

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, 6 February 2020

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. T.J. Stephens)** took the chair at 14:14 and read prayers.

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

Members

SENATOR, ELECTION

The PRESIDENT (14:16): I lay on the table the minutes of the joint sitting of the two houses held today for the choosing of a senator to hold the place rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Cory Bernardi, to which Mr Andrew Lockhart McLachlan CSC was appointed.

Ordered to be published.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the President—

Reports, 2018-19—

- City of Adelaide
- Adelaide Hills Council
- Adelaide Plains Council
- Alexandrina Council
- Barunga West Council
- Berri Barmera Council
- Copper Coast Council
- Town of Gawler
- District Council of Grant
- Kangaroo Island Council
- District Council of Karoonda East Murray
- District Council of Kimba
- Light Regional Council
- District Council of Loxton Waikerie
- Mid Murray Council
- City of Mitcham
- City of Mount Gambier
- Naracoorte Lucindale Council
- City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters
- City of Onkaparinga
- Port Augusta City Council
- City of Port Lincoln
- Port Pirie Regional Council
- City of Prospect
- Municipal Council of Roxby Downs
- Renmark Paringa Council
- City of Salisbury
- Town of Walkerville
- Wudinna District Council
- District Council of Yankalilla
- Yorke Peninsula Council

By the Treasurer (Hon. R.I. Lucas)—

Economic and Finance Committee Inquiry into South Australian Investment Attraction Policies—Government's Response dated November 2019
Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 13 of 2019—Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance Judicial Case Management and Ethics Programme—Judge Dart
Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 13 of 2019—Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance Judicial Case Management and Ethics Programme—
Judge Dart

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

Regulations under Acts—
Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 (Qld)—
Urban Renewal Authority (trading as Renewal SA) Charter

Ministerial Statement

ADELAIDE YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:18): In a ministerial statement I delivered last year on 24 September, relating to the use of spit hoods in the Adelaide Youth Training Centre, I stated that there were five uses of spit hoods in 2018-19. This has now been found to be incorrect, with six uses actually identified.

Question Time

REX AIRLINES

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the minister for trade, tourism and investment regarding airline flights.

Leave granted.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: On 29 May 2018, the then minister for tourism told the council that 'it is disappointing when a regional airline reduces services' after Rex Airlines reduced the frequency of its flights to Mount Gambier. Later that year, on 1 August, the then minister for tourism entertained the council with stories about his visits to the boardrooms of both Rex and Qantas. Specifically, the minister said, 'I assured them that we will have a very different approach'.

My question to the minister is: if it's disappointing when a regional airline reduces its services to the area, how does the minister describe it when an airline completely cancels all services to a regional centre?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:21): I would remind the honourable member that, as flattered as I am that he still refers to me as the minister for trade, tourism and investment, I now am the Minister for Trade and Investment. Yes, I did visit Rex Airlines in that year, when he mentioned that I had visited them. It was interesting that Rex at that point in time had been operating, as we said, for all of the time the previous Labor government had been in power and had not had one visit from anybody from the former government.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Wortley will listen in silence.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: I went there in my capacity as the minister for tourism to speak to them about flights to and from South Australia and to regional South Australia. In relation to the current circumstances, I personally haven't spoken to Rex. I know that the Minister for Tourism has spoken to Rex, so I will take the rest of that question on notice and refer it to the minister in the other place.

REX AIRLINES

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:22): Supplementary question arising directly from the answer: does the minister think that the reduction in flights to Kangaroo Island as a result of Rex pulling out of the service will have any impact on trade and investment for Kangaroo Island?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:23): As we know, we have had some horrific bushfires on Kangaroo Island and I think there's a lot of factors that will impact on the rebuild of Kangaroo Island. It is disappointing that Rex have chosen to cease flights, although they are not pulling out straightaway from what I've heard in the media. So I expect that the rebuild of the economy across all sectors will be particularly challenging for all of us, for the government. Certainly, that's why we will be doing all we can as a government to support Kangaroo Island in its rebuild of its economy.

REX AIRLINES

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:23): Further supplementary arising from the original answer: is there going to be any impact on trade and investment directed at Kangaroo Island as a result of an airline no longer flying there?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:23): It's early days. We expect to see Rex, as I said, continue for some period of time before they cease those flights. There's a whole range of factors that will impact on investment and trade with Kangaroo Island. Clearly, Rex don't take any grain off the island, any sheep off the island, and lots of the produce are not flown out by Rex or, in fact, for that matter Qantas. So once we've had a good season with Kangaroo Island grain—the livestock numbers are down, so that will be some time for those stock numbers to rebuild.

I don't think there will be any huge impacts with Rex pulling out from some of those original commodities. We are doing a large amount of advertising around the #BookThemOut campaign, which members opposite have supported. Tourism Australia is doing some advertising and promotion. That will be a long journey, to let the world know we are back in business, and I don't believe there will be any short-term impacts that I have been made aware of of Rex pulling out of Kangaroo Island.

REX AIRLINES

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:24): Supplementary arising from the original answer: the minister has explained that he no longer has responsibility for tourism. Has the minister had any discussions with the new Minister for Tourism about what he has previously discussed with Rex Airlines and the best way to confront this problem?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:25): I have a range of discussions with the minister and Premier on a regular basis on a range of issues. The Premier was as astounded as I when I mentioned that in 16 years of a Labor government they had never ever been to visit Rex. He was certainly interested in that. He could not believe that for 16 years they didn't even bother to talk to them.

REX AIRLINES

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:25): Final supplementary: after a single visit to Rex and them completely cutting services to Kangaroo Island, does the minister think he has as little influence with the corporate world as he does within his own cabinet?

The PRESIDENT: Minister, you can choose whether you would like to answer that or not.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: My question time sheet says Labor.

The Hon. D.W. Ridgway: Nobody is standing up.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Scriven.

MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:26): I was deferring to our President, in the way that I trust those members opposite will also do. I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the minister for trade, tourism and investment—sorry, the Minister for Trade and Investment—regarding his responsibilities as a minister.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: *The Advertiser* reported in January 2020 that the minister said:

The road to recovery will be a team effort and tourism will be one of the key economic drivers in this process, which is why I support the Premier's decision to take on the tourism portfolio at this critical time.

My question to the minister is: why does he believe the Premier is better placed to do what was his job?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:27): I find it interesting, after yesterday's motion on the bushfires where there was a lot of concern and remorse. I will remind people that three South Australians lost their lives, four were badly injured, 188 homes were destroyed and people, as my colleague the Hon. Rob Lucas mentioned, lost all of their lifelong memories in those homes. Some 33 homes had major damage, some 824 buildings were destroyed, some 584 motor vehicles were destroyed, more than a quarter of a million hectares were burnt and more than 100,000 livestock perished, let alone all the other damage to private property, fences and other things.

It is a particularly tough time for South Australia. The Premier is going to lead the recovery. He wants to do it in his role as the Minister for Tourism, and I fully support it. I cannot believe that the members opposite, in the light of three people losing their lives and all that pain and suffering in the community, would like to make some political point and try to score political points. I fully support the Premier.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hunter!

The Hon. I.K. Hunter interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hunter, listen in silence, please.

The Hon. C.M. Scriven: Has the minister finished?

The PRESIDENT: I believe so.

MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:28): Supplementary arising from the answer: can the minister advise what makes tourism more of a key economic driver on the road to recovery than trade or investment?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:28): I thank the honourable member for her supplementary. Clearly, this is a decision that I support 100 per cent. The Premier has made the call as the Leader of the Government to take the tourism portfolio to rebuild especially the Kangaroo Island and Adelaide Hills economies. Now, with coronavirus and some of the other impacts on our tourism sector, the Premier is best placed to lead that. I support him 100 per cent.

MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:29): A further supplementary: when the minister receives a tourism question on an overseas trip, what parts of the question is the minister allowed to answer without seeking permission from the Premier?

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Not that the President has made a ruling but the questions were about his role as minister for trade, tourism and investment. This question is about it.

The PRESIDENT: The minister can choose as to whether he wants to answer that supplementary or not.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:29): I will answer it. The member opposite talks about me again being the minister for trade, tourism and investment. Again, she gets her facts incorrect. But we are a team. When we go overseas, whether it's me or the Premier or any other minister, if there are issues that can help grow the South Australian economy, of course we will talk to those stakeholders and of course we will report back to the relevant minister and action it when we get back home.

MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:30): A further supplementary, and I note that the minister refers to himself, I guess, as the irrelevant minister.

The PRESIDENT: Just ask your supplementary question, deputy leader.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Certainly, Mr President. Does the minister believe that his demotion had anything to do with his relationship with convicted sex offender Corey Ahlburg?

The PRESIDENT: I am going to rule that supplementary out of order.

REX AIRLINES

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:30): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Trade and Investment regarding Rex Airlines and Kangaroo Island.

Leave granted.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: On 3 February 2020, Rex Airlines announced that it was cancelling services to Kangaroo Island. In May 2018, Rex Airlines reduced its services to Mount Gambier. On 16 May 2018, the then minister for trade, tourism and investment stated in this chamber:

We [as in the Liberal government] will be doing whatever is possible to ensure the services are maintained in all of our regional cities...

My question to the minister is to explain exactly what he, in his former role as minister for tourism, and the government did that successfully maintained air services to our regions?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:31): If the honourable member was listening to the chief executive of Rex, they have made this decision to withdraw the services from Kangaroo Island. We have a good relationship with them. We are trying to maintain services to other parts of South Australia. But, of course, all of those discussions, as when I was the minister for tourism, will now be with the Minister for Tourism, so I will take that question on notice and refer it to the Minister for Tourism.

REX AIRLINES

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:31): Supplementary, Mr President.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. R.P. Wortley interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Wortley, I cannot hear the Hon. Ms Bourke. Please ask your supplementary question.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: On a scale of one to 10, how successful does the minister rate the success of his government's efforts to ensure competition and choice of the airline to Kangaroo Island and all other regions within this community?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:32): I thank the honourable member for her supplementary. I am not sure we are in the business of scoring ourselves from nought to 10. I think we have a very good record of supporting the regions and I am not going

to be drawn into offering ratings on the government's performance. I would like to offer some ratings on the opposition's performance but I suspect that would be out of order.

REX AIRLINES

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:32): Supplementary, Mr President: how many times did the minister meet with Rex Airlines whilst he was minister for tourism?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:32): A hundred per cent more times than the previous government did. I met with them. I flew especially to Sydney to meet with the people in the boardroom. My understanding with their latest issues is that the government was advised by a message to the South Australian Tourism Commission.

REX AIRLINES

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:33): A further supplementary arising from the original answer where the minister spoke about the fact that he couldn't answer about Rex Airlines because that's no longer his portfolio area: for clarity, can the minister explain exactly the areas that are covered by the portfolios that remain? What does it involve?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:33): I don't particularly think that's relevant or a supplementary but I will answer it for the member's benefit. Clearly, he knows that everything to do with tourism, the South Australian Tourism Commission, is the responsibility for the tourism minister. All the responsibilities I had other than that I am still responsible for.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (14:33): My question is directed to the Minister for Human Services. Will the minister update the chamber about the progress of the government's election commitment to deliver additional crisis beds for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:34): I thank the honourable member for his question and for his interest in this area. Indeed, I acknowledge that he, along with other members of this house and the other chamber, is a White Ribbon Ambassador and may well have been the first or one of the very early adopters of—

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

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: As he out of order interjects, the Hon. John Gazzola and the Hon. Ian Hunter were part of that first group. It does give me great pleasure to update the house in terms of our election commitments, which were very comprehensive. Of course, we have delivered on a range of those, including our domestic violence stakeholder round tables in regional areas; safety hubs, which have been extended into Murray Bridge and Berri; the peak body funding for what is now known as Emboldened, formerly the Coalition of Women's Domestic Violence Services; and the personal protection app for people who are at risk of experiencing domestic violence.

There is 24/7 funding for the women's safety crisis hotline. As we know, these matters can escalate at any time of night or day. Previously after hours, that number was triaged through to the Homelessness Gateway. Now we are beginning to roll out the crisis accommodation beds for domestic violence victims. On 29 January, together with the Assistant Minister for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention, Carolyn Power, and the member for King, I had the great pleasure of attending the newly refurbished beds for the northern region. There are eight that have been opened there.

We know that there will be demand, particularly as a better option for families rather than being in hotels and motels, which we are trying to move away from. These crisis beds have had upgrades to their security. They have been refurbished and they are a much more pleasant option for people than hotels and motels. We have also sourced the regional locations. There will be 17 beds there—the Murray Mallee, Eyre and Western, and Limestone Coast—and six for the southern region, which we are looking at rolling out in the next few months. I look forward to updating the chamber as those come online.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (14:36): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Treasurer about bushfire recovery.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL: As everyone now knows, the vast majority of Flinders Chase National Park was destroyed in the recent fires. Included in the losses are most of the buildings and other assets that are used for park management and visitor management, such as the campgrounds, the toilets and the shelters. I understand that the park headquarters at Rocky River were completely destroyed, along with the staff accommodation; in fact, pretty well everything has gone. The local Friends of Parks group also lost all their tools and other equipment, and they are keen to get back to work to help replan and rebuild this wonderful park.

In relation to insurance cover for government assets, the South Australian Government Financing Authority maintains a separate insurance arm known as SAicorp. SAicorp receive insurance premiums from agencies and they pay claims, but that is subject to an agreed agency excess. They also pay premiums for the government's catastrophe reinsurance program. My questions of the minister are:

1. What excess applies to the Department for Environment and Water in relation to its bushfire insurance arrangements?
2. Does this insurance also cover the assets that were lost by others, such as the Friends of Parks group, or will the government otherwise commit to replacing that lost equipment?
3. When does the government expect to have a firmer idea of the extent of its insured and uninsured losses?
4. Given that we now have some months until the next state budget, what processes are being put in place to prioritise urgent and essential additional expenditure involving rebuilding ahead of the resolution of insurance claims, which I imagine could take a considerable amount of time to finalise?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:38): The Premier and I and other ministers—in relation to the financial issues, I have spoken on behalf of the government—have indicated that the costs of bushfire recovery will be given the highest priority in terms of government expenditure for the remainder of this financial year. I have been quoted as saying that, whilst the government would still wish to be able to present a balanced budget and meet the challenges of GST writedowns and the costs of bushfire recovery, the highest priority will be given to the costs of bushfire recovery. That means, inevitably, a small deficit in 2019-20. The government believes that's necessary, and we think the community would support that as well.

The specific answers to the honourable member's questions in relation to will the government, in essence—he didn't use these words—wait for all the other issues to be resolved before it takes action, the answer is no. The government, led by the Premier and with the assistance of Margot Forster, who is the coordinator for the government in DPC in terms of she oversights what I think might be called the consequences committee but it is actually an interdepartmental working group of all the key agencies, which obviously includes environment and water department representatives, are working as quickly as they can to try to quantify the extent of the losses and damage, which is difficult in and of itself—it is not a simple task—and then to try to estimate what the cost of replacement of those particular assets might be.

In some cases, there is a debate going on as to certain assets, not necessarily the ones to which the member has referred but nevertheless environment and water assets, as to whether or not like-for-like replacement in exactly the same location is the best response. Clearly, the quickest response is likely to be like-for-like in the same area, but there is a debate that will go on inevitably to say, 'Well, maybe this location was an accident of history 50 years ago. Now that the site has been destroyed is there a better location somewhere in the park for that particular facility?'

That is an issue which will have to be discussed and debated. It doesn't directly relate to some of the issues the honourable member has raised but, nevertheless, in relation to some other

issues, which I'm sure the honourable member would be interested in, in relation to facilities within parks, it is an important issue that the government, the minister and the department will have to address.

The simplest answer to the honourable member's question is: we will not be delaying everything for the inevitable argy-bargy of resolving insurance issues. Yes, they are important, but the government, through the Premier, through Margot Forster and the interdepartmental working group that works with her, will work as quickly as we can in terms of trying to assess the damage to the assets, work out what needs to be replaced, what the cost of that replacement is, and the highest priority will be given to that sort of expenditure.

For the issues in relation to catastrophe reinsurance, I don't know the specific answer to what is in essence the deductible that an individual department might have, in particular environment and water, but overall the government's catastrophe-type insurance or reinsurance program is structured in broad terms such that we, the taxpayer—it's not we, the government—have to meet approximately the first \$15 million of any particular claim or series of claims. Let me be imprecise there because there will be a better description of the words for insurance purposes and, if I need to clarify those exact words, I will place the correct version on the record at a later stage. But in broad terms, taxpayers are up for around about \$15 million in terms of something like this bushfire, and clearly the total costs are way in excess of \$15 million. The insurers are generally liable for the remainder of the claim.

That is in aggregate. In relation to individual arrangements with an individual department as to what they are required to meet from their ongoing budget, I will take that on notice. As I said, the issue of whether the department or the taxpayers as a whole or the budget as a whole meets it is not going to be an issue that delays getting on with making a decision about bushfire recovery costs. The decisions will be taken as to what should be done. We will move as quickly as we can and we will try to short-circuit what is sometimes the inevitable bureaucracy that can delay implementation of recovery expenditure, which is essential.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (14:44): Supplementary arising from the Treasurer's answer: is there a capacity for the state government to apply to the commonwealth for disaster recovery funds to replace the public assets belonging to the Department for Environment and Water that were lost to the fires? If so, will you be doing so?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:44): The member will be delighted to know that the government is a number of weeks ahead of the honourable member. They are the sorts of discussions we have been having for some time. As I think I indicated in my contribution to the bushfire recovery, we acknowledge the contribution from the commonwealth government in relation to a \$2 billion overall fund which is available to the states and territories. We are actively exploring with the commonwealth what the guidelines and the rules might be in relation to not only the sorts of issues the honourable member has raised but indeed many, many others.

To answer the question specifically: do we have an answer in relation to that particular issue? The answer is no, but we are in active discussions in relation to how flexible the commonwealth is prepared to be in terms of the funding. Clearly, if the commonwealth was prepared to provide infrastructure-related funding to replace some of the assets that we have lost, we would welcome that sort of assistance and contribution. At this stage we don't have a resolution of that particular issue as yet.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (14:45): Further supplementary: can the Treasurer then assist the chamber by advising whether in fact in the past the commonwealth has provided disaster relief funding for state government assets in national parks?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:46): The honest answer is no I can't at this stage. I don't believe they have, but I clearly can't speak with authority going back decades as to whether there's a precedent going back to the 1980s, for example, during those particular Ash Wednesday

bushfires that I referred to yesterday whether or not at that particular stage a commonwealth government provided assistance.

The Hon. I.K. Hunter: Ask about floods.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: I will seek further information, but I suspect I am not going to be able to add much more to the answer I have given. I suspect we are probably not aware of where that has occurred, in South Australia's circumstance anyway.

Clearly, if there is a precedent, that assists our argument and we will certainly use that argument in the current discussions. Even if there has been no precedent, I am not sure there has been a precedent where a government has actually put a lump of money on the table and said, 'Hey, here's \$2 billion and we are going to use that and we will work with the states to do all that we can.' I think the circumstances in relation to that lump of money are different. In my experience I have not recalled previous governments, Labor or Liberal, at the national level placing a lump of money or a quantum on the table, saying, 'This is what we are budgeting for and this is what we will provide.' It has tended to be more a series of negotiations with state and federal governments about what assistance they might or might not provide.

From that viewpoint, even if there's no precedent, we are not going to be deterred by that. We will continue to have these discussions with the commonwealth to see what degree of flexibility we can get. If we can get assistance in the nature of the sorts of questions that the honourable member has raised, we would certainly be pursuing that.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

The Hon. T.T. NGO (14:48): A supplementary question: if South Australia was to be successful for funding from the federal government, would potentially we be losing GST money?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:48): They are always active parts of any discussion, but so far the commonwealth has been receptive to the notion that these sorts of things shouldn't be. But we would obviously have to have those sorts of discussions with the commonwealth and, more importantly, with the independent Commonwealth Grants Commission, because the Grants Commission, contrary to some belief in the community, is completely independent of the commonwealth. It, however, can on occasions be directed by the commonwealth to say this particular expenditure shouldn't be used by you in your independent way to allocate funding between the states.

To that extent, the commonwealth government can exclude various payments or expenditures, and that occurs on occasion. We have utilised that in the past in South Australia, as have other states and territories. I don't anticipate that that will be a significant issue, but we will be mindful of that issue. It is always an important part of any sort of arrangement between the states. I think there was a press story in the *Australian Financial Review* two or three weeks ago which did indicate that, as a result of payments to the Queensland government from floods some years ago, with the passage of time the independent Grants Commission results do see an impact in terms of the grants.

The argument on that particular occasion, as I recall, was that eventually it evens out in terms of the grants from the Grants Commission. So on reflection it may well be that the independent Grants Commission processes do have some impact in relation to GST. I guess I should clarify my earlier statement to that extent, now that I recall the debate that ensued as a result of the *Financial Review* article on the Queensland floods.

Perhaps it might be better if I get some advice in relation to how the independent Grants Commission has in the past treated the payment of grants to states for natural disasters and what the normal impact of the Grants Commission formula might be, and then anything else would have to be the subject of discussions with the commonwealth government. That might be the most sensible way to answer the particular questions that have been asked in relation to GST.

The PRESIDENT: I don't have a whipping advice as to Labor's question order.

TRADE MISSIONS

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:50): You don't know? I thought you did. Sorry, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Wortley.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY: I always had one. My question is to the Minister for Trade and Investment. Soon after being dumped as tourism minister, the Premier went on a trade mission to Singapore. Did you, as trade and investment minister, accompany the Premier and, if not, why not?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:51): I thank the honourable member for his question. As the member would recall, that was a gazetted trip that was gazetted for the Premier to travel—I think it was sometime in December. It was a trip that he had planned. Given all of the issues that were happening back in South Australia at the time, there was no need for me to travel with the Premier. The Premier did that trade mission and had a whole range of meetings around other issues as well while he was away. There was no need for me to travel with him.

TRADE MISSIONS

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:51): Supplementary from the answer: so the minister is saying that, even though he was trade and investment minister, the Premier didn't believe it was worth taking you along on a trade mission to Singapore?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:52): This is symptomatic of the former Labor government to think that you have to pay two lots of airfares and two lots of accommodation. The Premier is a very capable person. He is very capable to represent South Australia when he is travelling abroad and there was no need—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: —for him to be accompanied by any minister.

TRADE MISSIONS

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:52): Supplementary: obviously the Premier doesn't have confidence in you as the tourism minister, so does this mean that the Premier has no confidence in you as the trade and investment minister?

The PRESIDENT: Minister, you can choose as to whether you want to answer that question or not. I call the Hon. Dennis Hood.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (14:52): My question is to the Minister for Trade and Investment. Can the minister please update the council on how businesses are assisting in supporting bushfire-affected communities?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:53): I thank the honourable member for his question. It is interesting, I will relate the story to the chamber. On LinkedIn, before Christmas, I received an invitation from Mr Brett Russell, who is the workshop manager at Callidus Process Solutions, to open their new factory at Gillman. It was fabulous to go to this new factory, to look at what they do. Callidus support the oil and gas sector by refurbishing big valves and a whole bunch of machinery that supports companies like Santos and Beach and others. It is fabulous to see the work they are doing, growing their businesses in South Australia, growing the South Australian—

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Point of order: it is very difficult to see any nexus whatsoever between the anecdote that the minister is following through and the question that was actually asked.

The PRESIDENT: There's no point of order. Complete your answer, please, minister.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: It's great to see South Australian companies doing well. As I turned up at the Callidus workshop to do the opening, they introduced me to their international owner,

the Pon group, which is headquartered in the Netherlands, and I met the Pon CEO, Mr Janus Smalbraak, Callidus CEO, David Wood, and Pon Australia CEO, Jack Guidry.

What they said is that, besides the opening, the staff and workshop members for Callidus had passed the hat around. They felt as though they needed to put some support into our local bushfire appeal. They felt as though they needed to help. Callidus chief executive, Janus Smalbraak, said, 'Whatever you find as the employees through barbecues and passing the hat around, Pon, the Netherlands company, will double it.'

I was very pleased when I heard that the employees had raised \$6,000 from passing the hat around. They said, 'We think that Pon, through Janus Smalbraak, will give you a cheque for \$12,000 to put into the Premier's bushfire fund.' I was unbelievably astounded when Janus Smalbraak presented me with a cheque for the Premier's bushfire fund for \$100,000. It is not only local companies supporting our bushfire victims but international companies like the Pon corporation. They have gone out of their way to give us \$100,000 towards the people who have suffered through these bushfires.

I want to put on the record our absolute sincere congratulations and thanks for the Callidus group and the Pon group for their expression of gratitude to South Australian families who have lost everything in the fires and also for what they have done in growing our economy, employing people in South Australia. Especially to the people I met, Janus, David and Jack and all of their employees, I thank you for your donations and your support; it goes to a very worthy cause.

SCHOOLGIRL ASSAULT

The Hon. C. BONAROS (14:56): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Treasurer, representing the Minister for Education in another place, a question about the recent assault of a schoolgirl.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: I think we were all shocked, horrified and saddened to hear about the totally unprovoked and unacceptable attack on a 13-year-old schoolgirl at a suburban shopping centre earlier this week by two female students aged 14 and 15, who were known to the victim and go to the same school. The year 8 student, who is known as Maddy, sustained horrific injuries in the bashing, including losing her front teeth, concussion and spinal damage. She required emergency surgery in the hours after the attack and was discharged from the Women's and Children's Hospital yesterday. That said, doctors believe she will need further dental reconstructive work and other work, which will take at least 12 months to recover from, not to mention the mental torment she will experience from the attack.

Police have, according to media reports, arrested and charged the two alleged culprits, who are due to appear in the Adelaide Youth Court at a later date. But, adding fuel to the fire, it is being reported today that one of the alleged offenders took to social media overnight to live stream, crudely threatening a more vicious attack on Maddy the next time their paths cross. I watched that live stream, so I can verify that that does exist on social media. My questions to the minister are:

1. What actions, if any, has the minister taken in relation to the incident?
2. Has contact been made with Maddy's family?
3. What systems will be put in place at Maddy's school to ensure her ongoing safety and security should she decide to return to the same school?
4. If she does decide to return to the same school, will the alleged culprits be banned from attending, will they be expelled or will they be suspended?
5. What disciplinary action has been taken by the school against the two alleged offenders? For instance, have they been banned or expelled?
6. Will the government consider paying for Maddy's ongoing medical costs, given the extent of her injuries?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:58): I am happy to refer the honourable member's questions to the minister, but can I say that I have every confidence the Minister for Education, in his normally efficient and proficient way, is well aware of all the issues and concerns that the community would feel in relation to this particular incident. On my understanding, he will be addressing most, if not all, of the issues to which the honourable member has referred. Nevertheless, I will refer the honourable member's questions to the minister and bring back a reply.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (14:59): My question is to the Minister for Health. Why did ambulance ramping go up after the minister's ramping talkfest in February last year that, according to the government's own figures, skyrocketed from 1,177 hours in March 2018 to a state record of 1,905 hours in September 2019?

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:59): I thank the member for her question because it gives me an opportunity to reflect on positive progress being made in relation to ambulance ramping. The latest January transfer-of-care figures, which were released this week, confirm that despite a busy workload, transfer of care for January totalled 1,215, which is a 20 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 10 per cent decrease compared to January 2019. I would also note that it is the second month-on-month improvement.

It also gives me a chance to reflect on conversations I had earlier today with health leaders, both from the central hospitals and from the Ambulance Service, about the progress being made over the previous year and the progress that we will be making this year. Some of the most exciting initiatives from the previous year, I believe, are the priority care centres, which provide the first alternative pathway for urgent care in decades.

This is particularly of benefit, as I said to this morning's summit, to older South Australians, because older South Australians are more likely to be more chronic cases and therefore more likely to be detained on a ramp, rather than receiving immediate care at an emergency department. So the priority care centre gives them a much better opportunity for a timely response.

I don't want to be distracted, but it does remind me of a conversation that I had with an older South Australian at the priority care centre at Hindmarsh. This was last month—we are now in February; I spoke to her during January. She reflected that she needed care. From the time that she was picked up by the ambulance to the time that the ambulance took her to the priority care centre and returned her to her home, it was an hour and a quarter.

These particular centres are receiving extremely positive patient feedback, and how could it be otherwise? In fact, last year I met a gentleman at the same centre who, I think it would be true to say, had dozens of falls in the previous years. Elderly South Australians are particularly prone to falls. That had led to a number of experiences of EDs and a number of cases where he was delayed in the transfer of care. He was delighted that a priority care centre was now available so that he could go straight in to receive the care.

The other really positive initiative that was rolled out late last year—and I am disappointed that the Hon. Tammy Franks is not with us today, but hopefully she is listening on her Facebook, or whatever one uses to livestream the parliament—

The PRESIDENT: Minister—

The Hon. S.G. WADE: Sorry, is that inappropriate?

The PRESIDENT: You shouldn't be referring to someone who is not in the chamber.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: Sorry; I don't think I'm the first person to have done it today, but anyway, let's put it this way: I know that the Hon. Tammy Franks welcomes the initiative of the government to embed mental—

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER: Point of order, Mr President: I think I just heard the honourable minister on his feet disrespecting the Chair and your attempt to give him some guidance in terms of standing orders.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The minister inadvertently referred to a member that was in the chamber. He did not then refer to a member that was not in the chamber. It is not unfair to refer to a member of the chamber. Minister, continue.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: Thank you, Mr President. The point I was making was that the Hon. Tammy Franks specifically asked me about this initiative. I think she was talking about the rollout of a similar initiative in Victoria. Embedding a mental health clinician with a paramedic is a very sensible way to provide better links to community care for people with mental health issues.

My understanding is that Western Australia has a similar initiative. It was piloted in the Central Adelaide Local Health Network last year. We are very much looking to scaling it out in other districts, but—

The Hon. I.K. Hunter interjecting:

The Hon. S.G. WADE: This year is a new year. It's great to start the new year with positive reductions in ambulance ramping, and we are determined to continue to drive positive reform. One of the key ways that we will do that in the coming year is to introduce secondary triage. The clinical telephone assessment will be introduced in mid-2020 to ensure that patients receive the very best care—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Bourke!

The Hon. S.G. WADE: —and are able to access the most appropriate pathway for their needs. So I am delighted the Hon. Ms Pnevmatikos has given me the opportunity to update the house on the positive improvements in ramping figures. I'm delighted to see that the Hon. Ian Hunter is so excited about it.

MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIANS

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (15:04): Supplementary: will the minister outline the role of the Premier's Council on Suicide Prevention and the Issues Group on Suicide Prevention in the development of the original trial and subsequent expansion and the obvious key role that David Place has played as the CEO of the South Australian Ambulance Service.

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:05): I thank the honourable member for his question.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! I am sure the minister will give a brief answer to the supplementary question.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: Could I—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Order!

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS: Point of order: a member has just indicated that there was no reference to the original answer, and that is not true.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Dawkins—

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS: I'd like that taken back, actually.

The PRESIDENT: Which is why I have allowed the supplementary question. The opposition, stay calm.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: For those members who failed to listen to my original answer, the two examples I gave of positive initiatives last year were mental health clinicians in paramedic teams and priority care centres. The Hon. John Dawkins is quite right to remind me that the initial pilot in relation to mental health clinicians in paramedic teams was fostered, encouraged, by the Premier's Council on Suicide Prevention—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. S.G. WADE: And the Hon. John Dawkins is extremely humble to also refer to the leadership of Mr David Place, the head of the South Australian Ambulance Service, who is a great innovator. Not only did he support the rollout of mental health clinicians in paramedic teams last year, he also is leading the development of secondary triage in the coming year.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Pnevmatikos, you had a supplementary question?

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (15:06): Will employee representatives of nurses, paramedics and doctors be invited to the second ramping talkfest or uninvited like they were for the first?

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:07): I don't remember any reference to that in my original answer.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Irene Pnevmatikos is on her feet. You have a supplementary question arising from the answer?

PRIORITY CARE CENTRES

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (15:07): Yes, sir. For priority care centres, which are meant to be addressing ramping, what is the daily average of patients in each centre? Is it correct that it is only two patients?

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:07): That is certainly not correct. I will certainly provide the details that the honourable member asked for. She asked for it by centre, so I am happy to do that. But let us be clear. For the priority care centres, in this month my recollection is that there is about 300—in this first month. That is well more than two a day. This fufphy that union hacks want to put in the public domain—it may have been two people on an early day in the early rollout. But these centres have ramped up over the pilot, which started last year, and they are operating very well. We are continuing to finetune them, particularly to make sure that we are getting appropriate clinical protocols to make sure that we are maximising the benefit. This is a pilot that we will continue to develop.

I think it is a reflection on the 16 years of the former Labor government. Because what people have said to me is that there have been suggestions for critical care centres, for urgent care centres, for years. Lots of people have talked about it, and Labor specialises in talking about things. This government is determined to try things, to pilot things: if they are working, to scale them up; if they are not working, to let them go. The priority care centres have developed since they were established. They will continue to develop them. You only need to go to a priority care centre to know they take a lot more people than two people a day.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Pnevmatikos, you have another supplementary?

SA AMBULANCE SERVICE, OVERTIME

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (15:09): What resources will SA Health invest to address chronic overtime for paramedics, including 96 hours straight for one employee due to ramping, that was exposed in this week's hearing in the industrial relations tribunal?

The PRESIDENT: The minister can choose as to whether he wants to answer that. The Hon. Ms Lee.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Pnevmatikos, I will allow you a further supplementary, as long as it is arising from the original answer.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (15:10): Will the government reopen the 60 beds that were closed in the Central Adelaide Local Health Network in November last year to address the ramping crisis in our hospitals?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The minister has chosen to move on. The Hon. Ms Lee.

CORONAVIRUS

The Hon. J.S. LEE (15:10): Thank you, Mr President, for the call—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Point of order, Mr President: did you make a ruling that that was not a proper supplementary?

The PRESIDENT: The minister has chosen not to answer the question; we move on. The Hon. Ms Lee.

The Hon. J.S. LEE: I seek leave to make a brief explanation—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Lee, please sit down.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY: Point of order: the honourable minister mentioned that 'You're a joke,' I think he said, referring to the Hon. Ms Pnevmatikos. I think he should withdraw that. The Hon. Ms Pnevmatikos is not a joke; she was asking a very important question and to have the minister reflect on her in that way is totally unacceptable.

The PRESIDENT: I am sure the minister meant no offence. The Hon. Ms Lee.

The Hon. J.S. LEE: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, you are wasting your own time. We are not moving on until there is some silence.

The Hon. I.K. Hunter interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hunter!

The Hon. I.K. Hunter: Yes, sir?

The PRESIDENT: Silence.

The Hon. I.K. Hunter: No, sir. He's a pathetic minister and we deserve an answer.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hunter, I am asking you politely one more time to be silent. The Hon. Ms Lee.

The Hon. J.S. LEE: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing about the important issue of coronavirus.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.S. LEE: As Assistant Minister to the Premier, with direct responsibility for multicultural affairs, I have been very concerned about the outbreak of novel coronavirus and very much involved in facilitating communication and dialogue between the Chinese community and the South Australian government. Can the minister please update the council on the South Australian government response to novel coronavirus?

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:12): I thank the honourable member for her question. In particular, I want to thank the assistant minister for multicultural affairs

for her leadership in liaising with the Chinese community in South Australia, providing reassurance to that community and advice to the government and to me as minister. The novel coronavirus is a significant public health event and has been declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization.

The virus must be taken seriously. South Australians can be assured that the Marshall Liberal government is taking it very seriously. We are working closely with other Australian governments and the Chief Public Health Officer. Her colleagues and I have been in regular contact with our respective colleagues at state, territory and federal level to develop and coordinate a national response to the novel coronavirus.

The government has engaged the medical community and leaders of the Chinese community in South Australia. Last week, I convened an information session for representatives from the medical community, the universities and the Chinese community to enable the Chief Public Health Officer to provide an update on the spread of the virus and the state and national response.

I was pleased to attend the Lunar New Year festival in Chinatown this past Saturday, at which SA Health provided an information booth. The Chief Public Health Officer has been meeting regularly with Chinese doctors and the Australian Chinese Medical Association to work with them to maximise the distribution of health information and services to the Chinese community. I particularly thank Dr Chris Moy, the South Australian president of the AMA; Dr William Tam, immediate past president of the AMA; Dr Jane Zhang, AMA South Australia councillor; and Dr Kien Ha, president of the South Australian branch of the Australian Chinese Medical Association. Their work in coordinating the response across the Chinese community has been invaluable, allowing SA Health to connect with the Chinese medical practitioners.

Dr Chris Moy has said that the general response from the Chinese community has been well beyond that which could have been expected and has been extremely helpful in getting ahead of the novel coronavirus. This response has included early advice within the community to self-isolate and the dissemination of information through the community. SA Health has worked closely with representatives of the Chinese community to provide this information in Chinese language. Social media posts are being provided in Chinese language. Posters have been made available for medical practices and emergency departments.

I want to commend the Chinese community for their response and cooperation with health authorities. The support of the community is fundamental to maximising the public health response and protecting South Australians from the virus. Any negative reaction towards the Chinese community can only undermine an effective public health response.

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

CORONAVIRUS

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:15): Yes, I do. I will direct this to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing since he has had dialogue with the Chinese community. Can the minister tell the chamber if his office has been contacted by worried Chinese tourists or members of the Chinese community who will now be seeking extensions to their visas? If so, what policy will be recommended with these tourists, many of whom would be reluctant to return to mainland China?

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:16): I thank the member for his question. Obviously, immigration is a matter for the federal government. I will certainly seek information from the federal government and provide it to him as early as possible. I can't indicate whether or not my office has received any queries but I certainly have heard those queries in the general community. The initial advice I received was that it was intended that Immigration will recognise the fact that people on short-term visas may well need to have them extended, but I will seek that information formally and provide it to the member as soon as I can.

CORONAVIRUS

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:17): Thank you, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: A supplementary question?

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Yes, it is. I wouldn't be standing if it wasn't.

The PRESIDENT: Can you call it a supplementary question, please, the Hon. Mr Pangallo?

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: I am standing actually.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: That's unkind to be laughing at that joke.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Further to the response by the minister, and I thank him for his response, as to the concerns of the Chinese community, can the minister confirm whether there have been any racist comments that have been directed to members of the Chinese community as a result of this?

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:17): Certainly, on the public record, particularly in the Eastern States, there have been concerning developments in terms of community relations. I want to stress that the Chinese community within Australia, like any Australians, is being strongly supportive of the government's efforts to maintain public health. I have certainly heard, through the assistant minister and through Chinese leaders, concern about healthy community relations within South Australia, but I think it is a great credit to the people of South Australia that these concerns are not as significant as they are in other states.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Ngo has a supplementary question arising from the original answer.

CORONAVIRUS

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:18): Yes. Can the minister tell the house whether SA Health supports the government decision in terms of banning or restricting people from China coming to Australia?

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:18): First of all, I would like to thank the Hon. Tung Ngo for the question because this is the first question of my understanding in either house or in the Budget and Finance Committee from Labor in relation to coronavirus. So I will now get on with answering the question.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Point of order, Mr President: I don't understand the relevance whatsoever in the comments he is making to the question actually asked.

The PRESIDENT: Your point of order I do not agree to. It's up to the minister to answer how he sees fit. Have a look at the standing orders. Minister.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: I would apologise to the house if it's rude to welcome a question. I thought it was polite to welcome a question; that's exactly what I did.

The PRESIDENT: Minister, move on with your answer, please.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Do you want to hear the answer? Please, minister.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Ngo might like to hear the answer. Order!

The Hon. S.G. WADE: If I could reframe the honourable member's question to make sure that I am answering it appropriately, I understood the honourable member to be asking me whether South Australian health authorities support the decision to deny entry to non-Australian citizens or residents coming from mainland China. I will reiterate what I said, I think in the answer to Hon. Connie Bonaros yesterday, which is that the South Australian government, including SA Health, is hand in glove as part of a national response to novel coronavirus. In that regard, as I said yesterday, there was a meeting of the AHPCC. It's a very senior group of clinicians. They provided advice.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. S.G. WADE: Let's be clear: SA Health's Chief Public Health Officer is a member of that committee. It was on the basis of that committee's advice—

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: They're laughing at you, Wadey.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. S.G. WADE: Actually, the Hon. Tung Ngo is on the edge of his seat waiting for an answer, and that's exactly what I'm giving him.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Let the minister finish his answer.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: I do find it interesting that there are members opposite—

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Point of order, Mr President.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: —perhaps even in the leader's chair, who are heckling me, saying I can sit down now.

The PRESIDENT: Minister!

The Hon. S.G. WADE: That indicates how little regard—

The PRESIDENT: Minister, sit down. Point of order. What is your point of order?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: I shan't make the point of order. The minister obviously does not care for rules in this place and yells over points of order when they are supposed to be made. If that's the way the chamber is conducted now, fine.

The PRESIDENT: Sit down. Have you finished your answer, minister?

The Hon. S.G. WADE: No, I have not.

The PRESIDENT: Please finish it. Please finish your answer.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: I will—

The PRESIDENT: Just finish your answer.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: —but I just make the point that the leader is yet again showing Labor's—

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Point of order.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: —disregard for coronavirus.

The PRESIDENT: What is your point of order?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: The minister was not even attempting to answer the question with the statement he was making.

The PRESIDENT: Have you finished? Time having expired for asking questions without notice, pursuant to the order made yesterday I now call on members to make statements on matters of interest, the time allowed being 35 minutes, each member being allowed to speak for no longer than five minutes. I call the Hon. Mark Parnell.

Matters of Interest

JAENSCH, PROF. D.

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (15:22): Over a long academic career, retired politics professor Dean Jaensch has formed strong views on politics. Sadly, over the years he also seems to have lost the ability to do basic research and to fact-check. Instead, he lets his imagination and prejudices run wild, as evidenced in his recent opinion pieces in *The Advertiser* in November last year and again last month on the subject of bushfires and the Greens. Take, for example, the following claim:

The Greens are implacably opposed to backburning and landclearing hazard reduction to a level that every leaf is sacred (to sort-of quote Monty Python).

He might get a few laughs as people remember the famous Monty Python parody of the Catholic Church and contraception, but what he cannot do is point to one shred of evidence to justify this assertion. Leaving aside the fact that he does not appear to know the difference between back-burning and hazard reduction burning, his commentary is without foundation. From my perspective, I have represented the Greens in state parliament for nearly 14 years. Before that, I worked in conservation for 16 years. Never have I said anything publicly or privately that indicates an 'implacable' opposition to back-burning or hazard reduction, including in national parks.

We are used to attempts by Pauline Hanson, Barnaby Joyce and their ilk to place the blame for the severity of these bushfires on the Greens. They represent the worst kind of dishonest politics. We do not expect any better of them. These same politicians are also the ones ignoring the main cause of these unprecedented bushfires, which is climate change. Climate change, not the Greens, has left forests and grasslands drier, which has meant that the bushfire season has started earlier and will likely last longer. It has also made the window for hazard reduction shorter.

Dean Jaensch's opinion pieces in *The Advertiser* are sloppy, unresearched and unsubstantiated. His assertions are untrue and unworthy of an academic. Even a simple Google search of Green policy would have shown him that:

The Australian Greens support hazard reduction burning to reduce the impact of bushfire when guided by the best scientific, ecological and emergency service expertise.

He would also have learned that in the Australian Capital Territory the minister for land management, Shane Rattenbury, was actually the person who ordered hazard reduction, including burning, in that jurisdiction when he had relevant ministerial responsibility as part of the Labor-Green government.

So in the only jurisdiction where the Greens have held relevant executive power we ensured that hazard reduction was carried out to protect the community. But that does not fit Jaensch's entrenched prejudices. He swaps between Greens with a capital 'G' and greens with a lower case 'g' when it suits him. The former is an established political party, the latter can be applied to anyone who professes to care about the environment. He could also have sought some expert third-party opinions such as former New South Wales fire and rescue commissioner Greg Mullins, who said:

Blaming 'greenies' for stopping these important measures is a familiar, populist, but basically untrue claim.

He might also have inquired as to whether any Greens members and supporters were actively involved in firefighting, emergency relief and fire recovery. He would have found us as well represented as any other political party. Indeed, one of our Greens staff colleagues here in Parliament House, Claudia from the Hon. Tammy Franks' office, took time off from her parliamentary house duties to join her CFS colleagues on the front line on Kangaroo Island.

Jaensch's further claim that talking about climate change and bushfires is somehow bringing party politics into it misses the point entirely. It is not about politics; it is about science. To deny the link between human-induced climate change and the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events, including droughts, floods and fires, is to deny the scientific consensus. Climate change means that bushfire season is starting earlier, the forests and grasslands are drier, igniting more easily and burning more readily, and that there are more and more days of very high, severe, extreme and catastrophic fire risk. The major cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels.

Jaensch has also swallowed hook, line and sinker the arch-conservative view that, because climate change is a global problem and Australia is a small nation, nothing we do here can possibly make a difference. That is a view that leads to inaction or minimal action until the rest of the world shows resolve. It is a lazy and irresponsible approach and rightly rejected by the next generation who will inherit the disaster we are creating.

In conclusion, if Mr Jaensch was just an ordinary citizen, his views would be disappointing but they would not matter, but he is in a very privileged position, with a regular column in Adelaide's only daily newspaper. With that comes a responsibility and accountability. He cannot rest on his academic laurels of years gone by and expect to be able to write rubbish and get away with it. Perhaps it is time for him to hang up his quill and retire from public commentary.

LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ ANNIVERSARY

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (15:27): Monday last week, 27 January 2020, marked 75 years since the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. It is also International Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is a time when we remember the six million Jewish people who were consigned to their deaths when anti-Semitism and discrimination morphed to become a state-sanctioned policy of genocide. We remember the millions of other people—the Roma, the Russians, the Slavic peoples, political prisoners, people living with a disability and many others—who were murdered.

To mark the 75th anniversary, more than 200 survivors from Auschwitz gathered together at the site of the former concentration camp. Many of the survivors spoke of their experiences in quite harrowing terms. They stressed the importance of listening to the stories of survivors, while also warning us to be vigilant against the signs of rising anti-Semitism and hatred in the world today. For example, 11 months ago, New Zealand suffered through one of their darkest days, with 51 people, almost all of whom were Muslims, murdered in Christchurch because of their religion.

In the United States there have been multiple shootings at synagogues. On 12 June 2016, 49 people were murdered at the Orlando nightclub shooting in the worst hate crimes committed against LGBT people in the United States. In Europe we have seen the Russian government continue their persecution of LGBT people, strengthening discriminatory laws and incarcerating activists. In Egypt hundreds of people in same-sex relationships have been imprisoned since 2013.

Survivors of these concentration camps have therefore drawn the attention of the world to the strong parallels between these incidents, and many others, and the persecution faced by people in Germany and central Europe in the interwar years. A gay man, Mr Fredrich-Paul, was born in the old trading city of Luebeck in northern Germany. He spoke of his situation when he was arrested in 1937 by the SS, along with 230 other men in Luebeck, for being a homosexual.

Fredrich-Paul was incarcerated for 10 months initially. In 1938 he was re-arrested, humiliated and tortured before once again being released on the proviso that he was castrated. Facing no other option, he was forced to submit. In 1943 he was arrested again and kept in those camps until he was liberated. For the remainder of the war, he was imprisoned in Neuengamme concentration camp at Luebeck.

Rudolf Brazda's story is equally tragic. He lived in Germany, the son of Czech migrants. He was 20 years old when Hitler rose to power, and the Nazi government immediately strengthened homophobic laws. On 8 August 1942, having gone to prison twice, he was sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp, where he was given the number 7952 and a pink triangle to wear. He witnessed extreme cruelties towards other gay detainees and was only able to survive due to a single kapo helping to hide him in the months before the camp was liberated. Mr Brazda died on 3 August 2011 at the age of 98, more than half a century after he was freed.

We will never hear the individual stories of the thousands of gay men who were killed at Auschwitz. It is estimated that somewhere between 5,000 and 15,000 of those murdered there were gay, but we will never know the true toll. What we do know is that between 1933 and 1945 an estimated 100,000 men were arrested in Germany under the infamous paragraph 175 law. They were targeted, ostensibly because they did not contribute to the desired growth of the Aryan population, and were accused of corrupting German values and culture.

Like the yellow Star of David that Jewish people were forced to wear on their uniforms, gay prisoners were forced to wear the pink triangle to identify their status as dangerous non-conformists to the Nazi ideology of Aryan purity.

We must never forget what can happen when human beings are singled out as belonging to an undesirable subclass, when they are ostracised and victimised and when they are set up as convenient scapegoats for government priorities. We must never forget what atrocities can be committed on human beings by their fellow humans when leaders and governments decide to target people based on their identify and rouse their community to violence and hatred. We know where that leads. We must never, ever forget.

MOBILE PHONE ADDICTION

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (15:32): It is hard to argue that phones are not a distraction. Actually, I would argue they are much more than a distraction; they are an addiction. I am not above this addiction. I wake up and check my phone, and the last thing I do when I go to bed is check my phone. Concerningly, the hours I spend on my phone do not include the hours I spend on my laptop. Having a phone is part of my job, but it is a tool that has become an addiction. This could just be me, but as I look around the chamber, I do not think I am alone.

I have three children, which means I have three copycats. They are busy kids with a week full of gymnastics, hockey, netball and following mum around to community events, which they just love. Like mum, the first thing they want to reach for in the morning is a screen, and the last thing they are debating before we go to bed is, 'Where did you find that screen?'

And I am not alone. Polling carried out by Censuswide in 2019 found children are spending an average of 23 hours, nearly an entire day a week, on smart phones and other gadgets, twice as much time as they spend conversing with family. The survey of 2,000 families with children below the age of 14 found that, on average, they were spending three hours and 18 minutes a day on personal devices.

From accessories personalising your phone to creating little emoji characters of yourself and your friends, the brains trust behind smart phones have created an addiction for the young and the old. According to research, mobile phone addiction works similarly to video game addiction. Every once in a while the user receives some sort of reward—a smiley face, a thumbs up, a message notification and more likes. Whenever we get rewards like this, dopamine in the brain is released. We feel very happy and desire more. We crave scrolling more to search for more rewards.

But imagine you are 10. You are at school and send a sneaky group text to your friends in maths. The student waits and waits and waits for a reply, but there is not one. They get anxious and they stop listening to their teacher. Time passes by and then the dreaded text pops up, an angry face. This is a situation teachers are facing. This student will now have trouble concentrating for the remainder of the day—they will be distracted. But what parents, teachers and carers are finding is the distraction does not stop at the school gate. The weight of sending a text and the anxiety of it being shared with 50-plus students will go home with them.

I have mentioned before in this chamber that, as of last year, there has been a generational shift in the Australian population. There are more Australians born post-1980 than before. As leaders, yes, we need to embrace new technologies but we need to get in front of the challenges they may present and mobile phones in schools as well as students' use of social media are just a couple of the challenges we are all facing to get in front of.

Just yesterday, as the Hon. Connie Bonaros mentioned earlier, a group of bullies allegedly filmed each other during a horrific attack on a year 8 student called Maddy. The attack has surfaced on social media. On a GoFundMe page, a family friend has recounted that Maddy continued to receive taunting messages, even whilst she was in hospital, which is concerning on many, many levels. My thoughts are with Maddy and her family.

Governments are recognising this is an area that needs to be addressed, but unfortunately not the Marshall Liberal government. 2020 kicked off a ban on using mobile phones during school hours for all public school students in Victoria and WA in a move to curb cyberbullying and prevent distractions in the classroom. Tasmania and New South Wales have also followed the lead of these states by committing to ban mobile phones in schools. All of the bans announced so far include potential exemptions for education purposes or students with medical conditions.

Banning phones in schools will not be universally popular but what is popular is leadership. When students walk through a New South Wales, Victorian, WA or Tassie school gate, they will have a greater opportunity to focus on learning, not how many likes they are getting or whatever else they might be doing on their phone. This seems like a reasonable concept. When our kids go to school they are able to put aside the distractions of smart phones and concentrate on the conversation that is happening in front of them and not the rolling chime of the text message in their hand. SA Labor

was one of the first Australian political parties to commit to banning phones in schools but unfortunately SA will not be a leader in this space.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:37): I rise to speak on the disturbing information shared with me in the wake of the tragic bushfires which destroyed more than half of Kangaroo Island, devastating its economy and causing enormous losses and heartbreak. There is underlying anger and frustration in some quarters. I have no desire to play the blame game or point the finger; however, out of any catastrophic event, lessons do emerge, and it is no different here.

I went to Kangaroo Island to meet with locals who wanted to express their very serious concerns and views. Contrary to comments made yesterday by the Treasurer, my information comes from very credible, reliable and impeccable sources who trusted me with their information, not the hearsay we got from him. They complained about management strategies deployed in these very high-risk areas, some of which I shall now outline.

The first complaint was about government efficiencies or budget cuts that reduce the number of prescribed burn-offs in conservation parks. These are crucial in controlling the ticking time bombs of high fuel loads; and there were ample warnings they say were not heeded. Most alarming was that not all recommendations in fire management plans for Flinders Chase were implemented because the responsible department did not want to spoil the look of the park's entrance for tourists. The already meagre prescribed burn budget had been further slashed by 60 per cent, a saving of just a few thousand dollars. Well, there is nothing for tourists to see there now but an ash-covered ecological cemetery as far as the eye can see. In dollar terms, the damage is incalculable. Why was this allowed to happen?

Other issues included the availability and number of planes dedicated to fighting the fires, particularly the most destructive, known as the Ravine; restrictions on the use of sea water and types of fire retardant; the responsibility of local councils maintaining roadside vegetation; and development plans for property setbacks which made it difficult for firefighters to see houses, particularly in the Adelaide Hills. Other complaints centred around time-critical delays in response times between on-the-ground firefighting crews, earthmoving contractors and incident command management, and other laws that may have obstructed plan fire management strategies. There is more, but I will leave that for another day.

The one constant that emerged was about the chain of command and that the views, knowledge and expertise of those on the ground were overlooked or overruled by central command in Adelaide. There were far too many layers of bureaucracy interfering. I was disturbed to hear from Dave Halloran, a farmer with decades of experience in fire spotting from the air, that when the Ravine fire, which consumed Flinders Chase National Park and Hanson Bay, was first reported it was dismissed as not a priority because resources were required at the nearby Duncan blaze.

Mr Halloran and a CFS commander from Parndana had viewed the Ravine fire from the air very early on 30 December when it was the size of a football field. His son Marcus, a contracted earthmover, had earlier become aware that lightning sparked the blaze and he was ready to fight the fire at first light. He told me of his utter frustration at being retasked while waiting hours to get permission to move in and carve an urgent containment line with his bulldozer. By the time it came it was far too late. Fire does not wait for decisions to be made. Rapid responses are required. As Mr Halloran senior tellingly puts it, fire is a good servant but a bad master.

Another credible source told me of other measures either ignored or delayed, including retardant drops and logical backburns, which took hours to get approved. There are not enough prescribed burns being carried out in our conservation parks. Who is making these daft calls? What did come through loud and clear was that one dedicated agency needs to take full control when such an emergency is declared. That agency should be the CFS.

There is now a federal royal commission and another investigation by our state government, to be headed by former Federal Police chief Mick Keelty. We will also see an inquest here into the three tragic deaths. I have seen Mr Keelty's terms of reference. I remain sceptical that he can get to the bottom of things. I note there is no mention of reviewing various environmental acts. I am also concerned that he is only taking written submissions. People who have lost everything do not have

time to sit down and write reports. There is no provision for evidence to be taken under privilege, which is a disincentive for whistleblowers to come forward. In the meantime, we hope these great communities will again rise from the ashes and be more resilient than ever.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:42): I rise to speak about the response of many of our South Australian churches right across our state to the terrible bushfire crisis that we have experienced recently, which has affected the lives of far too many South Australians. As members have outlined in this place yesterday and through some contributions today, the devastation from those catastrophic fires, including the tragic loss of lives, livestock, wildlife and property, has been immense, and the recovery phase is only entering the very beginning stages.

In the midst of such tragic events, however, we are always fortunate to experience the best of humanity and, in this case, there is absolutely no exception. Church congregations—not only churches, but many community organisations, but I focus today on the churches—from many denominations across South Australia have been united together not only in prayer but also in offering both pastoral and practical support to assist victims, however and wherever appropriate.

The endeavours of these charges are far too numerous to mention in their entirety in this short contribution, but I will share a snapshot of what several have been undertaking. The Anglican Church has been supporting the bushfire recovery efforts in the Adelaide Hills through their Anglicare SA service, Thread Together, which distributes new clothes to those in need from two mobile wardrobe vans, supported by both paid staff and volunteers. This particular service is offered through the state government recovery team and has so far distributed clothes to 85 people affected by the Cudlee Creek fires.

The Catholic Church has assisted through the collection of money from parishioners, with funds being directed through St Vincent de Paul for distribution. It has also offered counselling through Centacare and provided for disaster and recovery ministries at recovery centres. I note that Father Philip Marshall visited a parish affected by the fires on Kangaroo Island to offer his personal support.

The denomination of the Churches of Christ operates a national disaster and relief fund through its Global Mission Partners, Extend, and has allocated emergency funds to people affected by the Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island fires, to which its congregations have been contributing. Its members are also working through the Church of Christ in Lenswood to deliver food and hardware vouchers to people affected by the Cudlee Creek fire, and its CareWorks service is helping to coordinate volunteers to assist in rebuilding fences and irrigation services and provide food hampers and home-cooked meals, along with offering pastoral care and counselling.

The Salvation Army is, of course, also making a significant contribution to the recovery effort. The Salvation Army Emergency Services have fed emergency personnel during all of the bushfires. On Kangaroo Island alone, over 14,000 meals were prepared and served. Further, it is supporting victims of the bushfires with immediate emergency disaster assistance payments for victims throughout all of the fire sites in South Australia, either by physical attendance at community centres or via telephone. At this stage, it has issued over \$250,000 dollars to people in need, which is a remarkable effort.

The Uniting Church's Disaster and Recovery Ministries SA is an ecumenical and increasingly multifaith network of volunteer chaplains. Coordinated by the Uniting Church, the ministry operates under a memorandum of understanding with the South Australian government as part of the State Emergency Management Plan. While many other services and groups focus on taking care of people's physical and emotional needs, its chaplaincy program primarily seeks to support their spiritual needs. Local Uniting Church facilities have also been used as respite and recovery spaces, where meals, emergency clothing and other supplies are provided.

I am proud to say that Influencers Church, of which I am a regular attendee, has raised over \$240,000, with its generous contribution being donated to both St Vincent de Paul and BlazeAid. Dozens of families from our church in the Adelaide Hills campus were also actively involved in the

efforts of cleaning up their local community, and volunteers are still on stand-by to offer further help as required.

These acts of services and donations, when combined together, make an incredibly significant contribution to the rebuilding of fire-ravaged communities. I wish to take this opportunity to commend the tremendous efforts of churches across South Australia for their valuable role in rebuilding our fire-ravaged communities.

Obviously, I have only touched on the very tip of what the churches are doing at the moment to help assist those affected by the fires, but this very comprehensive effort right across all denominations is noteworthy and deserving of recognition. It is something that they often do without ever asking for thanks—literally thousands and thousands of volunteers—which I think is most admirable.

FARM FIREFIGHTERS

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (15:47): In many parts of South Australia, farm fire units are an essential part of the community's response to fire. Not only do they add to the collective efforts to combat fires alongside our CFS volunteers and paid firefighters, but regional landowners may often also find themselves on the front line as first responders, stopping a fire before it escalates.

Of course, we are currently counting the losses of the Cudlee Creek fire and the devastating Kangaroo Island fires. Together, these fires tragically took lives and destroyed or damaged many homes, buildings, stock, feed and forests. And of course, closer to my home in the South-East, the Keilira bushfire burned more than 25,000 hectares, with a perimeter of some 76 kilometres. This fire destroyed three houses and more than 2,000 bales of hay, hundreds of kilometres of fencing, and many head of cattle and sheep.

We in the opposition recognise the valuable contribution farm firefighters make in our rural, regional and remote communities, where every second counts to contain and stop the spread of an out of control fire. That is why the former Labor government introduced the regional capability community fund (RCCF), which was inexplicably cut by the Marshall Liberal government.

The fund started in 2014 and was managed by the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission, providing \$500,000 in annual funding for rural, regional and remote communities. It allowed landowners and community groups to purchase equipment to better protect themselves and their communities. It was a co-contribution model, working hand in hand with farmers.

Successful applicants could claim half the price of an approved purchase, up to a maximum of \$2,500. These grants were not handpicked; they were awarded on criteria such as value, location, existing capability, access and distance to emergency services, and other risk factors unique to individual properties. Mobile firefighting units, bulk water storage tanks with CFS-accessible fittings and high-volume pumps were among some of the items purchased under this fund. Additional items included personal protective equipment, generators, vehicle-mounted safety beacons and UHF radios.

In the recent Kangaroo Island fires the community was in dire need of UHF radios. The member for Mawson, Leon Bignell, made a tremendous effort through his networks to obtain 50 two-way UHF radios through community donations and businesses. His call-out for radios was heard as far away as Sydney, resulting in a further 80 radios from Peter and Jeff from the Australian manufacturing company GME. Nine radios were donated by Tim Stockman and customers of his store Stockman Electronics in Burra, and a further two came from Jack Plug from Willunga.

These radios acted as a lifeline. The member for Mawson thanked everyone on his Facebook post of 2 January where he said:

But the biggest thanks of all goes to the farm fire fighters who are out there on their utes and trucks. They've been fighting these fires for 14 days. They're tired but they are determined and totally committed. They've saved so much land and stock as well as many lives and structures.

They are facing another day from hell tomorrow. Stay safe and we hope the radios help.

The annual funding promoted and enhanced the message of bushfire safety in rural, regional and remote communities. It provided a conversation around bushfire readiness, safety and equipment maintenance checks on farms and communities.

The member for Stuart, the Hon. Dan van Holst Pellekaan, saw the importance of the fund to his electorate. In the last 2018 funding round, before it was recklessly axed by the Marshall Liberal government, the member for Stuart promoted the grant on his website. What did he say? He said:

As many people in the electorate of Stuart would know, bushfires, storms and floods can be devastating...The fund supports regional groups and individuals to buy important equipment...which can be used to protect and support local communities.

The Minister for Emergency Services should take heed of the member for Stuart on the importance of the regional community fund to his community. It is disappointing, to say the least, that the Marshall Liberal government recklessly ended funding that was so important to regional, rural and remote communities, because this funding is needed more than ever before.

The after cost of an out of control fire is far more damaging to our communities and to the budget than annual grants totalling \$500,000. Farm firefighting units enable an immediate fire response and can sometimes access areas that the CFS cannot. Some of the critical assets in recent fires were saved only because of the farm firefighting units. The cutting of this fund undermines the on-the-ground response to fires, is unfair to our regional communities and should be restored.

LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ ANNIVERSARY

The Hon. J.A. DARLEY (15:52): I rise today to acknowledge the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. On 27 January this year, 200 Auschwitz camp survivors attended a ceremony to share their stories, pay their respects to loved ones and warn of rising hatred and anti-Semitism in the world. Survivors returned to the very place their loved ones perished and where they witnessed unthinkable evils. Revisiting the death camp would have been a very traumatic experience for those survivors, but they did so to remind people of the horrors of the past to ensure that the same mistakes are not repeated in the future.

Seventy-five years on, Auschwitz remains a symbol of terror and cruelty. Within the space of 4½ years, 1.1 million women, men and children were systematically murdered, one million of these being Jewish people. It is difficult to imagine how such horrors can be forgotten, but at the ceremony last Monday, leaders raised concerns that they have witnessed 'open and brazen spread of anti-Jewish hatred' and other hate crimes in the world again.

Many survivors, now in their 90s, fear that history will be forgotten and that individuals will make the mistake of indifference. During the ceremony, Mr Marian Turski, a 93-year-old Polish Jewish survivor, said he wanted to pass on an important message to his daughter, his grandchildren and to their peers: to not be indifferent when a minority is being discriminated against.

Mr Turski explained that the destruction of Jewish people began in small, incremental steps: first by banning Jewish people from sitting on certain benches, then from entering certain swimming pools and from joining German singing associations. Unfortunately, these discriminatory acts were observed with indifference because of their seemingly inconsequential and minor nature. Jewish people were stigmatised and alienated, and this behaviour soon became normalised to the victims, their perpetrators and bystanders. Before they knew it, Jewish people were being deported to Auschwitz and other concentration and extermination camps.

Mr Turski quoted Austrian president Alexander van der Bellen with his profound statement that 'Auschwitz did not descend from the sky', warning people to not be indifferent to behaviour that discriminates minorities, as the horrors of Auschwitz can happen anywhere in the world. Hearing firsthand from survivors like Mr Turski is invaluable. Their messages are powerful and moving, reminding us that as individuals we are all responsible for ensuring that history does not repeat itself and that we simply cannot be complacent when we witness injustices.

As many survivors are now in their 90s, they have acknowledged that it is likely they will not be around for the next commemoration, so it is crucial that as individuals we uphold and pass on their important messages for our present generation and future generations to come.

*Motions***CITIZEN'S RIGHT OF REPLY**

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:56): I move:

That, during the present session, the council make available to any person who believes that he or she has been adversely referred to during proceedings of the Legislative Council the following procedure for seeking to have a response incorporated into *Hansard*—

1. Any person who has been referred to in the Legislative Council by name, or in another way so as to be readily identified, may make a submission in writing to the President—
 - (a) claiming that he or she has been adversely affected in reputation or in respect of dealings or associations with others, or injured in profession, occupation or trade or in the holding of an office, or in respect of any financial credit or other status or that his or her privacy has been unreasonably invaded; and
 - (b) requesting that his or her response be incorporated into *Hansard*.
2. The President shall consider the submission as soon as practicable.
3. The President shall reject any submission that is not made within a reasonable time.
4. If the President has not rejected the submission under clause 3, the President shall give notice of the submission to the member who referred in the council to the person who has made the submission.
5. In considering the submission, the President—
 - (a) may confer with the person who made the submission;
 - (b) may confer with any member;
 - (c) must confer with the member who referred in the council to the person who has made the submission and provide to that member a copy of any proposed response at least one clear sitting day prior to the publication of the response; but
 - (d) may not take any evidence;
 - (e) may not judge the truth of any statement made in the council or the submission.
6. If the President is of the opinion that—
 - (a) the submission is trivial, frivolous, vexatious or offensive in character; or
 - (b) the submission is not made in good faith; or
 - (c) the submission has not been made within a reasonable time; or
 - (d) the submission misrepresents the statements made by the member; or
 - (e) there is some other good reason not to grant the request to incorporate a response into *Hansard*,the President shall refuse the request and inform the person who made it of the President's decision.
7. The President shall not be obliged to inform the council or any person of the reasons for any decision made pursuant to this resolution. The President's decision shall be final and no debate, reflection or vote shall be permitted in relation to the President's decision.
8. Unless the President refuses the request on one or more of the grounds set out in paragraph 5 of this resolution, the President shall report to the council that in the President's opinion the response in terms agreed between him and the person making the request should be incorporated into *Hansard* and the response shall thereupon be incorporated into *Hansard*.
9. A response—
 - (a) must be succinct and strictly relevant to the question in issue;
 - (b) must not contain anything offensive in character;
 - (c) must not contain any matter the publication of which would have the effect of—
 - (i) unreasonably adversely affecting or injuring a person, or unreasonably invading a person's privacy in the manner referred to in paragraph 1 of this resolution; or

- (ii) unreasonably aggravating any adverse effect, injury or invasion of privacy suffered by any person; or
 - (iii) unreasonably aggravating any situation or circumstance;
- and
- (d) must not contain any matter the publication of which might prejudice—
 - (i) the investigation of any alleged criminal offence;
 - (ii) the fair trial of any current or pending criminal proceedings; or
 - (iii) any civil proceedings in any court or tribunal.
10. In this resolution—
- (a) 'person' includes a corporation of any type and an unincorporated association;
 - (b) 'member' includes a former member of the Legislative Council.

In speaking briefly to this motion, I have lost track of the number of years but it has been many years that we have been moving this motion, under Labor and Liberal governments, to allow a citizen's right of reply. These are the quite complex guidelines which apply to anyone seeking a citizen's right of reply—rules of engagement, I suppose. They are unchanged from previous versions of a similar motion and I urge the support of the chamber for this particular motion.

Motion carried.

Bills

LOBBYISTS (RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:57): I move:

That the bill be restored to the *Notice Paper* as a lapsed bill pursuant to section 57 of the Constitution Act 1934.

Motion carried.

EVIDENCE (REPORTING ON SEXUAL OFFENCES) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:57): I move:

That the bill be restored to the *Notice Paper* as a lapsed bill pursuant to section 57 of the Constitution Act 1934.

Motion carried.

SUMMARY OFFENCES (TRESPASS ON PRIMARY PRODUCTION PREMISES) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:58): I move:

That the bill be restored to the *Notice Paper* as a lapsed bill pursuant to section 57 of the Constitution Act 1934.

Motion carried.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:59): I move:

That the bill be restored to the *Notice Paper* as a lapsed bill pursuant to section 57 of the Constitution Act 1934.

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:59): I bring up the report of the committee appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply:

To His Excellency the Hon. Hieu Van Le, Companion of the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the state of South Australia in the Commonwealth of Australia.

May it please Your Excellency—

1. We, the members of the Legislative Council, thank Your Excellency for the speech with which you have been pleased to open parliament.
2. We assure Your Excellency that we will give our best attention to all matters placed before us.
3. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's desire for our deliberations to serve the advancement of the welfare of South Australia and all its people.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (16:00): I move:

That the Address in Reply as read be adopted.

In doing so, I will make some brief comments as the first speaker in the Address in Reply debate. At the outset, on behalf of the government, but I am sure I speak on behalf of all members in this chamber, I want to thank His Excellency the Hon. Hieu Van Le and Mrs Le for the extraordinary work they do on behalf of South Australians generally and on behalf of the state. They are outstanding representatives. They bring much joy and cheer wherever they go—

The Hon. J.S. Lee: Rock stars.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: Yes—in regional communities or metropolitan communities. Their collective work ethic is well known to all of us and I am sure that after many years it is now becoming increasingly well known to many community organisations and others generally.

His Excellency is always sensitive to the needs of the community. I know in relation to the bushfire issues he has been in close contact with the Premier and senior public servants and other officers to ensure that, whilst he can provide comfort and support by attending the impacted communities, he has always done so mindful of the best advice that he receives as to the most appropriate time, for example, for him to visit impacted communities. I think that is an indication of the sensitivity that he has brought to his job over a number of years and we are delighted that he will be able to continue for the foreseeable future.

I thank him and Mrs Le for the work they both have done over a number of years. Particularly in relation to the Address in Reply speech, I thank His Excellency for the speech with which he has opened this new session of parliament. There has been some debate about the issue of prorogation, I suppose in part generated by the events in the United Kingdom and Brexit-related events of recent times, but having had some work undertaken by parliamentary officers, I think I am correct in indicating that there has been no parliament in the history of South Australia that has not prorogued at least once during the parliamentary session.

In the very early days of my involvement with the parliament in the 1970s and 1980s, there were occasions when there were up to five sessions. Indeed, if one goes to the *Hansard* volumes outside this chamber, one will see some of those earlier parliaments when the term was only actually three years. They were not four-year terms, they were only three years. It was not uncommon to see four parliamentary sessions within a term and certainly most common to see at the very least two or three during those terms. As I said, that was for a three-year term rather than a four-year term. Whilst a small number of people sought to make some play of the issue, in the greater scheme of things it has always been the case that at least once during a parliamentary term there is a prorogation and a reset of the agenda.

In terms of the Legislative Council, if nothing else it does at least cleanse the private members' agenda, albeit for a brief period of time, and members can then revisit which of those items are still of some relevance. As we all well know, some of them will not be moved again because time has moved on in relation to the particular motion or issue that might have been canvassed.

As I said, on behalf of the government, I thank His Excellency for the speech with which he has opened the parliament. I am not going to take up the time of the chamber as a member of the government, and obviously as part of the government agenda that was placed on the record by His Excellency, to go through my particular view of all aspects of the Governor's opening speech. I will leave that to other members in the chamber to comment in terms of their views of the priorities of the government.

I could conclude by saying that what it does indicate is that the government has a comprehensive program outlined not just for this year but for the next two years. It is not always legislative. The solution to all our problems is not necessarily legislative. A number of the initiatives that were announced are issues that will not require legislation. They are indications of government intention, government action, policy statement or action. They do not always involve more and more legislation to implement. Some do but, in many cases, they do not have to. With that, I conclude by again thanking His Excellency not only for his opening speech but also for the work that he undertakes on behalf of the people of South Australia.

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (16:06): I second the motion and I rise to support it, of course, in appreciation of the address with which His Excellency the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia, opened the Second Session of the Fifty-Fourth Parliament. I would like to take the opportunity to thank both His Excellency and Mrs Le for their extensive work over the past six years on behalf of South Australia, and I commend their resolve to always act in the best interests of all South Australians.

I certainly wish them well as they continue in their esteemed roles and trust our parliament will endeavour to continue working in support of their objectives to improve and advance the welfare of our state. I also acknowledge His Excellency's attendance at the opening service to mark the beginning of the parliamentary year hosted by the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship this morning. Indeed, since the Governor's appointment in 2014, I do not recall him ever having missed this annual event. His presence is always greatly appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, sir, on your appointment yesterday as President of this place and wish you the very best in your endeavours as you preside over us. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the Hon. Andrew McLachlan as President for the past two years. I congratulate him on his appointment to the Senate this morning. No doubt, he will do a fine job. I am sure all members would agree that Andrew consistently carried out his duties in this place with sincerity and with a great respect for the institution. Although Andrew will certainly be missed, he will be a great asset to our federal parliament, where I have no doubt he will continue to represent South Australia very well.

It has been a great privilege to have supported the Marshall Liberal government in its first two years in office, throughout which it has successfully implemented many initiatives that form part of its comprehensive and in some ways innovative agenda. The revitalisation of our economy in conjunction with vast improvements in infrastructure and our health and education systems, the introduction of measures to ensure greater transparency and accountability in government and the enactment of laws to protect the most vulnerable sectors within our community are all contributing to a better standard of living for all South Australians and reducing costs.

As His Excellency stated in his speech, independent research has concluded that living in Adelaide is now 16 per cent more affordable than Melbourne and 28 per cent more affordable than Sydney. He touched on important government initiatives that have contributed to this outcome, including significant decreases in our emergency services levy, which was cut by \$90 million per annum on all eligible fixed properties to provide welcome relief to households, businesses, farmers and community organisations across South Australia.

From July this year, South Australians can also expect lower water rates and the implementation of land tax reforms that set to benefit 92 per cent of smaller investors and 75 per cent of company groups in addition to reduced energy costs and decreased third-party insurance premiums. Many of us are already saving hundreds of dollars each year due to the Liberal government's sound fiscal management.

Another major impost for South Australians that has been addressed by the Marshall Liberal government is payroll tax, a clear barrier to the creation of job opportunities that South Australia was burdened with for far too long. Payroll tax has previously been imposed upon businesses with payrolls of just \$600,000 or more, effectively meaning small to medium-sized businesses, which should have been afforded the most incentive to prosper, were under the most strain when subject to the previous tax regime.

By relying on this stream of revenue for a quarter of its tax income, the former government was arguably preventing our state from reaching its economic potential, or certainly putting the brakes on, if I can put it that way. Fewer jobs inevitably leads to a greater reliance on government handouts and less money being injected back into the local economy. Excessive payroll tax rates had in the past been a deterrent for business owners to expand their operations and made entrepreneurs think twice about whether the incumbents had been worth the risk of undertaking a new venture in South Australia.

Our state government is focused on creating an environment where existing businesses can thrive and to which start-ups are attractive by removing payroll tax to small businesses with payrolls between \$600,000 and \$1.5 million as of January this year. Sir, as you know, payroll tax for small business has been abolished.

It has been no surprise that under the control of the Marshall Liberal government South Australia has defied the national trend in relation to small and medium business confidence. Recent survey results revealed owners and operators of these enterprises are now the most positive concerning their business prospects in the nation with a significant lift within regional South Australia and Adelaide outperforming all other capital cities. It also found our government continues to lead the way in supporting small and medium businesses, with approval of state government policies at a six-year high.

Given there are well over 140,000 small businesses in South Australia, comprising no less than 98 per cent of all private enterprise that provide employment to over one-third of our workforce and contribute \$35 billion through our economy, the government is intent on ensuring this important sector thrives unabated. As anticipated, this tax reform has unquestionably contributed to the creation of new jobs. In fact, since the last election, 3,500 more jobs have been generated, with a record 854,300 people employed in trend terms, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in South Australia.

As His Excellency noted, the take-up of apprenticeships and traineeships alone increased by almost 20 per cent in the first year of the state government's Skilling South Australia program, which is helping to retain our state's best and brightest, and naturally statistics have confirmed that there has been a significant drop in people leaving South Australia since the Liberal government took office.

We are serious about investing in education to ensure our young people are well-prepared with fundamental skills that are required to enter the workforce with confidence regardless of whether they have attended public or private schools, and we are also committed to ensuring that they have incentive to invest back into our state well into their adulthood through pursuing exciting and rewarding careers right here in South Australia.

His Excellency outlined another way in which the Marshall Liberal government is seeking to retain South Australians and entice others to relocate to our state, and that is through the development of its Growth State plan. This plan comprises new approaches to supporting industry through leveraging global competitive advantages to further stimulate economic growth and employment prospects. The state government has identified key opportunities in defence, space, energy and minerals, food and wine and agribusiness, international education, tourism, high-tech, health and medical industries, and creative industries, towards which almost \$100 million of funding has been approved to execute specific Growth State initiatives.

The government is well aware that its aim to achieve and sustain our state economic growth to 3 per cent, double what has been achieved over the past decade, is largely dependent on fostering strong, pragmatic partnerships between government, private industry and business that will serve to enhance our competitiveness.

Of course, one of the unforeseen and devastating challenges to many of our valuable industries has been the destruction caused by the recent bushfires that have ravaged beautiful parts of our state, including Yorke Peninsula, Eyre Peninsula, the Barossa Valley, the Mid North and Kangaroo Island. As we are aware, these fires sadly resulted in the tragic loss of the lives of three South Australians, as well as livestock, wildlife and property. As you know, sir, we had the chance to visit Kangaroo Island with other Liberal colleagues last week, and it was extremely confronting to witness the inconceivable scale of loss and to hear firsthand how locals are attempting to recover and rebuild. The resilience in the wake of such devastation is just astounding.

Mayor Michael Pengilly has reported the number of livestock killed could be as many as 100,000, but even at conservative estimates of 53,000 that alone is twice the amount of livestock that has been lost on mainland Australia. The island's plantation timber industry has also been decimated, with 95 per cent of trees either damaged or completely destroyed in the industry.

I echo His Excellency's sentiments wholeheartedly that the situation could have been far worse had it not been for the courageous efforts of our volunteer firefighters and other emergency services workers. Their willingness to risk their lives by placing themselves in direct danger in order to protect others in our communities and their possessions is nothing short of extraordinary. I know that the Marshall Liberal government is working on all fronts in an effort to assist the individuals, families, communities, primary producers, businesses and emergency services personnel and volunteers who have been deeply affected by this crisis.

I must say it has been very heartening to see friends and family making the effort to visit Kangaroo Island, the Adelaide Hills and other fire affected areas to support these particular parts of South Australia in their recovery. You may have seen on social media people using the #BookThemOut as they post about their trips, which is part of the state government's campaign to encourage much-needed tourism and patronage.

Tourism has become a very lucrative industry for South Australia under this government, with latest statistics showing a record \$7.8 billion has been spent by tourists, with visitor expenditure up 13 per cent in the last year. Although our tourism sector is thriving and experiencing considerable growth, there are certainly challenges ahead in the wake of the bushfires for some of our state's most pristine tourist destinations.

That is the reason why last year the state government, together with industry leaders, released the South Australian Visitor Economy Sector Plan 2030, which sets an ambitious, indeed bold agenda for tourism. The aim of this industry-led and endorsed strategy is to grow the state's visitor economy to \$12.8 billion by 2030 and generate an additional 16,000 jobs.

During my commute to Kangaroo Island and other parts of the state, I have also been impressed by the vast improvements in our state's infrastructure, both throughout the metropolitan and regional areas and not least with the remarkable changes along our north-south corridor that are underway.

As His Excellency mentioned, the Marshall Liberal government has secured unprecedented cooperation with the federal government to facilitate even more major projects. We now have a fully funded pipeline of infrastructure works, totalling an historic \$12.9 billion over the next four years. It is anticipated this will create and support an estimated 80,000 construction jobs to underpin this very vital industry.

Just some of the works our constituents can expect to benefit from are the electrification of the Gawler line, extension of the Tonsley line, duplication of Victor Harbor Road, grade separations on Torrens Road at Ovingham and Brighton Road at Hove and upgrades to the intersection of Cross Road and Fullarton Road, Princes Highway, Eyre Highway and the Sturt Highway. The state government's planned projects include not only roads but schools, hospitals and affordable housing to support numerous sectors within our economy to improve the lives of everyday South Australians.

I am sincerely proud to be part of a government that has been diligently fulfilling its election promises to South Australians since its appointment to office. I wish to join with honourable members in assuring His Excellency of our continued commitment to conducting all elements of our duties as elected representatives of our state and its people to the best of our abilities. Obviously, I have only

touched on some of the highlights that were mentioned in the Governor's speech. There is so much more we could talk about. As I say, the Governor outlaid a great vision for South Australia and I look forward to it unfolding. I commend the motion to the council.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. E.S. Bourke.

Motions

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. R.I. Lucas:

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.

(Continued from 5 February 2020.)

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (16:18): I rise to wholeheartedly support this motion. I would begin, as others have, by offering my deepest and sincerest condolences to those who have lost their lives in these terrible fires and to the loved ones that they have left behind, both here in South Australia and interstate. Nationally, we have lost 33 people and we have lost three in South Australia. I would also offer my condolences to those who lost their homes, their businesses and their communities.

I did not personally know any of those who died, but I do know a number of people personally who lost everything else. In the main, these were people who I have worked with over the years on various conservation campaigns, especially on Kangaroo Island. It ceases to be just a story on the news when you know personally those who are affected. Nationwide, there were over 3,000 homes that were lost. In fact, it is not just a question of knowing people who lost their homes, there were some I have had in my home who, as we do in polite company, said, 'You must come and visit us in ours one day.' There are at least a couple of people for whom I will never be able to do that because they lost everything in the fires.

We also know that one consequence for those who survived will be to their mental and emotional health. Even those indirectly affected are likely to need our support long after the immediate danger has passed. That is why we need to make sure, in the tough months and years ahead, that we do not forget how we feel now or how we felt as we watched the tragedy unfold in news reports over the last few months.

I also wish to pay tribute to the phenomenal efforts of our paid and unpaid firefighters and emergency services personnel. They have worked tirelessly for months on end to defend property, life and land, and it is only because of their bravery and courage, showing the best of what Australians can be, that these fires and the results of them have not been much worse. I would like to give a shout out to the young trainee, Claudia, in the Hon. Tammy Franks' office, who I think undertook three tours of duty to Kangaroo Island.

Across Australia, one thing that has shocked so many people is how early these fires started. In August this year, Penny and I spent some time in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales. We camped in the ancient world heritage listed rainforests. I got some great photos of lyrebirds, bellbirds and those elusive little log runners that forage in the damp leaf litter floor of the

rainforest. These are areas that had never been subject to bushfires of the type or severity that ravaged the region just one month later in September.

The fires in South Australia came a little later, but there is now a consensus that the fire season is getting longer as our landscapes dry out, particularly as a consequence of climate change. Some that were not taken by surprise were scientists, community leaders and emergency services experts, who all warned the government of the risks and the need for action many, many months before the crisis began to unfold. Last year, we had 23 former fire chiefs begging the Prime Minister for a meeting; they could not get one. They were ignored.

There is much more that we need to say and do in coming months in response to these fires. At the top of that list for the Greens is addressing climate change. We are clearly facing a climate emergency and, as a nation, we are sleepwalking into the abyss. I do not accept that now is not the time to talk about climate change. Whilst this tragedy is still raw and fresh and ongoing, it is in fact the best time.

As this new parliamentary session begins, in coming days and weeks the Greens will be bringing bills and motions forward to deal with the climate emergency. We need to listen to the scientists and the community, we need to listen to the fire and emergency chiefs and we need to listen to the next generation who will inherit the disaster that we are creating. Most importantly, we need political will to prioritise the future because none of us want this horror fire season to become the new normal. I support the motion.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (16:23): It is an honour to support this motion and pay tribute to those who have suffered from the recent fires and to those thousands of people who have helped during this time of crisis. As we know, three lives have been lost in the fires at Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island. Our deep sympathy goes to those who have lost family members or friends. Most of us can only imagine the tragedy of losing someone close to us in such circumstances and we hope everyone affected knows that they have the heartfelt condolences of people across this state.

Seventy houses were destroyed in the Cudlee Creek fire and 89 in Kangaroo Island, as well as outbuildings, cars and other property. The loss of stock and damage to farmland and forests is widespread. Of course, closer to my home in the South-East was the Keilira bushfire, which was started by dry lightning on the morning of 30 December. Fortunately, no lives were lost, but it burned more than 25,000 hectares, with a perimeter of some 76 kilometres. This fire destroyed three properties, with one being occupied and the other two being unused farmhouses. It also destroyed more than 2,000 bales of hay, hundreds of kilometres of fencing and up to 400 head of cattle and 3,000 sheep.

Businesses and properties were lost in all these fires across our state, many of which were built up over a lifetime, and the devastation for those who have seen their hard work burn is immense. Going forward in terms of rebuilding, we need to particularly focus on the emotional impact that this devastation will have on so many people in our community—those who have lost loved ones, those who have lost businesses and those who have lost houses.

I would particularly like to comment on the families of those who had family members fighting the fires. When I was a teenager, my father was a member of the country fire volunteer service. We lived just over the border in Victoria, in Strathdownie. In the 1980 and 1983 fires, he was a volunteer. He was out fighting those fires. Fortunately, he was not injured, though of course others were.

My memories as a schoolgirl of going to school in the morning and wondering throughout that day where dad was and what was happening to him even now have a huge impact. We must remember the children of those who were out fighting, who were out volunteering and who were in the path of these devastating fires. We need to ensure that we give them the resources to express the uncertainty they would have felt, the sadness and all of those emotions that they may be going through.

We can all be heartened by the huge community response to these fires. Funds for our Fires was on in Mount Gambier at the weekend, and I was fortunate to be able to go. It involved many businesses and many entertainers generously donating the proceeds of the day to the fire effort. The Rotary Club of Mount Gambier volunteered their time, as they so often do. A number of businesses

donated all their proceeds, and I would like to name them because, as was said in an earlier contribution in this place today, most of those who help, who volunteer or who raise funds are not doing it for thanks; nevertheless, it is nice to thank them.

In the South-East event, Natural Born Grillers, 25acres Street Food, Limoncello Caravan Bar, Jensen's Pizzas, Waffle-Inn, Tantanoola Icecream, ScRoll Queen, Metro Bakery and Cafe, Teys Bros of Naracoorte, Collins Court Butcher, Lakes Village Meats and Bakers Delight were all part of that Funds for our Fires event. I hope I have not forgotten anyone. There were certainly many, many people there to assist and to actually turn up, despite the weather, to raise funds for our fires.

There have been numerous other efforts across the region. I will name just one today and I might have an opportunity in future contributions in this place to talk about some of the others, and that is the local Foodland at Mount Gambier. They have had an arrangement whereby, if anyone purchases more than \$50 worth of goods from their store, Foodland is donating a proportion of that sale. That is going on until 24 February. That is just one example of local stores that are helping in whichever way they can.

Local CFS and MFS personnel not only helped in containing local fires but many of them also travelled to Kangaroo Island or to Cudlee Creek to help there. Some volunteers from the South-East that I know of who have travelled to help others include: Mariska Hawke and her husband Gary Thomas; Ray and Cathy Paine from Penola; Jaiden Bombski; Gary Stevens, first lieutenant of Mount Gambier; Elaine Wilson-Bennett; and Wade Chant, who is a first lieutenant from Port MacDonnell CFS. I know Wade and he is a fine young man who has gone to help.

We have seen people from all over the state, and indeed the country, assisting with recovery, including organisations such as BlazeAid, which is helping to rebuild fencing and currently has a camp near Kingston in the South-East.

When I visited Kangaroo Island a few weeks ago with my Labor colleagues, it was confronting and there was devastation wherever we looked, but what was particularly heartening was the way that everyone had come together. Lots of people often talk—and certainly we will in this place—about the way people come together during and after tragedies. That is something that was very, very clear on Kangaroo Island when we were there.

We thank all the firefighters, the Army personnel, the reservists, the SES volunteers, SAPOL, Health staff, government workers and anyone else who has been involved in helping with these fires. We have confidence that this community spirit will continue through the lengthy rebuilding process. I commend the motion to the chamber.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (16:29): The Kangaroo Island and Cudlee Creek bushfires form part of an unprecedented 2019-20 bushfire season, causing devastation to communities across Australia. I express my sincere condolences and sympathy to the families and loved ones of those who were killed in the bushfires—in particular, Mr Dick Lang and his son Clayton, and also Mr Ron Selth, who died earlier at Charleston.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the work of the Country Fire Service—namely, the volunteer firefighters, whose bravery and dedication is truly humbling. I would also like to acknowledge the families and loved ones of our volunteer firefighters: thank you for the support you provide in enabling your loved ones to carry out such an important service for our community. I can only imagine the anxiety and trepidation a person must feel when they watch a loved one leaving to battle an active fire front.

To all the South Australian firefighters and your families, I wish to say thank you. Thank you for your bravery, humanity, kinship and sense of altruism. I understand that for many volunteer firefighters, balancing work and family commitments with Country Fire Service duties and bushfire events would not be straightforward. Many of you would have given up holiday time—time that is enjoyed with loved ones—to save people's homes and livelihoods.

Our nation owes so much to the bravery and dedication of our volunteer firefighters. When confronted with massive bushfires, knowing that these fires have the power and ability to engulf towns and thousands of homes matched with the challenge of battling such blazes, all the while placing themselves at risk, must be quite overwhelming at times.

With everything that the volunteer firefighters have seen and dealt with in battling these fierce fires, the mental recovery and readjustment in their daily routines is bound to be challenging. I hope each volunteer firefighter has access to ongoing support and assistance where and when they need it. These catastrophic events will impact communities for a long time to come.

I have been going to Kangaroo Island for a number of years. I have a few friends and associates over there, and also know many of the businessowners. Talking to some of them on the phone during these bushfires, it was quite harrowing to hear the desperation in their voices. I know that Bluey, who owns Rustic Blue on the South Coast, near Hanson Bay, fought the fires for a long time when his cafe and gallery were under threat. Thank God that he came through that with his life and his business intact.

My heart goes out to Peter, who owns Island Honey in Kingscote. He posted a video on social media of himself and his son fighting a bushfire at his son's house. It was absolutely horrifying to see the flames, knowing that the two of them were battling this fire—you would think it was something straight out of a movie. Thankfully, they both lived. Unfortunately, the house burned down, and many of Peter's beehives were also destroyed during the fire, so it will take them quite a long time to recover.

It will take a long time as homes and businesses are rebuilt and livelihoods are slowly reassembled. Significant populations of wildlife and unique natural habitats have been destroyed and, for now, only time will tell if some of these species and habitats will flourish again one day. The threat of extinction of some species, including the Kangaroo Island dunnart and the already endangered black glossy cockatoos, is both confronting and alarming.

The survival of these species depends on an intense recovery effort, and I call upon the state government to address their responsibility seriously and with the upmost regard for the conservation of these unique and endearing species. I acknowledge the critical role that the various wildlife organisations have played in protecting endangered species and providing treatment to injured animals in the aftermath of such bushfires.

I would also like to spare some time and thoughts for the 600 children on the island who probably witnessed some quite horrifying times, with their houses under threat, their friends' houses under threat, people dying. This is something they will remember right to the day they die—I am sure they will. Hopefully there is enough support. I have not heard much mentioned about kids at all. It has all been about houses and lives lost and businesses destroyed and wildlife, but I have not heard much about the 600 kids on the island who have suffered such an ordeal that they themselves would need special counselling available. Resources should be put into the efforts to make sure those kids come out of this unscathed.

I would like to acknowledge the generosity of the people of this country, and international donations have come through. Lots of money has been raised right throughout the country, to be used to help people get back on their feet, whether their homes have been destroyed, infrastructure, businesses. I just hope the processes are intact, are there, to make sure that money gets out as quickly as possible to where it is needed. Very often these people here, they will survive; they survive the trauma of the bushfires, they are very resilient, and businesses are under a lot of pressure, and it is important that the money gets to them to help them rebuild their lives.

I will be going over there for a few days on 24 February. I will be over there to support some of the businesses and do what I can to help the people I know over there to rebuild. I will be taking over a car load full of vegetables for the wild animals that are now under threat from feral animals. We just cannot seem to win a trick in this game.

I think that is what Kangaroo Island in particular needs; what they need is people to go there and support the businesses. Handouts are great—fine—but they are short term. What they need is to have ongoing support for their businesses. So I do encourage people, where they can, to go over there and just do their little bit for that island. In saying that, I conclude my remarks.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (16:37): I wholeheartedly support this motion, as have other members. Every summer we see the impact of bushfires in our community, but the bushfires we

have seen over the last couple of months have had a rippling effect through many communities across the country, not only at a personal and emotional level but economically.

This fire danger season is like no other, and it is not over yet. South Australians across metropolitan Adelaide have woken to smoke haze during this fire danger season. One could have been forgiven for thinking you were in a different city. Melbourne endured the worst air quality of any city in the world. Even New Zealand's air quality was impacted by Australia's recent devastating fires. The impact of these fires reached further than ever before.

I make this point because no matter where you were in South Australia during the fires, you could not remove or distance yourself. It was not something you just saw on the news; it was something that became front of mind for everyone, because everyone could see the impact from their doorstep. While metropolitan South Australians were not at the front of the devastation caused by these fires, they have been quick to get behind the communities, as have local residents, to support their fellow South Australians.

It cannot be stated enough that this fire danger season is different, and fire danger seasons will continue to be different unless we, the people in this place and our counterparts in Canberra, do something about it. At a national level, since the start of the 2019 fire season, a staggering 17 million hectares have been burned, with almost all states and territories impacted. There have been at least 34 fatalities, including local volunteers and those who have come from overseas to help in areas that they did not even know. More than 6,500 buildings have been destroyed, and it is estimated that one billion animals have perished, bringing some species closer to extinction.

In South Australia, we have seen bushfire tragedies in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island, and we also saw the impact of the Yorke Peninsula fires, which I spoke about last year. In the Hills, at least 38 homes and four businesses were destroyed, with more than 12,500 hectares burnt. The township of Kersbrook was hit the hardest, with 12 homes lost.

The Cudlee Creek fire devastatingly claimed the life of Ron Selth, a partner, father of three and grandfather of six, as well as a civil engineer who ran his own engineering business. Ron was a well-known person in the Adelaide Hills community and was known to be a good bloke. My condolences go to his family and his loved ones. At least 29 people were also taken to hospital as a result of the fires in the Adelaide Hills region.

On Kangaroo Island, wildfires burned for weeks and consumed more than 200,000 hectares, that is, half of the island. Tragically, Dick Lang, a husband, father of four and grandfather of seven, and his younger son Clayton, a husband and father of two young daughters, passed away. They were on their way back to the family property on Kangaroo Island after helping to fight a fire nearby on another property for two days. My heart goes out to their families and their loved ones through this difficult time.

Dozens of homes on the island have been destroyed. As an area and local economy that relies heavily on tourism, these fires occurred at the peak of the holiday period on Kangaroo Island and could not have come at a worse time—if there is a good time. These figures help to put perspective on the sheer magnitude of the fires that have blazed through South Australia and Australia.

Through it all, we have been reminded of the incredible heart of Australians, as CFS volunteers, local residents and communities across Australia worked tirelessly to protect South Australians, as well as the Eastern States. Locals of impacted communities across Australia dropped everything to help their neighbour. Without any training, they jumped into their trucks of differing sizes with water tanks to fight the fires.

You may have seen Shane Leahy in parliament yesterday. Shane is a clear example of this incredible heart. Shane, a CFS volunteer, lost his home during the Kangaroo Island bushfire but still went out to fight to help protect his neighbours. He lost his home but thankfully kept his business and his spirit to protect his community.

The South Australian Labor team has been out supporting South Australians affected by the bushfires. The member for Croydon, Peter Malinauskas, in the other place, and members of the

Labor Party have made multiple trips to both the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island to listen to the stories and concerns of locals and volunteers.

On Kangaroo Island, I would like to particularly acknowledge the outstanding work of the member for Mawson in the other place, Leon Bignell. Spending countless hours with farmers, volunteers and farmers, and helping to organise the donation of an extra 91 life-saving two-way radios, Leon has devoted his time, attention and focus to Kangaroo Island, where it is needed most. Leon provided real help and sympathy to those affected, and the member for Mawson is not done. He continues to work hard to support the recovery of Kangaroo Island.

I would also like to acknowledge the work the government has been doing to support the South Australian regions affected by bushfires, particularly the #BookThemOut campaign, which the opposition is fully behind. We know the impact of bushfires continues well after the embers have gone out and, with tourism being such an important part of Kangaroo Island and the Adelaide Hills economies, it is important that the world knows that Kangaroo Island and the Adelaide Hills are open for business.

But, whilst our CFS volunteers and locals are out protecting the community, who is there to protect and support them? After the 20 November fires on Yorke Peninsula, I reached out to the local CFS brigades to thank them and to see if there was something we could do to help and support them while they are protecting us.

I have heard directly from brigade volunteers that there are tools they could be given to help better protect their community and themselves when fires break out. Marion Bay CFS suggested the need to reduce vegetation density in and around the township of Marion Bay. The brigade also mentioned that local communities would like to see excess vegetation mulched and sold to cover the cost.

All honourable members can stand here and put out a call for volunteers to join the CFS to support their communities but we need to ensure the training required is accessible and available. So, while I am glad to hear that there has been an increase in volunteers signing up on Yorke Peninsula since the fires, I was disappointed to hear that it can be difficult for CFS volunteers to undertake the necessary training. This is something that we need to work together on to make a positive change. We can never thank our CFS volunteers enough but we can give them the support they need to protect the community and to protect themselves.

As I mentioned earlier, if anything good has come out of the devastation of this bushfire season, it is that the community is ready for a conversation about what the future looks like and they are ready for leadership. Now is the time to have a discussion about bushfire management. Now is the time to support our CFS organisations, volunteers and their families. Now is the time for the right policies to be put in place to rebuild our communities and support South Australians. Again, thank you to all who have supported the people who have been impacted by the devastation of these bushfires, who have put clothes on people's backs, food on tables and have looked after their communities. But most importantly, may the memories of the lost loved ones live on and not be forgotten.

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (16:46): I, too, rise to support the motion. The catastrophic bushfires that we have experienced in the early stages of our summer season have illustrated the vulnerable position that our country is positioned in in relation to the devastating effects of climate change. It would be fair to say that we are experiencing a climate crisis of enormous proportions which is having a devastating effect on our plant, animal and human life and has placed an incredible toll on those communities directly affected by the fires and the heroes who have been fighting to contain them.

At this time, we require plans, actions, resources and leadership to meet the challenges confronting our country—and the world for that matter. In the first instance, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of all Australians involved in fighting and containing the fires and, in particular, the community, the rural and metropolitan fire services, and the defence forces that have played an important role in that regard.

It has illustrated that as an Australian people we are unified, resilient and compassionate and those efforts have been supported nationally and internationally. Many of our community leaders, politicians and those more fortunate have played an important role in assisting and supporting, which has also included financial support, to meet the devastation that we are confronted with. In this regard, we must acknowledge the endeavours of community organisations, the non-government sector and the thousands of volunteers in terms of their support at this critical time.

The efforts of the member for Mawson are worthy of mention. The member for Mawson, Leon Bignell, has worked tirelessly in these last few months, assisting and supporting efforts and endeavours, particularly as the fires impacted and wreaked havoc and destruction in parts of his electorate on Kangaroo Island. Whilst there has been extensive media coverage on the bushfires, the role of our national broadcaster, the ABC emergency services coverage and support to our communities impacted by the fires has been outstanding. The important work that must now continue is recovery and restoration work to prevent the dimensions of this sort of disaster occurring again. I support the motion.

The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:49): I rise to echo the sentiments expressed by other honourable members and to speak in support of the motion to pay tribute to the lives lost but also to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of everyone involved in fighting the bushfires that ravaged our state on Kangaroo Island, in the Adelaide Hills and on Yorke Peninsula. Like everyone in this place, I was horrified by the images I saw on the TV news of the ferocity of the bushfires that have ravaged our state this summer and, of course, that have ravaged other jurisdictions this summer.

Tragically, the fires claimed the lives of three people: the larger than life Dick Lang; his son, plastic surgeon Clayton; and Adelaide Hills engineer Ron Selth. Well-known Adelaide Hills identity and former Oakbank Racing Club chairman, John Glatz, was also critically injured in the bushfires that destroyed large parts of the Adelaide Hills. I think it is fair to say that we all wish him well as he continues to recover from the injuries he sustained when he was trapped by flames.

While Mother Nature showed us her very worst, I think human nature showed us its very best. In what can only be described as true Aussie spirit and grit, hundreds of South Australians from all walks of life put their own lives and safety at risk to help fight the fires. Some, as has been mentioned by other honourable members, had even lost their own homes and all their life's belongings in the devastating fires yet, despite their huge personal losses, their main priority was to continue to fight the fires to help their neighbours, their mates, their community, to make sure they did not lose their properties and their belongings as well. It is truly amazing.

Unlike my colleague the Hon. Frank Pangallo, I have not had the opportunity to visit the bushfire-ravaged area that he has to see firsthand the damage caused and speak with those impacted, although we have planned to do so in the coming days and weeks. Regardless, I have been totally overwhelmed and inspired by what I have seen on the TV news and especially through social media, not only in South Australia but in other parts of Australia as well.

To see the amazing work these people do, many of them volunteers usually in dangerous and at times life-threatening situations, to minimise the loss of both human and animal life is truly amazing. Of course, this includes the work of the CFS, the SES, the Red Cross, the Salvos and the Australian Army Reserves, as well as SAPOL, the SA Ambulance Service, the MFS and many others. They were ably supported by other firefighting services from other parts of the world, as we know.

I want to make special mention today of the three American firefighters who were tragically killed when the aerial water tanker they were in crashed while battling wildfires in regional New South Wales. They were Captain Ian H. McBeth, 44, of Great Falls, Montana; First Officer Paul Clyde Hudson, 42, of Buckeye, Arizona; and flight engineer Rick A. DeMorgan Jr, 43, of Navarre, Florida. For the more than 27-odd people who I have not mentioned by name who have lost their lives fighting the nation's bushfires this summer, I am sure I speak for all of us when I say that my heart goes out to their families, their friends and their loved ones over their unspeakable loss.

As they say, superheroes do not always wear capes. All of these courageous people, who have courageously battled bushfires that have ravaged large parts of our country, do not get anywhere near the accolades or acknowledgement they deserve, nor do they undertake these treacherous tasks seeking it. These are our superheroes. Who knows where we would be without

their invaluable and tireless efforts and their community spirit. It is something that defines this great state and this great country and a spirit I do not think you truly understand unless you are an Australian. To you all, I say thank you.

Finally, I want to use this opportunity to commend the amazingly talented author, actor and comedian—my absolute favourite comedian—Celeste Barber for her record-breaking fundraising efforts. Celeste, whose extended family was directly impacted by the New South Wales bushfires, had intended to reach a fundraising target of \$30,000. In a very short time, she ended up raising a staggering \$51-odd million donated by people the world over. I think it is about 1.2 million people who have donated to her fundraiser.

Celeste, like a number of other celebrities, has dug deep to support Australia throughout this difficult time. I think this is a great reflection of the warm welcome that these individuals have received, as artists, from the Australian community on their visits here over many, many years and, of course, Celeste more generally here. I think it is fair to say, given the unprecedented response that Celeste received to her fundraising efforts, that it has been determined that those funds will be directed to all jurisdictions impacted by the fires, including SA. So, Celeste, for my part, you absolutely rock; thank you.

I am really pleased that the Hon. Russell Wortley has made special mention of all the children and young people caught up in the fires, because no doubt they have suffered unspeakable anguish and will require lots of support in dealing with what they have had to endure. I am sure the honourable member will be pleased to hear that there is one very small local charity here that does have a significant amount of money, which they have sought my assistance in directing towards helping and supporting the very children who have been impacted by the bushfires in SA in whatever way is necessary, no matter how big or small. I think that is a very heartwarming gesture on the part of that charity, and I have been particularly pleased to help them in their efforts.

In closing, I would like to once again extend my condolences to the loved ones of all those who lost their lives here and interstate. To those who lost their homes, our thoughts and prayers are with you all. To our volunteers and to the superheroes who I referred to, who put their lives on the line and continue to do so and will continue to do so, thank you. I think it is fair to say we all thank you for your tremendous efforts. With those words I, too, commend the motion to the chamber.

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

Members

MCLACHLAN, HON. A.L.

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. R.I. Lucas:

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

(Continued from 5 February 2020.)

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (16:57): When I heard news of Andrew's successful bid to secure his party's nomination to replace outgoing senator, Cory Bernardi, I sent him a text message that said simply, 'Congratulations. Canberra's gain is our loss.' I think that summarises what a lot of us feel, because Andrew is a good legislator and he has made a fine contribution both as a backbencher and, for the last two years, as President; but on top of that he is also a decent person, which helps.

As Andrew said yesterday, he and I were bench buddies on the red vinyl seats of this chamber when he was first elected, and in that space we had many interactions, especially since we both had responsibility for the Attorney-General's portfolio bills, which comprise the bulk of the legislative agenda. Much has been made of Andrew's crossing the floor over legislation that he saw, as a lawyer, crossed the line of what was appropriate for a parliament to pass. He cares about the rule of law and the separation of powers in our democracy. Whilst crossing the floor is usually seen as a career limiting move in the old parties, Andrew got away with it because his colleagues knew that he based his position on solid legal reasoning, and deep down I expect that some agreed with him but they did not have the courage to do what he did.

Yesterday, Andrew acknowledged that I had some small impact on his parliamentary work, to which I would reply, 'It goes both ways.' In fact, we would often egg each other on. I was often disappointed that sometimes in debate I would make what I thought was a strong point, only to be told later by Andrew, 'That was a bit weak. You could have gone much further.' Of course, we did not always agree, and that is why we are in different parties. I expect, or I am worried, that my current bench buddy, the Hon. Irene Pnevmatikos, must be nervous about whether there is a risk of getting too close to the Greens. Perhaps sensible policy is contagious if you sit too close.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL: My big hope for Andrew is that, when he gets into the bigger pond of federal politics, he will have a good influence on his federal party room colleagues, because goodness knows they need more rational voices in there who understand the issues that are facing our nation and the world and who respect the importance of defending civil liberties and human rights. I wish Andrew well in his Senate career, and I will give him a good reference to my federal parliamentary colleagues.

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

Parliamentary Committees

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

The House of Assembly notified its appointment of sessional committees.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON END OF LIFE CHOICES

The House of Assembly informed the Legislative Council that it had appointed Mr Murray to the committee in place of Mr Duluk.

ABORIGINAL LANDS PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE

The House of Assembly informed the Legislative Council that it had appointed Mr Teague to the committee in place of Mr Duluk (resigned).

ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The House of Assembly informed the Legislative Council that it had appointed the Hon. A. Piccolo and Mr Patterson to the committee in place of Mr Brown and Mr Pederick (resigned).

ECONOMIC AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The House of Assembly informed the Legislative Council that it had appointed Ms Michaels to the committee in place of the Hon. Z.L. Bettison (resigned).

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The House of Assembly informed the Legislative Council that it had appointed Mr Szakacs to the committee in place of the Hon. A. Piccolo (resigned).

At 17:02 the council adjourned until Tuesday 18 February 2020 at 14:15.