increases across all councils have been kept at a very modest 4 per cent, hardly warranting the government's sledgehammer approach. Some have even frozen their rates, others recorded slight increases, yet ratepayers across the state are under the illusion that if the government bill succeeds there will be no increases in their rates.

As a long-time ratepayer I should marvel rather than take for granted what my own council, the City of Mitcham, has gifted to the entire community. Among my favourite leisure spots is the delightful enclosed CC Hood dog park at Eliza Place, Panorama, where owners and their canines can interact with strangers, then collect the poo with doggy bags provided for free. It is ringed by a beautiful reserve, walking track and modern, fixed gym equipment—all free.

Just up the road, the old Lynton waste dump, under Windy Point, has been turned into the most scenic walking and cycling trails you will find anywhere in Adelaide. Yes, it is free too, for everyone to use. There is loads more of other free stuff, courtesy of rates, grants and loans, from libraries and community centres, hosting events to busing around senior citizens, immaculate gardens, parks and picnic grounds, sporting fields and playgrounds. I have not even started on the other essential services provided, like maintaining the roads, footpaths, infrastructure and rubbish collection. Much of this is repeated in the other 67 state council jurisdictions. What a lucky state and lucky country we live in.

Back to those history lessons which validate how these service benefits are now at risk, threatening to turn our municipal tranquillity and vibrancy into nightmares on Elm, Main and Struggle streets. One newspaper columnist claimed he had yet to hear a legitimate reason to not support rate capping. We know there is a large body of compelling evidence in many credible, independent reports carried out by experts, economists, researchers, as well as a 2015 SA parliamentary Economic and Finance Committee inquiry that found that rate capping was an unworkable and impractical financial drain. New South Wales is a prime example of this, having been burdened with a system of rate capping for 40 years.

A report published last year by the University of New England's Professor Brian Dollery, in which he compared New South Wales to non-capped South Australia, showed it to be a dismal failure and no amount of tinkering has been able to fix the irreversible mess. His findings are echoed by City of Sydney councillor, Linda Scott, who told an LGA forum earlier this year that it has not led to

better outcomes for her state's 128 councils and there is a wealth of evidence that communities have been damaged. The net result from their reduced revenues is high levels of debt, large backlogs of infrastructure works—in fact, New South Wales needs to find almost \$1 billion from somewhere to cover them—cuts to services and increases in other fees and charges to make up for the shortfalls.

To make do, many must go hand in cap to their regulator each year seeking variations to their imposed limit. Guess who must pay for those expensive applications, which can run into the tens of thousands of dollars? Victorians are three years into rate capping and the same dramatic picture as in New South Wales is already emerging. Regional Mayor, David Clark, bluntly told the same LGA forum, 'If the state starts pushing up levies and charges, you will be screwed.' Well, SA's solid waste and national resource management levies and water charges loom large on that front. The state government has cost-shifted services on to local government and that too contributes to their budget.

The West Torrens council, for instance, has inherited a government white elephant called Cummins House. This historic heritage listed homestead at Novar Gardens was put in their care by the government. Over 31 years, West Torrens ratepayers have paid between \$2 million and \$3 million for its operation and upkeep. It is losing money as a function centre, yet the government does not want to know, while the West Torrens council faces a renovation bill of \$400,000.

The South Australian legislation is based on the failing Victorian model, with an unelected statutory authority, ESCOSA, assigned to manage and set the cap to a still unknown and convoluted formula. In doing this, the government will create yet another unwanted and expensive layer of bureaucracy and red tape, after admitting that it has not done any economic modelling. My opposition to rate capping is based on the solid 'form guide', which I do not think is in the best interests or expectations of our communities and ratepayers.

It will remove some of the autonomy of elected representatives, hurt councils' bottom lines and impact on the myriad services communities rely on, especially in regional areas, all for a net benefit to ratepayers equal to about a cup of coffee a week. The Property Council keep trotting out their push polling of just under 400 people, which showed most SA-Best supporters were in favour of rate capping—if only the pollsters explained the full picture to them. Ask: do you want tax cuts? Guess what the majority would say? But if you told them that it would come at a cost, you might get a different answer.

I do not like the idea that one day my garbage can be collected only fortnightly, there are potholes, kerbs and verges that cannot be repaired and maintained in a timely manner, seniors and students are made to pay to use municipal library facilities and rents need to be jacked up for local amateur sports clubs using council-maintained facilities. However, let me say that local government should not be entirely let off the hook. The co-sponsored bill before us takes local government reform to a new level that is not even covered in the government's proposal.

It seeks to address all the issues and problems that have concerned ratepayers. It tackles governance, expenditure, excesses, exorbitant salaries, credit card use and the behaviour of elected representatives as well as administration staff. It is about ensuring accountability with oversight by a local government watchdog. It is measures like this that will put the brakes on budgets and spending and have a ripple effect on rates. We would also like to see more reforms further down the track such as candidates having to declare their political affiliations on nomination and consideration for compulsory voting. With that, I commend the bill.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (17:22):** I rise on behalf of the government to speak to the Local Government (Ratepayer Protection and Related Measures) Amendment Bill 2018. This bill seeks to amend numerous parts of the Local Government Act 1999, purporting to improve ratepayer protection and other related measures. The effect of the bill, however, would be to create an undue administrative burden and increase red tape for councils while focusing on specific issues that have received media attention in recent times.

This bill has the effect of significantly extending the role of the Local Government Grants Commission (the grants commission) by assigning to it three new substantial and disparate roles. The first of these proposals is to assign the grants commission the role of conducting an annual review of the performance of all councils. The second reading explanation introducing this bill

provided a very limited direct explanation of what the proposed amendments covering an annual review of councils' performance are intended to achieve.

Some of the proposed performance indicators are unclear and highly subjective, creating measurement difficulties. Further, it appears that the bill intends to have an independent review of councils' performance while constraining the grants commission by requiring that it must, before publishing, altering or substituting the annual review, consult with the Local Government Association and consider any submission by the LGA within three to six weeks.

The second new role the bill proposes to assign to the grants commission is to become an investigator of designated behaviour and deal with such complaints against individual council members. The bill proposes to empower the grants commission with the same powers as the South Australian Ombudsman, and it would also give the grants commission the power to suspend and disqualify an elected council member if it considered the designated behaviour of the member involved a serious failure to observe a prescribed provision of the code of conduct for council members. The serious powers of suspension and disqualification of an elected member currently sit with the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The third significant new role the bill proposes to assign to the Local Government Grants Commission is the responsibility to comprehensively review the Local Government Act and the Local Government (Elections) Act and prepare a report within a 12-month period for the minister that must then be laid before both houses of parliament within six sitting days. The primary function of the grants commission is to make recommendations to the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government on the distribution of untied commonwealth financial assistance grants to the local governing authorities in South Australia.

The grants commission publishes an annual report each year on its activities, as required by the Local Government Grants Commission Act 1992. The commission also publishes general and financial information on each council. Annual database reports dating back to the 1995-96 financial year are publicly available on the grants commission's website. On 1 January 2019, the grants commission will take on an additional role as the boundaries commission, the independent body that will assess and investigate boundary change proposals and make recommendations to the minister. It is essential that any other functions assigned to the grants commission do not compromise this vital role being performed by the grants commission.

The limitations proposed in clause 14 of the bill in relation to the remuneration of chief executive officers of councils have the potential to impact adversely on the future recruitment of high-quality CEOs to rural and remote areas. It is understood that the existing remuneration packages for the CEOs of these councils can sometimes include housing and rental subsidies, for example, and these costs could possibly be incorporated into the base salary component of the CEO's remuneration package. However, such a method would lessen the transparency for ratepayers and communities to know how much their CEOs have been remunerated.

Further, this proposed amendment does not actually address the situation where CEOs are reimbursed for golf club membership fees, for example. Reimbursements for business expenses are not addressed by this bill. The underlying logic of clause 20(3) in the bill relating to new projects and new services over a certain amount requiring a rate impact statement appears to assume that certain new services or projects will be funded only from rate revenue. In practice, councils take a holistic approach to such funding decisions and consider estimates of total available revenue from all sources, including rates, grants, user charges, fees and interest receipts, before committing to new services or projects. Further, in many small regional councils, rate revenue is a relatively small part of the total revenue.

Separately, clause 20(3) does not appear to recognise that many infrastructure projects are initially financed by the responsible use of debt, thereby helping to deliver cost-effective and intergenerationally equitable service levels from investment in infrastructure projects. Some of the proposed amendments in clause 20(2) relating to annual business plans and budgets represent a duplication of existing statutory requirements. The act already requires information on a council's revenue, expenditure and financial position for a 10-year period to be included in publicly available long-term financial plans.



Essentially, the amendment would result in figures that are already published in a council's long-term financial plan being duplicated in a council's annual business plan. The proposed amendment makes no provision for meaningful explanatory material to be included with the figures. This is in contrast to the existing legislative arrangements surrounding long-term financial plans, where councils are required to put financial information into context, explain a council's financial strategies and set out key conclusions that may be drawn by a reader.

A number of amendments proposed in the bill also have the potential to increase factional disputes within councils and potentially increase incidences of bullying and harassment, which the bill is purporting to address. For example, clause 8 would make it a breach of a council member's general duties if a prescribed authority determines that a complaint lodged by a council member is a frivolous and vexatious complaint. The bill proposes that a council and the chief executive officer of the council be a prescribed authority. This could lead to undue pressure and bullying and harassment behaviour within the elected member council body against the chief executive officer.

Further, the South Australian Ombudsman has previously expressed his concern about impediments to people lodging complaints. The SA Ombudsman and the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption have the ability to refuse to investigate complaints that they consider to be trivial, vexatious or frivolous. This ability is also currently provided to councils for Code of Conduct for Council Members complaints.

The bill would empower a majority faction of a council to trigger a general election by passing a resolution of no confidence in a principal member while having an exemption for a principal member who has been chosen by the majority, rather than the ratepayers through a democratic process. This has the potential to undermine the democratic process and result in substantial additional costs to councils through additional election processes.

The proposed amendments in the ratepayer protection bill relate to matters that the government has already committed to doing as part of its election commitments for increasing transparency and accountability in local government, including increasing reporting on travel and credit card expenditure. As was pointed out in the second reading explanation in support of the ratepayer protection bill, under the Office of Local Government section of the budget papers there is a target for 2018-19 of legislative reforms to strengthen local government transparency and reform.

The legislative reforms to strengthen local government transparency and accountability are important to this government. The minister in another place has previously stated that the government will be undertaking a review of the local government legislation and developing a reform program in 2019, in consultation with the Local Government Association and the local government sector.

Following the 2018 local government elections this past weekend, the government, in conjunction with the Electoral Commission of South Australia and the Local Government Association, will also undertake a review of the election process to determine ways to improve turnout and processes. The government will be looking to identify legislative improvements to reduce the administrative and resource requirements on councils without detriment to proper accountability or the public interest.

A more balanced and consistent approach to local government reform is needed. We are being asked to vote on this bill without a final opinion from the Local Government Association being taken into account. It is not good process for this chamber to pass this bill, a bill that proposes significant changes to the way that councils operate, without waiting for final feedback from the very organisations that will be affected by the changes. The government will not be opposing this bill in this place, in order to keep all options of reform open, but will seek to take a more holistic approach if the bill reaches the other place.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (17:31):** I thank all honourable members for their contributions. I look forward to the Local Government (Ratepayer Protection and Related Measures) Amendment Bill going to a vote today, and I am glad to hear that the government will not be opposing it. Very briefly, to sum up, we all know why protection for ratepayers is needed from the numerous examples of waste and excess in some councils across the state. The Marshall Liberal government has sat with their hands over their ears and failed to do anything to address the governance issues, instead

purely pushing rate capping, which will not address any of the governance issues. This ratepayer protection bill fills that vacuum.

It is worth revisiting some of the main aspects of this bill. It will protect ratepayers when councils consider how to operate. Provisions are made for greater ratepayer oversight of council budgeting, greater disclosure of council expenses and performance, and greater and more effective consultation between councils and ratepayers.

They are all measures that will improve accountability. Significantly, provisions in this bill will require all councils to reveal the impact on rates of major new projects and services. Councils will therefore be far more likely to make sure that ratepayers want such new projects and services and are prepared to pay for them. In addition, the bill also compels council CEOs to report on the reasons for significant budget overruns and requires councils to include a detailed four-year estimate of forward revenues and expenditures.

I will address a couple of issues that were raised by the Hon. Mr Ridgway. First of all, the Hon. Mr Ridgway talked about performance indicators and the method of review for those. Clause 5 states that the commission must consult with the LGA to establish and/or amend the annual review of SA council performance. There is a quantity of measures of performance used, and the LGA is heavily involved in that.

The honourable minister also talked about the grants commission, as it will be renamed to the local government commission. Whilst talking about the several functions that that commission will have, he gave no reasons at all for why those functions could not operate out of the one commission. The function of the boundaries commission is in no way in opposition to improved governance, and therefore I cannot see what the argument is in regard to that.

Just a few of the other things within the bill: the bill compels council CEOs to report on the reasons for significant budget overruns and also disclosure of all member and staff credit card use, all council-funded gifts received by members and staff and all land-based, interstate and overseas member and staff travel. The disclosure of all of these will result in staff thinking much more carefully about expenditure.

I also recognise and thank again the members of the crossbench in this council who also want to see reform and sensible changes made to the local government sector to protect ratepayers. They have worked collaboratively to shape this bill.

One of the other aspects mentioned by the Hon. Mr Ridgway was in terms of duplication of long-term plans already published. The whole purpose of this bill is to increase accountability, and accountability is increased by regular reporting in places that are accessible by ratepayers and accessible by other interested parties. Thus by ensuring that that is published on a regular basis will actually improve the level of accountability and transparency, which is something that the government has alleged that it is committed to.

Further, regarding the reference to potential no-confidence motions in a presiding officer or mayor potentially undermining the democratic notion, I think what the government has failed to appreciate is that this bill is intended to change behaviour. We do not want motions of no confidence moved against mayors at the drop of a hat. If there is a significant ramification for elected members in so doing, that will ensure that everyone is committed to working towards the best for the council and the best for the community, whereas at the moment, where a motion of no confidence can be moved without any significant ramifications for the elected members moving it, that does nothing to dissuade inappropriate behaviour and inappropriate motions.

I am very glad the Hon. Mr Ridgway has said that the government was going to do some of these things anyway. That would imply that they should be happy to support this bill. I again thank members for their contributions and look forward to support from all members who want to empower residents and strengthen council accountability, transparency and disclosure, and I therefore anticipate the speedy passage of this bill. I am happy to go into committee for consideration of clauses as required.

Bill read a second time.

*Committee Stage*

In committee.

Clauses 1 to 13 passed.

Clause 14.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** I move:

Amendment No 1 [Scriven-1]—

Page 9, after line 25 [clause 14, inserted section 99A(1)]—After paragraph (c) insert:

- (d) in the case of a chief executive officer of a council that is located wholly outside Metropolitan Adelaide (as defined by GRO Plan 639/93)—a place of residence, provided that the land on which the residence is located—
  - (i) was owned by the council on 24 October 2018; and
  - (ii) is owned by the council on the day of appointment or reappointment (as the case may be) of the chief executive officer.

This amendment inserts a subsection which allows a place of residence to be provided to a council chief executive officer in those circumstances in which the council is located outside of metropolitan Adelaide, and the land on which the residence sits was owned by the council on 24 October 2018 and when the contract was signed by the CEO. This goes some way to address the issues that have been raised by rural and regional councils, where they do often provide a residence for their chief executives officers, and often the provision of that residence is one way of attracting CEOs to areas that might be quite remote. At other times it is simply part of the incentive in terms of having CEOs move to the area.

This will allow for councils in that situation to continue to make use of existing assets. It does not hide a benefit that would otherwise be monetised in the CEO's salary, and therefore does not hinder the overall intent of the bill to increase councils' transparency and accountability to ratepayers.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Remaining clauses (15 to 26), schedule and title passed.

Bill reported with amendment.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (17:43):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

*Motions***DIWALI FESTIVAL**

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. R.P. Wortley:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges the Diwali festival which will run from 5 to 9 November and especially the main celebrations of the third day which will take place on 7 November;
2. Recognises the deep importance of Diwali to the Indian community of South Australia and especially those of the Hindu, Sikh and Jain faiths;
3. Recognises the importance of those of Indian descent in South Australia and their ongoing contributions to our great state;
4. Notes the important message of Diwali, which focuses on the triumph of good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and light over dark;
5. Encourages all members of parliament to take the message of Diwali to heart and to ensure they strive to enlighten the world through their works and continue their fight against evil; and
6. Wishes those celebrating this festival a happy and safe Diwali.

(Continued from 17 October 2018.)

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (17:44):** Today, I rise on behalf of the government to wholeheartedly support this motion. Diwali or Deepavali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is celebrated by millions across the world. It falls on a different day each year in either October or November, as the date is determined by the observation of the lunar calendar. It is one of the most popular festivals in the world. Diwali is celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and Newar Buddhists of Nepal, although for each faith it marks different historical events and stories. Nonetheless, the festival represents the same symbolic victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and good over evil.

Light is a metaphor for knowledge and consciousness. During the celebration, temples, homes, shops and office buildings are brightly illuminated. The celebration of Diwali is one of the many cultural highlights that the Indian and Asian communities have brought to South Australia that are now generously shared and embraced by the wider South Australian community. Honourable members may be interested to know that Diwali is an official public holiday in 10 different countries, not counting India.

The Festival of Lights is celebrated in a big way in at least 25 nations by major Hindu, Jain, Sikh and Buddhist populations. In addition to India, countries that declared Diwali as a public holiday include Fiji, Indonesia, Nepal, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname and Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Apart from the above, Diwali is also celebrated in a big way in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Australia, the Sindh province of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Thailand, Malaysia, New Zealand, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Netherlands, Canada and Ireland.

Many members would know that I was born in Malaysia. In Malaysia, Deepavali, which is more commonly known in that region, is an official gazetted holiday. I have been celebrating the festival of light since I was a young child because many Indian families lived in the neighbourhood where I grew up. My Indian friends and their mums would dress me up in traditional Indian Punjabi suits or saris to attend Deepavali celebrations. I fondly remember those childhood days very well. It was such a privilege to spend time celebrating Deepavali at a young age, and I continue to do so now in my role as a member of parliament and as Assistant Minister to the Premier.

South Australia is incredibly fortunate to have an active and vibrant Indian community. It was fantastic seeing our state displayed in lights throughout the festive season, in particular between 5 and 9 November this year. Diwali is an auspicious occasion for the Indian community, and it marks five days of celebrations. For the Hindi community, the metaphoric meaning behind the lighting of the lamps is to illustrate that knowledge, which is the light, overrides ignorance, which is darkness, and that once the lights are lit all negative forces are driven away.

South Australia benefits from the many traditions within the Indian community. I would like to thank the Indian community for their commitment and leadership within the various community organisations. The community is growing rapidly. Adelaide has over 60 Indian community organisations, and in the last few weeks it has been a privilege to attend many Diwali celebrations around Adelaide with our wonderfully diverse Indian community groups.

It is a great honour to work very closely with the Premier as his assistant minister, particularly within the multicultural affairs portfolio. The Premier is passionate about advancing the interests of all South Australians and celebrating the cultural diversity and achievements of our multicultural communities. It was wonderful to welcome presidents and community leaders from over 50 Indian organisations to a Diwali reception hosted by the Premier, the Hon. Steven Marshall, on Monday 5 November 2018, which was the first day marking the beginning of Diwali celebrations this year.

The Diwali reception in Parliament House was very well received by community leaders, and it was a great opportunity for the Premier to express his heartfelt warm wishes on behalf of the government of South Australia. It was also an opportunity for the Premier to thank leaders of the Indian community for their leadership and contributions to the community groups they represent. As the master of ceremony of the Diwali reception, I had the great honour of welcoming the Consul General of India, Mr Bawitlung Vanlalvawna to join us at the Diwali reception in Parliament House.

In his speech, Mr Vanlalvawna mentioned that it was the first time the South Australian government had invited an Indian government official to a Diwali reception. He thanked the Premier

and the community for fostering the relationship between the Consul General office of India and South Australia. The Consul General also highlighted the significant work the South Australian government has undertaken in recent months to strengthen the connections between South Australia and India. He said that it was a great start to many more collaborations to come, and he looked forward to working closely with the Marshall government.

During the reception, the Premier extended his warm wishes to the Indian community and gave a heartwarming message. I am delighted to take the opportunity to quote some of his words for the council today. He said:

May this year be as bright as ever, and bring much joy, health and prosperity to you and your loved ones...

As Premier, I am incredibly appreciative of our multicultural communities for the immense contributions they make, and for decorating our calendar with auspicious cultural and religious celebrations...

My government is incredibly supportive and proud of our multicultural society and we have a vision to build on South Australia's diversity...

Thank you to your community for contributing to our great state and for being a shining example for what makes our society great. Thank you for your commitment to your own community and for sharing your cultural traditions with the wider South Australian community. My colleagues and I are extremely grateful for the work that you do, and we look forward to celebrating Diwali, the festival of lights, with you all...Happy Diwali everyone!

Community leaders and presidents who attended the Diwali reception in Parliament House praised the Premier for respecting the significance of Diwali and thanked the state government for their generous hospitality and the opportunity to share the joy of Diwali festivities in prestigious Parliament House. The Leader of the Opposition was also invited. It was great to see bipartisan support and we thank Mr Peter Malinauskas for attending the Diwali reception.

I would also like to extend special thanks to Sri Dilip Chirmuley AM, the Venerable Priest of Shri Ganesha Temple, Adelaide, for conducting the opening ceremony of prayers to officiate the blessings for the Diwali reception. The blessings certainly brightened up the Old Chamber of Parliament House.

I would like to acknowledge the support of Mr Norman Schueler, Chair of SAMEAC, and also Dr Sridhar Nannapaneni, who is one of the incredibly passionate and dedicated members of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission. Dr Nannapaneni is working very hard with the Indian community in South Australia and has attended countless multicultural community events and celebrations since being appointed to SAMEAC. Like all SAMEAC members, Dr Nannapaneni is doing a great job of increasing awareness and understanding of our state's unique diversity and its central importance to the social and economic future of South Australia.

I would like to highlight a number of Diwali celebrations across South Australia. First of all, the Hindu Council of Australia organised the biggest Diwali festival at the Wayville showgrounds on 20 October, which was attended by about 5,000 people from a range of cultures and ethnicities. This impressive event was then followed by Multicultural Diwali Mela, hosted by the Punjabi Association of South Australia in Civic Park, Modbury. Other organisations that arranged Diwali celebrations this year include the Sikh Society of South Australia, Telugu Association of South Australia, BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Adelaide Tamil Association, Adelaide Malayalee Association and also the Indian Australia Association of South Australia.

I would like to reaffirm the Premier's appreciation of the Indian community for their enormous contribution to our great state. The Indian community is playing a key role in transforming trade, commerce and cultural exchanges in South Australia. I thank the honourable member for moving this motion, and on behalf of the government we support this motion wholeheartedly. It is a great opportunity to highlight how the Indian community of South Australia is playing an important role in forging new relationships and enriching our state's cultural life.

With those remarks, a very happy Diwali to everyone. May the millions of lamps brighten the lives of the Indian community and all South Australians with endless joy, prosperity and good health. May we all use this festive occasion to strive to do good to serve our community.

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

## FRUIT FLY

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. F. Pangallo:

That this council—

1. Notes that South Australia remains Australia's only mainland state that is fruit fly free;
2. Acknowledges that an outbreak of fruit fly in South Australia would have a significant impact on the ability of horticultural producers in South Australia, including in the Adelaide Hills, to gain access to international markets; and
3. Calls on the state government to work with the federal government to increase biosecurity measures in South Australia to protect our thriving horticultural industry.

(Continued from 4 July 2018.)

**The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (17:55):** I rise on behalf of the opposition to indicate our support for this motion. After 16 years of Labor government I am more than happy to recognise that South Australia has effectively managed biosecurity.

In November 2016 the former Labor government officially opened South Australia's world-leading \$3.8 million fruit fly facility. The National Sterile Insect Technology Facility (SIT), located in Port Augusta, provides a powerful line of defence against one of horticulture's most damaging pests. The centre produces 50 million sterile male Queensland fruit flies each week. The flies are released to mate with females, collapsing wild populations in fruit fly affected horticultural growing regions.

Fruit flies are the world's worst horticultural pest, destroying fruit and vegetables in commercial crops and home gardens, and impacting trade access. The Queensland fruit fly, or the Q-fly, is a major pest which attacks fruit and vegetable crops in Australia. South Australia is the only mainland state to be declared fruit fly free, with the former Labor state government committing about \$5 million each year to fight the threat of fruit fly.

The SIT facility is supported by SITplus, a national research and development effort that now has a combined program budget of \$45 million. Research undertaken at the SIT facility is a game changer for the future management of the Queensland fruit fly. The SITplus program is led by Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited in partnership with: Primary Industries and Regions SA; the South Australian Research and Development Institute; the Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; the CSIRO; Plant and Food Research Australia; the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries; and Macquarie University—all with interconnected interest in the development and uptake of science solutions for the management of Q-fly.

Two of the bodies in this partnership have received funding cuts in the Liberal's first state budget, namely Primary Industries and Regions SA and the South Australian Research and Development Institute.

It was due to the Labor government that the SIT facility helped to transform the way Q-fly is managed around Australia and helped increase global confidence in South Australia's biosecurity, product integrity and food safety standards. Under Labor, South Australia's fresh fruit and vegetables, including wine grapes and almonds, had an estimated farmgate value of \$1.1 billion, and it was Labor that used every weapon possible to protect and defend South Australia's precious crops.

The SIT facility continues to reinforce South Australia's enviable status as the only mainland state in Australia which is fruit fly free. It is also helping to reduce fruit fly populations in other major horticultural regions across Australia—an excellent Labor initiative. The facility was a critical breakthrough for South Australia's horticulture industries, and further boosts South Australia's capacity to safeguard crops and the livelihoods of thousands of South Australians.

The SIT facility also contributed to the local economy, with 10 new full-time jobs created. The facility, created by the former Labor government, is one of the most progressive and advanced of its type in the world. The SIT facility is not only a win for the nation's horticulture industry, it is also a win for consumers, who stand to soon benefit from increased quality produce at markets and on shop shelves.

The fruit fly is one of the leading pests which plagues the Australian horticulture industry. Each year, the pest is estimated to cost the industry more than \$300 million in lost markets and through damaged produce, both pre and post harvest. Everyone else knows that Labor took the national lead and committed \$3 million in funds to build a dedicated sterile facility in Upper Spencer Gulf. Labor was the catalyst behind the development and design of the new facility.

However, on 3 April this year, the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development made comments to the media as if he and the state Liberal government had built and invested in this amazing facility. Then, in July this year, the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development took credit for providing a financial boost to help the state's oyster farmers. This was completely untrue and misleading. It was Labor that announced the funding earlier this year, whilst minister Whetstone took the credit.

In February this year, it was Labor that announced a \$1.6 million fee relief package that would benefit the state's oyster businesses over the next two years. The \$1.6 million was in addition to more than \$1 million in financial and operational support provided by the state Labor government since the POMS outbreak. For what it is worth, I am sure the industry is appreciative that the Liberals are not scrapping this Labor-driven program.

Under Labor, the state's food and wine revenue reached record levels of \$19.97 billion. Exporting food and wine to overseas markets—

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

**The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS:** I don't talk when you talk, so let me finish.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, the Hon. Mr Dawkins! Allow the member to give her speech in silence.

**The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS:** Exporting food and wine to overseas markets increased by \$419 million. The state's outstanding reputation for being fruit fly free and phylloxera free contributed to this success. Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) is the state government department that oversees biosecurity in South Australia. SARDI is a division of PIRSA and both were cut in the state budget. Here are some examples of the work SARDI does:

- SARDI's Plant Health and Biosecurity Science program provides disease management and biosecurity solutions for plant industries;
- SARDI conducts work into cereal, pulse, oilseed, horticulture and viticulture;
- SARDI offers these services: plant disease diagnostics, post-entry quarantine, disease and pesticide resistance screening;
- SARDI provides plant health solutions through scientific expertise in mycology, nematology, molecular diagnostics and microbiology.

SARDI undertakes vital research to help make South Australia's primary industries and regions internationally competitive. This is done through programs to help increase primary producers' productivity and sustainability, while creating opportunities for market growth. There are no excuses for damaging SARDI's capacity to support our primary producers. Biosecurity in South Australia is of critical importance and government must support primary producers in managing it. For these reasons, I commend this motion to the council.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) (18:03):** I rise on behalf of the government to make a few comments. Before I start, for Ms Pnevmatikos' benefit, my recollection is that in 2002 Primary Industries SA had nearly 2,000 employees and, at the end of her government's time, it was down to 800. I think she needs to look at it from a whole-of-government process, not just the last little bit. That said, I move to amend the motion as follows:

Delete paragraph 3 and substitute—

3. Recognises the state government is working with the federal government to strengthen biosecurity measures in South Australia to protect our \$1.25 billion horticultural industry vulnerable to fruit fly; and

4. Notes that the state government is committed to increasing measures to protect the state's horticultural industries from fruit fly, including the recent instalment of new quarantine bins and signage at key entry points into the Riverland.

The Marshall Liberal government has biosecurity as a priority, and protecting South Australia's fruit fly free status is vital. The state government spends about \$5 million annually on a comprehensive strategy to protect our \$1.25 billion horticulture industry against fruit fly and other pests, insects and diseases.

As part of the Marshall Liberal government's election commitment, two new quarantine bins were recently installed at key entry points into the Riverland with new signage and increased monitoring. The new bins, on the Renmark to Wentworth road at the state border and on Purnong Road near Mannum, are aimed at travellers heading into the Riverland, one of the state's major food-growing regions. The new bins bring the total number of quarantine bins located across South Australia to 18. I have a list, which I will not read out, but I seek leave to have it inserted into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Location of South Australian Quarantine Bins:

- Glenelg Highway near Mount Gambier
- Nelson Highway near Mount Gambier
- Princes Highway near Mount Gambier
- Dukes Highway near Mount Gambier
- Stuart Highway at Marla
- Wimmera Highway near Naracoorte
- Old Wentworth Road at the State border
- Purnong Road near Mannum
- Goyder Highway near Morgan
- Thiele Highway near Eudunda
- Sturt Highway near Blanchetown
- Stott Highway near Sedan
- Angas Valley Road near Walker Flat
- Hunter Road near Bow Hill
- Browns Well Highway near Paruna
- Karoonda Highway near Alawoona
- Oodla Wirra (when quarantine station is closed)
- Pinnaroo (when quarantine station is closed)

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY:** The network of bins, along with the 24/7 quarantine stations at Yamba and Ceduna and seasonal stations at Pinnaroo and Oodla Wirra, are an essential part of the state's border control activities. In addition, the state government has appointed a dedicated fruit fly coordinator. His key responsibilities include early detection and diagnosis, prevention, risk mitigation, grower and industry liaison and response preparedness.

The Riverland region is internationally recognised as a Pest Free Area by China, Indonesia, the United States, Japan and New Zealand. This enables produce from the region to be shipped to these countries without the need for costly fruit fly treatments and reduces the costs and delays for producers and exporters across the supply chain. If fruit fly were to become established in South Australia, it would be difficult for our commercial growers to access markets to export their produce.

The state government is also armed with sterile insect technology, which is a common part of fruit fly eradication responses in South Australia. I know that Ms Pnevmatikos made references to



it being developed. One thing I will point out is that I do not think that at any point during the development of that facility was the then Liberal opposition opposed to anything that the government was doing. The tenor of her comments was as though the former government did it in the face of opposition from the Liberal Party, which was not the case.

Sterile fruit fly mate with wild fruit flies and any subsequently laid eggs are infertile, eradicating the wild fly population. The application of sterile fruit flies is in line with the state government's broader program to combat fruit flies and other plant pests. The national SIT facility is based in Port Augusta and is part of the national SITplus research initiative. It produces sterile Queensland fruit flies, which are used as part of the fight against the Queensland fruit fly. We need to remember that communities play a particularly important role in ensuring that South Australia's fruit fly free status remains, and we must be ever vigilant that, if people do see fruit fly, they report it to the authorities.

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (18:07):** I do not wish to delay the house, but I would like to add a few remarks to this motion. As someone who has spoken on fruit fly throughout my career, I learned very early, as my father would have said, to drop my jaw when I say 'fruit fly free' because it is one of those phrases that can test you out and probably annoy Hansard. I will just make a few remarks. I think that the success of the fruit fly free system in South Australia is a great tribute to the South Australian industry. The industry is largely in the Riverland but also in other parts of the state, which for a very long time have seen the great merits of us retaining our fruit fly free status.

One example is that, for a very long time, South Australia was a leader in what was the Tri-State Fruit Fly Committee, which involved growers and industry representatives from the Riverland, the Sunraysia region in Victoria and around the Wentworth area in New South Wales. I know that South Australian growers have been very supportive of that. Certainly, governments in New South Wales and Victoria did not support that as well as South Australia. There has generally been pretty good support for the fruit fly free status by governments of both flavours. However, we need to think that there may have been a little bit of reinvention of history in an earlier contribution.

I commend the Hon. Mr Pangallo for bringing this motion before us. It allows the parliament to add its support for something that is very important and that South Australia should cherish. The Hon. Mr Ridgway referred to the shrinking of PIRSA under the Labor government. When there were budget cut pressures on all departments there was constant pressure from within the Labor government, and within certain areas of the bureaucracy, to cut back on the fruit fly free effort.

I raised this matter with the Hon. Paul Holloway, who was then minister for agriculture, in the early days of the Labor government. The Liberal government, which left office in 2002, had put in place significant plans and provisions for increased random fruit fly inspections, and many of us thought it was very important to have the random inspections rather than just the ones that people knew they could deviate around if they really wanted to. That was something that was under threat. To be fair to the Hon. Paul Holloway, he saw the merit of continuing with that and he resisted the pressure from within the Labor Party to scrap it.

Later, when the Hon. Gail Gago was the minister for primary industries, there was significant pressure from within the Labor government to reduce the 24-hour scrutiny at Yamba and Ceduna. Thankfully, that was resisted, and the Hon. Gail Gago had to put up with me asking questions about that. In the end, thankfully, that did not happen and there was some reinforcement and improved facilities, particularly at Yamba.

The other matter that was pushed during the period of the Hon. Gail Gago's time as the minister for agriculture was the rather bizarre notion that the South Australian fruit fly checking point on the West Coast would be shifted to Border Village. It was going to be put at Border Village and amalgamated with what the Western Australians were doing. A whole number of people who were living and employed at Ceduna were told that if they wanted a job they would have to go and live at Border Village, or at Eucla in Western Australia. Thankfully, that did not happen. That is just a snapshot of some of the issues that I have dealt with in my time here.

With great respect to the Hon. Ms Pnevmatikos, I am sure that she took those matters very sincerely, but some of that information was not included in what she was provided. In regard to her criticisms of the minister for agriculture, he knows more about the benefits of the fruit fly free status—

**The Hon. D.W. Ridgway:** He has forgotten more than the Labor Party.

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS:** He has forgotten more than many would ever know but, as a significant grower in the Riverland over many years, he has seen the absolute benefits to this state, to the Riverland and to the other fruit growing areas of South Australia of the continuation of the fruit fly free status. I support the comments and the amendment moved by the Hon. Mr Ridgway and also commend the Hon. Mr Pangallo for bringing this matter to our attention.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (18:14):** I wish to thank honourable members for their contributions, and congratulations to all my colleagues for successfully navigating that fruit fly free tongue twister. The Hon. John Dawkins has mentioned the history of fruit fly. In some small way, I and my family actually played an insignificant but a small part in keeping the state fruit fly free, because our home was selected many years ago as a checkpoint. I remember my dad's fruit trees had traps placed there, and in fact once we actually caught them; they were caught in there. That prompted the usual alert that went out and, as a consequence, the department of agriculture moved in and was able to ensure that it did not spread.

From that young period, I became quite aware of the importance of the state having that status, and not only then but also now, how important it is today, particularly with our strong exports overseas. Now we are heading into an important stone fruit season, and the cherry season is starting. There are enormous exports going overseas, particularly to China, as we saw. They are buying our cherries. I think it is indicative of the work that has been done by successive governments. I will not just single out the Liberals; I think Labor was also involved in maintaining that status over the years. I think it is very important that we acknowledge all those sectors.

I am glad to hear that the government has heeded my call to strengthen the biosecurity measures, since I first spoke on this motion in July. Since then, the government has announced in September a suite of measures to strengthen biosecurity and quarantine measures already in place, which will protect South Australia's \$1.25 billion horticultural produce, including the cherries, as I have just mentioned, coming into main production and our world-renowned wine grapes, from the devastation caused by fruit fly in other states.

I commend the government on those measures, which include the appointment of a dedicated Riverland fruit fly coordinator, who will be based at the Loxton Research Centre, to work with industry; increased random roadblocks; new quarantine bins; higher security and scrutiny at quarantine stations; and the opening of the Pinnaroo station. While these measures are important, I think more is needed. We must avail ourselves of every possible tool to combat an insidious pest and ensure that South Australia retains our enviable reputation of being fruit fly free.

Last month, my federal colleague the member for Mayo, Rebekha Sharkie, wrote to the federal agriculture minister seeking federal government support for a fumigation and irradiation facility based in South Australia. It is important to put on the record that the current lack of such a facility in our state is seriously hampering the ability of growers to export more of their produce, especially into Asia. Such a facility would be a boon for South Australia. We must capitalise on our access to these lucrative export markets. We can only do this if we can ensure our produce is world class and pest free.

Our citrus and almond export markets in New Zealand, Germany and Japan are worth about \$87 million a year alone. South Australia's total horticultural export value is \$243 million each year. These are fantastic figures that we cannot risk to pests like fruit fly. I reiterate Rebekha Sharkie's call for a fumigation and irradiation facility, which is also supported by the horticulture industry. I also echo her call for more federal funding similar to support offered to Tasmania to manage their biosecurity measures.

Every one of us has a responsibility to be part of the defence against fruit fly, so over summer, when returning from road trips or having family visit from interstate, it is imperative to remind family and take personal responsibility for following our strict quarantine rules and look after our fruit farmers. With those words, and a reminder to all South Australians to buy and enjoy the wonderful fruit our state produces over the summer months, I commend the motion.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

*Bills*

**OFFICE FOR THE AGEING (ADULT SAFEGUARDING) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Final Stages*

The House of Assembly agreed to the bill without any amendment.

**SUMMARY OFFENCES (LIQUOR OFFENCES) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

At 18:22 the council adjourned until Thursday 15 November 2018 at 11:00.