

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, 18 February 2020

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. T.J. Stephens)** took the chair at 14:15 and read prayers.

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

Parliamentary Committees

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY, REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (14:16): I bring up the third report of the committee on an inquiry into workplace fatigue and bullying in South Australian hospitals and health services.

Report received.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Treasurer (Hon. R.I. Lucas)—

Capital City Committee Report, 2018-19

Regulations under Acts—

Freedom of Information Act 1991—Prescribed Agency.

Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012—Schedule 1 of Act

Local Government Finance Authority Act 1993—Prescribed Local Government Bodies

Ombudsman Act 1972—General

2019 Cheltenham and Enfield By-election, Report

Government Response to Recommendations from the Statutory Authorities Review Committee's Inquiry into the State Procurement Board

Return pursuant to section 74B of the Summary Offences Act 1953 Road Blocks—Report by the Commissioner of Police 1 October 2019-31 December 2019

Return pursuant to section 83B of the Summary Offences Act 1953 Dangerous Area Declarations—Report by the Commissioner of Police 1 October 2019-31 December 2019

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

Regulations under Acts—

Local Government Act 1999—Prescribed Body.

Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016—Annual Reports

Planning Agreements—General

ANSWERS TABLED

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

*Parliamentary Committees***JOINT PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMITTEE**

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:21): I seek leave to move a motion without notice concerning the appointment of a member and an alternate member to the committee.

Leave granted.

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

That pursuant to section 5 of the Parliament (Joint Services) Act 1995, the Hon. D.G.E. Hood be appointed as a member of the Joint Parliamentary Service Committee, and the Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins be appointed as an alternate member to the Hon. D.G.E. Hood.

Motion carried.

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

That a message be sent to the House of Assembly transmitting the foregoing resolution.

Motion carried.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:21): I seek leave to move motions without notice concerning the appointment of members to the very important Printing Committee, the Legislative Review Committee and the Natural Resources Committee.

Leave granted.

PRINTING COMMITTEE

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:21): I move:

That the Hon. S.G. Wade be appointed to the Printing Committee in place of the Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins (resigned).

Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:22): I move:

That pursuant to section 21(3) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991 the Hon. D.G.E. Hood be appointed to the Legislative Review Committee in place of the Hon. T.J. Stephens (resigned).

Motion carried.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:22): I move:

That pursuant to section 21(3) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991 the Hon. D.G.E. Hood be appointed to the Natural Resources Committee in place of the Hon. T.J. Stephens (resigned).

Motion carried.

*Question Time***PUBLIC HOUSING**

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:22): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Human Services a question about public housing.

Leave granted.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: On 6 January, the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT) made an eviction order at the request of Housing SA that will take effect in the coming days. The tenant is a single Aboriginal woman in her 60s, originally from Amata in the APY Lands, with acquired brain injury, physical disabilities and requiring 24-hour care via the NDIS, and who is under the guardianship of the Public Advocate.

The eviction order refers to disturbances caused by visitors to the property, not the tenant, that have caused disruption to neighbours. The order notes that the tenant may not be able to understand what is happening, may not be able to prevent the visitors from visiting and causing disturbances, and may have cultural obligations in relation to her visitors.

Most disturbingly, the eviction order notes that the tenant is so vulnerable that she may need hospital-level care in the future. The minister's agency has been aware of this situation for months and the local MP wrote to the minister last week after being made aware of the situation. The local MP has made representations to Housing SA to attempt to find other housing options or provide a short period of extra time but no solutions at all have been offered.

There is no doubt that this situation is difficult for both the tenant and the neighbours; however, there is also no doubt that the minister and the SA Housing Authority have a responsibility and the power to fix this situation. The minister has often spoken about challenges faced by single, older women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities and those facing homelessness. This particular person falls into all four categories. My questions to the minister are:

1. What has the minister done to ensure this person is safe?
2. What does the minister say to this single Aboriginal woman in her 60s with acquired brain injury, who uses an electric wheelchair, needs 24-hour support and who will face homelessness in a few days' time?
3. What procedures exist to protect some of our most vulnerable from being made homeless because of the actions of the minister's agency?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:25): I thank the honourable member for his question. As he would be aware, the agency that is ultimately responsible for determining whether an eviction takes place is the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal—

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: On SA Housing Trust's application. It's your agency that has done this.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: Mr President, I listened to the question in silence. I would appreciate actually being given the opportunity to answer the question without being interrupted. In terms of SACAT, my understanding is that SACAT does not have a practice of evicting into homelessness. Some of these cases can be quite complex. It is well known that the Labor opposition comes in here with partial facts and fabricates some particular details. I am happy to look into the instances of this particular case and bring back an answer for the—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister, in silence, please—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! I can't hear the minister.

The Hon. I.K. Hunter: She hasn't said anything.

The PRESIDENT: Well, she can't speak over the top of you. Minister, please continue.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: We know that the Labor Party often comes in here, fabricating facts, conflating facts that aren't true—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Let the minister finish her answer, please.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: Mr President, I don't need to remind members of the opposition that interjections are out of order and I won't be responding to them and they should not be recorded in *Hansard*.

The PRESIDENT: You should.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: There are processes in place. The South Australian Housing Authority is very sensitive to a range of issues and takes all mitigating factors into account before these actions are taken. I'm more than happy to look at the facts of this case and bring back a response for the honourable member.

PUBLIC HOUSING

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:27): Supplementary arising from the answer: the minister says there are processes in place. Minister, what are they? Come Friday, when this woman is turfed out because of an application that your agency made to SACAT, where does she go? What are these processes?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:27): I thank the honourable member for his supplementary question. The agency looks into the facts of every individual case before it makes a decision to take somebody to eviction. Part of the SACAT process is actually to enforce existing tenancy agreements, so because somebody receives an eviction order from SACAT, it doesn't mean that they will be left homeless. They are sometimes placed in alternative accommodation which is more appropriate for their circumstances.

For the Labor Party to allege that, on the facts it has presented—not facts; I don't accept them as facts, to start with—or on the story it has outlined, this is automatically going to lead to an eviction that will result in homelessness is not necessarily the case, because the South Australian Housing Authority is mindful of these sorts of mitigating issues. It may well be that the tenancy is not suitable where it is or that some alternative is being arranged, but without having those details before me, I will need to take this question on notice and come back with a response.

PUBLIC HOUSING

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:29): Further supplementary arising from the original answer: can the minister assure the chamber that this woman will not be evicted into homelessness?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:29): I have already responded to this, and that is to say—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: And that is to say—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Do you want an answer or not?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Order!

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: I have listened to the honourable member's questions in silence. I would appreciate a little bit of courtesy—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: —a little bit of courtesy—

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: —without constantly being interrupted.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: I'm sorry. What was that, Russell?

The PRESIDENT: I'm sorry. I never heard that.

The Hon. R.P. Wortley: What we'd like you to do is answer the question.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: No, no, no—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Order! Minister.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: What did you just say?

The PRESIDENT: Minister, finish your answer, please, in silence.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: My understanding is that the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal does not have a practice of evicting people into homelessness. There are alternatives. There are circumstances where this can be the enforcement of somebody's tenancy agreement, and some alternative is indeed being found. But without having those facts before me, I will need to take the question on notice and bring back a response. I have tried to outline the policies. They are what they are, and they are compassionate.

PUBLIC HOUSING

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:30): Supplementary arising from the original answer, where the minister doubted the circumstances that were being put forward in this chamber. My supplementary question is: does the minister understand just how demeaning it is to question people's situation in life when they are potentially facing homelessness in these situations?

The PRESIDENT: Minister, I think that is drawing a long bow. You can answer it if you wish.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:31): I would be delighted to answer that question, Mr President. I don't doubt individual circumstances. What I do doubt is the Australian Labor Party. We had the deputy leader of the Labor Party come in here who had fabricated an entire story.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: I have outlined the policies of the Housing Trust. I have outlined the procedures of SACAT. The Labor Party is alleging something else. I think it is incumbent on every South Australian at all times to check their fingers when they shake the hands of a Labor politician and to always check whatever it is they say, because we know that they are often two very different things.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:31): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Human Services regarding public housing budget cuts.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Both of the government's budgets since the election slashed the budget for the SA Housing Authority and increased public housing rents. Over the forward estimates to 2023, budget cuts total more than \$79.5 million, and budget papers indicate that more than 200 staff will have to go.

In December last year the government released a new 10-year housing strategy that runs from now until 2030. Unless the current budget cuts are reversed the Liberals will slash up to a quarter of a billion dollars from the SA Housing Authority by 2030. On top of budget cuts and staff cuts, the most recent annual report shows the \$186 million in property sales in one year. Luckily, however, the minister has found the money to double the pay of the chair of the board and hire an entire new level of management to oversee a smaller budget, fewer homes and fewer staff.

The last time the Liberals were in government and Rob Lucas was treasurer, we saw record reductions in public housing, from 63,000—

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS: Point of order, Mr President: this explanation is laden with opinion, and I think it's—

The Hon. I.K. Hunter: It's laden with facts.

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS: Opinion. And I draw that to your attention.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, the Hon. Mr Dawkins. The Hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you sought leave to make a brief explanation. It has been a reasonably lengthy one so far. Are we getting to a question?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Yes, we are almost there.

The PRESIDENT: Excellent. Please ask your question.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: So we saw record reductions in public housing last time the Hon. Rob Lucas was treasurer, from 63,000 to less than 50,000 in just eight years. In one year alone, almost 3,000 public housing properties disappeared. Since minister Lensink took over the portfolio, documents that show the Liberals' appalling record have been stripped from the agency's website. My questions to the minister are:

1. Can the minister explain how the commitments in the 10-year strategy can be delivered when the forward estimates, that go for four years, already include massive budget cuts?

2. Why is the minister running a protection racket for the Treasurer by hiding documents that show how he gutted public housing when he was last in government?

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, there was far too much opinion in that question. I will let the minister answer it, but please, you need to keep it a lot tighter than that in the future. Minister.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:34): Thank you, Mr President. I am not sure whether to thank the honourable member for that question, which I think was factually incorrect.

The Hon. C.M. Scriven: It gives you a bit more time to think about your answer, so you might as well.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: I listened to the honourable member in silence. I would appreciate if I can not be constantly interrupted by members of the Labor Party. The honourable member clearly doesn't understand that the budget arrangements changed in the last budget, in that the Housing Trust—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: —has been provided with an up-front grant, so rather than as in the previous arrangements when they received a certain amount—

The Hon. R.P. Wortley interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Wortley!

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: —for the running of the Housing Trust, it is being done over three years' worth of its budget in one budget, which means that it has a large amount of cash sitting on its balance sheet that it is able to use. This is in stark contrast to the way that the Labor Party ran the South Australian housing assets, in that it was always pinching money out of the Housing Trust budget by selling properties in the order of some 600 per year.

The number of properties has fallen. I think, from memory, that \$1 billion worth of funding came out of the Housing Trust over a 10-year period, 7,500 properties. The Liberal government is the government that is actually restoring some dignity for Housing Trust tenants, in that we have increased the maintenance budget.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Leader of the Opposition, order! Minister.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: We have a renewal program that is focused on improving the assets so that people have better properties to live in. The Labor Party—I only need to go back to the triennial review for anybody who cares about that particular portfolio—should weep, because there are three things the Labor Party did: they cut the maintenance program, they ran down the cash reserves and they sold assets. It is all there in black and white in the report that I tabled in July 2018.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:37): My supplementary is: how much will homeless and domestic violence services need to be slashed so that the minister can keep employing more executives while managing fewer staff and fewer homes?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:37): The honourable member might like to have a look at the strategy that we released. As part of the strategy, we actually have a \$20 million Homelessness Innovation Fund, which is an increase in funding.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:38): Further supplementary arising from the answer: does the minister think it was a good idea to spend money on interstate consultants and hold strategy consultations at the Convention Centre and the Wine Centre while her budget cuts leave more people homeless?

The PRESIDENT: I am starting to think it was a long bow with a supplementary.

The Hon. K.J. Maher: It was a very wideranging answer.

The PRESIDENT: It was a wideranging answer. Minister, I will allow you to answer the question—but that was a very interesting supplementary question, to say the least.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:38): I am not quite sure where she thinks we should have held the consultations. Old Parliament House wouldn't have been big enough. Where else could we hold consultations? We could have gone to Adelaide Oval, perhaps. I am not quite sure, but if we had not held consultations, I am sure that the Labor Party would be in here asking why we haven't asked people's views on such an important document.

The PRESIDENT: Final supplementary question.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:38): Given that the minister didn't answer this question—

The PRESIDENT: Just ask your supplementary question.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —which is why the details of the gutting of public housing previously by the then Treasurer were removed from the website.

The Hon. J.M.A. Lensink: By the previous treasurer? What are you asking?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: The previous treasurer. In my brief explanation at the beginning of the—

The PRESIDENT: No, just ask your supplementary question.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I have had clarification sought.

The PRESIDENT: Just ask your supplementary question, and the minister will answer in the manner she considers.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: She doesn't seem to be understanding it.

The PRESIDENT: We are not having a conversation.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: The detail, the history of the housing under the government when Treasurer Lucas was responsible for the portfolio, those records have been removed from the current minister's website. My question is why?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:39): Mr President, I don't have any documents on my website going back to when the previous treasurer was the treasurer because I wasn't in parliament, so I'm not quite sure what she's talking about.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Bourke. Let's get on with it.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:40): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Human Services as the minister responsible for the status of women.

Leave granted.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: At 5.30pm tonight, the Parliamentary Friends United Against Domestic and Family Violence will gather in the Old Chamber to make or reaffirm their commitment to address domestic violence and family violence. This is an important opportunity for us all to stand united as parliamentarians for a common cause. On 31 July 2019, when asked whether a person who assaults women should be a member of parliament, the Premier said:

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

In this place, on 5 February of this year, I asked the same question of the Leader of the Government in this place. The response was:

...as a general statement I don't support bullying and harassment in any workplace.

Neither the Premier nor the Leader of the Government in this place has answered this question directly. My question to the minister is: does the minister believe that someone who assaults women should hold office as a member of parliament and what leadership role has the minister taken to ensure all of her parliamentary colleagues sign the pledge tonight in light of the behaviour of her colleague the member for Waite?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:41): I thank the honourable member for her question. I look forward to attending that event this evening, along with a number of members who I am assuming will be there. Of course, the elephant in the room that we are referring to are the actions of the member for Waite. I stand by comments that I have made in the public domain that all women have the right to be safe in the workplace, and I stand by that. In terms of the event tonight, that wasn't actually organised by me. I am not going to go into personal discussions that I might have had in relation to the particular matter that the honourable member clearly would like to probe in greater detail. Because there are legal matters pending, I can't comment on that specific matter any further.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:42): Supplementary arising from the original answer: despite any investigation that is underway at the moment, as the minister for the status of women, in your opinion as that minister, should someone who is a member of parliament be able to assault other women?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:42): Mr President, I have given an answer. I think the Labor Party is really on very dangerous ground on two counts: firstly, because comments obviously that are made in this place are public and may prejudice other processes and, secondly, because the Australian Labor Party in government has had a history of harbouring sexual predators. So I think they lead with their glass jaw, and they ought to just remember some of the people they have had in their own ranks who they have done absolutely nothing about.

The PRESIDENT: Supplementary question, the Hon. Ms Franks.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:43): Has the minister or other Marshall government ministers received legal information saying that they can't make public comment on the events of 13 December and that that comment affects parliamentary privilege if so?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:43): Hypothetically, if we received legal advice we can't refer to that either because it's privileged.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:44): Supplementary: have Marshall government ministers received a directive in any nonlegal form not to make comment on this issue in the parliament or in the public?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:44): Not that I am aware of.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Bourke, you have a further supplementary question arising from the original answer?

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:44): Absolutely arising from the original answer. With responsibility for the status of women, as you are the minister, what have you done as the minister to ensure all your colleagues understand the pledge that is available tonight to sign, and what action have you taken in this leadership role?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:44): There's a range of things that fall into my responsibilities, which includes ensuring that we have workplace programs which apply to public sector agencies. In terms of the 125th report that we tabled a couple of years ago, we made some similar recommendations there. I think it's important to note that, particularly in terms of the White Ribbon movement, which is now under a different auspice, it is a men-led process.

For a very long time, women have been the ones who have had to drive the awareness and understanding of the impacts that certain behaviours have on women. My understanding is that the event that is organised for this evening is organised by the Assistant Minister for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention, Carolyn Power, and includes at least one male colleague. That is in reflection of the fact that these movements also need to have men driving them. We can't do it alone.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:46): A final supplementary: if this is a process that should be led by male colleagues, has the minister, in her role as the minister for the status of women, encouraged her male colleagues to attend tonight?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:46): No, I haven't, because people are perfectly capable when they receive an email—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Bourke, I would like to hear the answer. You asked the question. I would like to hear the answer in silence.

The Hon. R.P. Wortley: A very disappointing answer.

The PRESIDENT: Please, the Hon. Mr Wortley, you know better. Minister.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: What the honourable member is suggesting is that, every time there is some event that relates to my portfolio, I should be phoning them up and encouraging them to attend things. What am I: their mother? I don't think so. Sixty-nine members of this parliament have been invited to an event. There were a large—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Ms Bourke, do you want to hear the answer or not?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr Wortley, you know better. Minister, would you like to finish your answer, please.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: Yes, I would. We had an event, I think it was last year, with Julia Zemiro attending. We had a large number of our colleagues attending. I think it is within the wit and wisdom of most members of parliament; perhaps it's not for the Labor members, but I am quite sure that most of our colleagues are capable of replying to their own emails and understanding the importance of it.

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY-CONTROLLED ORGANISATIONS

The Hon. J.S. LEE (14:47): My question is to the Minister for Human Services regarding Aboriginal community-controlled organisations. Can the minister please provide an update to the council about her recent visits to the Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and the important role they will play in the new child and family support systems?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:48): I thank the honourable member for her question. I have spoken in this place before about the important reforms that are taking place in the codesign of the child and family support systems, which has had some 600 people participating across South Australia in terms of how we redesign those services, which are really designed to assist families before the statutory response is required and so assist families to make better connections so that they can safely care for their own children.

Last week, it was my great pleasure to visit several different services which have scope that fits within this area, including Kornar Winmil Yunti which, in 2019, won the contract for the Aboriginal family preservation service for families at risk of having their children placed in care. This is a \$2.2 million pilot program that will run for two years, and the codesign period is due for completion fairly soon. It is expected to commence in March following approval of the service model proposal from the codesign period. It will be independently evaluated by the Parenting Resource Centre.

We also have Aboriginal Family Support Services. I think it's largest funder is the Department for Child Protection. It has a regional footprint and so it provides services in Ceduna, Port Pirie, the Riverland and a range of other regions. As well as being involved in the codesign process it is also going to be part of building capacity for Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to assist them in the delivery of their services.

I also visited a Tiraapendi Wodli community hub, part of the Port Adelaide Justice Reinvestment initiative. They received funding over a two-year period to assist with their leadership programs. We have had very positive feedback regarding engagement from the community so far, and I know they look forward to further strengthening their linkages with the community.

Very importantly, as part of the codesign process for the Child and Family Support Services, it has been determined that when we recommission those services we will what is called 'ring fence' 30 per cent of the funding for Aboriginal community-controlled organisations—or ACCOs, as they are often referred to. This will ensure those services go to the target groups we have identified that particularly need it. I think the sector, more broadly, has accepted that this is very important going forward, and we look forward to delivering on those services as they are recommissioned.

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY-CONTROLLED ORGANISATIONS

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:51): A supplementary arising from the answer: the minister quoted the number of, I think, 600 consultations or submissions that had been received.

The Hon. J.M.A. Lensink: It was 600 people.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Can the minister outline, in terms of this area, if either Narungga or Ngarrindjeri organisations were consulted, and whether they put forward any models or suggestions?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:52): I don't have the list of all the organisations that participated in that, but I am happy to take that on notice and bring back a response.

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY-CONTROLLED ORGANISATIONS

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:52): A further supplementary arising from the original answer: I think the minister outlined two Aboriginal organisations that had been consulted; is she aware of any other Aboriginal organisations, besides the two she mentioned, that formed part of these 600 consultations?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:52): If I could just clarify, it was 600 individuals. These were not just Aboriginal people but the broad sector. It included all the organisations people would be familiar with, such as Anglicare and Uniting Care and all those organisations that are directly involved in these support services. There were certainly the organisations involved in the child protection space, the family support space, and there were people with lived experience.

The person who conducted the consultations was Dana Shen, who is well known to many people, and I think that was a very important part of the process. I could potentially share a list with the honourable member of all the organisations that were consulted, but it is quite an extensive list of people who work directly at the coalface in that sector.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (14:53): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing questions to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing about his noncompliance with a determination of the Ombudsman to release documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL: This is not a new matter. It is a matter I have raised numerous times before, both in direct communication with the minister's office and also twice in question time here. The subject matter of the documents I seek is the regulation of new GM technologies, but that is irrelevant to the question.

Five months ago, in September last year, the Ombudsman made a final determination to overturn the minister's refusal to hand over certain documents under the Freedom of Information Act. The Freedom of Information Act provides that any party who is aggrieved by the Ombudsman's decision has 30 days to appeal to SACAT. No appeal has ever been lodged; however, the minister has still refused to hand over the documents. I thought he might have been embarrassed into complying with the law by my question in parliament on 13 November last year, but he still failed to hand over the documents. He committed in parliament:

...I will certainly consult with my freedom of information officer and seek an update of the progress of the honourable member's application.

All I subsequently heard were crickets and tumbleweeds. So, three weeks later, on 3 December last year, I again asked during question time when the minister would be complying with the law and handing over the documents, as ordered by the Ombudsman. The minister replied that he had every intention of abiding by the law, and he referred to review mechanisms for the Ombudsman's decision. He also said, 'We will continue to consider our options in relation to the freedom of information.'

For the minister's benefit, the period within which he or the commonwealth or any other interested party can appeal against the Ombudsman's decision expired on 26 October last year. If you don't appeal, you must hand over the documents—that's the law. My questions of the minister are:

1. When will the minister hand over the documents?
2. Does the minister think he is above the law?
3. And here is a new one: what is the minister hiding?

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:56): I thank the honourable member for his question. As I indicated in the answer that the member referred to, I did seek an update from my FOI officer. Following that, I sought further advice. I apologise for the delay. Having considered the further advice, the documents will be with the member shortly.

SOCIAL HOUSING

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (14:56): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Human Services a question regarding the state's housing strategy, labelled Our Housing Future 2020-2030.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: The National Housing and Homelessness Agreement was signed by the Premier and the minister in June 2018. The agreement provides approximately \$110 million per annum to South Australia. Section 17 of that agreement states:

Consistent with section 15C of the [Federal Financial Relations] Act, each State will be required to achieve the following conditions to be eligible for funding under this Agreement:

- (a) for the period set out in clause 18 the State will have a publicly available housing strategy that:
 - i. indicates the level of housing supply needed to respond to projected housing demand, and outlines the reforms and initiatives that will contribute to meeting this need;
 - ii. includes planned or expected levels of social housing...

The National Housing and Homelessness Agreement delivers approximately \$110 million per annum to South Australia in line with that. Ironically, the agreement doesn't actually require any improvement to housing affordability or social housing; however, under federal law, states are only eligible for payment if they are honest about the planned and expected levels of social housing. My question to the minister is this: where in the housing strategy, or any public document anywhere for that matter, is the government's planned or expected level of social housing?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:57): I thank the honourable member for his question, and I thank the honourable member for congratulating us on a very thorough strategy which has been very well received by the sector and in the community generally. It has a particular focus, which includes affordable housing. This was driven by our pre-election promise to do an assessment of what the housing pressures were for South Australians. That showed that there was certainly a level of unmet demand in the affordable sector which is for people who are on middle and lower incomes.

We certainly know that people in those income and household brackets struggle to get into home ownership, so we have had a very strong focus on ensuring that we are addressing assisting those people in that particular segment because, as we know, housing is a continuum. If people are struggling with getting their foot into the housing market, that puts pressure on the rental market. If there are a lot of people competing for the same rental properties, then that impacts on the community and public sector as well.

We also know that there are people who fall into particular circumstances where they may have a relationship breakdown, they may lose their job or they may suffer a severe episode of mental illness, and therefore they lose their security in their housing situation. So we are addressing all of those areas across the spectrum in a very thorough manner.

In our discussions with the commonwealth government, I think they see South Australia as a leader in this respect, in that we are addressing the genuine problems that we have in South Australia. I think it's interesting that, in the 16 years of Labor being in office, they didn't talk about affordable housing as being an issue. Lo and behold, when we commissioned the AHURI report, there it is: there are a lot of people struggling to get into the private rental or the affordable purchase market. Therefore, we are addressing those matters through this strategy.

SOCIAL HOUSING

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:00): Supplementary based on the original answer: given that the government has not published its planned or expected levels of social housing, what assurances can the minister provide that South Australia has complied with commonwealth law and that we are not at risk of losing \$110 million in funding annually?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (15:01): We have had discussions with the commonwealth. I think the Labor Party were trying to peddle this through a story

in the *Sunday Mail* or in one of the weekend papers. We have spoken to the commonwealth and they are satisfied with our strategy thus far. They are always interested in more data. I think it's fair to say that commonwealth governments are always suspicious of their state counterparts—that they are pocketing money and putting it in areas that it's not intended for.

I think the confidence that the Morrison government has in the Marshall Liberal government is very, very high. We have regular discussions with them. I have spoken to most of my ministerial counterparts who operate in this area, and they see South Australia as a strong leader that is doing the job and putting its shoulder to the wheel in terms of addressing the housing issues that South Australians need addressed.

The PRESIDENT: Further supplementary question arising from the original answer, the Hon. Mr Hanson.

SOCIAL HOUSING

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:02): Given that we haven't published the planned or expected levels of social housing, how did the strategy get through your agency, your hand-picked board and your office and cabinet with such a huge error that didn't state that and that puts \$110 million of annual funding at risk?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (15:03): Well, I think I was obliquely criticised in a previous question for actually asking South Australians about the homelessness sector, the community housing sector and the development sector. Gosh, we had events at the Wine Centre—shock, horror—to ask everybody what they thought. We put these things on YourSAy. It's been a very thorough consultation. We have a strategy which is very comprehensive, and my understanding is that the commonwealth has a very high level of confidence in it.

The PRESIDENT: Final supplementary question, the Hon. Mr Hanson. I am keen to get to the crossbench; they've had one question so far.

SOCIAL HOUSING

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:03): Final supplementary question, Mr President. With the housing strategy that didn't have the planned or expected levels of social housing stated in it, is it the responsibility of the minister to have that included? Secondly, did she actually read the housing strategy before it was put to cabinet?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (15:04): I always read every document that I put to cabinet. What an absurd question.

SOCIAL HOUSING

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (15:04): A supplementary arising from the original answer: the minister, in answering previous questions, referred to a document to deal with the 'unmet demand'. Minister, what proportion of unmet demand will the state government's housing strategy provide for over the next four years?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (15:04): The AHURI report estimated that there were some 56,000 households that had unmet demand in that affordable housing space. We estimate that there will be some 20,000 affordable housing solutions. Of course, when we start to highlight the issue of affordable housing I think the market takes notice. As I mentioned in a previous response, I think in the time that I have been here when Labor was in government they had not referred to anything to do with affordable housing as being a particular challenge in South Australia, and we have certainly highlighted that that is the case. The development community is much more acutely aware than they were previously.

My colleague the Hon. Stephan Knoll also has carriage of part of this responsibility, both through HomeStart but also through the affordable housing targets. Of course, we have the community housing sector in South Australia which has a significant number of both properties that remain in ownership, are under lease from the South Australian government, as well as their own properties and they do quite a bit of work in this space as well. It is a significant dent into that particular

area. It is one that has been ignored, swept under the carpet—if you excuse the pun—in the past, and one which we are keen to address for first-home owners and also people who have been in those situations that I have referred to who may have had a relationship that ended and find themselves having to start all over again.

EXPORT FUNDAMENTALS PROGRAM

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:06): My question is to the Minister for Trade and Investment. Can the minister please inform the council of the new Export Fundamentals Program?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (15:06): I thank the honourable member for his question and in particular his ongoing interest in the state's exports. We all know that exports play a vital role in supporting the South Australian economy. In fact, the goods and service exports are estimated to contribute over 79,000 jobs to our economy, or some 11 per cent of the state's workforce.

Of course, we are experiencing ever-changing global trade dynamics. We have tensions between the US and China, we have Brexit now happening and we have many travel and freight restrictions due to the coronavirus, so it is vital that we prepare our exporters for the many opportunities and, ultimately, in some cases, the challenges that lie ahead. With that in mind, the Marshall Liberal government is investing in the development of the new Export Fundamentals Program. This program will be designed and delivered by local Adelaide firm Hydra Consulting and the Australian Industry Group to educate, train and support 400 South Australian exporters over the next two years.

Following a competitive tender process managed by the department, the two companies have been chosen to form an interactive partnership to carry out this key export training program. Export Fundamentals will have an increased focus on the regions, offering a flexible delivery program and supporting local exporters throughout South Australia with the tools and confidence to explore new international markets. Some of the training topics will include market research and entry strategies, product distribution, export logistics and documentation, managing risk, and marketing, to name just a few.

The program will also connect participants with our network of TradeStart advisers across the state for improved ongoing support, as well as a link into our overseas trade and investment offices for in-market advice and business introductions. With Ai Group's extensive experience facilitating training, coaching and mentoring, and advising businesses across Australia in their global market development journey, they are also well positioned to assist and support local businesses in gaining new skills, knowledge and resources on how to export to key markets.

Likewise, Hydra Consulting specialises in assisting businesses to achieve high growth, leveraging their capabilities in strategy, marketing, product development and export training. Notably, they have designed and delivered innovative and high-quality export training programs for Wine Australia and the Australian Tourism Export Council. I would like to thank Business SA for participating in the tender process and its dedication to South Australian exporters through its delivery of the former export ready program.

I encourage all South Australian businesses looking to export into new markets for the first time to consider the Export Fundamentals Program and register their interest on the DTTI website. This latest program builds upon the Marshall Liberal government's pledge to stand by our exporters and I look forward to sharing all the outcomes of the Export Fundamentals Program with the chamber in due course.

LAND TAX

The Hon. J.A. DARLEY (15:09): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Treasurer a question about land tax inquiries.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.A. DARLEY: I understand that Revenue SA has a dedicated phone number and email address to assist individuals with land tax inquiries in light of the recent changes to land tax. I have been advised by a constituent that they were told they would have to wait three months

to receive an answer to their 14 January 2020 land tax query involving six properties because Revenue SA were short-staffed. My question to the Treasurer is: how many Revenue SA staff are working on land tax inquiries and what are the average minimum and maximum response times for such inquiries?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:10): The honourable member did give me some notice of the question but I am not in a position to give the detailed answer to all aspects of the question yet. Can I say it would be unacceptable general practice for constituents ringing up for the helpline to be advised that as a general rule it would take three months for a response. I have sought some advice in relation to the response times—I guess that is the appropriate phrase in terms of questions.

In terms of staffing numbers, I do know, as part of the package of measures that were finally approved by the parliament last year, there was additional resourcing provided both in terms of an IT system but also additional staffing resources to manage the implementation of the land tax package from July of this year. I think during the committee stage of the debate, honourable members did ask me the question and I placed on the record some of that information, but I am happy to take the remainder of the honourable member's question on notice and bring back a reply as soon as possible.

YOUTH ACTION PLAN

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:12): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Human Services regarding the Youth Action Plan.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.T. NGO: It has now been six months since public consultation closed on the Youth Action Plan and a youth panel was appointed that held a two-day workshop. The Department for Human Services website states the development of the Youth Action Plan ended in December. My questions to the minister are: why has the minister failed to produce her promised Youth Action Plan after almost two years in office and when will the minister finally publish the long-delayed plan?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (15:12): I thank the honourable member for his questions. The answer to the last question is soon: the Youth Action Plan is scheduled for release in SA Youth Week, which commences on 17 April.

Honourable members might be aware that the sector, particularly YACSA, its constituent bodies and other people in the youth sector, asked all the political parties in the lead-up to the election if we could do a three-year plan instead of having an annual plan. That has meant that we have had to be involved in quite some engagement to ensure that we can produce a three-year plan. It will deliver a more strategic, sustainable and systemic approach to support coordinated, longer term investment for South Australians and it has involved a collaborative design process with young people, government agencies and the community.

In 2019, we reviewed all the consultations that represented the voices of over 6,000 young people to identify draft focus areas. These were tested during SA Youth Week last year with a group of young people who had nominated and then been selected randomly to participate, as well as through YourSAy.

The youth panel weekend involved 45 young South Australians from a range of backgrounds, ages, genders and locations who provided detailed advice to further inform the plan's development. We also had attending at that event the Commissioner for Children and Young People; the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, or, I should say, her representative; the Guardian for Children and Young People; the Child Development Council; and the Youth Affairs Council (YACSA).

We have also established an across-government task group to oversee development and identify opportunities that align with the plan's priorities. The draft actions are with government departments at the moment. We will be providing an update on that plan at NetFest, on 21 February, which is Friday, before we formally launch the plan on 17 April.

YOUTH ACTION PLAN

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:15): Supplementary question: is the minister aware of any stakeholders that have contacted her or her department about the delay and, if they have, what have they been saying?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (15:15): I think it is fair to say that we would have all liked to have been able to deliver on the action plan earlier than we could, but I think to produce a quality plan sometimes takes longer than you think, particularly if you want to consult with people at the level that we have. So we will be providing that shortly.

YOUTH ACTION PLAN

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:16): One last supplementary question: is the minister concerned that young people will need the state's ageing well strategy before a youth plan is released?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (15:16): No, I'm not. I know from discussions that I had prior to the election when I took this portfolio and also since the election that there are particular things that young people are concerned about, which the Marshall Liberal government is delivering on. One of those key things, of course, includes opportunities for young people. I would like to commend minister Pisoni for his outstanding results in the apprenticeship and traineeship sector, which is a long-neglected area of public policy in this state.

Having chaired the Skills for All committee, I am well aware of the complete dog's breakfast that Labor has made of skills and training in South Australia.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister, please finish, so we can move on.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: I'm sorry, Mr President; I could go on.

The PRESIDENT: No, no, I know you're enjoying it, but please go on.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: Other areas that young people are concerned about are, obviously, mental health and wellbeing; this is a key area. We know that under the stewardship of minister Wade those areas are also being addressed. So it is not as if delivering on things that are important to young people is being held up by a strategy, but we look forward to providing more details on other areas in a comprehensive way when we bring down the strategy.

HOSPITALS, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (15:18): My question is directed to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the minister update the council on steps that the government is taking to make our public hospitals more environmentally friendly?

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:18): I thank the member for his question and for his interest in the area. Hospitals are heavy consumers of non-renewable energy, and South Australian hospitals are no different. The Marshall Liberal government is committed to decreasing the carbon footprint of our hospitals, reducing the amount of non-renewable energy consumed and replacing it with renewable energy. Earlier this month, I announced that SA Health is tendering to add almost 6,000 solar panels to three of South Australia's largest public hospitals: the Flinders Medical Centre, the Lyell McEwin Hospital and The Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The environmental impact of the 6,000 additional panels will be significant. It is the equivalent of taking almost 500 cars off the road. Across the three sites, the panels are expected to generate an additional 1,995 kilowatts of power and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 1,735,650 kilograms of CO₂ each year. The panels are expected to reduce our hospital power bills by more than \$600,000 each year. That is taxpayers' money that can be better spent on strengthening hospital services.

In each of the three sites, the new solar arrays will be located on the top of existing or new car parks, all of which are expected to be fully operational by the end of this year. Of course, solar panels are not the only way we can make our hospitals more environmentally friendly and sustainable.

The Southern Adelaide Local Health Network, for example, is working hard to decrease the amount of waste it sends to landfill each year. SALHN has established a network-wide recycling initiative that had, as of the end of last year, diverted more than 3.1 tonnes of PVC from landfill. Instead of ending up in landfill, that amount of PVC could be turned into 20 kilometres of garden hose and over 450 play mats for children. In addition, SALHN has recycled more than 2,300 aluminium anaesthesia gas canisters that could be turned into children's bicycle frames and 1,420 cubic metres of plastic that has been used as a process engineered fuel coal substitute.

The Marshall Liberal government's commitment to more sustainable and environmentally friendly health facilities is part and parcel of our broader commitment to a strong and sustainable network of hospitals and health services. As SALHN strives to decrease the impact its services have on our environment, the Marshall Liberal government is also investing heavily to ensure that these services are meeting the growing needs of the people of the south.

The government's landmark \$86 million Southern Health Expansion Plan will ease pressure on the Flinders Medical Centre emergency department and undo some of the damage of Labor's Transforming Health on services in the south, when Labor closed the Repat Hospital and downgraded services at the Noarlunga Hospital. With this government's significant health infrastructure spend in the south, not only are we—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister, please finish. I would like to get to the Hon. Mr Pangallo.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: With this government's significant infrastructure spend in the south—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr Hunter!

The Hon. I.K. Hunter interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hunter, desist.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: —not only are we creating jobs but we are also making the public health system more accessible to Adelaide's southern communities.

ADELAIDE CENTRAL MARKET ARCADE

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:22): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Trade and Investment a question about Adelaide Central Market Arcade's proposed new \$400 million development.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Late last year, the Adelaide city council unveiled plans for a \$400 million redevelopment of the Central Market Arcade, which will feature an impressive 35-storey residential, commercial and retail structure. It has been revealed that Melbourne-based company ICD Property will partner with global investors Nanshan Group Singapore, together with Australian property development firm Sinclair Brook and Adelaide architecture firm Woods Bagot to deliver the project.

Nanshan's parent company was founded by China's 56th richest man, Song Zuowen, and has extensive global interests in mining, airlines, resorts and property. Mr Zuowen senior has a crooked bent. He paid \$1.5 million in bribes to a corrupt Chinese official who was arrested in Australia in 2013 in possession of 25 rare diamonds, nine kilograms of gold bars and \$19 million in Australian currency. Mr Zuowen senior was replaced as chairman of the group by his son Jeremy, who now lives in Australia. My questions to the minister are:

1. Has the government played any role in the project and/or has it given advice to the Adelaide city council about it, including how the project will be funded, and will the South Australian Financing Authority be involved in providing finance for the project?

2. Has the government sought the due diligence undertaken by the council in terms of selecting its private partners to develop the project?

3. Was the government consulted, and is it satisfied with the companies involved in the \$400 million project?

4. Is the government aware of the notorious history associated with this company and its founder?

5. Is the government comfortable with such a financial arrangement with a company with such a chequered past, and will it demand the Adelaide city council conducts a proper integrity review of the project, the company's criminal link and whether or not Mr Zuowen senior has any part in the project?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (15:26): I thank the honourable member for his ongoing interest in this great state of South Australia and the extensive number of questions. For all the ones that relate directly to the government, I think my answer is no. It's a city council project. The project is being managed by the city council, so I suggest he get an update from the Adelaide city council.

Parliamentary Procedure

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:26): I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move the following motions forthwith.

Motion carried.

The PRESIDENT: I note the absolute majority.

Parliamentary Committees

SELECT COMMITTEE ON POVERTY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:27): I move:

That the Minister for Human Services be appointed to the Select Committee on Poverty in South Australia in place of the Hon. T.J. Stephens (resigned).

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON WAGE THEFT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:27): I move:

That the Hon. J.S. Lee be appointed to the Select Committee on Wage Theft in South Australia in place of the Hon. T.J. Stephens (resigned).

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:27): I move:

That the Minister for Trade and Investment be appointed to the Select Committee on Matters Relating to SA Pathology and SA Medical Imaging in place of the Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins (resigned).

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDEVELOPMENT OF ADELAIDE OVAL

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:27): I move:

That the Treasurer be appointed to the Select Committee on Redevelopment of Adelaide Oval in place of the Hon. T.J. Stephens (resigned).

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:28): I move:

That the Minister for Human Services be appointed to the Select Committee on Findings of the Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission and Productivity Commission as they relate to the Decisions of the South Australian Government in place of the Hon. T.J. Stephens (resigned).

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:28): I move:

That the Minister for Trade and Investment be appointed to the Select Committee on Matters Relating to the Timber Industry in the Limestone Coast in place of the Hon. T.J. Stephens (resigned).

Motion carried.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:28): I move:

That the Hon. J.S. Lee be appointed to the Budget and Finance Committee in place of the Hon. T.J. Stephens (resigned).

Motion carried.

Bills

LOBBYISTS (RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:29): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation and the detailed explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

Today I introduce a Bill that relates to the Government's election commitment to ban any office bearer of the state governing body of a registered political party, or an associated entity such as a union, from becoming a registered lobbyist in South Australia.

The purpose of these reforms is to ensure openness, transparency and accountability, and to avoid potential conflicts of interest, real or perceived.

The opportunity has also been taken to address an unexpected risk of constitutional invalidity identified in the current terms of the Act.

Under the *Lobbyists Act 2015*, it is an offence for a person to engage in lobbying of public officials unless the person is registered under the Act. In essence, 'lobbying' means to communicate (for remuneration) with a public official on behalf of a third party for the purpose of influencing the outcome of government deliberations.

This Bill has the effect that:

- first, only external independent lobbyists are required to be registered under the Act, and not employees or other office bearers or volunteers of an organisation who engage in lobbying on behalf of that organisation rather than a third party. This means for example that an in-house government liaison officer would not need to be registered to lobby or advocate on behalf of their employer's interests;
- secondly, an employee or other office bearer or volunteer of a designated organisation would not need to be registered under the Act to lobby on behalf of that organisation or a client of the designated organisation. A designated organisation would include, for example, an industry body, a union and a welfare body; and
- thirdly, an employee or other office bearer or volunteer of a registered parliamentary party, or of an associated entity of a registered parliamentary party, must not engage in lobbying in respect of matters

other than those dealt with by the person in the ordinary course of their employment or of holding that office or role.

The first two amendments address the constitutional risk referred to earlier. These changes accord with the original intention of the legislation but which is not currently reflected accurately in the Act. The third amendment gives effect to the Government's election commitment.

By virtue of the definition of 'associated entity' in the *Electoral Act 1985*, the restrictions in the Bill are extended to certain bodies or persons with a significant relationship to a registered parliamentary party, namely an incorporated or unincorporated body or the trustee of a trust:

- that is controlled by one or more registered parties; or
- that operates wholly, or to a significant extent, for the benefit of one or more registered parties; or
- that is a financial member of a registered party; or
- on whose behalf another person is a financial member of a registered party; or
- that has voting rights in a registered party; or
- on whose behalf another person has voting rights in a registered party.

In the Bill, the persons who are considered to be an office holder of an organisation and thus subject to the restriction are generally the members of the governing body of the organisation, the organisation's employees and volunteers. However, this restriction does not apply to those registered lobbyists who merely act as volunteers for a registered parliamentary party to promote the party or its candidates.

The restriction would apply only for the duration of a lobbyist holding the relevant role in the parliamentary party.

I commend the Bill to Members and I seek leave to insert the Explanation of Clauses in Hansard without my reading it.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

3—Amendment provisions

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Lobbyists Act 2015*

4—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

Section 3 is amended to add definitions of terms used in the measure.

5—Amendment of section 4—Meaning of lobbying

Section 4 is amended to clarify when a person is taken to be communicating on behalf of a third party within the meaning of the section.

6—Amendment of section 10—Register of lobbyists

This clause inserts subsection (5) which is an evidentiary provision to facilitate proof that a person was on the register.

7—Amendment of section 13—Certain persons must not engage in lobbying

Section 13 is amended to restrict lobbying by office holders within prescribed organisations (being registered parliamentary parties, or associated entities, and any other prescribed organisations).

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

EVIDENCE (REPORTING ON SEXUAL OFFENCES) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:29): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation and the detailed explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

Mr President, I rise to introduce the Evidence (Reporting on Sexual Offences) Amendment Bill 2019.

The Bill gives final effect to a 2011 review by the Honourable Brian Martin AO QC, by substantially lifting existing restrictions against reporting on sexual offences. These limitations do not apply to other types of offences.

The former Government declined to accept the recommendations of the reviewer in full, instead leaving the option open for the community to be in the dark about serious sex offenders.

In 2012, it was left to the then Shadow Attorney-General – the Honourable Stephen Wade MLC—to try to progress the recommendations of the review and encourage transparency in these proceedings. With the former Government being allergic to transparency, we now see amendments before the House today to achieve the recommendations of the Review and provide comfort to the community in allowing publication of identification for sexual offenders and their crimes.

At the moment, section 71A of the *Evidence Act 1929* prohibits the publication of information about alleged sexual offences unless and until there has been a finding of guilt in the Magistrates Court, or the charges have been committed for trial to a superior court. The effect of this restriction is two-fold. First, it prohibits reports regarding such proceedings (for example, publishing details of evidence given in the proceedings, or any statement which might reveal the identity of a person who has been, or is about to be charged with a sexual offence). It is this aspect of the prohibition which is significantly changed under the Bill.

Second, section 71A also currently prohibits the publication of any statement or representation by which the identity of a victim of a sexual offence is revealed or might reasonably be inferred. Under the current provisions, this prohibition exists regardless of the status of the proceedings against the accused (though an adult victim can exercise their choice for their identity to be revealed). This protection is maintained under the Bill.

In the case of a person who is yet to be charged, the Evidence Act preserves the integrity of an on-going police investigation and any potential criminal proceedings that might follow that investigation. For instance, publicity about possible charges before proceedings have commenced might compromise the veracity of witness accounts where there are multiple alleged victims who may contact each other about the allegations before providing statements to police. This could compromise the investigation or risk an attack on the complainants' credibility. The Bill has been designed to ensure that this important protection still exists, by ensuring that there can be no reports of an impending arrest before it has occurred (and indeed, until after the first court appearance).

However, there have been a number of high-profile prosecutions which have demonstrated the inherent difficulties with restrictions of this type if they persist for the duration of committal proceedings. Increased digital access to information published outside this State has made the restrictions less effective in ensuring the anonymity of those charged with sexual offences. Significant charges arising in South Australia may be reported on in a number of other jurisdictions, with the details being shared on social media and other digital platforms, while news services in this State would be restricted for however long committal proceedings might take.

For some time, survivors of sexual abuse and victim advocate groups have been championing for victims' right to be heard at any stage of proceedings, should they wish to speak publicly about what they allege the defendant did. It is the choice of individual adult victims whether they identify themselves in doing so. Clause 4(2) of the Bill permits them to have that voice, by lifting the prohibition on identifying a defendant charged with a sexual offence after the first court hearing in relation to that charge.

The principles of open justice require that court proceedings should be conducted publicly and in open view. This is important for public confidence in the administration of justice, as it demonstrates the integrity and independence of criminal proceedings by ensuring that they can be scrutinised and analysed.

These principles must be balanced, however, against the need to ensure that publication of the details of alleged sexual offences does not inadvertently identify an alleged victim of those offences, or jeopardise on-going investigations. That is why clause 4(2) of the Bill has amended the prohibition rather than removing it outright.

By prohibiting publication of a defendant's identity until after the first court appearance (which is the 'relevant time' according to clause 4(4) of the Bill), the court can exercise any necessary oversight about whether identifying the accused might also risk identifying an alleged victim. Without the protection continuing up until this time, merely publishing the Court case list with the defendant's name and the charge might be enough for the identity of an alleged victim to reasonably be inferred, in breach of section 71A(4) of the Act. Once publication of that sort occurs, the information is in the public domain. In the digital era, it is almost impossible for that sort of damage to be undone. Accordingly, the Bill allows for any such issues to be explored at the first court hearing, before publication of details of the charges can occur.

Preventing publication of these details until after the first appearance in court will also enable an application to be made for a suppression order under section 69A of the Act. This will ensure that parties can be heard about whether identifying a defendant may, for example, cause prejudice to the proper administration of justice by impeding an ongoing investigation into similar complaints against the same defendant. The Court can then exercise proper oversight in relation to proceedings before it.

The Government has carefully considered the implications for both victims and accused throughout this process.

As I have highlighted, there have been several court cases over recent years which exposed the public's right to know an alleged offender's identity, highlighting the necessity for our laws to be both contemporary and in line with community expectations in this important area.

For those accused, as Mr Martin stated in his report, leaving cases of serious sexual offending in the dark has the tendency to promote rumour and innuendo, which in turn can create an atmosphere prejudicial to the accused person whose identity is suppressed.

For victims, whom we must protect and assist at all costs, survivors of sexual abuse and victim advocate groups have been advocating for some time for victims' right to be heard at any stage of proceedings, which is undoubtedly aided by this Bill. Further, this Bill enables the flow of information, particularly around child sex offences, with that early publication of identity promoting the possibility of witnesses coming forward.

Importantly, I must reiterate, the changes proposed here do not impact on the protections already offered under the Act, which protect the identity of the victim of a sexual offence and anything that might reasonably identify them to the public.

Put simply, openness and transparency should be the default position of our justice system and I am pleased to progress the recommendations of the report, which was left incomplete by the former Government.

I commend the Bill to Members.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

3—Amendment provisions

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Evidence Act 1929*

4—Amendment of section 71A—Restriction on reporting on sexual offences

This clause amends section 71A of the Act as follows:

- subclause (1) deletes section 71A(1) which currently operates to prohibit the publication of certain evidence and reports relating to proceedings against a person charged with a sexual offence unless the accused person consents to the publication;
- subclause (2) amends section 71A(2) to retain the existing restriction on publication under that subsection in respect of an accused person but only until the *relevant time*, being the time at which the accused person's first appearance in a court in relation to the charge is concluded. The definition of *relevant time* is proposed to be inserted by amendment to section 71A(5). Section 71A(2), as amended would then restrict the publication of any statement or representation that would reveal the identity of a person who has been, or is about to be, charged with a sexual offence or from which the identity of such a person might reasonably be inferred, until the conclusion of the accused person's first court appearance;
- subclause (3) deletes sections 71A(3) to (3e) (inclusive). These provisions currently give a court the ability to make a publication order varying or removing the prohibition under sections 71A(1) and (2) where it may assist in the investigation of an offence or is otherwise in the public interest;
- subclause (4) substitutes a definition of *relevant time* in the place of the current definition of *relevant date* in section 71A(5).

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

SUMMARY OFFENCES (TRESPASS ON PRIMARY PRODUCTION PREMISES) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:30): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation and the detailed explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

Mr President, today I introduce a Bill that would create a new aggravated offence in the *Summary Offences Act 1953* with significant penalties for trespass on primary production premises, and also increase the existing penalties for trespass-related offending on primary production premises.

Across the country, there has been a surge in anti-farm activism. While South Australia has remained somewhat protected from this activism, our farmers have experienced trespass, halting primary production and impacting on their ability to manage their farms.

Those who seek to be negligent and damaging to our farmers and primary producers must take responsibility for their actions, and their impact on our local farmers.

South Australia's primary industries are a vital part of our state's economy. Spread across the state, South Australia's grains, livestock, horticulture, wine, seafood, forests and dairy sectors are a significant contributor to our exports.

Maintaining food safety and product security is integral for SA to grow its competitive advantage in global markets.

Numerically, in 2017–18, primary industries and agribusiness supported 152,000 jobs and contributed \$19.7 billion to the state's economy. Regional South Australia, where many of our primary producers are, contributes about \$25 billion to the state's economy with just 29% of the state's population.

This Bill goes a small way to protecting our produce, and our growth, for a long term and sustainable future.

Generally speaking, the new aggravated offence in the Bill will penalise a person who has entered or is present on primary production premises for an unlawful purpose or without lawful excuse and, while on the land:

- interferes with, or attempts or intends to interfere with, primary production activities;
- is accompanied by two or more persons;
- does anything that gives rise to a serious risk to the safety of the person or any other person on the premises;
- does anything that involves, or gives rise to a risk of, the introduction, spread or increase of a disease or pest or the contamination of any substance or thing;
- gives rise to any other risk, or kind of risk, related to primary production activities prescribed by the regulations; or
- intentionally causes, or is recklessly indifferent as to whether they cause, damage to an operation or activity connected to the primary production activities at the premises.

Primary production premises in the Bill means premises used for the purpose of primary production activities, which itself is defined to mean:

- agricultural, pastoral, horticultural, viticultural, forestry or apicultural activities;
- poultry farming, dairy farming or any business that consists of the cultivation of soils, the gathering of crops or the rearing or processing of livestock;
- commercial fishing, aquaculture or the propagation or harvesting of fish or other aquatic organisms for the purposes of aquaculture; and
- an activity prescribed by regulation.

The maximum penalty in the Bill for the new aggravated trespass offence will be \$10,000 or 12 months imprisonment (or two years imprisonment where the trespass is for the commission of an offence punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of two years or more).

Where a person is found guilty of the new aggravated trespass offence, the Court must also award the primary producer compensation against the defendant, except for where exceptional circumstances exist. This is a new requirement under the Bill that ensures any commercial loss or damage experienced by the primary producer is appropriately compensated.

Putting the possible loss of primary produce in figures, the overseas export of South Australian food accounted for \$3.97 billion, or 33% of the state's total merchandise exports in 2017–18. Of this \$3.97 billion, field crops accounted for \$2.14 billion, followed by livestock and dairy with \$1.22 billion, horticulture with \$306 million and seafood with \$238 million.

Where the trespass occurs on primary production premises in non-aggravated circumstances, the maximum penalties are \$5,000 or six months imprisonment (or two years imprisonment where the trespass is for the commission of an offence punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of two years or more).

This fine is double that of the current law.

These penalties are to be contrasted with the existing penalty for the general trespass offence under section 17 of the Summary Offences Act, which is \$2500 or imprisonment for six months (or two years imprisonment where the trespass is for the commission of an offence punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of two years or more). These penalties would not be changed where the trespass occurs on non-primary production premises.

The Bill increases the penalty for the related section 17A offence to \$5,000 or imprisonment for six months where the relevant premises are primary production premises—a fine again double that of the law as it currently stands.

The Bill also increases the maximum penalties for the offences in section 17B (interference with farm gates) and section 17C (disturbing farm animals), which are both currently just \$750.

The Bill increases the section 17B penalty to \$1,500 and introduces an expiation fee of \$375 for that offence. The section 17B offence is also extended to include removing or disabling a gate on or leading to the land, interference with fences that allows animals to escape confinement, and to specify that a gate includes a cattle grid or any moveable thing used to enclose land, including a slip panel or moveable fence.

I particularly thank groups involved in roundtables lead by Primary Industries SA for this important contribution to ensure fences, and other enclosures are also covered by the Bill.

The Bill provides for a maximum penalty of \$2,500 or a maximum term of imprisonment of six months for the section 17C offence of disturbing farm animals while trespassing. As this involves the elements of causing harm to the animal or loss or inconvenience to the farmer, a proportionally larger penalty is warranted.

South Australia has a global reputation for producing world-leading food and produce for local consumption and international export.

While we have remained reasonably protected from activism and farm disruption seen increasingly interstate, we must not be complacent. South Australia simply cannot continue to thrive with any major processing, farming or producing disruption.

Quite simply, maintaining and growing our farm gate value is crucial to Growing SA. This cannot be done with the possible implications of activists, outside the course of the Animal Welfare Act, disrupting production and risking biosecurity and animal security.

This is important reform impacting on each and every South Australian, and will lead the nation on work being done with the Commonwealth Attorney-General. I look forward to working with the whole Parliament to see the speedy passage of this Bill and for greater protections to be available for our primary producers.

I commend the Bill to Members.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

3—Amendment provisions

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of Summary Offences Act 1953

4—Amendment of section 4—Interpretation

This clause inserts a definition of *primary production activities* into the principal Act.

5—Amendment of section 17—Being on premises for an unlawful purpose

This clause establishes a new offence of being on primary production premises for an unlawful purpose or without lawful excuse.

The clause sets out the circumstances in which a person commits the offence in aggravated circumstances.

6—Amendment of section 17A—Trespassers on premises

This clause creates a new penalty for an offence against section 17A for trespass on primary production premises.

7—Amendment of section 17B—Interference with gates and fences

This clause amends section 17B of the principal Act to add the following further limbs to the existing offence under that section:

- (a) to remove or disable a gate on or leading to land; or

- (b) to interfere with any part of a fence on or immediately surrounding the land in specified circumstances.

8—Amendment of section 17C—Disturbance of farm animals

This clause substitutes the penalty provision in section 17C of the principal Act.

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

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from 6 February 2020.)

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (15:31): I rise to support the passage of this motion and wish to place on record my thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his speech to open this session of state parliament. I would also like to express my gratitude to His Excellency and Mrs Le for their numerous years of outstanding service to the people of South Australia. Of course, that goes back before His Excellency became the Governor because obviously he was the Lieutenant-Governor and, previous to that, the Chair of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission.

His Excellency and Mrs Le visit communities across our state regularly and recently travelled to some of the major fire-affected areas, including Kangaroo Island and the Adelaide Hills, to meet residents and thank volunteers and service personnel. To quote His Excellency from the speech:

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

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

The bushfires this summer period have affected many parts of the state, including Yorke Peninsula, Eyre Peninsula, the Mid North, Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island, most of which have received considerable media coverage. Of course, there have been other fires that have not attracted as much media attention. I can think of one very close to where I used to live in the Angle Vale-Buchfelde area, not far from Gawler River, and also significantly another that I do not think has had much media attention, and that is the fire at Keilira in the South-East.

His Excellency noted the government's efforts to assist bushfire-affected communities through tax relief measures and the waiving of fees and charges as well as partnering with the commonwealth to allocate funding for recovery and rebuilding. Residents in fire-affected areas have been devastated by a loss of property, livestock and livelihood. The Marshall government is doing a great deal to support communities, farmers, businesses, wildlife and the environment to recover. I commend the government for its #BookThemOut campaign to encourage people to visit fire-affected areas, including, of course, Kangaroo Island and the Adelaide Hills. These regions deserve our patronage now more than ever.

I was fortunate to recently visit Kangaroo Island where, as part of that trip, I had the opportunity to meet with Mayor Michael Pengilly to discuss many aspects of the fires but, particularly, the impact on the mental health of many people across the communities of the island. I note that Mayor Pengilly has worked tirelessly for his community over the period since the fires, and I thank him for his great efforts. I look forward to working with him in the future in regard to those issues.

Natural disasters such as bushfires can have a significant impact on the mental health of the directly affected communities, as well as people who have loved ones in affected areas or who have witnessed traumatic events through the media. It is important that we provide appropriate counselling and support for those affected, and indeed for those whose properties were left standing while those around them were destroyed.

Something I have become aware of over many years is almost a guilt factor when a house or property is left standing unaffected, untouched, when everything around them has been burnt. That is the nature of many of these major fires, particularly in the Adelaide Hills but not exclusive to that area. I welcome the announcement by the commonwealth government of the Supporting the Mental Health of Australians Affected by Bushfires package, which forms part of the state government's work in responding to the bushfire crisis.

The area of suicide prevention is very important to me, and I have cherished the opportunity to act as the Premier's Advocate for Suicide Prevention over the past almost two years. Working with the Premier's Council for Suicide Prevention and the whole-of-government issues group on suicide prevention, along with the support of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist and the South Australian Mental Health Commission, we have been able to make a number of improvements to suicide prevention efforts in South Australia.

I have been particularly pleased to see the further development of suicide prevention networks in this state. We now have 39 established, the majority in rural and regional locations as well as outer metropolitan councils. Many local government bodies have played a major role in the establishment of these networks, but there remain some that have not realised the benefit these networks can bring. There is still more work to be done to develop these groups, and I have recently held several meetings, in both country and metropolitan settings, to discuss how we can work with them to establish suicide prevention networks in their own localities.

In his address, His Excellency the Governor mentioned the pilot program by SA Health to embed mental health specialists in paramedic response vehicles. This six-week pilot program was conducted in 2019 by the South Australian Ambulance Service and the Central Adelaide Local Health Network, and involved a community mental health worker accompanying ambulance crews to attend to people in the community who may be experiencing a mental health crisis.

As a result of the trial, more than half of patients attended by ambulance crews were diverted away from hospital emergency departments to more appropriate forms of care. These patients were able to be cared for in the community or were referred to community-based services, easing the pressure on our emergency departments, which are often not conducive environments for their assessment or treatment.

This initiative forms part of the 2020 to 2025 Mental Health Services Plan, and the government's Towards Zero Suicides approach. The innovative program has evolved from the work of the Premier's council and the issues group on suicide prevention; I look forward to seeing it expanded to other health networks and, in some areas, potentially incorporated into South Australian police callouts.

I should note that one of my visits in the United Kingdom, to Birmingham, was to see examples of the way in which programs of this nature have been very successful, and successful across some of the lower socio-economic areas of Birmingham, working across the very diverse communities in that city with sectors such as the disability sector, the gay community and many others that have been proactive in making that program a success. We look forward to the further development of that work here in South Australia.

I should also say that the Issues Group on Suicide Prevention, which incorporates senior people from all the government departments in South Australia and, in some cases, some multiple agencies within those departments, has played a significant role in the development of workplace suicide prevention and mental wellbeing policies and procedures across government, with a flow-on effect into the broader community. I pay tribute to the work of that group because I think that is a very important area that we need to focus on.

Yes, we need to make sure that we are doing the right thing by the clientele of all our departments and agencies in regard to mental health and suicide prevention, but we also need to make sure that we are doing the right thing by the employees of those departments, particularly those who are first responders. I think that brings us back to those employees and volunteers who have been the first responders in the bushfire settings, and that goes right across the board.

Before leaving that particular reference to the Governor's speech in my comments about suicide prevention and mental health, I would also like to again commend His Excellency's role as the initiator of the Youth Suicide Prevention Summit that was held last year. I am aware that His Excellency previously raised the potential for such a summit, I think in the final days of the previous government, and I have been pleased, along with the Chief Psychiatrist, Dr John Brayley, to work with His Excellency in that area and will continue to do so in the future.

His Excellency also discussed in his speech the planned Aboriginal art and cultures centre at Lot Fourteen, for which \$150 million has been provided by the state and federal governments. The

centre will be a terrific opportunity to showcase the South Australian Museum's extensive collection of Aboriginal cultural artefacts, which is currently contained in storage sheds. The collection is described as the largest of its kind in the world and will be displayed in interactive ways to tell the stories of the world's oldest civilisation.

Listening to that part of the Governor's speech reminded me that on a recent trip to the United Kingdom with my wife, Sheila, we were able to visit the Avebury Stone Circle visitor centre in Wiltshire, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. There are some fabulous displays in the visitor centre of some of the evidence of existence around the planet from many, many hundreds of years ago.

Members in this chamber will not be surprised to know that I was flabbergasted to see, as part of that exhibit, an Aboriginal stone spear, or Pirri point, on showcase from Roonka Flat near Morgan, north-east of Adelaide, dating to around 5000 to 3000 BC. Being in the Avebury Stone Circle visitor centre in Wiltshire and coming across an Aboriginal artefact from South Australia—indeed, from the Riverland—was rather surprising.

Many Indigenous artefacts and ceremonial objects, collected generations ago from communities like that across Australia, are currently contained in overseas museums, although some concerted efforts have been made in recent years to return these items to their traditional owners.

The Governor noted that the South Australian Museum's collection of Aboriginal ancestral remains represents half of the total remains held in all of Australia, and the museum is empowering Aboriginal communities to make decisions about their ancestral remains. Repatriation of Kaurna ancestral remains is being supported by the state government through funding of a two-year pilot project, which is very pleasing to see.

In briefly reflecting on other matters addressed in the Governor's speech, I look forward to the reintroduction of a number of important reforms, including extending shop trading hours in the greater Adelaide shopping district and proclaimed shopping districts and the capping of local government council rates. I think they are important things that need to come back to this parliament, and they are generally very widely supported across the South Australian community. As I say, I look forward to those pieces of legislation returning to the parliament.

The government is also committed to the permanent lifting of the prohibition on growing genetically modified crops in all areas of the state except Kangaroo Island. I was disappointed when this measure was rejected by the Legislative Council in the last parliamentary sitting session. The lifting of the ban on GM crops is a change that has strong support amongst mainland farmers. I think the general community is of the view that we should get on and let farmers make those decisions and not leave it to people in this chamber.

Once again, I thank His Excellency for his speech. I have the greatest admiration for the Governor and for Mrs Le. I think their attitude to the way that they have been appointed to that position and the way in which they deal with any manner of the communities right across South Australia is of great credit to them. They have excelled in that role and, as I said earlier, I have been very pleased to have the Governor's support in the work that I do. I look forward to working with the Governor and Mrs Le in the future. With those remarks, I commend the Address in Reply motion to the council.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (15:48): I rise to support this motion and echo the words of the Leader of the Government in thanking His Excellency the Hon. Hieu Van Le and Mrs Le for their extraordinary work. The role of Governor dates back a long way. It was once the arm of absolute British authority in the colonies before we had democratic institutions, such as this council. Despite its past, the role of Governor has changed with the times. More recent Governors of South Australia would be unrecognisable to the very early Governors.

Dame Roma Mitchell was an amazing South Australian and the first woman in so many categories: Queen's Counsel, judge, university chancellor and, of course, Governor of South Australia. Governor Hieu Van Le is the first person of Asian heritage to hold the position, and he continues to reflect the strength that our community draws from its diversity.

In the 1970s, Sir Douglas Nicholls was our Governor, but ill health sadly cut his time short. That was the first time that an Aboriginal Australian was a Governor in this country. Reflecting on this proud record in South Australia, it is surprising that the Aboriginal affairs portfolio went missing from action in much of what has happened so far in this term of government. Even in terms of what the government's agenda was, only around 175 of the words were dedicated to the Aboriginal affairs portfolio. This is a reflection of this government's view about Aboriginal affairs. It is also a reflection of how it has been overlooked.

The person in this government who is responsible for Aboriginal affairs is also responsible for defence and space industries, the arts, tourism, veterans' affairs and multicultural affairs, as well as being Premier. This comes on top of managing a series of rolling, ongoing crises in his own party. By his own admission, the Premier is much more concerned with matters affecting the whole state than matters affecting Aboriginal people.

This leaves the question: who around the cabinet table fights for Aboriginal South Australians? Does every minister just give it 2 per cent of their time? The Premier is apparently responsible but not as minister for Aboriginal affairs. This is the same Premier who stalled treaty discussions when he first came to office because he had other priorities. While the Premier is working on his other priorities, the life expectancy of Aboriginal people on the APY lands is the lowest of anywhere in this country at just 48 years.

Some communities are struggling with the very basics of life. For example, Robert Larking from the Scotdesco Aboriginal community spent more than seven months trying to get the government to help with a clean water supply to his community west of Ceduna. The community is only 10 kilometres outside a zone that would allow subsidies for water to be delivered to the town at a fraction of the cost. Instead of offering any real solutions the town had to rely on donations of water until the government stepped in at the eleventh hour but has only offered a temporary solution to see out this summer.

While the Premier is working on his other priorities, Aboriginal communities around the state do not have access to clean drinking water in many cases. This government took a very modest one-off payment from the commonwealth for remote Indigenous housing with no strategy to use it effectively and no plan for what happens when the money runs out. It has become abundantly clear that other priorities of this government have little to do with representing or bettering the lives of Aboriginal South Australians.

While the Premier is working on his growing list of other priorities, many are being left behind. This might be understandable if the other priorities were making South Australia a better place for everyone, but they are not. We are seeing the sell-off of our trains and trams, we are seeing tourism in a tailspin, so much so that we could not even have a minister appointed to work in this portfolio. We now have a Minister for Trade with the lightest workload of any minister for trade in our history but, again, no minister for Aboriginal affairs.

The Premier has been kept so busy receiving new revelations and scandals from within his own party that we are seeing his half a dozen areas of responsibility withering. This government has been in power for almost two years and we are still waiting for real results in so many areas. There is no clear direction.

Within a week of the Governor's speech we had National Apology Day, a sobering update on our nation's progress towards Closing the Gap. There have been numerous meetings of a ministerial council to reshape the Closing the Gap agenda. Other states have sent their dedicated Aboriginal affairs minister to these important discussions but South Australia has been poorly represented by a revolving door of different ministers because, as I noted, there is no minister for Aboriginal affairs here.

We do not solve issues around health, education and employment by doing nothing or by sending a different minister to each different meeting. We cannot ignore these challenges away. The government already has had almost two years to shape the future of this state and it is just over two more years before the next election. For the sake of the people in this state and the Aboriginal people in this state I hope the next two years of government are in stark contrast to the last two.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (15:53): I rise to speak in reply to His Excellency's speech in opening this session of the South Australian parliament. I thank His Excellency the Governor for opening this session of the parliament. As I have mentioned previously in this chamber, I grew up on a farm on the Yorke Peninsula where I learnt firsthand how great our regional communities are. I was lucky enough to experience the strong sense of community and support that is common in many regional areas, and I will treasure that forever.

One of my first ever jobs was for a local paper, the *Country Times*, and it was there that I was given the opportunity to advocate and bring light to regional issues that concerned community groups and individuals. This is something that has followed me through my current work with the South Australian Labor Party and I am sure the owner of the *Country Times*, Michael Ellis, would be delighted that this is where it led me.

As is the case for many, moving from the country to the city of Adelaide as a young person is not easy. From working graveyard shifts in fast food restaurants to navigating the hustle and bustle of city life, being a young person in the process of trying to come into your own as an adult is already a challenge without further external pressures to make it even harder. So I would like to give voice to young South Australians in my address to His Excellency's speech.

As I have mentioned in this chamber on a number of occasions, in Australia there are now more people born after 1980 than before. While each generation has faced challenges, we need to be creating good policy now to help balance this generational shift in our population. In response to His Excellency's speech, how is the future looking for the post-eighties generation and younger South Australians?

We all know jobs in South Australia should be our number one priority, as was the Liberal Party's policy in the lead-up to the election. They promised more jobs, better services and lower costs, but just yesterday we saw a prime example of the way in which the Marshall government is failing on all of these fronts.

Yesterday, it was sadly announced that the iconic Australian brand Holden will cease to exist. The state and the country have now lost an iconic brand, a brand that was chased out of town by the federal Liberal government with no voice at all from the state Liberal government now or when they were in opposition, an industry that created thousands of jobs not only on the Holden manufacturing shop floor but in the car yards and supply chain industries.

The loss of the Holden brand does not only mean the loss of the car that we all loved, it means the loss of history, the loss of an industry, the loss of a country that builds things, the loss of an identity that we as a state could build a much-loved car and, most importantly, the loss of jobs. Our young kids will miss out on continuing this legacy and history of a brand name like Holden. They will miss out on knowing we were a state that could build things.

This, again, was on full display recently, with the Marshall Liberal government backing away from a commitment to guaranteeing South Australians will build the subs our taxpayers are paying to build. After initially promising that 90 per cent of the work would go to locals, this number could now be as low as 30 per cent.

The Premier, Steven Marshall, was present at the signing of the strategic partnership agreement last year. He stood shoulder to shoulder with his good mate, Christopher Pyne, in a way that said this deal would allow more jobs to come in for our kids and our future grandkids, not go to France. This is another betrayal and another broken promise by the Premier and his government to provide more jobs for South Australians.

The traditional manufacturing jobs of yesterday are unfortunately gone, but what is most shameful is this Premier has shown no leadership and given no voice to the manufacturing jobs of tomorrow. What industry is this government building to keep young South Australians in South Australia? That is a question we would all like answered.

Now to the Premier's next key policy commitment: better services. His Excellency mentioned in his opening speech the Liberal government's detrimental plans to privatise our train and tram network despite the Premier, Steven Marshall, previously stating that he and his government, and I quote, 'do not have a privatisation agenda'.

It did not take long for the member for Dunstan, the Premier of this state, Steven Marshall, to dust off the old Liberal privatisation handbook. Privatisation is in the Liberals' DNA, and this is not just my view. This is what I am hearing when I stand with my Labor colleagues and volunteers at train stations and tram stops. This is what 20,000-plus people who have signed the 'stop the sell off' petition believe. You cannot trust this government.

It leaves little wonder why people have started referring to the Premier as 'shifty Steven Marshall'—not my words, the public's. All will be impacted by the privatisation of our public transport system, as will our younger generations. Already we have seen this Liberal government slash public transport services, change ticket pricing structures and slap fees on Metrocards.

But what does this mean to the back pocket of South Australians? Some public transport users under this Liberal government will now be paying an extra almost \$850 a year. Where will the cuts to public services stop? Is the Grange line next, or could it be axed completely? This is on top of the services and jobs cuts threatening Service SA and the 300,000-plus customers who use this service each year.

This government again has left South Australians hanging in limbo while it figures out how to fix its own mess, created by announcing they will close the busiest Service SA centres in the state, locations where many young South Australians will go to finalise their licence and get on the road for the very first time.

When it comes to keeping South Australians in South Australia, we have a government not wanting to invest in industries that do just that. SA Pathology is our front-line health service that keeps people out of hospital and literally saves lives. They are the only body in South Australia that provides the research and training to be a pathologist. This government has put the writing on the wall, and it is the biggest deterrent for anyone thinking of seeking to upskill in this space, an upskilling option that could very well be taken away from young people as a result of this government's privatisation agenda for SA Pathology.

It is these young people and all South Australians that Labor is fighting for to make sure that we stop the privatisation of our trains and trams and our health and public services. Labor is always thinking of how the future can be better for our growing population, the post-1980s generation. That is why Labor has co-sponsored a bill to introduce a pilot program to provide free pads and tampons for young people in our public high schools and is committed to taking the distraction of mobile phones out of the classroom.

As always, Labor supports the rights of workers, which is why we will continue to fight against the deregulation of shop trading hours. These changes hurt not only hardworking employees but small businesses, too, from the farm gate to the shop floor. Many young people are employed in retail and will be directly impacted by the Liberals' relentless attack, pushing their agenda on trading hours.

It is these problems that the Marshall Liberal government's slapdash reform approach has not considered. When you do not consult with the community when creating reform, you make bad policy. It is just that simple. Over the 16 years that Labor was in government the party guided the state through many periods of uncertainty, and each time South Australia emerged as a stronger state. Labor delivered on bold ideas that pushed the legacy of our state into a new direction and responded to concerns in the community.

For young people today, action on climate is one of their top priorities, and we have seen young people out in their thousands right outside of this building, calling on the government to take action on climate change and make real policy change.

Under Jay Weatherill, South Australia became the world leader on renewable energy with the construction and implementation of the world's largest lithium battery. While they were mocked at the time by people like our current Prime Minister and the SA Liberal leader, the member for Dunstan, Steven Marshall—now our Premier—it is these bold policies and quick decision-making that many young people who have become disillusioned with the inaction and stalling by politicians, both on a state and federal level, admire.

However, inaction, stalling and upright bad policymaking is just what young people are getting under the current Marshall government. Now with Steven Marshall as the Premier, South Australia ended 2019 with the worst unemployment rate in the country. For the entire year, the job growth was almost non-existent and grew a mere 0.1 per cent. Blink and you would have missed it.

The story for youth unemployment is even worse. While little to no change happened to improve the unemployment rate, the young people's unemployment rate skyrocketed to a massive 14.3 per cent. With an announcement like the ending of Holden and their brand, none of these figures are surprising.

If there are no jobs for our young people, we risk losing them to other states where there are more opportunities. With the state's unemployment figures the highest in the country, it is expected that many young people who might be struggling to find a job out of school may turn to institutions like TAFE to help broaden their skill set and improve their chances of employment, but the TAFE SA manager warned workers last week that more crippling savings targets are looming, and that could mean more campuses closed.

There is also talk of privatising TAFE, which, like our trains and trams, would mean that private profits would go before the welfare of our students. These changes to TAFE are not only another broken promise by Premier Steven Marshall but a direct attack on young South Australians who are looking to skill themselves for the future.

Finally, our return to parliament has been completely marred by the actions of the member for Waite in the other place. His actions against another member of parliament and a colleague of all of ours at a Christmas party last year in this very building and the subsequent inaction, delay and lack of leadership shown by his boss—the leader of the Liberal Party and the government—has sent a very clear message to our young people about what is tolerated in our workplace. Rather than lead by example, the Premier, through his handling—or should I say, mishandling—of the incident has shown that this workplace will tolerate harassment.

With all of this in mind, it is clear that the Liberal Marshall government is failing our young people. They promised more jobs—they have failed. They promised lower costs and they have failed. They promised better services and they have failed. They promised not to have a privatisation agenda and they have failed.

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (16:07): I rise to speak in reply to the Governor's speech, and in doing so thank His Excellency for his opening address. The Governor has contributed a great amount to our state, and I thank him for his service to our community. This government looks to continue its focus on economic growth and creating new jobs. I think we can all agree that South Australia does need more jobs and greater economic power, but for two years now we have been hearing the same message and have seen little result.

Although pointing out these issues, the Governor failed to mention the strategies that the government would implement to achieve this. If this government continues as it has done for the past two years, South Australians should have little hope that things will change or, in fact, turn around. It is astonishing that the government will reintroduce several of the bills that failed in the previous session of parliament. Legislation on extending trading hours, capping of local government council rates and permanently lifting the prohibition on growing genetically modified crops in all areas of the state except Kangaroo Island will be presented for debate again and, one presumes, unamended.

Does the government assume that we have forgotten about the failure of those bills after the proroguing of parliament in the summer break? Reintroducing these bills is a waste of our time and clearly demonstrates their lack of innovative thinking. This government's obnoxious behaviour has them retrying bills and amendments that have already failed.

Unlike this government, we are working collaboratively to create legislation that will benefit all South Australians. Consistently, our work with the crossbench has been snubbed. The opposition and the crossbench in this place took it upon themselves to create a better, more viable model of council rate capping. However, this government blatantly ignored our proposal and continued with legislation they knew would not pass. A parliament cannot work like this.

We the opposition are not the only ones fed up with this government's lack of ability. People are fed up with this government's overlooking everyday living expenses. The Governor highlighted the fact that, and I quote:

...living in Adelaide is 16 per cent more affordable than Melbourne and 28 per cent more affordable than Sydney.

This statistic just outlines our slow economic growth compared to other major cities. It also fails to express that rental prices in the CBD are extreme. In November 2019, Adelaide was placed as the second most unaffordable capital city in the country for rental affordability. Adelaide is only an affordable city if you fit the right criteria, such as having a well-paying job or income and secure living arrangements, otherwise it is no more affordable than anywhere else. With unemployment at 6.2 per cent and insecure work arrangements common, how can this government brag about Adelaide's affordability?

This statistic is made even more ridiculous when the government has completely ignored poverty in South Australia, not even mentioning it once in the long speech presented by the Governor. Further, the Governor went on to say, and I quote:

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

But the sad truth is that where you live does affect your future. The South Australian Council of Social Service released that the poverty rate is twice as high in regional areas. The government continues to fail people experiencing poverty through inadequate action on housing, energy prices, telecommunication issues, access to justice and raising living standards. When will the government begin to listen to people facing poverty?

The arts also received little mention; in fact, only two sentences. Not only do we rely on the creative industries for our economy, it sets us apart from every other state in Australia and makes for a fantastic and vibrant city. In December 2018, Arts South Australia was dissolved by this government and ever since we have seen more funding cuts to the arts.

While the Arts and Culture Plan acknowledges the growing challenges facing the creative industries, it fails to give vital funding and structural support to the arts. This government has once again turned away from the opportunities that the arts bring to this state. Artists of all forms rely on nightlife to work, and this government has yet again failed them.

The hiking of liquor licensing fees is pushing businesses to the limit. After major backlash from traders in the East End, this government rolled back their liquor licensing fees just so businesses would stay open. If businesses are not able to pay these fees during the busiest time of the year, how will they keep their doors open during the quieter months? Fee hikes like this hurt the arts, hurt businesses and hurt our city.

The government presents several strategies to continue and expand clean energy initiatives. However, these proposals do not go far enough. After the horrendous fire season that we have witnessed and, unfortunately, many in our state have experienced, it is unacceptable for the government to ignore that we are in a climate crisis. The community is sick and tired of the government's inability to accept that there is a current climate emergency let alone act on the issue of climate change. We must be active in implementing preventative and mitigating strategies to reduce risk of harm to our environment.

One of the opposition's top concerns with this government is its implementation of health care. The issue of ramping in South Australian hospitals is phenomenal. Three patients last year died waiting for medical assistance while ramped at a hospital. Ambulance crews are fed up with it, the public are horrified, and the government continues to ignore the problem or at best is introducing measures that are ineffective. The Governor gave no indication that the health minister will address the issue. The Marshall Liberal government promised they would fix the health system, yet all we have seen is cuts to health professionals and a health system in crisis.

Our new Women's and Children's Hospital was promised to be opened in 2024, yet we have heard nothing about it. The government said there would be a task force leading the development and reporting publicly about its findings; however, a year on from when the report was promised, we have nothing to show for it. There is no mention of the report and no mention of the task force; in

fact, the task force does not seem even to exist anymore. We have heard that reports were produced by the task force, but the government has not kept its promise of revealing these to the public. Now consultants have been hired to redo the same work.

Not only is the government letting down patients, it is letting down hospital staff. These hardworking nurses, carers and cleaners were appalled by the government's decision to hike car parking prices. These workers have one minister taking away bus services and another increasing their parking fees. The trend of ignoring staff continues with the government's inability to address violence against health workers. Reports continue to appear in rural and city hospitals, but we are yet to see action on this issue.

As I enter the second quarter of my eight-year term, I have reflected on what we have and have not achieved. In this Second Session of the Fifty-Fourth Parliament, I look forward to debating and decriminalising abortion, uncovering underpayment of workers in the wage theft committee's final report, upholding workers' rights in the debates to come on labour hire licensing and consultation and involvement in industrial and worker issues by stakeholders and unions involved.

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

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 6 February 2020.)

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (16:16): I appreciate the opportunity to make some remarks in relation to the motion moved by the Treasurer on the bushfire season in South Australia thus far. As we all know, South Australia has experienced several devastating bushfires already this summer. From Wednesday 20 November 2019, during catastrophic conditions, fires occurred on Yorke Peninsula, in the Mount Lofty Ranges and on Kangaroo Island.

These fires have all deeply affected households and livelihoods and will present ongoing challenges to communities. Many dwellings were lost and damaged, along with hundreds of other structures on various properties. Sadly, one life was lost in the Cudlee Creek Fire, and two people died on Kangaroo Island. The fires have also impacted a number of other communities in South Australia at Keilira, Duck Ponds on Eyre Peninsula, Coonalpyn, Carcuma and Angle Vale.

Communities, businesses, primary producers, families and individuals have suffered immeasurable loss. For so many affected, these events have been and will be life changing. As the minister responsible for the State Recovery Office, I would like to take a moment to talk about the relief and recovery efforts that have been undertaken to date for these communities.

During the immediate response by emergency services personnel to the Yorketown, Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island fires, the relief teams in the South Australian Housing Authority immediately turned their focus to establishing relief centres, which are places where people impacted

by the fires can gather to seek shelter and access facilities, information, care and comfort. A centre was initially on Yorke Peninsula at Edithburgh. On 20 December, we set up relief centres at Gawler, Turrumurra Recreation Centre at Highbury and subsequently at Mount Barker, which is closer to the communities affected. On Kangaroo Island, a centre was initially at Kingscote.

As the emergency is contained and declared safe, relief turns into the recovery phase, with recovery centres established. These still remain at Yorketown, Parndana on Kangaroo Island and Lobethal in the Adelaide Hills. We have also appointed local recovery coordinators for each of these areas, and I would like to thank Ms Debbie Richardson, Mr Alex Zimmerman and Mr Mike Williams, the local recovery coordinators for Yorketown, the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island respectively, for their ongoing work in those communities.

The immediate concern for both the relief and recovery stage is the safety of people who are affected by natural disasters and providing immediate assistance to those who are unable to return to their primary place of residence. I would also like to particularly pay tribute to Housing SA staff and other staff who have been very engaged in the support services so far. We have had an unprecedented level of need and they have really made themselves available, which is highly commendable.

Over the past two months South Australian Housing Authority staff responses have covered Yorketown, Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island in particular. Some 250 authority staff, along with staff from other government agencies, both state and federal, have worked in the relief or recovery sectors. They have provided care, comfort and assistance to those in crisis, as well as helping anyone affected by the fires to apply for grants and connecting them with other support services.

Our staff have worked in partnership with a range of other organisations and support services, including the Red Cross, Recovery and Disaster Ministries SA, Uniting Country SA, the CFS, insurance providers, the Australian Defence Force, Green Industries SA, local councils and community volunteers, including Lions and Rotary, to provide the best possible service to affected communities.

A total of 45 staff have left their homes and families for deployment to Kangaroo Island, and some of these people have been deployed multiple times. Many have been on overnight shifts so that the centres could provide overnight responses to the community. We had 27 staff who worked at the State Emergency Centre, often late into the night or overnight, to support the response, 10 staff worked additional hours to process grant payments quickly for those in need and assist with the administration, and 56 staff gave up time with friends and family over the Christmas break and cancelled their leave to work in the State Emergency Centre, relief or recovery centres, or to support other administrative efforts.

In addition to this a further 78 staff members from other government agencies have been deployed to either Lobethal or Kangaroo Island recovery centres to support the local communities. They are also providing outreach support services in case management of those who have been most severely affected by the fires, in partnership with other services such as the Red Cross and the Disaster Ministries.

The Australian Defence Force has provided invaluable support in the recovery effort in the Adelaide Hills and on Kangaroo Island as a result of the call-up of Army reservists. Army Reserve personnel have carried out a myriad of tasks supporting government agencies and organisations as well as individuals impacted by the fires. Tasks have included water carting, assistance with waste management and clean-up, fire track remediation, hazard reduction, and outreach, and I would like to thank all the ADF members for their continued support to our communities, particularly at this difficult time.

As always, during a recovery effort it is not just the government that steps in to support those affected; support is also provided by a very large number of non-government organisations that are often supported by volunteers. Groups are involved from the moment that the event unfolds through to the response phase through to relief and recovery, with many working to support the community for the long term.

I would like to provide a list of non-government and volunteer organisations that have stepped up during the recent bushfires. It is not by any means exhaustive, but I believe it illustrates

the generosity of South Australians and people from other parts of Australia, indeed globally, who have been engaged in assisting the affected communities. These include:

- St Vincent de Paul, the official partner in managing donated goods. They have done extraordinary work in managing what has sometimes been an overwhelming volume of donations;
- Anglicare's Thread Together program, that provides brand-new clothing to those who have lost everything;
- Red Cross Australia which, from the time the bushfires commenced, has been providing care, comfort and psychological first aid to affected people who attend the relief and recovery centres. Red Cross is also assisting Housing SA with their outreach visits, and provides a range of financial grants to those who are impacted by the fires. They will continue to be present over the months and years to come supporting communities during this time of recovery;
- Team Rubicon Australia, which unites the skills and experiences of ADF veterans with first responders to rapidly deploy emergency response teams across the globe. Team Rubicon has deployed to the Adelaide Hills and worked with the ADF to conduct over 5,000 hours of assistance with debris clearing, tree felling and sifting through the ash for any salvageable personal items. Team Rubicon will go on to partner with the philanthropic organisation Minderoo to continue delivering assistance to communities;
- Foodbank SA, which has been appointed as the primary organisation to support food relief efforts from the South Australian bushfires. Donated food collection, distribution and provision have been given in a variety of ways from pop-up food vans two days a week at the Lobethal Recovery Centre to food hubs at community meetings and events; and
- BlazeAid, which is a volunteer-based organisation which helps to rebuild fences and other structures which have been damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. Camps have been established at Edithburgh, Lobethal and Kangaroo Island, and hundreds of kilometres of burnt and affected fencing has been replaced.

I would like to thank all these charities, not-for-profit and non-government organisations and the individual volunteers who stood side-by-side with the government as we responded to these emergencies and as we continue to provide assistance during this recovery phase. I would also like to particularly thank Volunteering SA&NT, which has provided help in matching offers of volunteer assistance with where that assistance is most needed.

I would also like to acknowledge the commonwealth government, which is the co-funder for a range of programs in this space in terms of clean-up particularly, and the grants made available to individuals and businesses. We have personal hardship grants. As at 17 February, \$1,575,000 worth of grants had been issued. Re-establishment grants of up to \$10,000 are available to those who are uninsured and have had their principal residence damaged. As at 10 February, we had received 29 applications for those three regions.

Up to \$75,000 is available to primary producers affected by the fires. As at 14 February, about 45 grants had been issued for, between them, Cudlee Creek, Kangaroo Island and Keilira. There is also \$50,000 for eligible small businesses. As at 13 February, 25 grants had been paid totalling \$677,000. All these grants are joint-funded by the federal and state governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

My colleague the Treasurer announced that South Australian small businesses, primary producers and non-profit organisations impacted by the fires will be eligible for concessional loans to assist them to rebuild and continue operating while the regions recover. We also have the State Emergency Relief Fund.

There has been an enormous amount of South Australian and indeed global generosity and support for that from a range of individuals and organisations. The South Australian government has

contributed \$2 million. I think at the last count between \$6.5 million and \$7 million is providing direct support to those who have been affected by the fires.

The first category has been for those families who have lost family members in the fires. The second category is for individuals who have been seriously injured. The third category is for households who have lost their home, regardless of whether they had insurance or not, and that is a grant of \$10,000 per household with an additional \$1,000 per child. The fourth category, at this stage, is for property owners who have suffered infrastructure damage.

Those payments thus far are in the order of \$1 million, and growing. All those funds are managed by the State Emergency Relief Fund committee, so every dollar that is raised is being provided directly to those who are impacted by the fires. Furthermore, we have the National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia partnering with the Nature Foundation to establish the Wildlife Recovery Fund, which is assisting with wildlife in those bushfire-affected landscapes.

We know that we will be in this place for some time to come, and we stand shoulder to shoulder with South Australians.

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (16:30): The past few months have been challenging for many regions of South Australia. The destruction and devastation inflicted by the bushfires on families from Kangaroo Island, the Adelaide Hills and Yorke Peninsula has been horrific. South Australia is not alone in suffering from devastating bushfires, of course. Our interstate neighbours suffered, too, and I commend the brave men and women who assisted in fighting the fires, both in South Australia and interstate.

The firefighters' determination to defend properties, towns and wildlife highlights their unparalleled bravery. Not only was the bravery of these people impressive but also their willingness to thrust themselves into action and hit pause in their own lives whilst they did so. Many of these people are volunteers, and their willingness to make time and financial sacrifices is admirable as well. How these volunteers carried themselves is the true embodiment of the best characteristics of the Australian population.

I recently visited Kangaroo Island with my colleagues from the Marshall Liberal team. It was confronting to see how much damage was inflicted, and you could begin to understand the extent of the required recovery effort. Perhaps the most impressive outcome to arise from these terrible events has been how communities like Kangaroo Island have pulled together. Despite personal adversity and the gravity of the task in front of them, communities have been steadfast in their approach to recovery. I would like to commend all the affected communities on how they have dealt with what must be a horrific time in their lives.

One of the ways that communities are recovering is through specific volunteer organisations that assist locals in many ways, often providing financial or physical donations in kind. We have also seen many wildlife volunteers and veterinarians who have donated their time to begin to rehabilitate the impacted flora and fauna. Community organisations, new and old, have acted immediately to assist these affected communities. I have been lucky enough to meet several community groups during these challenging times.

An organisation such as the Nairne Fire Support group formed organically, if you like, during one of the most critical times to assist their communities. Through their local MP, Dan Cregan, the member for Kavel, I was lucky enough to meet members of the Nairne Fire Support group. The organisation has been supplying care packages to households affected by the Cudlee Creek fires. It was my pleasure to fundraise \$2,000 for them to help assist the continuing services of their organisation. I can tell you that they were extraordinarily grateful. They are hoping to continue to serve the community until all those affected are back on their feet. The Nairne Fire Support group is just one of the many out there that are helping affected South Australians.

All of these organisations have been able to operate due to the generosity of donations. South Australians' willingness to financially contribute to assist the recovery through these organisations has been nothing short of remarkable, in my view. Many in this place are familiar with other organisations that have assisted the bushfire recovery. Every person who was willing to put up their hand and help has been crucial to our state's recovery. I would like to thank absolutely all people

who have assisted and who continue to assist the South Australians who have been affected by the terrible and devastating bushfires.

The recovery effort often requires significant investment to return the affected regions to what they once were. As I have mentioned, South Australians have been willing fundraisers. Communities have come together and raised as much as they can, in the knowledge that every bit helps. Church denominations spread all over the state have been prominent and have been working extremely hard to raise money and gather donations, as have several other organisations, of course.

I have previously spoken in this place about church denominations assisting in the recovery effort, and I am proud that the Influencers Church specifically raised some \$240,000, just short of a quarter of a million dollars, from their own congregation. This money has been donated to worthy organisations, such as St Vincent de Paul and BlazeAid. The Influencers Church is one of many trying to help as many as they can. Partnering with the generosity of the community, the Marshall Liberal government and the federal government will allow these communities to not go it alone and will ensure that they have the necessary financial and in-kind support to rebuild.

The South Australian Treasurer, the Hon. Rob Lucas MLC, has announced a host of tax relief measures that further ease the burden and the waiving of certain fees and charges for bushfire-affected South Australians. Such relief includes waiving fees associated with purchasing replacement copies of birth, death and marriage certificates, a traumatic task that South Australian bushfire victims should not have to pay for.

Other government initiatives include funding to fix fences. Many in this chamber would be familiar with BlazeAid's work to help farmers re-establish kilometres of fencing that has been destroyed. BlazeAid will receive a \$250,000 funding boost from the state government, which will allow the thousands of volunteers to continue rebuilding vital farm fencing. Additionally, clean-up funding has also been allocated by the state government to help remove debris and assist farmers, households and businesses to move forward from the fires.

The federal Minister for Emergency Management, David Littleproud, announced that the federal government would match dollar for dollar to fund the clean-up. This means areas such as Kangaroo Island have the resources to clean up the remains of these horrific events and move forward in the future, as will the other regions.

There has been much focus on the clean-up and recovery of regions affected by the fires and I am pleased to see the Marshall Liberal government pushing forward with tourism campaigns to ensure that these regions have continuing income streams at a challenging time. The #BookThemOut campaign highlights that businesses in the Adelaide Hills and on Kangaroo Island are open for business.

Visitation is critical to these areas, with 1.2 million domestic day trips to the Adelaide Hills in the year ending September 2019. As South Australians we must continue to visit and boost the local economy to help those who need it most to get back on their feet. Simply being there, spending money in their restaurants, cafes, hotels and in the shops that line their streets makes such a difference.

The bushfires are a challenging time for our state. People lost property, lost valuable memories and, unfortunately, some lost their lives. It has been remarkable to see the communities come together. We will continue to work hard in this parliament, on both sides I am sure, to assist those affected by the bushfires. I am confident that all South Australians will continue their support in any way they possibly can.

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (16:36): I rise to associate myself with the remarks of the Treasurer in moving this motion, and also the remarks of the Minister for Human Services and others in relation to the matters covered significantly in the Treasurer's motion but also the depth of the response from not only the government but right across the community. Only on the weekend we saw the extraordinary amount of truckloads of hay arriving at Cape Jervis to be taken across to Kangaroo Island to feed stock that has no feed at the moment.

I made a number of references to bushfire recovery efforts, and particularly the mental health aspects of that, in my Address in Reply speech earlier today and I do not intend to repeat them.

However, I would like to indicate here my sincere thanks and appreciation to all the firefighters and emergency services workers, all the other people and the first responders who came out and supported the fire control and recovery efforts.

That great level of appreciation was highlighted in my mind when I drove through a great deal of the Adelaide Hills area that had been affected by fires some time afterwards. As has been alluded to by other Liberal colleagues, what I saw on Kangaroo Island—having spoken to a number of residents of both regions, and of other regions in South Australia that I mentioned earlier today, they perhaps have not had as much publicity in the media but are still people who are affected just as much in many cases.

Driving through the Cudlee Creek area reminded me very much of my experiences in the Adelaide Hills in 1980 and 1983 on the two Ash Wednesdays. One thing about being on Facebook is that sometimes it puts up memories. The other day, it brought up a memory of a post I put up seven years ago, when it was the 30th anniversary of Ash Wednesday II, as many of us call it.

My recollections from then are of being in the Millbrook Reservoir and Kersbrook areas, the extraordinary nature of the conditions and the remarkable behaviour of that fire. That was something I saw the other day and shared again, because it will always bring back the need for us to support the communities in the fire areas and support the people who get out and endeavour to deal with them.

As I mentioned earlier, the nature of the fires is indiscriminate. So many times, I have seen one property completely untouched when all the properties surrounding it are burnt down. That will always be a mystery to many of us. It is just the way the weather is, the winds and other matters to do with vegetation. It also impacts the people who are untouched as much as those who are badly burnt out.

While on Kangaroo Island, at the suggestion of Mayor Michael Pengilly, I drove up the Gosse-Ritchie Road from the South Coast Road up to the Western Districts sporting facility, which had been very badly impacted, and then onto the North Coast Road. That was not indiscriminate there—it was just a blanket of fire that had gone through. It is something that will take a long time to recover from as a community.

I think there has been a great response from state and federal governments and obviously from local government. There is counselling, community grants and a whole range of other things that the Minister for Human Services has outlined earlier today. When we were on the island, the Minister for Human Services, the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Premier and I all met with a group of chaplains who had been working in the field. They raised a number of issues, but particularly one about the amount of work—I think one said that I had to do—that we as a government have to do in the mental health area. That is very evident in the statistics that were brought to me recently by the Chief Psychiatrist about work that is being done globally.

When there has been a major disaster in an area, the level of suicide or attempted suicide can rise between 10 and 13 per cent, and the chaplains raised their considerable view that we need to be very much active. Yes, we need to support people now, but it is in the coming months and years that that work needs to be done. I think there will be people in the Pinery region that are still going through difficult times as a result of that significant fire.

As part of that work, the Adelaide Hills council area and the Kangaroo Island council area are two that do not have suicide prevention networks, so I have made contact with both of the mayors in those areas in relation to the development of networks with their community, with their councils, in the coming months.

There is much more that I could say, but I think we all know that as the Governor said in his speech, resilience is there. We just need to back that up with the right effort at the right time to make sure that we do everything we can for the people who have been impacted by the terrible bushfires that we have experienced in the last few months in this state. With those remarks, I support the motion.

*Parliamentary Procedure***VISITORS**

The PRESIDENT: Just before I call the Hon. Mr Darley, can I acknowledge Nairne volunteers Sheree Reid and Esther Cruikshank from the Nairne hall committee on the Cudlee Creek fire, who are with the member for Kavel.

*Motions***SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES**

Debate resumed.

The Hon. J.A. DARLEY (16:45): I rise today to briefly speak on this motion. I do not want to repeat what has already been put on the record about the terrible statistics of the bushfires that have ravaged not only our state but the entire country, but I did want to convey my sympathy and sorrow for those who have lost family, friends, pets and property. The images that have been broadcast online, on television and in the newspapers are heartbreaking, and I cannot begin to imagine having to experience such loss.

I commend our courageous emergency services workers for their tireless efforts and their admirable determination to help our communities. The images show the harrowing circumstances they faced and where they triumphed against the most difficult of conditions. It is important to also remember those families and friends who have supported those on the front line by maintaining the household, washing uniforms, looking after pets, cooking meals. These may seem to be very simple acts, but those who undertake the riskiest jobs would not be able to do what they do if they were not supported.

I stood in this place last year admitting that, whilst I have witnessed bushfires throughout my 82 years on this earth, I now acknowledge that they are getting worse because of man-made climate change. As the policymakers, we owe it to our community to make changes so that we can start to wind back the damage that has been done. Some say it may be too late; however, we owe it to everyone who has had to live with the fear of a bushfire, flood or earthquake destroying their home to at least try. With that, I support the motion.

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

*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 6 February 2020.)

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (16:47): I will be brief on this motion. I would like, as many others have, to start by congratulating you, Mr President, on your elevation to very, very high office. You follow in the footsteps of people like the Hon. Russell Wortley, so I know you will treat it with the respect that positions like this deserve. I would also like to congratulate former President McLachlan on his appointment to the Senate.

The Hon. D.G.E. Hood: Good conservative member.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: He is a good conservative member. I also note the person the Hon. Andrew McLachlan is replacing, former senator Cory Bernardi. Whilst I do not often agree with Cory Bernardi, he advocated strongly as a senator for his beliefs. However, I believe that with Senator Andrew McLachlan that position representing South Australians in the Senate may be far less polarising, even if Andrew McLachlan does not have his own online TV channel.

It is always good to have representatives in this place that have lived and worked in regional South Australia. Mr McLachlan spent time working out of Port Augusta as a lawyer well before running for parliament. There are some things I did not realise. When I googled Andrew McLachlan,

I was surprised to learn that he spent time as the CEO of the Royal Bank of Scotland, was for a time a creator of dystopian electronic Melburnian music and was a part-time actor in several Monty Python films. While I do not think any of these were our own Andrew McLachlan, they were Andrew McLachlans.

Our Andrew McLachlan has served our state well. It will be a loss for the Parliament of South Australia to lose such a dedicated member. Before he took up the presidency, Mr McLachlan was regularly on the wrong side of arguments—or at least, he was not on the side I was on, which I consider the wrong side of arguments—and despite not agreeing with him, I found it hard not to respect him. He always fought for what he believed in, even if it did not align necessarily with the position of the day of the Liberal Party. This foundational sense of what he saw as right, of holding to his values, made him an honourable man, and he held to his conservative values quite strongly.

The Hon. D.G.E. Hood: He was a good conservative member.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: He was a good conservative member, as the Hon. Dennis Hood interjects. There were some similarities. I will acknowledge that, like Andrew McLachlan, the Hon. Dennis Hood advocates fiercely for his conservative values, his conservative beliefs. I rarely agree with the Hon. Dennis Hood, but he is highly effective in how he does it, as was the Hon. Andrew McLachlan.

It shows the level of esteem that the Hon. Andrew McLachlan has been held in that we had speeches from both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in this chamber when a new senator was selected, and just how much he stuck to his guns regardless of the political whims of the time.

Andrew McLachlan was a good President of the Legislative Council. On the rare occasions that I overstepped or interjected, he was quick to correct my ways. He was very patient and he ruled very wisely. That being said, he was always fair and balanced and not afraid to reprimand those on the other side, as I am sure the Hon. David Ridgway could attest to on many occasions.

I would like to thank Andrew McLachlan for his service to the South Australian parliament, and I wish him well on his journey to Canberra. I cannot guarantee that I will vote for him when he is up for re-election in the Senate, but I will be glad to know that he is there. I commend this motion to the council.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (16:51): I rise to support this motion, and in doing so I reflect on something I said in my maiden speech, when I addressed the then President, the Hon. Andrew McLachlan. I said:

I am sure you will carry your dedication to duty, as exemplified through your previous military service, into this role and be a model of fairness and adherence to the standing orders.

I think it is fair to say that he has certainly demonstrated that throughout his time here as President, something that hopefully all in this chamber have appreciated. Many in positions such as President or Speaker give lip service to the principle of being fair and impartial, but parliaments often see that go out of the window at a very early stage. The Hon. Andrew McLachlan, however, was an exception to that. He was keen to see robust debate in this place and that extended to, shall we say, energetic question times, something that I think, hopefully again, everyone in this chamber appreciates.

Of course, we now have a new President, who I hope will follow in the footsteps of the Hon. Andrew McLachlan. No doubt our new President will put his own mark on the role, but I sincerely hope that it will include a willingness to see robust debate and energetic question times. I think it is fair to say that the Hon. Andrew McLachlan is universally respected and highly regarded, despite political differences.

Reflecting on the fact that we now have a new President, there have been media reports that the Hon. Mr Dawkins was seeking the President's job, but presumably he could not get the numbers, or perhaps the media reports were wrong. There were rumours that the Hon. Dennis Hood may have stepped into this role. He has, of course, demonstrated a strong ability through the many incisive and topical questions that he asks in this place and his ability to keep Labor on its toes at all times, but as we saw, he too has taken on a new role, although not that of President.

As well as President, the Hon. Andrew McLachlan had a role with me—I was honoured—of co-convenor of the Parliamentary Friends of Israel, and he was certainly very active in that role. He was very interested and attentive to all things to do with that role and the Jewish community, and he successfully built strong attendances at all of our events.

Before Christmas, I reflected on what would be appropriate descriptions for our then President. I mentioned that the definition of presidential included the words dignified, authoritative, judicious, diplomatic, powerful, awe-inspiring, self-assured, commanding and regal. I said then and I say now that most, maybe even all, of those descriptions applied to the Hon. Andrew McLachlan as President of this council. I am confident that in years to come we will be able to apply the same descriptions to our new President.

The Hon. Andrew McLachlan's move to the Australian Senate is a loss to this chamber. I congratulate him on his new role and join with others here to wish him well.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (16:55): Mr President, I also join in on congratulating you on your election to the position that you are now holding as the new President. However, you may wish to rethink that when you hear, in a minute, about the lengths to which the former President went to open the doors of this place. I will rise for a very short time but not necessarily to discuss the past achievements of the former President, now Senator McLachlan, or his role as a member of this place.

As a relatively new member of this chamber, I did not experience Andrew's famous insertion of poems or his opinionated debates that have been referenced by many. I merely knew him as the Presiding Officer of the South Australian Legislative Council, the 21st President of this place. Most importantly, I knew him, as did 600 wizards and witches who have entered this place on our Harry Potter mega takeovers, as the grumpy old holder of the keys to the Chamber of Secrets. The grumpy President was woken by the pounding fists of witches and wizards only to appear dressed in his full presidential get-up in his old office doorway.

The former President helped open the doors of this place to the biggest Hogwarts' takeover of any parliament—I have not fact-checked that; someone else can worry about that—not once, not twice, but four times. Over 2,000 people participated in the last takeover. While the former President helped open the doors of this place to over 600 wizards and witches, the majority had never before entered this place. What is more, he did this in the dying days of his preselection battle, which he may have reminded me about once or twice.

On the Hogwarts' front, Mr President, you have very big shoes to fill. This building is often viewed as the Chamber of Secrets. I am sure many would like to forget this chamber actually exists, especially those who warm the government benches in the other place, as has been the case for centuries. However, as we know, this is the people's house. For whatever reason, few realise that they can just wander into this building. Few feel connected to this place or are aware of how these chambers can change and support their lives.

Perhaps I have this wrong and perhaps the former President just liked getting dressed up in his wig and knickerbockers. He not only brought laughter to these chambers, he also gave a gift to younger South Australians, a gift that will enable them to feel connected forever. We can encourage our younger generations to have a voice, but if they do not know how to make change we will all be the poorer for it.

Putting aside Hogwarts, one of the first conversations I had with Andrew ended with me leaving his office with a collection of cheesy, USA-style, self-promoting memorabilia. I am not going to repeat in this chamber what I actually thought of the magnet, stickers and other paraphernalia but they did give me an idea for his parting gift. The Senator now may roam the corridors of federal parliament. I am sure he will continue to walk to work. To ensure he does not forget this place he will be able to wear a cheesy and tacky piece of memorabilia. He will be able to walk to work with a '21st President of the Legislative Council' cap and, do not worry, Clerk, I certainly used the logo correctly.

On a serious note, Andrew is no stranger to serving his community or his country, from his service in Afghanistan, to the floor of this place, to what Andrew dubbed his throne—the President's chair—and now to our capital. While I did not know Andrew as long as most in this chamber, I

appreciated his leadership, direction and much-needed guidance in this chamber. I thank him for his service to this place, and I wish Andrew and his family well as they embark on the honour of representing all South Australians in the Senate.

Finally, the senator often said to his Hogwarts friends that the chair that the President has the privilege to warm is not a chair: it is a throne. To our new President: I hope you enjoy the great privilege of keeping your throne warm, and I look forward to seeing you in your *Harry Potter* get-up.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (17:00): I also rise to speak on this motion. I think I can only add to the tone of what is a great deal of well wishes for our former President. On paper, I think that the former President and probably quite a few on the benches where I sit really do not come from a similar background. The former President—you can read his opening speech—comes from a very long line of very commendable persons, for all of whom he can cite very proudly their roles in the colony, as he might put it, and their subsequent achievements that they managed within that.

The former President attended law school overseas. He spent significant time working in the sectors of finance and law. He had a significant military background, which I think formed a fairly significant portion of what he brought to this place. I still recall the oft-cited quote of a former premier, who said to this parliament around the time I entered this place in politics that, if you want a friend in politics, you get a dog. I would not call my dog Andrew, but I would say that I do not find agreement with what the former premier said. To put it another way, a way I think the former President will enjoy because it is by one of his chosen poets, 'good fences make good neighbours'. I will come back to that later on.

I have never found Andrew, the former President—I am not sure if I can refer to him by his Christian name anymore—someone who made things difficult. I never found him to be someone who was not willing or at least open to being friendly, even though this place sometimes discourages exactly that. It is not that our former premier was entirely incorrect in what he said because many here choose to live and die by a pretty ruthless sword. The problem, of course, is that we tend to lionise those who live in politics that way. I think it makes it even more important for everyone on this side of the chamber here today to trumpet our former President in regard to what he did in his actions on his rise through and eventually, or at least maybe notionally, above this place to Canberra.

I think it is notable in this regard how many members of this place would often cite the former honourable member's title before his name. Often, I think people either said he was 'President McLachlan' or 'the Hon. Mr McLachlan'. Even in his opening speech, the original President referred to him as 'the gallant Mr McLachlan', and even the opposition leader made the same error in his farewell speech in this place in the last sitting week. I think in all respects, many people regarded Andrew as honourable, even without needing the title.

The fact is that he took the step of excluding himself from the parliamentary caucus of his party while fulfilling his presidential role, something that might seem a bit of a simple step but, again, makes him quite honourable. The speed with which a number of very complex matters made their way through this chamber last year spoke volumes to his ability to recognise what the rules of this place are and how best to achieve them and get them done in what could be quite difficult environments. As I think I have already said here today, what is also notable is the number of speakers who wish to speak fondly on the elevation of our former President.

I cannot quite recall the specifics of the question he asked when he was in opposition one day, but it is worthy of an anecdote. While the Labor Party was in government, the then honourable minister Malinauskas took a Dorothy. He took it on the matter of what I think were awards to police dogs at the time. Much of the Dorothy was spent lauding the achievements of the participants and those who were placed first, second and third, how they were particularly worthy. All this was somewhat undone when Mr McLachlan's supplementary asked how many participants there were, and he had to come back with, 'There were only three.'

The fact is—with all due respect to you, Mr President—we will all miss the formerly honourable Mr McLachlan for his interjections, for his wit, for his capability in recognising the respect of this place, how it operates, how it could better operate and how it should operate. On a personal note I will miss my discussions surrounding the topical matters of the week over a coffee with Andrew.

These types of things can often make this place both unbearable and bearable at the same time, and I will miss those.

I will miss the relish he took to the role of being in opposition questioning ministers and at the same time the relish he took to the role of President, right down to his role in the now somewhat regular and already-noted Harry Potter event, which is held regularly in this place. That is something I support, and I look forward to you involving yourself, Mr President. I know you will.

We can all learn a lot from the attitude taken by the formerly honourable member in his relatively short time in this place, and wish him well in his new role. I remind him of two very valuable bits of advice. The first I know he will listen to, because I am quoting from his original speech in this place. He said:

Unfortunately, our federation has delivered a significant level of fiscal imbalance, which undermines the ability of our governments to take real accountability. The fiscal arrangements between the states and the commonwealth are in need of recasting, together with their respective taxation regimes. The ideal for any functioning federation must be the accommodation of the desires and needs of all of the many regions that make up our nation.

So, Andrew, good luck with that one, mate. I will finish with a quote from Mr Frost, one of Andrew's favourite poets. I know he likes a particular poem but I prefer a poem called *Mending Wall*, the poem I referred to earlier. I take a specific quote from it:

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,
And spills the upper boulders in the sun;
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.

I encourage members to read the whole poem. I will not create the disaster of doing that to everyone here—it is quite long—but I encourage members to read it. I think it would help us all in how we act in this chamber. It is certainly as good a summary as any I can think of of Andrew's time in this place. I remind him of it in his travels in Canberra and look forward to taking every chance to remind him of it in future over a coffee—or perhaps, hopefully, something stronger.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (17:07): I echo the congratulations made to you, Mr President, on your elevation to this position presiding over us all. I also rise to associate myself with the remarks congratulating the previously honourable Andrew McLachlan to the lofty heights of now Senator Andrew McLachlan, and want to echo the words of thanks and gratitude to him, particularly in the presidency role but also before that as a member of this place. In particular, I would also like to note the fine work of his former staff member, Zachariah Reveruzzi, who was always of assistance to my office.

Prior to his elevation to the presidency in this place, I would like to think that the then honourable Andrew McLachlan was an honorary crossbencher, sitting in my former seat, the seat I first took in this place that is now occupied by the Hon. Irene Pnevmatikos. I like to think that seat is perhaps a little special in terms of the crossover role it tends to play, certainly in the last 10 years or so.

In that role, as he was in his presidency role, he was diligent, thorough and fair. He did not take the responsibility of presidency lightly and he did not take the responsibility of representing the people of South Australia in this place lightly. It led him to cross the floor on more than one occasion, standing up—as he would say—for land and liberty. I think it showed that Mr McLachlan was multidimensional.

My staff had a mood board of the many moods of Andrew McLachlan above the notice board on the back of my staff office. He has seen this board and I think he took great delight in how we had noticed that he did not have a poker face and that each day brought a new mood to be recorded on the Hon. Andrew McLachlan mood board in my office. Sadly that is no longer, now he is no longer our President, but I am sure that he will not be forgotten in this place or indeed in my staff's office.

The sliding doors opened for the then honourable Andrew McLachlan and now he is Senator Andrew McLachlan and has moved from these red, vinyl benches to the red, leather and fabric benches of our Senate. I will fondly remember the many times he sat on the blue fabric of the couch

in my office that he helped me secure, for which I will be eternally grateful. My words to his new Senate parliamentary colleagues are in the form that he himself so preferred. They are almost a poem but more a rhyming couplet: he may be a Tory but he is sure no Cory, and I wish him well in the Senate.

The Hon. J.A. DARLEY (17:11): Mr President, I congratulate you on your election as President. I rise briefly to speak on this motion and to add my thanks to Andrew McLachlan for all he has done for this council and the parliament. While I am sad that we will be losing him in this place, I am heartened that, in his new role, the people of South Australia will not have lost a champion.

Although he currently no longer has the title of honourable, the manner in which Andrew carried himself while in this place means he will always be honourable in my eyes. As a member of the Legislative Council, he always acted with integrity and transparency—traits that are revered in this cutthroat business of politics. When Andrew took up the President's position, I was torn. On one hand, I was sad because I knew we were losing a great member on the floor, but I also knew that he would be a fair and reasonable President.

He controlled the chamber well, which can sometimes be challenging, and the kind words which have been expressed about Andrew's departure are a testament to how well liked and respected he was in this place. I offer my congratulations to Andrew McLachlan and wish him all the best in the future. I support this motion.

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (17:12): I also rise to add my comments to this motion. I have known Andrew McLachlan for quite a long period of time, and I remember that, in earlier days, when I probably first met him he was a member of the state executive of the Liberal Party. I also remember his candidature for preselection on the Liberal Senate team before he eventually came to this place, so his interest in red chambers and also beyond his service here has been there for a long time.

Many of us have enjoyed getting his red chamber report at the end of every sitting week, which I notice is continuing now that he has gone to, some would say, higher service. I am not sure whether all of us agree with that, but I note that his red chamber report is continuing. Andrew is held in great esteem across the chamber in this parliament without any shadow of doubt.

I remember that when he, as a very new member, was asked to represent the shadow Attorney-General, the Hon. Vickie Chapman, on matters to do with her portfolio in this chamber, he sought my thoughts on a number of occasions, I suppose because I was the whip and had been for some time. Of course, we all know—those of us who were here then—the extent to which that meant that he was speaking in the chamber because of the great proportion of the bills that we deal with that come out of the Attorney-General's area.

He always acted with great integrity. I think that has been exemplified in his community service with many organisations, including St John, his Defence Force service and his great support of the veterans community. He was particularly supportive of my work in the suicide prevention area, as it particularly related to serving defence personnel and veterans.

In his role as President he held very high the importance of upholding the traditions of the Legislative Council. He was and still remains a great supporter of the role of upper houses in general, and that will serve him well in the Senate. He is, I think, a great example of someone who is particularly dedicated to this state. He is a very strong South Australian, and that is what we need in the Senate. I wish him all the very best in his service as a senator for South Australia.

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

Bills

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (17:16): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation and the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

The purpose of the Fire and Emergency Services (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2018 is to amend the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* to incorporate recommended legislative changes arising from recommendations from the 2013 review of the Act, and a number of internal reviews undertaken by the Emergency Services Sector since.

The *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*, creating the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission and incorporating the previous Acts governing the Metropolitan Fire Service, the Country Fire Service and the State Emergency Service, was passed in Parliament and assented to in October 2005.

Following the tabling of the Bill in November 2018, it was resolved to form a select committee to consider the proposed amendments in relation to powers for the cessation of harvesting. This House thanks the Select Committee for the diligent work on seeking feedback from a wide range of stakeholders and is pleased to advise today that the recommendations of the Select Committee have been accepted and these recommendations have been amended into this draft Bill.

This Bill seeks to amend the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* to incorporate long overdue legislative changes.

The Bill proposes the following changes:

- Protection of CFS and SES volunteers who are absent from work, on official duties as a member of an emergency service organisation when responding to an emergency;
- Breaches of permit conditions imposed by authorised officers;
- Various technical issues raised by the emergency services organisations relating to apparent anomalies or ambiguities within the Act.

Providing power to direct the cessation of hazardous practices that due to weather conditions may cause a fire if ignited to get out of control and based upon the recommendations of the Select Committee, these powers will be conferred upon SAPOL.

The feedback through consultation will ensure the best possible legislation is provided to protect the communities of South Australia.

This Bill will regulate the introduction of industry brigades to assist in protecting our communities particularly in the State's South East where our forest industries are an important part of our economy. The Bill recognises, where appropriate the significance of harmonisation with Victoria who have been operating under similar legislation for a number of years.

This bushfire season has reminded us all of the bushfire threat. With this in mind, the government is keen to ensure that complete and effective powers are available to ensure the risk of bushfire is minimised. This Bill will bring into legislation many of the recommendations of the 2013 Holloway Review. It acknowledges the important contribution of our fire and emergency services make to the protection of our communities and these amendments will strengthen certain powers and clarify functions to make South Australia an even safer community.

Further input and review will be sought to better streamline and coordinate our fire and emergency services, however for the moment we need to be able to assure the community that we are presenting the best possible legislation to protect our community from the threat of bushfire.

The key objectives of this Bill are to improve the ability of the emergency services to deliver key public safety outcomes, at minimal cost to the Government and community and to demonstrate the Government's commitment and appreciation of emergency services volunteers to the safety of our community.

I commend the Bill to Members.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

3—Amendment provisions

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005

4—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

Definitions and interpretative provisions are inserted for the purposes of the measure.

5—Amendment of section 26—Functions and powers

This clause expands the list of examples in section 26(3) to include the recording, possession or use of moving or still images for the purposes of SAMFS operations and activities.

6—Amendment of section 37—Rectification where safeguards inadequate

This clause amends section 37 to provide for references to the new *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

7—Amendment of section 38—Closure orders etc

This clause clarifies powers in relation to closure of buildings by allowing orders to be issued requiring persons to leave a building and the securing of the building against further entry. In addition, all orders under the section will have an initial maximum period of 2 full business days after the day on which the order was issued (instead of 48 hours from the time of issue of the order). The provision also clarifies that the power to rescind an order under subsection (7) does not apply to an order of the Court.

8—Amendment of section 42—Powers

This clause will allow an officer of SAMFS to engage a contractor to carry out demolition or other work at the scene of a fire or emergency whether or not the officer is present at the scene of the fire or other emergency.

9—Amendment of section 59—Functions and powers

This clause expands the list of examples in section 59(3) to include the recording, possession or use of moving or still images for the purposes of SACFS operations and activities.

10—Amendment of section 68—Establishment of SACFS

The amendment to section 68 enables an industry brigade to form part of an SACFS group.

11—Insertion of Part 4 Division 5A

Division 5A is inserted:

Division 5A—Industry Brigades

69A—Preliminary

Definitions are inserted for the purposes of the Division, including definitions of a *prescribed person* and a *responsible person*.

69B—Designated areas for industry brigades

The Chief Officer may designate an area of land (being land not within a fire district) as an area where the Chief Officer considers an industry brigade should be established.

69C—Establishment of industry brigades

The Chief Officer may give a prescribed person a written notice relating to a designated area requiring the prescribed person to establish an industry brigade, have it registered and take other steps related to establishing and maintaining an industry brigade.

An appeal against the notice is provided for.

The costs incurred in complying with the notice will be borne by the responsible person (defined as the prescribed person or a person designated as the responsible person for the purposes of the definition of *responsible person*).

69D—Registration of industry brigades

Provision is made in relation to the registration of industry brigades.

69E—Chief Officer may give directions

The Chief Officer may give directions to the responsible person for an industry brigade relating to a range of matters (set out in the provision), which generally relate to the maintenance and operation of the industry brigade.

69F—Exclusion of certain claims

Compensation is not payable by the Crown or SACFS in relation to the Division.

12—Amendment of section 70—Command structure

This clause is a related amendment to provide that only SACFS brigades may take part in elections of group officers.

This clause provides for the making of regulations to make provision with respect to the eligibility of employees of SACFS to be elected to an office.

13—Insertion of Part 4 Division 6A

New Division 6A will provide the SACFS with equivalent powers to those of the SAMFS under Part 3 Division 5 of the Act.

14—Amendment of section 71—State Bushfire Coordination Committee

This clause makes changes to the requirements for membership of the State Bushfire Coordination Committee.

15—Amendment of section 80—Total fire ban

This clause allows information about total fire bans to be disseminated by means other than just radio broadcast.

16—Amendment of section 81—Permit to light and maintain a fire

Section 81 is proposed to be amended to require each council that is a rural council or that includes a designated urban bushfire risk area to appoint at least 1 authorised officer to issue permits under the provision (unless exempted by the Chief Officer of SACFS).

17—Amendment of section 82—Power to direct

This clause clarifies the powers of direction under section 82. The existing power to direct someone to refrain from lighting a fire where weather conditions mean a fire may get out of control is extended to apply to a fire that is being maintained and is amended to make it clear that it applies even if the fire is being lit or maintained pursuant to a permit.

18—Amendment of section 94—Failure by a council to exercise statutory powers

This clause replaces a reference to the South Australian Bushfire Prevention Advisory Committee with a reference to the State Bushfire Coordination Committee.

19—Amendment of section 97—Powers

This clause is a related amendment that deletes certain provisions relating to the person in charge of a fire on a forest reserve.

20—Insertion of section 105IA

A new power is added to allow a police officer to direct a person to refrain from carrying on an activity (being an activity of a prescribed kind or any other activity that the officer is satisfied may cause a fire) during a specified period if because of weather conditions a fire caused by the activity might get out of control.

21—Amendment of section 108—Functions and powers

This clause expands the list of examples in section 108(3) to include the recording, possession or use of moving or still images for the purposes of SASES operations and activities.

22—Amendment of section 116—SASES units

This clause amends section 116 of the principal Act to delete the requirement for a SASES unit to have a constitution and to make consequential amendments to delete all references to the constitution of a SASES unit.

23—Insertion of Part 5 Division 4A

This clause inserts a new Division dealing with the command structure of SASES. The provision largely mirrors various provisions in the current section 70 relating to the command structure of the SACFS.

24—Amendment of section 118—Powers

This clause will allow an officer of SASES to engage a contractor to carry out demolition or other work at the scene of an emergency, whether or not the officer is present at the scene of the emergency (which is equivalent to section 42(5) for the SAMFS).

25—Insertion of section 127A

Proposed section 127A provides that a person who is absent from employment on official duties as a member of an emergency services organisation, in connection with a fire or other emergency is not liable to be dismissed or prejudiced in employment by reason of that absence.

26—Amendment of section 142—Payment of costs and expenses for certain vessels and property

This clause amends section 142 to extend the capacity to recover costs and expenses to the SASES.

27—Amendment of section 143—Fees

This clause allows the regulations to prescribe late payment fees.

28—Amendment of Schedule 5—Regulations

This clause is consequential to clause 11.

Schedule 1—Transitional provisions

This Schedule contains transitional provisions.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. R.P. Wortley.

Parliamentary Procedure

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (17:17): I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move the following motion forthwith.

Motion carried.

The PRESIDENT: I note the absolute majority.

Parliamentary Committees

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

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (17:18): I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move that the order made this day for the appointment of the Minister for Trade and Investment to the Select Committee on Matters Relating to SA Pathology and SA Medical Imaging in place of the Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins be rescinded and the Minister for Trade and Investment be appointed to the Select Committee on Matters Relating to SA Pathology and SA Medical Imaging in place of the Hon. T.J. Stephens (resigned).

Motion carried.

Parliamentary Procedure

NOTICE OF MOTION

The PRESIDENT (17:19): I have to advise the chamber that earlier today the Hon. Frank Pangallo gave notice that he sought leave to introduce a bill relating to genetically modified crops management. The Hon. Mr Pangallo inadvertently gave the short title of the bill in the notice of motion. The long title of the bill is 'An act to amend the Genetically Modified Crops Management Act 2004, to repeal the Genetically Modified Crops Management Regulations (Postponement of Expiry) Act 2017, and to revoke the Genetically Modified Crops Management Regulations 2008.' This will appear on the *Notice Paper* as I have just read.

At 17:20 the council adjourned until Wednesday 19 February 2020 at 14:15.

*Answers to Questions***REX AIRLINES**

In reply to **the Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition)** (6 February 2020).

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment): The Premier has advised the following:

The government is pleased that following Regional Express' decision to withdraw its flight route to and from Kangaroo Island that Qantas has announced that they will be more than doubling the number of flights they make to Kangaroo Island.