

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 5 February 2020

Opening of Parliament

Parliament, which adjourned on 12 December 2019, was prorogued by proclamation dated 19 December 2019. By proclamation dated 19 December 2019, it was summoned to meet on Wednesday 5 February 2020, and the Second Session began on that date.

The President (Hon. A.L. McLachlan) took the chair at 12 noon.

PROROGATION

The Clerk (Mr C.D. Schwarz) read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Hon. Hieu Van Le) summoning parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

At 12:15, His Excellency the Governor, having been announced by Black Rod, was received by the President at the bar of the council chamber and conducted by him to the chair. The Speaker and members of the House of Assembly having entered the chamber in obedience to his summons, His Excellency read his opening speech as follows:

Mr President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

Mr Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly.

I have called you together for the second session of the Fifty-Fourth South Australian Parliament.

We are gathered on the traditional lands of the Kurna People.

I pay my respect to their elders, past, present and emerging.

I also extend this respect and recognition to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here today.

I thank Mickey O'Brien, an Elder of the Kurna people, for his Welcome to Country.

I want also to acknowledge the impact of the bushfire crisis on our great nation.

We think particularly of those who have lost their lives, including those who came from overseas to help us.

We extend our deepest sympathies to their loved ones and to all those who have suffered.

I also extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who have been supporting the rescue, recovery and relief efforts.

Honourable Members,

On its election, my Government accepted the challenges to create more jobs, improve services and reduce costs to households and businesses.

The bushfires confront us with an equally urgent challenge.

To support as strongly as we can, families, businesses and communities devastated by the fires.

This is a challenge my Government knows will also be met.

Because a state is not only a government.

Government reflects the people.

And all South Australians are demonstrating the commitment and determination to help in this time of emergency.

On behalf of my Government, I thank all South Australians for reaching out to those affected by the summer's bushfires.

So that they can recover and rebuild as soon as possible.

In this enormous effort, they have our entire state behind them.

Honourable Members,

My Government is delivering on its commitments made to the people of South Australia at the 2018 election.

Costs to families and businesses are being lowered.

More jobs are being created.

And there is a continuing focus on providing better government services.

However, three very important measures were not passed by the Legislative Council during the first session of this Parliament.

I refer to bills to:

- Extend the hours shops can trade in the Greater Adelaide Shopping District and Proclaimed Shopping Districts
- Cap Local Government council rates
- Permanently lift the prohibition on growing genetically modified crops in all areas of the state except Kangaroo Island

My Government believes very strong community support has been demonstrated for each of these measures to be delivered.

Accordingly, they will be presented for your further consideration during this session.

Honourable Members,

My Government has secured unprecedented cooperation from the Commonwealth for the accelerated delivery of major productive infrastructure for our cities, towns and regions.

South Australia has a fully funded pipeline of infrastructure works worth \$12.9 billion over four years.

For the longer term, proposals will be identified in Infrastructure South Australia's first 20-year strategy to be published soon.

Targeted investment in priority infrastructure projects is creating jobs, strengthening our economy and will get people home sooner and safer.

My Government's greatest infrastructure challenge remains the North-South corridor through the Adelaide metropolitan area.

During this parliamentary session, my Government will make a decision on how this vital corridor is to be completed.

Other major transport and road infrastructure projects being delivered include:

- Electrifying the Gawler railway line
- Extending the Tonsley line to Flinders University
- Removing two level crossings
- Upgrading seven major metropolitan intersections
- Extending the Paradise and Golden Grove Park N' Rides
- Repairing more than 1,000 kilometres of regional roads

As well as improving our transport infrastructure, my Government is also determined to deliver better and more customer focused services using this infrastructure.

Accordingly, my Government will complete the contracting of metropolitan train and tram services during this parliamentary session.

My Government is actively planning additional major inner city sporting and entertainment infrastructure.

This follows completion of the upgrade to the Memorial Drive tennis centre which has delivered immediate benefits through the attraction of leading international tennis players to compete in Adelaide last month and Australia's Davis Cup tie against Brazil next month.

As well as my Government's cooperation with the Commonwealth to deliver key infrastructure, our relationship has secured other major benefits including:

- A City Deal supported by \$185 million of Federal investment
- The establishment in Adelaide of the Australian Space Agency and Cooperative Research Centre
- Active collaboration on implementation of the naval shipbuilding program at Osborne

Naval shipbuilding is delivering a sophisticated, high-end manufacturing sector to complement the agricultural, mining and service industries that remain central to the South Australian economy.

My Government regards this as not only an opportunity to build submarines, ships and other vessels for our navy, but also to support smaller companies and innovators to succeed in the defence sector and export markets.

Honourable Members,

My Government aspires to a South Australia that works for all of us.

A state that is dynamic, vibrant and enterprising, with the confidence to embrace big thinking and bold change.

A state where effort, planning and persistence are rewarded by success.

Where your future isn't limited by the suburb, town, region or nation in which you were brought up.

Where you are just as likely to reach the top in a profession if your education has been at a state school rather than a private one.

And apprentices and trainees as well as university graduates can look forward to satisfying, well-paid careers.

A state where people lend a hand and a heart to others when they are needed—as they have been during the bushfires.

A state where home owners can maintain their mortgages without constant worry about making ends meet and where other cost-of-living pressures are eased.

Honourable Members,

My Government continues to lower costs for South Australian families and businesses.

Payroll tax on small business has been abolished.

Emergency Services Levy bills have been significantly reduced.

From July, there will be lower water costs and land tax reforms will benefit 92 per cent of smaller investors and 75 per cent of company groups.

Further cost relief includes lower electricity bills for households, reductions in compulsory third-party insurance premiums, doubling the value of sports vouchers for primary school-aged children and free screening checks for volunteers.

My Government has received independent research which concludes living in Adelaide is 16 per cent more affordable than Melbourne and 28 per cent more affordable than Sydney.

This advice also shows Adelaide has considerably lower office rental costs and other business outgoings.

My Government will use this research to present a compelling business case for Commonwealth Government departments and private businesses with large white collar support service functions to relocate to Adelaide.

Honourable Members,

Our state's economy is maintaining a solid level of employment and rising levels of business investment.

With lower costs and a more efficient regulatory environment, all businesses will have the incentive to grow and employ more people.

That is why my Government is delivering its Growth State Plan as a new approach to industry support.

My Government firmly believes South Australia has a future full of opportunity and prosperity and that our community is responding to this potential.

South Australian Certificate of Education completions are at their highest in nine years.

Over the past year, 700 South Australian businesses have taken on an apprentice for the first time.

There is high demand for places in the innovation and Startup Hub being developed at Lot Fourteen.

The loss of younger South Australians to other states and elsewhere to seek careers has reduced significantly.

The proportion of Aboriginal people in our public sector workforce continues to rise while the value of public sector contracts being secured by Aboriginal owned and operated businesses has risen almost tenfold.

My Government sees indicators like these as reflecting growing anticipation and confidence about South Australia's future.

Growth State is my Government's plan to work with industry to leverage our global competitive advantage to drive jobs growth and secure new economic opportunities for South Australia.

Opportunities in:

- Defence
- Space
- Energy and Minerals
- Food, wine and agribusiness
- International education
- Tourism
- Hi-Tech
- Health and Medical Industries
- Creative Industries

So far, my Government has approved almost \$100 million of funding to support Growth State initiatives.

A focus of Growth State is to lift South Australia's export performance for the long term.

My Government regards this as essential if our state is to achieve and sustain 3 per cent annual economic growth—double what it has been over the past decade.

Recently, South Australia's international education sector has overtaken wine as the export sector generating the highest earnings for our state.

The number of international students enrolled in South Australia has exceeded 40,000 for the first time.

Our tourism sector is also growing strongly.

South Australia's visitor economy is now worth \$7.8 billion annually with the industry aiming to increase this by \$5 billion over the next decade.

Hotel bookings are the highest on record and another 700 rooms are being added through new developments during this year.

Our visitor economy continues to be boosted by a thriving arts and culture sector.

My Government is delivering a five-year Arts and Culture Plan to guide further investment in this sector.

While the drought continues to have an adverse impact on South Australia's total international trade and the recent bushfires are a temporary setback for export growth, my Government remains determined to deliver all possible support to our exporters.

New trade and investment offices have been established in Shanghai and Tokyo and a third will open in Houston in the United States in the first half of 2020 to be followed by Dubai and Kuala Lumpur.

In helping to build a stronger economy, my Government's actions are being guided by advice from Infrastructure South Australia and our state's Productivity Commission.

The early establishment of these important institutions was a high priority to provide professional and independent advice.

As a result of the Productivity Commission's comprehensive inquiry into government purchasing practices, my Government will implement major changes which will make it easier for customers to do business with government agencies.

Honourable Members,

As my Government helps to unlock business investment and job creation, it also stands by those industries that have been South Australia's mainstay for almost 200 years.

Our primary industries remain confronted by drought conditions.

Some of the communities in which our primary producers have lived and operated for generations have also been devastated by bushfire.

All South Australians appreciate the commitment and courage of our firefighters and all other emergency services workers who continue to serve selflessly and tirelessly to help minimise loss of life and property.

No praise is too high for them.

We remain in their debt for the lives saved and property losses avoided.

My Government has worked closely with the Commonwealth on new arrangements to ensure our volunteer firefighters called out over prolonged periods are not financially disadvantaged.

I have visited the areas affected by the bushfires so far this summer.

I have spoken to South Australians whose properties were destroyed or damaged.

To do so is to be in awe of their resilience.

I have also met many of those who continue to sacrifice time with their families to defend and support their communities.

This experience is to see South Australians at their very best.

In recognition of their effort, I was pleased to include representatives of the Country Fire Service, Metropolitan Fire Service, State Emergency Service and National Parks and Wildlife Service in the honour guard outside Parliament today and I acknowledge their presence in the Gallery now. Please join me in showing our appreciation to them.

Members' acclamation.

We have seen men and women reach out to their neighbours despite their own safety and property being at risk, supporting one another in confronting catastrophe threatening entire communities.

To assist those who have suffered loss, my Government is providing tax relief and the waiving of fees and charges and with the Commonwealth, is allocating funding to support recovery and rebuilding.

Typically, people, organisations and businesses right across South Australia have been extremely generous in their support of the emergency relief fund my Government has established and other appeals.

My Government also thanks the State Opposition for its constructive support of the collective effort needed to respond to this period of emergency.

As the recovery and rebuilding work intensifies, my Government is allocating major resources from its agencies to support individuals, communities, primary producers, businesses, wildlife and the environment.

It is essential that our tourism operators are able to recover as rapidly as possible so that the growth momentum this sector has achieved can continue.

Accordingly, the Premier has taken the tourism portfolio to drive support across government and a senior government role has been created to coordinate the rebuild of the Kangaroo Island and Adelaide Hills economies and communities.

To further assist our farmers and their families with their ongoing challenges, a dedicated Drought Support Program has been created with the injection of \$21 million.

Through its Growth State Plan, my Government will help to improve the productivity of our primary industries with a \$7.5 million Red Meat and Wool initiative and support for the adoption of AgTech solutions by our farmers to enhance resource use, reduce costs and boost production.

Our state is reaching out to farming communities beyond our borders as well.

My Government's historic agreement with the Commonwealth to bring into use the Adelaide Desalination Plant is supporting drought affected farmers across our nation in their time of great need.

My Government is also playing an active and constructive role in the delivery of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

This Plan is critical in striking the balance between delivering water to those communities relying on the Basin and ensuring the future health of the Basin environment.

Further far-reaching support to our primary producers will be provided through two bills to be introduced during this session.

The laws governing the state's pastoral lands will be repealed and rewritten to support the production of livestock and the growth of the pastoral industry.

Existing legislation providing for biosecurity will also be modernised to address challenges presented by increased international movement of people, increased trade of goods and services and climate variability.

During the first session of this Parliament, there was insufficient time to complete consideration of a bill to increase penalties for those trespassing on agricultural land with the intention of interfering with and disrupting the normal activities of our farmers and food producers.

The legislation will be re-presented in this session.

To further protect our livestock industry, rebuilding of 1,600 kilometres of the Dog Fence in far northern South Australia will begin later this year to prevent wild dog incursions.

Honourable Members,

Worsening and more extended drought and bushfire conditions cause us all to be concerned about the sustainability of our environment and our economy.

South Australia's climate is changing, and my Government believes further change is inevitable.

My Government insists this provides great opportunity for South Australia and must not be a cause for community division or despair.

It believes the best response to public concern is the implementation of practical measures that secure emissions abatement without increasing energy costs and reducing jobs.

My Government is continuing to prioritise the delivery of a modern energy system to provide clean, affordable and reliable power for consumers.

It is very strongly supporting the fast-tracked establishment of an interconnector between South Australia and New South Wales as well as the development of grid scale storage so that renewable energy better serves consumer needs.

During this year my Government will focus on accelerating access to consumer bill reductions by helping to deliver more equitable access to solar and battery storage.

This includes the largest home battery rollout per capita in the world through the Home Battery Scheme and creation of the world's largest virtual power plant from the provision of batteries to Housing Trust homes.

In acting now to mitigate climate risk, South Australia can be an international leader in successfully harnessing current and emerging opportunities for economic growth through the development of new climate smart services and industries.

These include:

- Hydrogen fuel and biofuels
- The transition to electric vehicles and low emissions transport
- Climate resilient agriculture
- Innovations in waste and recycling

My Government's Growth State Plan is already supporting significant progress in taking our state into the emerging international hydrogen economy.

Later this year, an electrolyser facility being established at the Tonsley Innovation District will begin supplying more than 700 nearby homes with a blend of renewable hydrogen in natural gas delivered through the existing gas network.

It is our nation's first demonstration project of this scale and size.

As well as continuing to roll out its Hydrogen Action Plan, this year my Government will also launch an Electric Vehicle Action Plan.

These initiatives will demonstrate that our state's entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem has the capability to design and support climate smart solutions.

Innovation hubs such as Tonsley and also Lot Fourteen are bringing together research and education institutions, established businesses and start-ups.

They are fostering climate smart entrepreneurialism and supporting the take-up and commercialisation of innovation.

During this year, my Government will release its Climate Change Strategy for South Australia.

The Strategy will build on the recently delivered Directions for a Climate Smart South Australia.

This sets a framework for climate smart action and planning across government.

The Strategy will contribute to national efforts to evolve climate policies to do more.

It will allow South Australia to aspire to reduce emissions by more than 50 per cent by 2030 from 2005 levels, potentially contributing twice as much to the national target as other states.

My Government is already implementing a Blue Carbon Strategy which identifies opportunities for carbon sequestration and abatement from protection and restoration of our coastal ecosystems.

The resilience of our metropolitan coastline to better cope with rising sea levels will be improved through a major external sand dump onto West Beach and building a sand pumping pipeline to deliver a long-term, sustainable solution to sand loss.

Honourable Members,

My Government's determination to enhance the sustainability of our economy and our environment extends beyond its response to climate change.

Through its Growth State Plan, my Government will pursue a unique opportunity to harness the potential of our precious natural environment to grow the economy by reinvigorating our parks system.

Our parks help make our state one of the most liveable places in the world.

They improve the resilience of our environment.

They exist for public benefit and enjoyment while conserving biodiversity, landscapes, cultural and historic sites.

They are central to the lives of South Australians and the experiences of visitors to our state.

Parks and heritage places also provide an opportunity to leverage private investment in nature-based and heritage tourism and deliver economic growth, particularly in our regions.

Carefully targeted investment can support biodiversity and boost tourism and recreational experiences, delivering both conservation dividends and increased job opportunities.

The need for such investment has become even more pressing following the damage to some of our parks caused by the bushfires.

My Government is actively participating with all other jurisdictions across our nation in identifying measures to reduce the risks and impacts of bushfires in the future.

This also provides an opportunity to identify projects that can enhance the sustainability of our parks system while repairing the damage done by the bushfires.

In the coming months, my Government will work closely with communities and potential investors to identify sensible, exciting opportunities to create some world-class nature and wildlife experiences through ecologically sensitive developments that complement park management.

In extending our parks network, during this year my Government will open Glenthorne in our southern suburbs as metropolitan Adelaide's second national park.

My Government believes this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to preserve and revitalise a significant portion of open space and turn it into a thriving environmental and recreational precinct across more than 1,500 hectares of land.

Seven reservoirs will also be opened up to provide further recreation opportunities and to deliver economic benefits for local communities and our regions.

An expanded parks network and public access to reservoirs will provide more ways for South Australians and visitors to our state to engage with the natural environment and make our state an even better place in which to live.

Following passage of the Landscape South Australia Act during the first session of this Parliament, my Government's priority for the management of natural resources will be decentralised decision-making and back-to-basics land management.

An important element of this reform is the establishment of the Green Adelaide Board.

Green Adelaide will drive the rapid greening and cooling of our capital city and build a strong connection between Adelaide residents and their natural environment through initiatives that adapt the urban landscape to our changing climate.

Honourable Members,

For more than 40 years, South Australia has been recognised as our nation's leader in waste management and resource recovery.

My Government believes it is now time to redouble our efforts to support the sustainability of our environment and to provide further economic opportunity.

Global resource recovery markets are changing rapidly while there is growing public awareness of the impact waste is having on our environment.

My Government will extend South Australia's leadership by establishing our state as the national epicentre for the waste and resource recovery industry.

There will be a focus on developing remanufacturing of recycled materials, growing our organics waste industry and educating our community about how it can contribute to our state's leadership in waste management and resource recovery.

The first business in our state has already officially gone plastic free under my Government's plan to eliminate single use plastics.

Following extensive consultation with communities and businesses, a bill will be presented to you to ban single use plastic items like straws, cutlery, beverage stirrers and polystyrene cups and bowls.

My Government's plans for improving the natural environment require effective cooperation with Local Government.

During this session, my Government will introduce comprehensive legislation to reform our Local Government sector.

This will help reduce red tape and costs and improve member conduct and public confidence in our councils.

The legislation will be guided by recommendations my Government is considering from the Productivity Commission following its inquiry into local government costs and efficiency.

In full cooperation with councils across the state, my Government is also delivering on the final stages of a new planning system.

The new system will:

- Increase consultation
- Reduce the regulatory burden and the time taken to make planning decisions
- Improve opportunities to value add in regional areas, especially in farm-grown produce
- Extend opportunities to grow the tourism sector by opening up land to create new experiences for visitors to regional South Australia

As my Government provides for better planned communities, it is also looking to expand mobility within and between local areas.

A trial of on-demand bus services has commenced at Mount Barker and in the Barossa Valley.

More e-scooter and ride share options are also being provided, including deregulation of ride share and opening up this mode of personal transport to regional South Australia.

Honourable members,

Mining is one of South Australia's great traditional industries.

Its future potential is being enhanced by highly sophisticated exploration and recovery methods to help the earth share more of its secrets while mitigating environmental impacts.

We remain a very prospective state for commodities like copper and iron ore.

My Government is completing the regulations required to support implementation of the legislation passed last year to modernise our mining laws.

It will continue to encourage improvements in interactions between landholders and resource proponents through further reform of the regulatory framework.

It is important to maintain community support for the responsible development of our state's resources.

This must include new discoveries which my Government is encouraging through the Advanced Discovery Initiative and the Explorer Challenge.

My Government is supporting those enterprises looking to expand their exploration and production in the Gawler Craton.

This is one of the most prospective copper regions in the world.

Recognising the important role that natural gas plays for key industrial users and in power generation, my Government is ensuring South Australia continues its contribution to national supply.

Honourable Members,

My Government firmly believes South Australia offers a blend of economic and environmental opportunity which is highly attractive to businesses that can harness new technologies, ideas and knowledge while offering their employees a lifestyle that is second to none.

As South Australia pursues economic opportunity from the changing climate, so can our state place itself firmly on the global map by becoming the leading centre in the Southern Hemisphere for other future industries and entrepreneurship.

Lot Fourteen in the Adelaide CBD is developing as a microcosm of what South Australia's future can be—of how our state can build on the strengths we have and the new opportunities we can pursue.

In this seven-hectare neighbourhood, the dynamism and vibrancy of innovation are being unleashed as it attracts people to share spaces, experiences and most of all, ideas.

Companies at the cutting edge of technology wanting to benefit from its unique collaborative culture are locating on the site.

Development of a world-leading Innovation and Startup Hub is well advanced.

It is already the home to more than 35 start-ups, encouraging the next generation to get involved in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Led by the Chief Entrepreneur, Mr Jim Whalley, my Government is establishing a new model for entrepreneurship.

It is called the Future Industries Exchange for Entrepreneurship—or FIXE.

This is equipping South Australians with the tools, mechanisms and resources to start and grow successful businesses.

Other activities now well underway at Lot Fourteen include the establishment of the Australian Space Agency while by July, the Australian Cyber Collaboration Centre will be fully operational.

The Centre includes a cyber range, training facilities and space to enable collaboration between government and business in the testing of equipment, training the cyber workforce and responding to cyber challenges.

Other core elements of this thriving new community in our CBD will include an International Centre for Food, Hospitality and Tourism Studies and an Aboriginal Art and Cultures Centre.

Honourable Members,

As well as helping to deliver a modern and stronger economy, my Government remains committed to encouraging a better educated and healthier South Australia.

The education and health portfolios account for 50 per cent of my Government's operating expenses—close to \$10 billion annually.

Lot Fourteen is linking South Australia to a globally and culturally connected world driven by creativity, innovation and entrepreneurialism.

This means that more than ever, school education must deliver strong foundation skills in literacy and numeracy.

Following the election of my Government, South Australia became the first state to require all Year 1 students to complete a phonics check.

Screening checks show continuing overall improvement, demonstrating that my Government's focus on phonics is lifting literacy outcomes and learning in our schools.

Through the Entrepreneurial Learning Strategy developed by my Government, specialist programs will begin this year in our state's five entrepreneurial high schools with opportunities extended to students from other schools through industry forums and sharing of resources.

To enhance and sustain the learning environment, my Government has committed investment of \$1.3 billion in buildings and other school infrastructure.

This includes work to begin this year on new schools in Whyalla, Aldinga and Angle Vale.

Infrastructure planning for education accommodates our state's long overdue move of Year 7 to secondary school.

By mid-2020, our schools will have the best internet connection in the nation when my Government completes its partnership with Telstra to deliver internet infrastructure.

My Government is also continuing capital investment support to the non-government school sector.

The biggest overhaul of Vocational Education and Training in a generation has been initiated by my Government, delivering on its commitment to provide employers and students with more opportunity and choice through a contestable training system.

Major reform is restoring the value and true purpose of VET pathways for school students, particularly by recalibrating courses to match industry needs and the potential for long-term, high skilled, high paying employment.

During 2019, record numbers of students included VET as part of their South Australian Certificate of Education.

The take-up of apprenticeships and traineeships has increased by almost 20 per cent following more than 13,000 commencements during the first year of my Government's Skilling South Australia initiative jointly funded with the Commonwealth.

My Government has also worked hard to reform and rejuvenate TAFE SA.

This has resulted in the Australian Skills Quality Authority reaccrediting TAFE SA for seven years—the highest possible accreditation.

Honourable Members,

In its first two budgets, my Government allocated an additional \$1.8 billion over the forward estimates to our health system.

As a result, the reactivation of the Repatriation General Hospital site continues.

Capacity constraints at the Flinders emergency centre are being addressed.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is being redeveloped.

The Modbury Hospital is being upgraded to increase surgical capabilities, ease pressures on the emergency department and boost patient care.

Long overdue maintenance and other work in our regional hospital network is being funded.

My Government continues to plan and set aside funds for a new Women's and Children's Hospital.

To help take the pressure off hospital emergency departments and deliver better care, an innovative program is embedding mental health specialists in paramedic response vehicles.

So far, this program has enabled more than half of the patients engaged to be diverted towards more appropriate services in the community.

My Government's focus on the health of our children will continue.

During this session, legislation will be introduced to implement the next stage of the No Jab No Play program.

This will protect children, childcare workers and the wider community by requiring every child attending an early childhood facility to have up to date vaccinations or be barred from attendance.

To assist the treatment of epilepsy in children, a pilot will be established to trial the use of medicinal cannabis.

Compassionate access to the medicine will be provided for children who are not responding to other treatment options.

At the same time, the pilot will add to the evidence base for use of medicinal cannabis products.

My Government continues to encourage collaboration with the private healthcare sector in health research.

To maximise the benefits, legislation will be introduced to allow the collection of data from private healthcare providers.

This will lead to greater research benefits and greater transparency in healthcare reporting.

From its first day in office, my Government has been addressing longstanding deficiencies in governance and administrative arrangements in SA Health.

The Independent Commissioner Against Corruption recently publicly reported that these arrangements exposed SA Health to exploitation by corrupt practices.

My Government also notes the Commissioner advised that nothing in his report should be taken to suggest that the level of clinical care is not of the highest order.

Our public health system is staffed by 39,000 people.

The vast majority are hardworking and honest, but my Government will not resile from its responsibility to ensure any who aren't, are identified and made accountable.

While maintaining the highest level of clinical care, my Government will ensure standards of governance in SA Health which taxpayers and patients are entitled to expect.

Major governance reforms were initiated immediately following the election and my Government has always been clear that effective outcomes will require sustained effort over a substantial period.

During this session, legislation will be introduced to continue the devolution of governance in health, away from a centralised and top-heavy bureaucracy down to local boards, giving local decision-making powers to local communities.

In supporting a healthier South Australia, my Government is providing funding to build additional grassroots sport and recreation infrastructure and encourage more people to participate more often.

This includes the provision of family-friendly facilities and sports change rooms catering for male and female teams, while clubs whose facilities have been damaged by the recent bushfires will receive grants to kickstart the rebuilding process.

My Government's doubling of the value of sports vouchers for primary schoolchildren has resulted in the take-up of the vouchers increasing by more than 40 per cent.

Honourable Members,

My Government is implementing a Housing and Homelessness Strategy to deliver more than 20,000 affordable housing outcomes over the next decade.

The Strategy, worth more than half a billion dollars, will modernise and reform the state housing system to meet the future needs and aspirations of South Australians.

With one in five South Australians reporting they live with a disability my Government has delivered our State's first Disability Inclusion Plan to foster inclusion and accessibility.

To keep pace with the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, legislative reforms are under consideration.

These may include protections and safeguards in the areas of restrictive practices and accommodation.

My Government is also looking to refine and simplify worker screening requirements.

The aim will be to ensure arrangements in South Australia minimise the regulatory burden while remaining consistent with national requirements and providing appropriate protections for children, people with disability and other vulnerable members of our community.

My Government is committed to growing family-based care so it can continue to provide safe, stable and nurturing environments for our most vulnerable children and young people.

A pilot program now being delivered will enable more children and young people identified as at risk to remain safely with their families through family group conferencing.

My Government has also developed a new early intervention program for families at risk of having children enter the child protection system.

This program will engage families and children who will be given face-to-face in-home contact by specialist support staff using evidence-based intervention approaches.

My Government continues to take action to combat domestic and family violence.

The appointment of our state's first Assistant Minister for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention is ensuring a strong focus on delivering a range of policy initiatives.

Two regional safety hubs have been established to provide single point access to services such as police, social housing, legal aid and social workers.

Peak body funding has been secured.

A personal protection app has been developed.

Additional crisis beds have been opened.

A Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme has been trialled.

Tougher penalties for perpetrators have been legislated.

Communication with victims has been improved.

While these measures are helping to improve the safety of women and children, my Government realises there is much work still to be done.

Honourable Members,

In overall community safety, one of the new initiatives of South Australia Police in 2020 is the implementation of the Security Response Section.

Members of this Section will be specially trained to prevent and respond to terrorism-related incidents, domestic events of a violent nature and to ensure safety at major public events.

Front-line policing is also changing with the introduction of District Policing Teams to work alongside the new Response teams.

These initiatives will improve response times and increase the focus on crime prevention and reducing recidivist offending.

My Government has provided resources to SAPOL to continue its relentless attack on organised crime and the devastating impact of methamphetamines.

During 2019, more than 100 lives were lost on South Australian roads.

This is entirely unacceptable to my Government.

Throughout 2020, police will be targeting dangerous road users and reminding people that road safety is the responsibility of everyone as SAPOL continues its new role of promoting road safety.

In response to the rising level of death and injury from motorcycle accidents, legislation will be presented to make significant changes to the Graduated Licencing Scheme.

This will include raising the minimum age for obtaining a learner's permit from 16 to 18 and night-time restrictions on learner riders.

My Government has committed to the largest infrastructure build in our correctional system in a generation, with \$200 million allocated to the upgrade of the Yatala Labour and Adelaide Women's prisons.

This expansion will include 270 high security beds at Yatala and 40 new beds at the Women's Prison.

At the Adelaide Remand Centre, 160 cells have been upgraded to a safe cell compliant standard following a four-month renovation project.

This is a major milestone in establishing improved management arrangements for the Centre which will result in annual operating savings of about \$8 million.

My Government has provided funding for a new Emergency Services Command Centre to be established at Keswick.

For the first time, executive and senior management teams of the Metropolitan Fire Service, Country Fire Service, the State Emergency Service and the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission will be co-located with more than 300 employees as well as volunteers.

This will considerably enhance our State's emergency response capability.

During the last session of Parliament, legislation was introduced to modernise the arrangements under which our fire and state emergency services operate.

This included incorporation of the Country Fire Service and State Emergency Service volunteer charters in the legislation.

The legislation was subject to extensive review by a Select Committee of the House of Assembly and accordingly, was not able to proceed through the Legislative Council.

It will be reintroduced during this session.

Honourable Members,

Following extensive consultation with the Aboriginal community, my Government has completed a scoping study for the planned Aboriginal Art and Cultures Centre at Lot Fourteen.

The study has been publicly released and is now guiding delivery of the next stages of this highly significant project, including design of the Centre, the curatorial vision and governance arrangements.

This Centre will enable South Australians and visitors alike to learn from the practices and attachment to Country of the world's oldest civilisation.

The South Australian Museum's collection of Aboriginal ancestral remains is the largest held by any collecting institution in Australia, representing over half of the total remains held in all Australian museums.

Of 4,600 ancestral remains at the Museum's temporary keeping place in Netley, approximately 800 are Kaurna ancestors, 1,200 Ngarrindjeri and 500 River Murray Mallee people.

The Museum has adopted a new policy to empower Aboriginal communities to make decisions about their ancestral remains.

To support this policy, my Government has provided funds for a two-year pilot project to repatriate Kaurna remains to Country in the Kaurna Smithfield Memorial Project.

Through the Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, my Government is continuing to discuss with Aboriginal leaders and their communities, more effective means of engagement between Aboriginal People and government.

Further announcements will be made later this year about a new engagement model to involve the Parliament as well.

Legislation will be introduced to enshrine the position of the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People under the Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act.

South Australia continues to benefit, economically and socially, from the rich diversity of our multicultural society.

During this session, my Government will introduce legislation to modernise multicultural policy to ensure it reflects the changing needs of our community and supports the continuing development of culturally responsive government services.

Honourable Members,

Further law reform will be proposed for your consideration during this session.

This will prioritise community safety, efficiency in our justice system and important social reform.

My Government will introduce legislation expanding its election commitment to transparency by modernising freedom of information laws.

The changes will touch all areas of government and put an emphasis on accountability and information sharing.

Comprehensive reform to succession law and estate administration will be proposed.

This follows a large body of work undertaken by the South Australian Law Reform Institute relating to various aspects of these laws that are most in need of review.

An independent review into sentence discounting has recommended legislative changes to prioritise community safety.

Following community consultation on the proposed changes, amending legislation will be presented for your consideration.

This reform will reflect on discounting changes previously made to seek a balance between community expectations and the operation of our justice system.

It will be complemented by legislation enabling the District Court, in addition to the Magistrates Court, to deal with bail applications.

When they were introduced nearly 50 years ago, South Australia's abortion laws placed abortion in the criminal code.

During this session, a bill will be put before you to make abortion a regulated medical procedure under health legislation and policy rather than continuing to be dealt with under the criminal law.

This follows extensive public consultation about the current legal arrangements and a major independent report from the Law Reform Institute which considered bringing the law into line with current clinical practice.

The legislation will be proposed as a conscience issue for all members.

At the conclusion of the last session, consideration of some key proposals had not been finalised.

Accordingly, legislation to substantially lift existing restrictions on reporting of sexual offences coming before the courts will be restored to the *Notice Paper*.

Amendments to the labour hire licensing scheme will also be presented again for consideration.

These amendments will specifically target high-risk industries where workers are more vulnerable to exploitation, rather than capturing industries beyond the scheme's intent and burdening them with an unnecessary layer of red tape.

Honourable Members,

All of the programs my Government is implementing depend on the committed contribution of a highly motivated public sector workforce.

To support our public sector employees, a new workplace culture program is being delivered to more than 100,000 staff.

Honourable Members,

Since my last address in this place, I record with regret the passing of four former members of this Parliament.

Mr Steve Condous passed away in June 2018.

Mr Condous was elected to the House of Assembly in 1993 and served two terms as the member for Colton.

He was also a member of the Legislative Review Committee.

Before his election to Parliament, Mr Condous had been Lord Mayor of Adelaide for six years.

He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2004 for his service to the South Australian Parliament, Local Government and the community.

Mr Sam Bass also died in June 2018.

Elected in 1993, Mr Bass was the member for Florey for four years and also served on the Economic and Finance Committee.

In August 2018, the Hon. John Cornwall passed away.

He served in the Legislative Council for almost 14 years between 1975 and 1989.

Dr Cornwall was a Minister of the Crown in 1979 and again from 1982 until 1988.

In 2019, Dr Cornwall was awarded the medal of the Order of Australia for service to the Parliament and to the community.

Mr Bryant Giles also died in August 2018.

He was the member for Gumeracha between 1968 and 1970 and during that time also served on the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement.

We acknowledge the contributions to our state made by these former members and we offer our sincere condolences to their families and friends.

Honourable Members,

I now declare this second session of the Fifty-Fourth South Australian Parliament open and trust that your deliberations will be guided by Divine Providence to the advancement of the welfare of the people of this state.

The Governor retired from the chamber and the Speaker and members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

The President read prayers.

The PRESIDENT: We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres 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.

Sitting suspended from 13:34 to 14:45.

Members

PRESIDENT, ELECTION

The CLERK: I inform the council that the President, this day, has handed in his resignation. I now call on the Treasurer.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:46): Mr Schwarz, I move:

That the Hon. T.J. Stephens be President of the Legislative Council.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:46): I second the motion.

The CLERK: Does the honourable member accept the nomination?

The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS (14:46): I submit to the will of the council.

The CLERK: Are there any other nominations?

Honourable members: No.

The CLERK: There being no other nominations, I declare the Hon. T.J. Stephens duly elected as President of the Legislative Council.

The Hon. T.J. Stephens was escorted to the President's chair by the mover and seconder of the motion.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:47): Mr President, we noted there was some reluctance by you to assume the position of President, but we thank you very much for acceding to the will of the council and accepting the onerous responsibilities of being President of the Legislative Council chamber. You follow a long list of distinguished gentlemen and a gentlewoman, and we have every confidence that you will undertake your role with distinction.

We look forward to working with you in the interests of the smooth operation of the Legislative Council and in the interests of the people of South Australia. On behalf of government members we congratulate you on your elevation to high office and, as I said, look forward to working with you on behalf of the people of South Australia.

The PRESIDENT: Would anyone else like to make a contribution?

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (14:48): On behalf of SA-Best I would like to offer our congratulations to you on your appointment, and we look forward to working with you. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the former President of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Andrew McLachlan. I hope, Mr President, you show me the same amount of courtesy and indulgence as the previous President did when I get up and ask to make a brief explanation.

Congratulations to you and congratulations to the Hon. Andrew McLachlan for serving this chamber exceptionally well. We wish him all the best in his endeavours when he ventures to Canberra as a senator for South Australia. I am sure he will do an excellent job.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:49): Mr President, I rise to congratulate you on your elevation to this position. I know you take your role in this chamber exceptionally seriously and I know that you will bring that to the position that you now hold. We look forward to working constructively with you to keep the government of the day accountable and honest, and look forward to constructive proceedings in this chamber.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Wortley.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:50): Thank you, Mr President. I would like to congratulate you for attaining the position. I know that the people of Pooraka are very, very excited about the fact that there have been two Pooraka boys as president in the last seven or eight years, and they are very elated. I would also like to acknowledge the exemplary performance and contribution by the former President, the Hon. Mr McLachlan.

The PRESIDENT (14:50): I would like to thank honourable members for their kind words. It is an honour to be elected to be President of the council. Thanks to the chamber for placing their confidence in me. I will endeavour to fulfil the role faithfully and diligently. I certainly wish my predecessor and friend, the Hon. Andrew McLachlan CSC MLC, the best of luck in his future endeavours. He served this parliament with great distinction, and I thank him on behalf of this chamber for his dedication.

PRESIDENT, PRESENTATION TO GOVERNOR

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:51): I move:

That the sitting of the council be suspended until the ringing of the bells to enable the council to proceed to Government House to present the President to His Excellency the Governor.

Motion carried.

Sitting suspended from 14:54 to 15:12.

The PRESIDENT: I have to report that, accompanied by honourable members, I proceeded to Government House and there presented myself as President to His Excellency the Governor and claimed for the council the right of free access to and communication with His Excellency and that the most favourable construction might be placed on all its proceedings. His Excellency was pleased to reply:

I congratulate the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council on their choice of a President.

I readily assure you, Mr President, of my confirmation of all the constitutional rights and privileges of the Legislative Council, the proceedings of which will always receive most favourable consideration.

Parliamentary Procedure

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:14): I seek leave to move a motion without notice concerning the suspension of standing order 14.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: I move:

That standing order 14 be suspended.

This procedure has been adopted in recent times to allow consideration of other business before the Address in Reply has been adopted.

Motion carried.

Motions

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:14): With the leave of the council, I move:

That this council—

1. Expresses its deep regret at the loss of life as a result of bushfires in South Australia so far this summer, and extends its condolences and sympathy to the families and loved ones of those killed;
2. Records its sorrow and support for those who suffered injury and who lost their homes, property and personal possessions;
3. Praises the work of firefighters and other emergency services, volunteers and community members for their courage and sacrifice in responding to the fires and protecting our communities in this time of need;
4. Recognises the profound impact on those communities affected and the role of governments and the South Australian community in assisting them to recover and rebuild at the earliest opportunity; and
5. Appreciates the great generosity and support to the affected communities by all those who have contributed to the State Emergency Relief Fund and other appeals.

In speaking to the motion on behalf of government members, can I indicate—and I am sure I speak on behalf of all members—that we would wish otherwise, that is, that we did not have to move and speak to a motion such as this at this particular time. I know that my comments and those of two other speakers today will be supported by all members. For those who might be watching our proceedings or who will read our *Hansard*, can I indicate that we will adjourn the motion to allow other members to speak, whether it be tomorrow or at a subsequent time, in support of this motion.

A similar motion is being moved at the same time in the House of Assembly, and a similar motion also was moved, with the support of all members of federal parliament, in both houses of the federal parliament yesterday. This is a time for everyone to come together to express grief and sympathy to all those who have been impacted, and it is a time for us all to work together on the recovery and the difficult challenges that are ahead for all of us.

In speaking to the motion on behalf of government members, I formally place on the record our deepest sympathies to the family, friends and acquaintances of those who have died and those who have been injured as a result of the bushfires in South Australia. I especially record for the record Mr Dick Lang and Mr Clayton Lang, who died on Kangaroo Island, and Mr Ron Selth, who died at Charleston, during the bushfires of recent weeks.

I cannot attest to the fact that I knew personally any of the three gentlemen, with the exception of 'Desert Dick' Lang. I did meet Mr Lang a number of years ago on a number of occasions because he was a close friend—and this will not surprise anyone—of former member of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Martin Cameron, who had similar adventurous tendencies and shared many mutual interests with 'Desert Dick' Lang.

He did tell, and I am sure is still telling, many stories of their adventures together. Without wanting to place on the public record all the detail of some of those adventures, I well recall one hairy adventure involving a plane and Papua New Guinea and a very tight opportunity for taking off from a particular airstrip. It was a challenge and particular skill was demonstrated by Mr Lang in negotiating what was a difficult flying arrangement in Papua New Guinea. It was that connection, albeit through the Hon. Martin Cameron, that I had with Mr Lang, and I met him on subsequent occasions to that as well. On behalf of, I am sure, all members, we place on the public record our sympathies to their families, friends and acquaintances.

In addition to the three fatalities from the bushfires, the information provided to the Premier and the government at this stage is that 134 firefighters have been injured during the fighting of the fires; 50 members of the public have been injured as a result of the fires; 186 dwellings have been

destroyed as a result of the fires; 870 outbuildings, sheds, barns and carports have been destroyed; and there is an estimate of 60,000 stock losses. I must admit, I have seen very many differing estimates in relation to the total number of stock losses; nevertheless, that is the estimate that has been provided to the Premier and the government at this stage.

In relation just to the agricultural sector itself, there is an early estimate of a \$19 million impact on the agriculture sector and an almost immeasurable impact on the tourism sector, not only in these areas but clearly in other parts of Australia as well, as a result of the bushfires and, in some cases, the way they have been portrayed around the world with a publicised impact on a much greater area of Australia than has actually occurred.

For those people who have lost their homes, as we know, it is much more than losing the physical facility of the home. It is the irreplaceable contents that make a house a family home. It is the photographs of children; photographs of grandchildren; photographs of parents, grandparents or acquaintances; and photographs of special occasions that are part of the memories that families have, which are cherished.

In many cases we saw, through the media coverage, families in essence saying, 'We are lucky to be alive, we can rebuild the house, but we have lost irreplaceable memories in terms of photographs.' It may be other objects, objects that have been left to them by parents or grandparents, family heirlooms and those sorts of things, that have special significance, as I said. They are the things that turn a house into a family home. In many respects, the people who have been impacted and who have been interviewed by the media have highlighted those as their major concerns in terms of what just cannot be replaced as a result of the bushfires.

The motion before us clearly seeks to place on the record our collective thanks to very many people in relation to the events of the last few weeks. As a parliament, we thank them and praise the work and heroic efforts of thousands of firefighters, not just those from South Australia but also those from interstate and, in some cases, from overseas who assisted our task, both paid and volunteer firefighters who collectively helped fight the fires.

We thank the leadership of the CFS, MFS and SES and the emergency services generally in terms of their work, leadership and capacity to organise the collective forces of firefighters and others to tackle the challenges of fighting these bushfires. South Australia owes an enormous debt of gratitude to those who fought the fires and those who led them during the worst of the circumstances.

We also thank the many, many other volunteers who, whilst they might not have directly fought the fires, supported the firefighters in terms of providing food, accommodation and support in many other ways. Without the support of many other volunteers and volunteer organisations, the firefighters would not have been able to do what they did. In many cases, they fought fires for weeks and weeks on end with very little sleep but nevertheless had to be fed and provided with nutrition and water, accommodation and support where it was required.

In particular we thank the Defence Force reservists, who placed an enormous effort nationally but in particular in South Australia. We have especially seen the impact of their work on Kangaroo Island. I know members of the government, members of the Labor Party and some of the crossbench have been on Kangaroo Island in recent weeks as well. I am sure we all can attest to the work that the Defence Force reservists have undertaken on behalf of the community over there—some of the thankless tasks of dragging dead or injured stock and having to bury them, helping the clean-up effort in terms of rolling up the fence and fencing wire, and a variety of other things like that, and the many, many other more specialised tasks they have undertaken on behalf of the community. It has been an enormous effort and we collectively thank them for what they have done.

We thank the many other occupations within the broader public service and the private sector as well—doctors, nurses, ambulance officers, paramedics, the police and any others who, in an administrative fashion in the public sector, have played an important role in both fighting the fires and, just as importantly, the recovery effort afterwards.

We also thank the commonwealth government, the Prime Minister and commonwealth ministers who, from a state government viewpoint, have provided extraordinary support not just to South Australia but obviously to New South Wales and Victoria as well. The early decision to make

a very large sum of money, \$2 billion, available for affected communities and states was a very important early decision. It is now a question of implementing the many complicated tasks in terms of ensuring that funding is delivered as quickly and in the fairest way as is possible to those who are impacted and those who need the support.

Also at the national level, the commonwealth government established the National Bushfire Recovery Agency. Under their leadership that administrative structure was established federally. That has been the vehicle through which the various states have had to work in terms of the recovery effort. That was an important initiative and we thank the commonwealth government for the establishment of that administrative structure and support at the federal level.

I do, as a member of the state cabinet, place on the record my thanks, and collectively I think it should be our thanks, to my ministerial colleagues and their staff, in particular the Premier and the Deputy Premier, who of course is a Kangaroo Island local and has significant local connections as well as interests on Kangaroo Island. Her contribution, whilst formally as the Deputy Premier and representing the Premier on occasions but also as someone with local knowledge and the capacity to work with people in the local community to help answer questions, provide answers but also to settle things down and to try to ensure that we can all work together in terms of the recovery effort, has been an enormous contribution, I think, in particular to Kangaroo Island.

I want to place on the record my personal thanks to my ministerial colleague in this place, minister Lensink, who has carried a significant role as the minister responsible for her department. She, together with Primary Industries, has managed significant parts of the grant and relief programs, but the minister's agency has to do much more in terms of the coordination of the recovery effort, the relief funds and many, many other responsibilities. I know she has been a tower of strength in relation to the work that she has undertaken, as has her office and her department in supporting her as well. Finally, the Minister for Emergency Services, minister Wingard, has been at the forefront, and I again place on the public record our thanks for the work that he, his officers and others working with him have done on behalf of the South Australian community.

I also place on the record thanks for the local government leadership right across the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island. The local government leadership has been important. We have seen in each area an important role being undertaken by mayors and CEOs in those particular areas. We thank the mayors for the role that they have undertaken but also the staff who work within local government. It is going to be an important part of working together with state government and federal government in terms of the recovery effort.

Because we have a special connection, I especially place on the public record a note and acknowledgement of the work that former member of the House of Assembly Michael Pengilly, as Mayor of Kangaroo Island, has undertaken. He in particular has been at the forefront of the firefighting and recovery effort on Kangaroo Island, and we acknowledge the work that he has undertaken.

I also place on the record, on behalf of the Premier—I know he is saying similar in the House of Assembly—our thanks for the support that the Leader of the Opposition in another place, Mr Malinauskas, has provided. The Premier has sought to keep Mr Malinauskas informed as much as he can in relation to the major and more significant issues. As I said at the outset of my contribution today, I think the community at times like this expects us as MPs and as community leaders to work together in terms of the recovery effort, and they will mark us harshly, as they should, if we are unprepared to work together on that recovery effort. On behalf of the Premier but also the government, I acknowledge the particular role that the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Malinauskas, has adopted in the way he has sought to work with the Premier and the government on these difficult issues.

Clearly, there is an ongoing threat because we are just ticking over into February. Those of us with grey hair or no hair, who are much older than some of the young ones, can remember the events that are referred to as the Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1980 and 1983. They were much later in the summer season, so there are extraordinarily challenging times still ahead of us in terms of the rest of February and going into March. I am sure no-one within the emergency services sector is pausing, resting and believing it is all over. We know there are ongoing challenges over the coming month or two.

Whilst we have to be mindful of the ongoing threat, we have also moved very quickly, and we have to, into the recovery stage of the two bushfires: the Cudlee Creek and Adelaide Hills, and the Kangaroo Island bushfires. We have acknowledged the contribution the commonwealth government has made in terms of an aggregate sum of money. From the state government's viewpoint, we have publicly indicated, and I do so again on behalf of the government today, that bushfire recovery costs will be our highest priority for spending approvals over the coming months; that is, there will be no higher priority than making our contribution towards what is required for bushfire recovery purposes.

You will note that the government has appointed a State Lead, Disaster Rebuilding and Resilience within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Ms Margot Forster. This is a very appropriate appointment in that particular area. She is leading a team of people to coordinate the state effort and liaising with the National Bushfire Recovery Agency, and also with the other various appeals that have been conducted nationally, to try to ensure that the flow of funds is available to assist the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island, together with state and federal government funding as well.

The minister and the government have also appointed three local recovery coordinators to manage the recovery effort at the local level. Certainly, the minister has reported that community feedback has been that that process is working and working well and we are providing whatever support is required to those three local recovery coordinators.

There have been, right from the word go, personal hardship emergency grants provided immediately through the minister's department, and there was a series of recovery grants and other grants of up to \$75,000 that were available to both small businesses and primary producers directly impacted by the fires. The commonwealth government has announced concessional loans of up to half a million dollars for businesses impacted by the fires, and there is a range of other grant programs and relief programs that agencies are providing.

The health portfolio is looking at mental health and wellbeing for those throughout these impacted communities, and I know that the commonwealth government has a priority in that area. Funding is needed to be provided for waste removal programs and funding is needed to be provided for tourism marketing programs, particularly in relation to the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island. The federal government has a role to play, as has the state government, in relation to that. I cannot list all the areas where state and federal government expenditure is going to be required; that is just a small selection of them.

I have to say that in recent years banks have, deservedly, got a pretty bad rap for their behaviour. There are two major banks on Kangaroo Island, and Bank SA, in particular, has been the predominant banker or lender on Kangaroo Island for a long period of time. Recently, they outlined to me the range of grants they were making available—not just loans, but grants—to many of their customers, and concessional loans are being provided as well.

As I said, they have the overwhelming majority of customers on Kangaroo Island and a significant number of customers throughout the Adelaide Hills. So I want to acknowledge that, whilst governments are doing a lot, on the surface it would appear that the banks have certainly been prepared to indicate a willingness to provide some much-needed support in these impacted communities as well.

Finally, we acknowledge the generosity of the South Australian and Australian people by way not just of the direct support they provided but by the enormous support they have provided to the various appeals that have been conducted. Minister Lensink, just prior to question time, was kind enough to give me the latest update on the State Emergency Relief Fund: as of today there was \$5.16 million in that particular fund, and that does not include about \$1.5 million of other donations from three particular events or functions or groups that the minister is aware of.

It would appear that in the not too distant future there will be at least \$6.5 million to \$7 million in the State Emergency Relief Fund. Two million dollars of that was provided by the taxpayers and the government; nevertheless, it appears that up to \$5 million will have been raised, whether it be through cricket events or gala events or donations from individuals, businesses and companies towards that fund.

Mayor Pengilly indicated to us that he had \$2.8 million-ish in the mayoral fund last week, and he has established a committee, with the proper governance for that committee, that has absolute discretion in terms of that \$2.8 million. Of course, nationally we have seen extraordinary sums of money being raised by individuals like Celeste Barber. I think the last count I saw was \$70 million, an extraordinary sum of money. With the Red Cross, I think the last count I saw was well over \$100 million. Australians and South Australians have been extraordinarily generous to these appeals for funds.

The challenge for all of us now is to see proper coordination and delivery of these funds, because they have come from so many different areas. They are not being controlled by just one particular vehicle, whether that be government or Red Cross or whatever. There are so many funds, and the challenge for governments and others who control these funds is to make sure we do not waste any of it, that it is best directed to the areas of most need and that it is fairly distributed—as it should be—between all the impacted states: New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

With that, as I said, I will repeat for those who are watching, and those who might read these words later, the fact that while today there will be, as I understand it, three speakers, that is not an indication that there will not be other members speaking. I am aware that there are a number of other members who do want to speak but, because of the pressures of time today, they will speak either tomorrow or perhaps in the next sitting week and place their support for the motion that we have before us. With that, I commend the motion to the chamber.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (15:40): I rise to support this motion. I do so on behalf of the Labor opposition but note that there are likely to be more speakers from this side in the coming days. I offer my sympathies and condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of those who lost their lives in these fires. I also express my support for those who have been injured or lost their homes, properties and possessions. I think all of us have been moved by the impact that these fires have had not just on people's homes and possessions but on the natural environment.

Australia has already endured a horror fire season and it is only the start of February. Whilst we have suffered in South Australia tremendously, I also extend my thoughts to those in the Eastern States where fires have wrought devastation over vast areas. Fires interstate have claimed the lives of people, not just Australians but people who came here from overseas to defend the property of people they had never met in places they had never been. They may not have been Australians but they acted in a way that we can all aspire to.

Many fires have burnt all over our state but the two most devastating this season were at Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island. In the Cudlee Creek fire some 24,000 hectares burnt and some 70 homes, along with hundreds of outbuildings and vehicles, were affected. Almost half of Kangaroo Island burned—more than 200,000 hectares. Many people would have watched with horror as they updated on their apps or on social media feeds and saw the disaster unfolding on Kangaroo Island. Most of the Flinders Chase National Park and large parts of the western side of the island were burnt out. More than 80 homes were lost, along with almost 300 outbuildings. Most tragically, as the Leader of the Government has outlined, lives were lost in the Kangaroo Island fires.

Kangaroo Island is a sanctuary for many unique and endangered animals. There are grave concerns for the glossy black cockatoo and the Kangaroo Island dunnart. The latter only exists on the island and mostly lived in the Flinders Chase National Park, which has been almost entirely burnt out. Estimates are that in excess of half of Kangaroo Island's 50,000 koalas have perished, along with more than 50,000 livestock. Fires took lives and farmers have been left with the terrible reality of having to destroy animals that were too sick or injured to recover.

I think it is well accepted that fire conditions around Australia have been exacerbated and made worse by the conditions caused by human-induced climate change, and these fires will not be the last. South Australia must continue to lead the way on emission reductions and renewable energy to ensure that we are contributing what we can to reduce the conditions that can cause such terrible tragedies.

We would particularly like to acknowledge the critically important work done by our firefighters, our other emergency services personnel and those who, with their own firefighting

equipment and units, helped to control fires. Our volunteers fought heroically to protect lives, homes and businesses. The work of these incredible people did much to make sure that more was not lost. On behalf of the opposition, I would like to give special note and thanks to all of the international and interstate volunteers who travelled here to fight these fires. We thank the thousands upon thousands of volunteers who helped people who were forced to evacuate, and who are continuing to help people to rebuild after the fires. Without the help of these volunteers the prospects for those trying to pick up the pieces after losing so much would look much bleaker.

We appreciate the donations from all around the world that have helped with the rebuilding and relief efforts, whether through donations to charities assisting in recovery, donations to the CFS or emergency services, donations through official channels, or indirect donations from businesses who are donating proceeds from their business to the bushfire recovery.

We would like to take particular note and commend the work of the men and women of the defence forces of Australia, who have been deployed to help with recovery, especially on Kangaroo Island. Not only have Australian Defence Force personnel been involved, but they have also come from New Zealand as well.

I would particularly like to take note, as the Leader of the Government has, of individuals who have gone above and beyond during this crisis. I would particularly like to commend the tireless work of the local state member for Kangaroo Island, the member for Mawson, Mr Leon Bignell. Biggles was on the ground both during and after the worst parts of the fire, working day after day to make sure that the people he represents were reassured, and helping out in whatever role he could.

When things started turning very bad on the island, Leon asked what he could do to help. He was told that with the mobile networks going down communication on the ground was very difficult. Leon put a call out on social media to get help and more than 140 UHF two-way radios were donated. He took them to KI to give them to farm firefighters who were trying to protect their properties. These critical lines of communication meant they could relay real-time information and receive real-time updates, allowing people to be safer than they would otherwise have been. These radios and the people who donated them, I have personally heard, have saved lives. The member for Mawson was not afraid to put himself in the thick of it to help people on Kangaroo Island, even at one stage having to evacuate his own accommodation when the order was given.

I was privileged to make a visit to Kangaroo Island along with a number of other Labor colleagues. With the member for Mawson and also the member for Wright, Blair Boyer, we visited many parts of the island, from Penneshaw all the way to the very—and very devastated—western end of Kangaroo Island. Along with the member for Mawson and the member for Wright, we spent time at people's properties, helping clear burnt logs away from homes that could create potential fuel loads. We had the pleasure of camping out on the Parndana oval with the volunteers from BlazeAid and then helping them roll up destroyed fencing the next day.

The rebuilding effort after these fires is going to be a long process. For many people a lifetime of memories went up in the flames. We will need to help and support people for as long as it takes for people and communities to get back on their feet and for the local economy to be given the assistance it needs for many years to come. It will be important for South Australians to do everything that they can. I note the #BookThemOut campaign. It will not just be over the next few months but over the next few years that that support will be needed to continue.

I commend the motion to the council and look forward to supporting it when it is voted upon.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:47): I was not anticipating, but I see my name is actually on the list, so I will speak off the cuff in support of the motion, which we of course strongly support. I will be speaking more about Kangaroo Island in my matter of interest speech later on. I would like to endorse the words of the Leader of the Government here and the Leader of the Opposition in relation to the responses that were made to the emergency effort on Kangaroo Island and Cudlee Creek—and let us not forget that we also had a bushfire in Yorketown earlier this year.

I have to say that as a working journalist for many years I was certainly around during the Ash Wednesday bushfires and have covered bushfires over many decades. I do not think I felt as alarmed as I was while I watched this hell on earth in this country unfold during our summer period. First, we saw it in the Eastern States and all the devastation and heartbreak that was going along

the east coast. It was just extraordinary. I have never seen extraordinary scenes like that before in my working life. We were fortunate that we did not have greater loss of life in the Eastern States this time, unlike, of course, what we had at Kinglake in Victoria some years ago.

Seeing the images and maps of Australia showing how many fires were actually burning in this country over that Christmas and New Year period was quite frightening. The images were relayed around the world. I was even getting calls from friends overseas who were quite worried about what was happening in Australia.

As many members know, I have an interest in Kangaroo Island. I have a strong affinity with Kangaroo Island. I have been there three times in the last month and a half. I was actually there for a short leisurely period as the first fire broke out at Duncan. I left on New Year's Day thinking that the fire was going to be contained. We did not think much of it at the time, but when we returned to the mainland of course the other fires broke out and, again, the damage was absolutely extraordinary.

I also happened to be at Cudlee Creek the day the Cudlee Creek fire broke out. I was visiting a constituent and got there just after 9 o'clock in the morning. As you will recall, it was a very hot morning. I got out of the car and, as I got out, I noticed a spotter plane had just gone over my head. I looked behind me and I could just see a wisp of white smoke from a hill behind. I did not think much of it until I went inside and spoke to the constituent, who said, 'We need to get out of here. We've just received an evacuation order. It's not safe to stay. We need to go.'

They left and went to a safe haven somewhere around Mount Torrens. I stayed around in Lobethal watching this fire begin to envelope part of the Hills. I could not believe the speed and ferocity with which it took hold. Within an hour or so, the white smoke had turned to acrid black and there were then concerns in Lobethal. Of course, as we all know, it then went through to Woodside where there was loss of life, injuries to people and loss of property. I know two families who lost property there. I know another family who managed to defend their property.

It was extraordinary to see that and then to see what was going on on Kangaroo Island. I decided to go over to Kangaroo Island to have a look and see if we could provide any assistance or support to the people there. I noticed immediately that there was this resilience about the community. They were facing this adversity that no-one could imagine. As I said, it was like a hell on earth.

My chief of staff, Sean Whittington, and I drove through to Parndana and then went out to Stokes Bay. The fires were still raging out there. We stopped by several houses that had been burnt. In fact, it was the same day that the Prime Minister had gone out there. The devastation on either side of Stokes Bay Road was extraordinary. Not only did you have houses that had been destroyed but I noticed that there were massive gum trees that were not burnt, but the intensity of the wind had uprooted these massive gum trees and toppled them over. It was an extraordinary sight. We then saw the damaged properties.

We ended up on a hill that looked down to Stokes Bay. I stopped by the home of Mr Dean Stanton, who is a 98-year-old war veteran. There sitting on the porch were Mr Stanton's three sons, each of whom had lost their homes the day before. We were watching from the top the fire that was burning below in the gully. They were praying that there would not be a wind change that would have brought the fire up and consumed their father's home. We were watching the almost futile nature of trying to tackle that fire. There was no way that vehicles could get there. There was nothing they could really do except sit there and watch and pray that it did not turn around, come up and take their property.

While we were watching, a CFS unit turned up and a young man got out. He was wearing sunglasses, not because of the smoke or because he had been fighting or because he had received grit and stuff in his eyes; he was actually wearing the glasses because behind those glasses he was crying. I asked him what had happened to him and, of course, he had lost his home and that of his partner. They did not own the home—they were renting the home—but nevertheless they had lost all their possessions. It was really heartbreaking hearing his story, and at the same time there he was going out defending other people's properties.

I sat with the Stantons. It is incredible the strength that they showed. They were able to even crack jokes while we were sitting there, knowing that three members of their family had lost all their

possessions, lost their homes and would have to rebuild. They all had businesses, of course, as we know, but they had to rebuild. Nevertheless, they were very optimistic for the future.

My concern at the time was I hoped that the reality did not set in, because the issue of mental health would have been extremely important and something that would have needed to be addressed. But, of course, at that time there was so much adrenaline pumping through everybody's body, the fires were still going, and there was a lot of uncertainty as they tried to grasp the enormity of the scene.

I also visited a sheep property, the Kelly sheep property, very well-known farmers on Kangaroo Island. Again, the indiscriminate nature of bushfires is incredible. It took out many of their paddocks and they lost a significant number of sheep, but incredibly, the two houses were spared. I just could not believe while walking around that the fires had damaged so much of the area around, including a shearing shed barely 20 metres from the house, yet had spared the two houses. That is the house the Prime Minister had visited.

There was another sheep property across the road and I remember going there to try to talk to the owner, but he was too busy rounding up his sheep to move them from the paddock. I remember getting out of the vehicle and looking up at the hillside and there were wisps of smoke and piles burning on the hillside. It was an apocalyptic scene. It looked like a scene out of a movie. There were fires burning everywhere. They were still burning in Stokes Bay. It was an incredible sight.

Back in Parndana, there were concerns about the town itself. Fortunately, the aerial bombers had laid a fire retardant that ringed the town and saved it. I managed to stop by the Kangaroo Island Wildlife Park in Parndana as the koalas were being brought in. There were many of them, and again it was a really heartrending scene watching these animals that had been brought in to be treated. The Army reservists had just turned up and were building shelters for these animals.

At the same time, vets were coming in to treat the animals. I spoke to one of them, Garnett Hall, who came over from Perth. They got to work immediately. It was incredible the number of volunteers who had turned up to help with these animals. Many of the animals were in a shocking state. I doubt whether some of them would have survived after that. They came in in pain. Some were crying. If you have heard a koala crying, it is, again, quite a touching scene.

Enormous work went on at the wildlife park while the fires were still raging. A couple of days later, when I returned, the fires again threatened to consume the park. Fortunately, the Army had cut a break and the park was spared and so was the town. We will always remember these haunting images of the fires both on Kangaroo Island and, of course, in the Adelaide Hills.

One video that caught my eye was shot by Brenton Davis. His father, Peter Davis, has the Island Beehive in Kingscote, and he lost more than 900 hives. The video was taken inside their home as the fires were raging outside. It was daylight, yet it was in total darkness because the fires were rushing through at such a rate. There were sparks flying everywhere; it was incredible. To be in that house with the fires totally surrounding you would have been a frightening experience. It was a miracle that they escaped and it gives us an idea of the perils that the people on the island faced.

We have seen other images of animals that have died. I was talking to a wildlife person when I was there last week. We were speaking about the damage in Flinders Chase National Park, which is now just an ecological cemetery, unfortunately. They managed to discover two platypuses, or platypi. At last count, there were about 200, but they managed at least to see that there were two. Some of the wildlife could not be accounted for. We are not sure what happened to the cockatoos. On a positive note, if you could find one, at least it managed to curtail the feral pig problem that they were trying to combat.

One of the tourist operators there, who of course is suffering as many there are, told me of another interesting aspect. He managed to go into the park and went to Remarkable Rocks to have a look. All the infrastructure leading to Remarkable Rocks has been destroyed, but he told me that one of the rocks has exploded. If you have been to Remarkable Rocks, they are made out of granite. For one of those structures to explode gives you an idea of the intensity of those fires. It is just extraordinary.

I have mentioned the loss of life. My sincere condolences to the family of Dick and Clayton Lang, Mr Selth in the Adelaide Hills and also those in the Eastern States and those who came from America to fight the fires. I knew Dick. He was a pioneer of the outback with his airline. I was a young reporter, and the first time I ever saw Lake Eyre was in Dick Lang's plane. When I was chief of staff at Channel 7 at Gilberton, we often used Dick as the pilot to take us to various locations for stories we shot. He was such an incredible character. This is such a loss to South Australia and South Australian tourism, as well as the loss of his son Clayton, who was a leading plastic surgeon. Again, we pass on our condolences to the family as well.

The other interesting aspect of this is the extraordinary support that came in, firstly from the public but from the volunteers and firefighters who risked their lives over there. It was incredible. At Kingscote, the Army had come in and set up an Army base. They were working with the CFS, the SES and St John Ambulance. The Salvation Army had set up a mobile catering area there and were looking after people. It was an extraordinary operation. I have never before seen anything of that magnitude and the way it was carried out.

I think the important thing now for these communities is recovery, as has been mentioned. I know that the Kangaroo Island community has been particularly hard-hit, not just the rural sector but also the tourism sector of Kangaroo Island. Some businesses have been totally wiped out. Others are really struggling and may have to close or lay off staff. The turnover has been down about 50 per cent for some of them, and that will make the difference as to whether their businesses actually survive.

It was strange being there last week and seeing hardly any tourists on Kangaroo Island. At this time of the year, it is just teeming with tourists everywhere, but there were few to be seen last week. I commend the South Australian government for quickly reacting and getting the campaign #BookThemOut underway. It was a great initiative by the South Australian Tourism Commission.

The video put together by the South Australian Tourism Commission was excellent and certainly conveyed strong feelings of getting people over there on the island. Disappointingly, I was told that the South Australian government had not allocated any extra funding to market and promote tourism in the Adelaide Hills, Kangaroo Island and other parts of South Australia, but I imagine that is probably going to be addressed anyway.

The fact is that these people need help; they need it urgently. They need support financially and they also need it psychologically. I congratulate the Hon. Michelle Lensink. I spoke to her briefly in between my trips to Kangaroo Island. I mentioned the fact that many people on the island were going to be needing mental health support. She indicated to me that they had already undertaken to send several staff there. At the Kingscote volunteer centre I noted that SA Water had a psychologist over there to look after their staff at Little River. The psychologist was also counselling people at the Kingscote volunteer centre who had lost their homes. These people had come in, entire families, young kids with only the clothes that were on their backs, looking dishevelled and in a daze, wondering what was going to happen tomorrow to them. You really had to feel for them. It was an extraordinary experience.

Incredible support has come from all quarters—from government, from volunteer organisations, and from other organisations from as far away as the BlazeAid people. I went and saw them as well and the incredible work they are doing. The support from people overseas and the amount of money that has been raised for them is incredible, and it continues to be raised. I think it lifts your faith in human nature when you see people come together like that. It is just extraordinary and it will continue to be like that.

I will finish up by saying that SA-Best certainly commends this motion, commends the work of the South Australian government and the federal government for the support they have been giving. I would also acknowledge the strong work that has been put in by their local member, Leon Bignell. I bumped into him a couple of times in the work he was doing there. I also thank our own Rebekha Sharkie, the federal member for Mayo, and the Kangaroo Island mayor, Michael Pengilly. They were extraordinary efforts by Michael, who had to leave his own property to take a very strong role as the leader of an island that had been devastated emotionally and knocked around every which way. I think he showed great leadership for them and tremendous effort in raising all that money for

that community. Let's hope that the island and the Adelaide Hills—I have not spoken much about the Adelaide Hills because I have not been back there but I intend to go back there next week—recover and they become more resilient communities.

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

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Treasurer (Hon. R.I. Lucas)—

Regulations under Acts—

Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935—Relevant Industry Regulatory Authority

Rules of Court—

Magistrates Court Act 1991—Criminal—Amendment No. 80

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

Reports, 2018-19—

SA Cattle Advisory Group

SA Sheep Advisory Group

Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure 2018-19 Amendment

Regulations under Acts—

Australian Energy Market Commission Establishment Act 2004—Confidentiality

Genetically Modified Crops Management Act 2004—

Designation of Area No. 2

Mining Act 1971—Budget Measures

Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016—

Development Assessment No. 2

Report into the Review into the South Australian Retailer Energy Efficiency Scheme dated December 2019

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

Regulations under Acts—

Landscape South Australia Act 2019—Transitional Provisions

By the Minister for Health and Wellbeing (Hon. S. G. Wade)—

Report of Maternal and Perinatal Mortality in South Australia 2017

Regulations under Acts—

Controlled Substances Act 1984—Poisons—

Emergency Supplies

Industry Regulatory Authority

Question Time

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (16:15): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Leader of the Government a question about the member for Waite.

Leave granted.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: The events that occurred in Parliament House on 13 December last year and the behaviour of the member for Waite, Sam Duluk, are now well known after public reporting and admissions from the member. The member for Waite has admitted to offensive behaviour and further allegations, including potential harassment, assault and offensive comments about race and sexuality, have been raised.

It is understood that the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council has conducted his own interviews with the member for Waite and possibly others in connection with this conduct. My question is: can the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council advise the council of the nature and detail of his secret Liberal Party investigations into this potential misconduct?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:16): The Premier has announced the position on behalf of the government in relation to this issue—indeed, consistent with the statements that have been made in another place by the Speaker—and that is that there is an investigation being conducted by a person appointed by the Speaker in another place. The Premier's position, the government's position, and indeed my position, is that we will await the results of that investigation. Unlike other members, we don't rely on media reporting as a substitute for the facts. With great respect to our friends in the media, they don't always get things right.

I must admit that I didn't hear all the detail of the honourable member's question. I will go back and refer to it afterwards, but I am not aware of some of the aspects the honourable member is talking about in relation to claims of secret Liberal investigations, evidently, and whatever else he referred to. I will check the record. I thought he used some words I had not heard reported in relation to these particular issues, but I will not reflect on those until I have had a chance to check the *Hansard* record. If need be I might make another comment at another stage.

Certainly, my response on behalf of government members is consistent with what the Premier has said: there is a process that has been established by the Speaker in another place and we will await the results of that particular process to get some better indication of the facts as they relate to the various incidents on the night.

As the Premier has indicated, no-one in the government, including the Premier and myself, support some of the reports that have been made in relation to the behaviour of the member for Waite on that particular evening. They were, as the Premier has said, completely unacceptable both to the Premier and to all of us as members of the government—and, I'm sure, to all members in this chamber as well. I can add no more than that. I have nothing more to offer.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (16:18): A supplementary arising from the answer. As the Leader of the Government indicated, and as it has been reported, there is a private investigator undertaking investigations. Has the Leader of the Government made himself available to the investigator if he did, in fact, conduct interviews with the member for Waite about his behaviour that night?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:18): I am available to anyone who wishes to speak to me. I'm not aware of what the member is referring to in relation to that particular question and indeed, on reflection, what appears to be what he was referring to in his previous question.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (16:19): A supplementary arising from the original answer. Has the Leader of the Government spoken to the member for Waite about his conduct on the afternoon and evening of 13 December 2019?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:19): I'm not proposing to go into the detail of conversations I have with my colleagues. I speak with all of my colleagues, including the member for Waite, on any number of occasions. Indeed, last week most of us, virtually all of us, were on Kangaroo Island and I spoke to every one of my colleagues, including the member for Waite. I think he was sitting next to me during the party meeting that we had on that particular day. I'm not going to go into the detail of conversations I have had either with the member for Waite or indeed with my colleagues, minister Ridgway, minister Lensink or minister Wade, or any of my colleagues. It is none of the Leader of the Opposition's business.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (16:20): My question is for the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. Was the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council directed by the

Premier to speak to the now-disgraced Liberal member for Waite, Sam Duluk, about the misconduct on 13 December 2019 or about other alleged incidents?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:20): I'm not adding anything further to the answers I gave to the first series of questions but I can indicate that I'm not directed to do anything.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (16:20): My question is for the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. Does the Leader of the Government in this chamber think that someone who assaults women should hold office as a member of parliament?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:21): I'm not going to add anything further to the comments I made in response to the earlier question. There is a process that has been established, as I said in response to the questions asked by the Leader of the Opposition. I don't rely on public reporting by the media, with great respect to my friends and colleagues in the media, to be an accurate portrayal of the facts of the situation. I will await the results of the investigation. I have indicated in response to the earlier question that the actions, as reported and if accurate, of the member on that particular evening are completely unacceptable to the Premier, to the government and to me.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (16:21): A supplementary: the leader may say that this is a matter for process but this is a question above any process. In fact, this is what the leader has said previously from the other place—and are you aware of what his comments are? The Premier's response to the very question I just asked—

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Bourke, are you asking a supplementary question?

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: Yes.

The PRESIDENT: This is not the time for a further explanation. Can you please ask the supplementary question.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: My further supplementary is: on 31 July 2019, to which he responded:

I would like to say unequivocally that we reject bullying, harassment and attacks in any workplace, any workplace whatsoever.

Do you agree with this statement?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:22): I don't support bullying and harassment in any workplace. I'm not sure what statement the honourable member is referring to but as a general statement I don't support bullying and harassment in any workplace. I don't think any member would.

KANGAROO ISLAND BUSHFIRE

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:22): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the minister representing the Premier, the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, a question about the Kangaroo Island bushfires.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: As indicated, I have visited Kangaroo Island twice since the bushfires and I have had critical concerns raised with me about the management strategies and operational decisions that have taken place, including:

- budget cuts implemented by the state government impacting the number of prescribed burn-offs in the state's national and conservation parks;
- the availability and number of water bomber aircrafts dedicated to fighting the fires;
- restrictions governing the types and use of sea water and fire retardant by aerial bombing aircraft in our national parks;

- the responsibility of local councils in maintaining roadside vegetation and development plans requiring property setbacks of up to 100 metres for buildings;
- time-critical delays in response times between on-the-ground firefighting crews, earthmoving contractors and incident command management; and
- various laws that may have impacted the planned fire management techniques; namely, the Native Vegetation Act.

One of the main complaints I heard constantly was about the chain of command and that the views of those on the ground on Kangaroo Island were overlooked and/or overruled. My questions to the honourable Treasurer are:

1. Have those same concerns been raised with you personally and/or your office?
2. Are you concerned at such matters?
3. Is the government satisfied that the review it announced, to be headed by former AFP chief Mick Keelty, but which will only receive written submissions, will have the ability and time to comprehensively investigate many disturbing claims?
4. Will those providing submissions be accorded privilege?
5. What is Mr Keelty's fee?
6. Would you support a parliamentary inquiry into the state's bushfire season so such claims and others can be suitably aired and witnesses can be called to give evidence?
7. Finally, what level of support is the government going to provide the royal commission announced by the Prime Minister?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:25): There were 416 questions there, so I might need to take those on notice. I think he was indicating that they were questions directed to the Premier, and I was representing the Premier in this place, so I will take the bulk of those questions on notice. But I think in broad ambit the government's response will be that we have established a process for investigating a lot of these claims.

I am sure the member would be the first to acknowledge that there are many claims made in relation to these issues, some of which might be accurate, many of which we have already heard to be inaccurate. Indeed, when we visited Kangaroo Island last week some of my ministerial colleagues highlighted some of the issues that have been raised, some of which have been referred to by the member, and indicated unequivocally that there was no accuracy in relation to some of the claims.

But the process, I would hope, over the coming weeks and the immediate future is to work together in terms of recovery. There is also a process of learning the lessons of what occurred and what can be done better, but the process of pointing the finger and attributing blame at this stage, which some want to engage in, I think shouldn't be the emphasis at this particular stage. There will be plenty of time—and there is already a process that has been established—for us to allow those particular views to be ventilated and then to be considered.

I think the Premier has indicated—and I will have it checked—that the results of this SAFECOM/Mr Keelty commissioner inquiry needs to be concluded by no later than around about the middle of the year to ensure that any action that might need to be taken prior to next year's fire season—that the lessons can be implemented if they need to be prior to the next year's fire season as well.

So, look, I think there is a process that has been established. There is another process in terms of the commonwealth government's response. The Hon. Mr Pangallo has asked I think in broad terms whether we will cooperate. Well, of course we will cooperate with any properly appointed royal commission. We have royal commissions at the moment into disability and aged care—is it?

The Hon. J.M.A. Lensink: Correct.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: Yes, and we are appropriately cooperating with both of those royal commissions, as we have in the past with royal commissions. So when that process is established I

am sure all state governments, but the South Australian state government, will cooperate appropriately. But we are not going to delay, because if there is a royal commission established nationally, it is my experience with royal commissions they will not have concluded their work by the middle of this year.

The Premier took the view, supported by his government that, whilst the royal commission may well be a longer process and may well throw open a whole range of issues nationally, we needed a targeted, specific and quicker process in relation to considering at least some of the issues that need to be considered prior to the next fire season. That is why the government has established the process that is there.

The member has raised the issue of a third inquiry, which is a parliamentary inquiry. I cannot indicate what the government's position would be, but I think the government's initial response would be that there is already a state-based inquiry; let's see what the issues are in relation to that and whether people are comfortable that their views were able to be ventilated and considered appropriately, and they may well be very satisfied that that is one process.

To actually have another process going on contemporaneously with a federal royal commission and a state SAFECOM-initiated inquiry with Mr Keelty, some of these people would perhaps be presenting evidence to three separate inquiries at three separate times. I am not sure all of them would welcome that particular process as an appropriate response from governments and the parliament.

The honourable member is perfectly entitled, as he has done on a number of occasions, to move for parliamentary committees. The government will have to consider that response if and when he moves a motion, but at this stage we are not indicating that we are publicly supporting a parliamentary committee because there is currently a process that is going on in terms of trying to consider most of these issues.

LIBERAL PARTY CODE OF CONDUCT

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (16:30): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council regarding the Liberal Party of Australia's code of conduct.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: The Liberal Party of Australia's code of conduct states that it applies to all state and territory divisions of the Liberal Party. I will quote a portion of it:

...this code applies to all staff, contractors, members, volunteers and representatives of the LPA.

My question to the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council is: does this code of conduct apply to Liberal members in this parliament and, if not, why not?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:31): I will need to take that on notice. I am not sure whether I actually have responsibility for answering questions in relation to the organisation of the Liberal Party in relation to matters that I have ministerial responsibility for in this house. I could indicate an unwillingness to respond to that particular issue, but I would need to have a look.

My recollection is that that has only just been recently endorsed by the federal executive or the federal council of the party at the federal level. My recollection of the early discussions—and I have not been involved; I am not a member of the federal executive of the party—is that the process is related to the groups that were outlined by the member. I assume he was quoting from a media article or something. I don't believe they directly relate to members of parliament in terms of allegations from one member of parliament to another member of parliament.

That is my recollection. If I have anything further and useful to add, and if I feel disposed to doing so, I will do so. But, as I said, I don't believe I have ministerial responsibility in this chamber for process issues for the Liberal Party organisation.

LIBERAL PARTY CODE OF CONDUCT

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (16:32): Supplementary, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: Supplementary question, the Hon. Mr Hanson, arising from the answer?

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: Yes. Who is responsible for making sure that Liberal Party members in this chamber would adhere to that national code of conduct, if it is not in fact the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:32): I don't think the member actually understood the answer to the question. I would refer him to the answer to the question I gave.

LIBERAL PARTY CODE OF CONDUCT

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (16:32): A further supplementary arising from the answer: therefore, does the South Australian branch of the Liberal Party have its own separate code of conduct which applies currently to the South Australian members?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:33): The state executive of the Liberal Party of South Australia separately has recently endorsed, as I understand it, a code of conduct which is similar but not the same as the federal one. I would have to take advice on this; again, I am not responsible for the organisational issues. Again, my understanding is, if it's modelled on the federal one, it doesn't relate to member of parliament to member of parliament complaints.

LIBERAL PARTY CODE OF CONDUCT

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (16:33): Further supplementary arising from the original answer. Written on the bottom of the national code of conduct is the fact that it stated that it was adopted by all branches in 2019, so I would like to ask the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council again: does he believe that the national code of conduct, which was adopted in 2019, applies to members of this chamber, or not?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:34): I have nothing further to add to the answers I have already given the member.

LIBERAL PARTY CODE OF CONDUCT

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (16:34): Further supplementary arising from the original answer: the national code of conduct adopted by all branches in 2019 has a section 11, and I will read a portion of that, because it is relevant.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: It's relevant. I can not quote it, if you would like.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hanson, you can ask a supplementary question, but we are not going back into explanations.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: I will not quote it, because you don't want it quoted to you. Section 11 of that code—

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hanson, do you have a supplementary question or not?

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: Supplementary question.

The PRESIDENT: Ask your supplementary question or sit down.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: Does the South Australian code of conduct have an equal clause to clause 11 in the national code of conduct adopted in 2019?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:35): I have nothing further to add to the answers I have already given on this issue.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (16:35): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Human Services about funding for preventative maintenance and upgrade of existing public housing stock.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL: In the government's 2019-20 state budget, delivered back in June, it committed \$21.1 million over two years for preventative maintenance on older South Australian Housing Authority homes. In November last year, the Greens were pleased to have been able to secure additional ongoing preventative maintenance funding for existing SA Housing Authority homes. This additional funding was secured through negotiations with the government over the Land Tax (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill.

The Treasurer, during the committee stage of the bill on 28 November, outlined this commitment as:

...an additional \$7.5 million per annum from 2020-21 to be spent on preventative maintenance and upgrade of existing public housing stock in the South Australian Housing Authority.

On top of this, the government also committed to installing solar panels on a minimum of 75 per cent of all suitable public housing, that is for existing housing stock, plus installing batteries together with solar panels on a minimum of 75 per cent of new public housing. The Greens secured this commitment with the aim of improving energy efficiency and lowering energy bills for some of South Australia's most vulnerable households.

A month later, on 9 December last year, I received the report *Our Housing Future 2020-2030*. That states on page 10 that the government's commitment is to:

...\$75 million to start addressing the public housing capital maintenance backlog to 2030 and to improve sustainability and energy efficiency of public housing where appropriate and possible.

I am now trying to reconcile this with the government's earlier commitments. My questions of the minister are:

1. Does the document *Our Housing Future 2020-2030* include all of the government's commitments to public housing over the next 10 years?
2. To put the same question a slightly different way, does this document reflect both the additional commitment made in November of an extra \$7.5 million for preventative maintenance per annum and the commitment to install solar panels?
3. Are the promised expenditure amounts in *Our Housing Future* in addition to the allocation in last year's state budget, which was \$21.1 million over two years for preventative maintenance, or are the previous budget commitments included in the proposed 10-year spend?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (16:38): I thank the honourable member for his question. If I can refer to the 2019-20 state budget housing sector package initially, and I think he has referred to some of these figures as well, \$21.1 million for preventative maintenance and upgrade programs to improve ageing authority homes is for in the order of 450 properties, including walk-up flats and pre-1968 homes, as well as upgrading a number of walk-up flats.

That particular funding, \$21.1 million, is to approximately 250 walk-up flat dwellings and approximately 200 others. My understanding of the \$7.5 million per annum over 10 years is that it is in addition to the budget figures, because *Our Housing Future* is prospective from the date that it was released. If that is not correct, I will come back to the council and provide further details for the honourable member.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. T.T. NGO (16:39): My question is for the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. Is the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council aware of any other allegations involving the disgraced Liberal member for Waite, Sam Duluk, that have not been made public?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:39): I have nothing further to add to this whole issue other than what I answered in relation to the earlier questions. There is a process that has been established—

The Hon. I.K. Hunter interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hunter!

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: —and I await the results of the process.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Pangallo.

An honourable member interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: He has had a question, but I believe he is taking the second SA-Best question; is that correct? No. The Hon. Ms Bonaros.

CORONAVIRUS

The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:40): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Health and Wellbeing a question about the coronavirus.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: The Queensland parliament is rushing through new laws to give authorities time to find and potentially detain suspected coronavirus victims. Under that state's existing laws, authorities can only detain a suspected victim for seven days. Their proposed new laws will allow authorities to detain a person suspected of contracting the coronavirus for up to three months in order that that person remain at a particular place, require them to provide authorities with samples when requested and have various other powers to manage public health risks. Anyone who fails to comply with such an order can face hefty fines of up to \$13,000. They can also be potentially arrested and gaoled if they don't comply. My questions to the minister are:

1. Given the advice from various health agencies that this is one of the fastest spreading new viruses, is the state government comfortable that our current laws around locating and detaining potential victims of the coronavirus are sufficient?

2. Is the government planning to introduce any new laws similar to those that Queensland is looking at?

3. Has the government communicated with Queensland or any other government in relation to the same issue in determining whether more stringent measures are required?

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (16:41): I thank the honourable member for her question. I might take the opportunity to highlight that I have already taken action to support our public health authorities in terms of making the new coronavirus a controlled notifiable condition so that medical practitioners are required to provide information to the public health authorities straightaway.

My memory fails me as to how long ago it was—I suspect it was 10 years ago. This parliament, about 10 years ago, refreshed our public health emergency legislation, so it is relatively contemporary. I certainly have spoken to the public health physicians who are leading our response to the coronavirus as to whether they are confident they have the legal powers and the resources to respond. They certainly haven't raised any issues with me, but thank you for bringing to my attention the action of the Queensland parliament. I will certainly take it back to them and see if there are any steps being taken in Queensland that we might consider here.

The Queensland response has been slightly different. In fact, it would be fair to say that New South Wales and Queensland have both had slight variations from what I might call the national approach. I think what has been demonstrated in the 2003 SARS outbreak and is being confirmed again in this outbreak is that, in a situation like this, the cooperation between the state, territory and federal authorities is seamless. Certainly, I have been part of national teleconferences that have involved departmental leadership, public health leadership and ministerial leadership, backed up, to be frank, by a series of clinical advisory groups.

I won't risk getting it wrong by trying to title them properly, but there is a clinical network for communicable diseases and another committee that is, if you like, the peak clinical advisory group to ministers. I think it's called the AHPCC. For example, the decisions of the National Security Committee last Friday were made on the basis of clinical advice, of course. As I said, I will certainly go back to the public health clinicians, reiterate the question that I have already put to them, which is, 'Do you have all the resources that you need?' and specifically inquire as to whether the Queensland initiatives might have value here.

WORKPLACE SAFETY AUDIT

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (16:44): My question is for the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. Has the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council requested a workplace safety audit by the department to ensure that employees under his care have not experienced similar predatory behaviour by the member for Waite, Sam Duluk?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:44): No.

WORKPLACE SAFETY AUDIT

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (16:45): A supplementary.

The PRESIDENT: It will be interesting to see how you can get a supplementary arising out of that answer, the Hon. Ms Pnevmatikos.

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS: The answer is no; is there an intention to?

The PRESIDENT: I will allow it.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:45): No.

REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (16:45): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Treasurer about conflict of interest.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL: Recent events in Canberra have shown that political careers can flounder on a lack of full disclosure in relation to members of parliament, and ministers in particular, who fail to disclose their membership of various organisations. In South Australia, the obligation of members of parliament to lodge an annual ordinary return of their declaration of interest does not include a requirement to disclose membership of sporting clubs, community organisations or other entities, other than a very limited range of union, trade, business, professional or similar organisations. So my question of the minister is: what steps will the government take to ensure that membership of sporting clubs, community organisations or other entities is fully and publicly disclosed by all ministers and other members of parliament?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:46): This is a reasonable question. I am certainly happy to take that on notice and take advice in relation to the issue. The members of parliament pecuniary interest register, 100 years ago when the parliament was first established, I suspect was probably as a result of legislation and requirements of the house as opposed to government dictate. I will come back with a more considered legal view—again, as I cover myself; I am not a lawyer. That's my recollection of the members of parliament pecuniary interest register.

I do know and I used to chuckle that the former member for Mallee or the member for Hammond used to take up two pages of organisations that he had an association with. They included sporting clubs and a whole variety of other clubs. The member is right; I don't think it requires it, but a number of members do reveal their various interests in their interpretation of the members of parliament pecuniary interests issue.

The member's question is probably more particularly directed to ministers in relation to requirements, because the events of Canberra to which he refers relate to ministers and decisions they take. Members of parliament, whilst they can sometimes be attempted to be hung, drawn and quartered by their association with a club or association, in the end don't have executive decision-making capacity to give grants, for example. They can advocate for grants, of course, and those sorts of things. But let me take the honourable member's question on notice and come back with a more considered and informed response than the brief one I have been able to give him off the cuff this afternoon.

GLOBELINK

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (16:48): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment regarding GlobeLink.

Leave granted.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER: My apologies, Mr President. My question is for the Minister for Trade and Investment. The minister has previously said that the Marshall Liberal team's GlobeLink policy is, and I quote, 'unequivocally great news for South Australia' and will 'create jobs, increase South Australia's export capacity, get freight off metro Adelaide roads, improve road safety and grow our regions'.

Unfortunately, it has been recently reported that the company that prepared this business case for GlobeLink found that it doesn't stack up. There will be no jobs, there will be no increased export capacity, there will be no freight taken off metro Adelaide roads, there will be no improved road safety and it will not grow our regions because it does not stack up. My question is: why did the minister and the Liberal Party mislead the voters of South Australia about the benefits of GlobeLink when it would not ever stack up?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (16:49): I thank the honourable member—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, I would like to hear the minister's answer. Minister.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: Thank you, sir, for your protection. I thank the honourable member for his question. His question, if I remember correctly, is: why did we mislead the South Australian public? Well, we didn't mislead South Australia. There have been a—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: There have been a number of studies done over a large number of years in relation to getting the trains out of the Adelaide Hills. There is a lot of noise, squealing, double-stacking of—

The Hon. E.S. Bourke interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Bourke, I would like to hear the minister's answer, please. Minister.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: There has been a large amount of work done over a number of years. There is a large intermodal facility at Monarto. There has been a lot of commentary around the potential to have a look at an alternate route for both heavy freight and rail. Of course, some land had been set aside many years ago by the opposite members' sort of father figure, the Hon. Don Dunstan, when he was premier, for Monarto and Monarto airport. The opposition, as we were at the time, took the view that we should have a look and do the business case, which is what we told the people of South Australia, into—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Scriven, I would like to hear the answer and I can't hear the minister while you are all shouting at him. Minister.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: The policy we took to the election was to do a business case on what was called GlobeLink, which was about a train, a road and potentially an airport. We have done the business case. We have proven once and for all that, in the medium term to probably even the long term, it doesn't stack up. We honoured our commitment to the South Australian people. We have done the business case. We will now, as we heard in the Governor's speech, focus, as I had on a number of occasions before, on the north-south corridor, which is the priority of the Marshall Liberal government.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hunter, you have a supplementary?

GLOBELINK

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (16:51): I do have a supplementary, Mr President, arising from the original answer from the minister. Minister, if the policy that you took to the election was simply to have a business case for GlobeLink, how then did you get away with making claims that the policy will 'create jobs, increase South Australia's export capacity, get freight off metro Adelaide roads, improve road safety and grow our regions'? In quoting that, I refer to a post by David Ridgway dated 1 March 2017—

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hunter, it's a supplementary question.

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER: It is, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: Where is the question?

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER: I am just giving the honourable minister some detail about his previous comments.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hunter, ask your supplementary or sit down.

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER: The supplementary is how can you claim that it was merely a policy about a business case being produced when you also made claims that this would create jobs: definitely create jobs, green tick; increase South Australia's export capacity, green tick; get freight off metro Adelaide roads, green tick—

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: Point of order, Mr President.

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER: —improve road safety, green tick; grow our regions, green tick?

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hunter!

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER: You made all those claims and now you are saying—

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hunter!

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER: How do you justify them? How do you justify it?

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hunter, sit down. There is a point of order. I would like to hear the point of order. The Hon. Mr Hood.

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: Sir, a supplementary question doesn't require explanation.

The PRESIDENT: Your point is well made, the Hon. Mr Hood.

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER: Mr President, I recant. I will just ask the question.

The PRESIDENT: Well, that would be lovely.

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER: How do you justify, minister, making claims that a policy to have a business case would create all of these economic benefits for the state? They haven't and they won't. How do you justify that?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: It's day one, so we will give them some latitude.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (16:53): If the honourable member had read the Liberal Party policy prior to the last election, the policy was about a business case.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hunter, have you got a supplementary question or are you just standing up?

GLOBELINK

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (16:54): Mr President, my supplementary is this: does the minister support spending millions of dollars of taxpayers' funds on reports that make the government's election commitment sound like an episode of *Utopia*?

The PRESIDENT: Minister, please yourself if you want to answer that. You have a supplementary question arising from the original answer, the Hon. Mr Pangallo?

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Yes.

The PRESIDENT: Ask your supplementary.

GLOBELINK

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:54): Can the minister say whether or not the government was lobbied against the GlobeLink proposal by Adelaide Airport's corporation?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (16:54): The Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government conducted the business case. I certainly wasn't lobbied personally by Adelaide Airport in any respect around the GlobeLink proposal, but if it pleases the honourable member I will take the question on notice and refer it to my colleague in the other chamber.

The PRESIDENT: Hon. Mr Pangallo, are you asking a supplementary question?

GLOBELINK

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:55): Yes, I am; just a clarification. Did Adelaide Airport's corporation indicate to the government that it was opposed to the GlobeLink project?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (16:55): I don't recall ever receiving any correspondence or information from the Adelaide Airport corporation because I was—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, I would like to hear the minister's answer—and so would the Hon. Mr Pangallo. Please listen in silence. Minister, have you finished?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: As members opposite and the Hon. Mr Pangallo know, it was a policy we took to the election. The business case study was conducted by the Minister for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. I had no role in the business case. As I said, I don't recall ever being lobbied by Adelaide Airport, but I will take that question on notice and bring back a reply.

GLOBELINK

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (16:56): A further supplementary question. Apart from the consultants, can the minister advise the council exactly—or even approximately—how many jobs the GlobeLink policy created for South Australia?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (16:56): As we said, our policy was to do a business case. We have done the business case and the business case has now been made public.

REVALUATION INITIATIVE

The Hon. J.A. DARLEY (16:56): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Trade and Investment, representing the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, a question regarding the Revaluation Initiative being implemented by the Valuer-General.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.A. DARLEY: In the 2016-17 financial year, \$15.45 million was allocated to the Revaluation Initiative project. One aim of this project was to address the accuracy of independent living unit records and valuations in retirement villages. I understand this component of the project was placed on hold until the joint committee of the parliament released its findings on 12 November 2019. My questions are:

1. How much of the original budget of \$15.45 million was allocated to address independent living unit records and valuations?

2. How much of that amount has been spent to date?

3. What is the estimated cost to complete this project in light of the joint committee's findings, and is this more or less than was budgeted in 2016?

4. What is the estimated completion date of this component of the project?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (16:58): I thank the honourable member for his question and will take that on notice and refer it to my colleague the Hon. Stephan Karl Knoll, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, in the House of Assembly.

GLOBELINK

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (16:58): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment a question regarding GlobeLink.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Sorry, the Minister for Trade and Investment (he is being reshuffled one portfolio at a time).

Leave granted.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: On 16 May 2018, the minister was asked about the business case for GlobeLink, and the minister said:

The only reason it would not stack up is that the honourable member's party would be back in government again and the economy would collapse and we couldn't support it. But if we have strong government and strong leadership and a strong federal government and the investment we have in this state, I am sure that the project will stack up.

That was the minister with the rapidly decreasing portfolio load's quote back then. My question is: what of his preconditions are we lacking? Is it a strong state government or is it strong leadership in this state or is it a strong federal government, or what combination of those three is lacking for the business case to not stack up?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (16:59): As I have said on numerous occasions today, we agreed to take a business case forward on GlobeLink. We did that. It has been published and made public. I always said it was a long-term priority. We are focusing on the north-south corridor. The business case does not stack up.

GLOBELINK

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (17:00): Supplementary question arising from the answer: on what basis did the minister make the claims in 2018 that I have used in the question?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (17:00): We took all of our policy to the election. I was optimistic that they were good policies. That is why—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: I can't hear.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Maher, I would like to hear the answer and I can't with the cackling from the opposition benches. Minister, do you have anything further to add?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: Nothing more to add, Mr President.

Parliamentary Procedure

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (17:01): With the agreement of the Opposition Whip and crossbenchers, I am advised, I move:

That the standing orders be so far suspended as to enable members' statements on matters of interest to be postponed and taken into consideration on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

The PRESIDENT: I note the absolute majority.

Parliamentary Committees

SELECT COMMITTEE ON WAGE THEFT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (17:01): I seek leave to move a motion without notice concerning the Select Committee on Wage Theft in South Australia.

Leave granted.

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS: I move:

That the committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 29 April 2020.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON POVERTY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (17:02): I seek leave to move a motion without notice concerning the Select Committee on Poverty in South Australia.

Leave granted.

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS: I move:

That the committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 29 April 2020.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDEVELOPMENT OF ADELAIDE OVAL

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (17:02): I seek leave to move a motion without notice concerning the Select Committee on Redevelopment of Adelaide Oval.

Leave granted.

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER: I move:

That the committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 29 April 2020.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE TIMBER INDUSTRY IN THE LIMESTONE COAST

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (17:03): I seek leave to move a motion without notice concerning the Select Committee on Matters Relating to the Timber Industry in the Limestone Coast.

Leave granted.

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

That the committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 29 April 2020.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON FINDINGS OF THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN ROYAL COMMISSION AND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION AS THEY RELATE TO THE DECISIONS OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (17:03): I seek leave to move a motion without notice concerning the Select Committee on Findings of the Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission and Productivity Commission as they Relate to the Decisions of the South Australian Government.

Leave granted.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: I move:

That the committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 29 April 2020.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON MATTERS RELATING TO SA PATHOLOGY AND SA MEDICAL IMAGING

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (17:04): I seek leave to move a motion without notice concerning the Select Committee on Matters Relating to SA Pathology and SA Medical Imaging.

Leave granted.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: I move:

That the Select Committee on Matters Relating to SA Pathology and SA Medical Imaging have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 29 April 2020.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

The Hon. C. BONAROS (17:05): I seek leave to move a motion without notice concerning the Select Committee on the Effectiveness of the Current System of Parliamentary Committees.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: I move:

That the Select Committee on the Effectiveness of the Current System of Parliamentary Committees have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 29 April 2020.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Hon. C. BONAROS (17:05): I seek leave to move a motion without notice concerning the Select Committee on Health Services in South Australia.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: I move:

That the Select Committee on Health Services in South Australia have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 29 April 2020.

Motion carried.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (17:06): I seek leave to move a motion without notice concerning the Budget and Finance Committee.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: I move:

That the Budget and Finance Committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Tuesday 22 July 2020.

Motion carried.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (17:06): I move:

That the members of this council appointed to the Joint Committee on the 125th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage have power to act on the joint committee during the present session.

Motion carried.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON END OF LIFE CHOICES

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (17:06): I move:

That the members of this council appointed to the Joint Committee on End of Life Choices have power to act on the joint committee during the present session.

Motion carried.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BILL

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (17:06): I move:

That the members of this council appointed to the Joint Committee on the Social Workers Registration Bill have power to act on the joint committee during the present session.

Motion carried.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (17:06): I move:

That the Standing Orders Committee be appointed, consisting of the President, the Hon. I.K. Hunter, the Hon. K.J. Maher, the Hon. M.C. Parnell and the mover.

Motion carried.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (17:07): I move:

That for this session a library committee not be appointed.

Motion carried.

PRINTING COMMITTEE

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (17:07): I move:

That a Printing Committee be appointed, consisting of the Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins, the Hon. D.G.E. Hood, the Hon. I.K. Hunter, the Hon. J.S. Lee and the Hon. T.T. Ngo.

Motion carried.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The PRESIDENT (17:07): I lay upon the table a copy of the opening speech of His Excellency the Governor.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (17:08): I move:

That a committee consisting of the Hon. E.S. Bourke, the Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins, the Hon. D.G.E. Hood, the Hon. I. Pnevmatikos and the mover be appointed to prepare a draft address in reply to the speech delivered this day by His Excellency the Governor and to report on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

Members

MCLACHLAN, HON. A.L.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (17:08): I seek leave to move a motion without notice concerning an expression of thanks to the Hon. A.L. McLachlan.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: I move:

That this council notes the resignation of the Hon. Andrew McLachlan as President of this council and recognises his meritorious service to the council and to the parliament.

In speaking to this motion, similar to the bushfire motion, the agreement has been reached today, even though I am sure all members would wish to, if not speak, nevertheless join with those who do speak in acknowledging this particular motion.

Given the time, I will move the motion and, as I understand it, the Hon. Mr McLachlan will make a very considerable contribution—up to maybe two hours, in excellence, he advises me—then we will adjourn the motion, which will allow other members who wish to speak to either speak tomorrow or at some subsequent period. I would not like the public record or those who are viewing the proceedings to feel that other members are not going to join in this particular motion.

Personally, but also on behalf of government members, I acknowledge the service to the Legislative Council of the Hon. Mr McLachlan. I knew Andrew for a period of time—I cannot remember exactly when—prior to his entering parliament. I was a strong supporter, as were many others—so I was not the only pebble on the beach—in encouraging him to be a member of the Legislative Council. He brought an impressive collection of expertise from right across a number of different experiences and industry sectors in his career prior to joining the Legislative Council. He was broadly endorsed and supported by our state council, and I warmly supported his election to this particular chamber.

I think all members will acknowledge the work that he undertook as a member of the opposition in questioning ministers and representatives of the government from the opposition benches during his first few years in the parliament, as well as his considerable contribution to legal bills in particular, but it was not just restricted to legal bills. Unusually, in the Legislative Council his ability and expertise was acknowledged by us all—that is, his colleagues in this chamber but also in the parliamentary party—by having him represent the shadow attorney-general in this chamber to handle the quite complex bills. Normally, the way of the world is that ministers are represented by other ministers in this chamber and shadow ministers in another chamber are represented by shadow ministers in this particular chamber, with the occasional bill being handled by a non-shadow minister in the chamber at the time.

Andrew's ability and expertise was acknowledged by his colleagues in this chamber and in the broader party room, and by the shadow attorney-general, frankly, by having him handle the bulk of the legal bills in the Legislative Council. He did so with considerable capacity and made a considerable contribution to not only the intellectual debate but also the political cut and thrust of the debate, as is inevitable in any political adversarial system that we have in parliament. So I acknowledge his contribution during that particular period of time whilst we were in opposition.

Of course, for the last couple of years the Hon. Andrew McLachlan has been the President of the Legislative Council chamber. From my discussions with most other members of the council, his contribution to the position of President has been respected by members of the opposition and members of the crossbench in particular in terms of what they certainly would have seen was a very fair treatment of their place in this chamber and their contribution in the chamber. Certainly, as the Leader of the Government in this chamber for the last two years under Andrew's presidency, I always had a very, very productive, cordial and strong working relationship with the President in terms of ensuring that the business of the council was conducted as efficiently as is possible.

I know I speak on behalf of all of my colleagues and I know I speak on behalf of my colleagues in the House of Assembly, who will not have the same opportunity to put on the public record their acknowledgement of Andrew's contribution, but I also know I speak on behalf of the organisation in terms of recognition of the contribution that he has made to the chamber, firstly, as I said, as a member of the opposition and then more particularly, in the latter period, for two years as the President.

I personally—but again, I know I speak on behalf of my colleagues—wish Andrew well in the next stage of his career, taking on Canberra and all that entails. We know he has the capacity to make a very significant contribution on behalf of South Australia, firstly, but also on behalf of the Liberal Party. Ultimately, as is the way of federal politics, it depends on a whole range of things as to what the extent of that contribution will be. The mere fact is that you do have to win elections, and all those sorts of things do come into play, no matter how impressive the potential contribution you might make to good government.

All of those issues will come into play, but certainly his colleagues here know that he has the capacity to make a very significant contribution on behalf of the people of South Australia and on behalf of the Liberal Party. We wish him well in those particular endeavours. I guess we are being a bit pre-emptive, in that there is a joint sitting at 10am tomorrow. The joint sitting of members does have to actually resolve that issue in the affirmative, but I have every confidence that that will occur. Let's assume that.

We wish him well. I certainly personally wish him well. I do hope that he will not forget we little people in the South Australian parliament, in the Legislative Council, that he will maintain friendships and contacts with those who will then be his former colleagues in the state parliament and nevertheless be a good conduit and liaison between the federal parliamentary party and the government and the state parliamentary party. He is well suited to be able to do that and, as I said—I am only repeating myself—we wish him well for his future endeavours.

The PRESIDENT: I call the Hon. Andrew McLachlan CSC MLC.

The Hon. A.L. McLACHLAN (17:16): Thank you, Mr President. I would like to congratulate you on your election to the presidency and wish you very well in your endeavours as President. It is not always easy; I know how hard it is. I will be thinking of you throughout your term, and I wish you every success. I know I leave the council in good hands.

I would also like to thank you for encouraging me to take the opportunity to speak. For the benefit of honourable members, I was not planning on regaling you with long stories or speaking this afternoon at all, but your wise counsel convinced me to do otherwise. My original plan was to go like the Mexican revolutionary Zapata, in a hail of preselection bullets, and disappear in the dust. It was not to be: I was successful and, God willing, both houses will send me on my way next week.

I would like to thank the Clerk, the Black Rod and the chamber staff for their tremendous support through the time of my presidency. There is much that goes on behind the workings of this council to support all of us as the honourable members, and I sincerely thank them all. I hope I was not too demanding a president and that you think of me kindly when I am gone. It depends how hard the current President is!

I would also like to thank all the honourable members for their support during my presidency. It is a unique role and one which at times is very lonely. I thank you for your friendship and support, and I will miss you in the coming days when I am commuting to Canberra. The price of the presidency, of course, is that you are rendered silent. Please do not have those looks of horror: I am not going to give a polemic on all my political issues. During the course of my presidency, my mother died and I would like to acknowledge her. I had planned to do it in a matter of interest when I was on the back bench. I loved her dearly.

I have not had much of an opportunity to reflect on my, I think, shortish political career in the Legislative Council, but you would not have failed to read in *The Advertiser* the constant reference to 'the maverick' and crossing the floor on the bikie bill. Whilst I was reading all the commentary on the preselection with great interest, I thought to myself, 'Perhaps that's the only legacy I will be remembered for: a maverick in the Liberal Party and someone who crossed the floor,' which brings me to two special mentions I would like to make.

The Leader of the Government alluded to one. I would like to personally put on the record my thanks to the member for Bragg in the other place for placing considerable faith in me as a young parliamentarian—not young in age but a young parliamentarian—to carry her load in this chamber. It was the making of me, and it was really a considerable risk for her since I was not an experienced parliamentarian at the time. She was extremely tolerant given some of my more outrageous speeches that I gave in this place and even more outrageous comments that I gave to the media.

She also was very understanding when I decided that I could not support the then Labor government's bill in relation to bikies. To this day, I have not changed my view: parliament should never declare any organisation, no matter how abhorrent, without evidence and act like a court. I hope one day that that bill is modified, although I suspect it will take some time for parliament and the political climate to change its view.

On that bill, I would also like to say a special thanks to the Hon. Mr Parnell. At a time I was under considerable stress—it is not easy to split from your party—he gave me great counsel as a friend but also as a lawyer to affirm my views that this was a bill in extremis and did not need to be drafted that way. I thank you very much, the Hon. Mr Parnell. You were a great support to me at the time. You were also my bench partner. Thank you for your mentoring and support. I am a better parliamentarian for it, and I think it owed much to your training. Between you and the member for Bragg, I think I may well be ready for Canberra. We will see. Time will tell.

If there is a measure of success, I suppose it is whether you leave this place with more friends than you came with, and I feel that I am. I leave with mixed emotions, leaving you all to start another adventure in my life, but you have all taught me many things and I will take those lessons and try to apply them in Canberra. It is a privilege to serve the people of South Australia. Of course, I will continue to do that. I have never taken any day in this chamber for granted. I acknowledge my family for their support. I am going to need a lot more support as I start the commute to Canberra, but I know I have the support of Marcia, who will be coming in tomorrow to watch the joint sitting.

For those members who did not have the opportunity to listen to me railing against Labor policy from the backbench, I always tried to inject the odd poem. I know the Hon. Kyam Maher is so excited by this, but I am not leaving you without a stanza of one of my favourite poems because, at the conclusion of this speech, which is coming shortly, I will give the President my resignation and become a stranger amongst you. I bid you farewell and I will leave you with the last stanza from Robert Frost's poem, one of my favourites, *The Road Not Taken*. I encourage you to read it. It is about choices in life.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

I will now give to you, Mr President, as you are the one who must receive it, my resignation.

The PRESIDENT: Black Rod, having received the resignation, I now acknowledge that there is a stranger on the floor of the Legislative Council. Please escort the stranger from the chamber.

The Hon. A.L. McLachlan was escorted from the floor by Black Rod.

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

At 17:25 the council adjourned until Thursday 6 February 2020 at 14:15.