

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 4 March 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

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (14:16): I bring up the second report of the committee.

Report received.

Parliamentary Procedure

PARLIAMENT HOUSE WASTE RECYCLING

The PRESIDENT (14:17): On Wednesday 19 February, the Hon. Mark Parnell asked me a question without notice concerning recycling in Parliament House. The question was directed to me as chairperson of the Joint Parliamentary Service Committee; however, as I advised in my initial response, that position is currently held by the Speaker of the House of Assembly.

The Hon. Mr Parnell asked me to arrange for a report to be prepared for members on the current procedures for waste management and recycling within Parliament House, including steps that are being taken to improve current performance. As these matters fall within the purview of the Joint Parliamentary Service Committee, I raised the matter at the committee's last meeting.

The committee agreed to have a report prepared and issued to members in line with the Hon. Mr Parnell's request. I would, however, like to briefly outline to the chamber just some of the initiatives that have been put in place, notwithstanding the constraints and additional costs imposed on the parliament by the continuing developments surrounding the building.

Last year, Green Industries South Australia were engaged to carry out a site visit and audit for the parliament, which provided recommendations for better waste management practices, and regular follow-up meetings continue. Where possible, those recommendations have been implemented, together with other initiatives, and they include:

- a battery collection station has been in operation for almost 12 months;
- printer/toner cartridges collection and recycling is undertaken through Planet Ark;
- the collection of confidential paper bins with the material being recycled;
- recycled paper and cardboard bins are collected three times per week;
- light globes are collected by the preferred DPTI contractor and recycled;
- the replacement of all lighting with LED is almost 90 per cent complete;
- recyclable and container deposit cans, bottles and milk containers are collected by Scouts SA;
- negotiating for some products to be now delivered without plastic wrapping;
- energy saving technologies through the continual upgrade of the site's building management system;
- the recent installation of variable speed drives to both cooling towers, resulting in significant energy savings; and

- the trialling of BioBags to several locations, including the kitchen, dining areas and several offices; however, there have been issues with melting of the bags in the kitchen area.

Recycling and processing of our waste has been hampered by the loss of both the loading bay and access to Station Road. I advise that discussions are currently underway with DPTI concerning waste and cleaning contracts with a view to implementing full recycling in July 2021, subject to completion of the parliament's new purpose-built loading and waste disposal zone within the redeveloped car park, which will provide new possibilities both for collection within the building and from outside the building.

Question Time

STATE FINAL DEMAND

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Trade and Investment regarding statistics.

Leave granted.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: In December, the Australian Bureau of Statistics released the state final demand figures for the first quarter of the current financial year. South Australia had the worst results in the nation. Today, the figures have been released for the second quarter that cover the period before we were impacted by either bushfires or the coronavirus. My questions to the minister are:

1. What do the latest state final demand figures tell us about trade and investment in South Australia?
2. Can the minister explain how trade and investment figures are included in state final demand?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:21): I thank the honourable member for his question. Indeed, we have had some challenging times in South Australia over the last couple of years. The economy hasn't grown as quickly as we would have liked and a whole range of factors are included across South Australia.

Of course, drought has been a particularly significant impact across most of South Australia for two consecutive years. We have seen also other problems with some other industries. We have had Nyrstar in Port Pirie with some shutdowns and some problems, so the South Australian economy has suffered some headwinds.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: The figures that have been released today show, sadly, another bit of a deterioration on state final demand, but—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: I'm struggling to hear the minister. The opposition have asked a question. We would like an answer and we are getting one. I would like it in silence, please. Minister, continue—

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: You might have to table your iPad, Ridgy, if you are reading straight from it.

The PRESIDENT: Minister, just before you continue. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition, you have asked a question, let's hear the answer.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: I think it's down about 0.1 of a per cent in today's figures. It is disappointing, and of course we have the ongoing threats now. We have obviously had the bushfires, but certainly I think the coronavirus will continue to present some threats.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister, have you finished?

STATE FINAL DEMAND

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:23): Supplementary: the minister said what he thought the figures were. Can the minister confirm that state final demand for South Australia is down 0.1 of 1 per cent for the September 2019 to December 2019 quarter?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:23): That's the advice that I have received, yes.

STATE FINAL DEMAND

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:23): Supplementary arising from the original answer, where the minister talked about his view that we are down 0.1 per cent: can the minister advise how this compares against other jurisdictions, and can the minister advise whether any other jurisdiction has had two consecutive quarters of negative economic growth in that respect?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:24): I haven't reviewed all of the figures—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: —but it is disappointing that we have seen a contraction in the state's economy. It is a disappointment. There was a whole range of factors. I tried to explain earlier; members opposite weren't prepared to listen. Of course, as we go into these uncharted waters, I think we actually need to be cognisant of the fact that there's going to be some particularly tough economic times for South Australia and the rest of the nation. Members opposite like to be a bit flippant. These are very concerning times.

STATE FINAL DEMAND

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:24): Final supplementary: state final demand, which the minister claims is down 0.1 per cent this quarter; can the minister inform the chamber what state final demand actually measures?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:25): I don't have that information with me here at the moment.

STATE ECONOMY

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:25): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Trade and Investment regarding statistics.

The PRESIDENT: Is leave granted?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Just before you start, the Hon. Ms Scriven.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: On 8 March 2013, the now Premier released a media statement that said, 'ABS figures revealed South Australia's economy is in recession, with the economy going backwards for two consecutive quarters.' The ABS figures released today also show South Australia going backwards overall for the 2019 full calendar year. My question is: does the minister agree with the Premier's view that South Australia is in recession after going backwards for two consecutive quarters?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:26): I am not going to be verballed by the members opposite. As I said—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: When the opposition has finished we will hear an answer.

The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Okay. Minister.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: It is disappointing, the figures we have seen. The members opposite, the trouble is they don't get out to see some of the headwinds that this state has been suffering. Of course, we have had significant issues in regional South Australia. We have had some standout parts of the economy, such as tourism, international education, and wine exports have been particularly strong. But there is no shying away from the fact that we are facing some headwinds, as we have said. I think the Treasurer may have been quoted in an article today saying that we have got some challenging times ahead of us. Right now we are focused on doing what we can to continue to rebuild the South Australian economy.

STATE ECONOMY

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:27): Supplementary: can the minister advise what has gone so wrong that before the impact of coronavirus and before the impact of bushfires the state economy has gone backwards in the first full year of the Marshall Liberal government?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:27): There's a whole range of factors that could impact on that. The areas that I have been responsible—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The opposition will listen in silence. Minister.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Wortley, you know better.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: There is a whole range of factors. As the members opposite would know, I've been responsible for almost two years for tourism, which was at record highs. Members opposite know that I am responsible for trade and investment, and we have got particularly strong in particularly international education and some others, the exports: wine, copper, a number of them are at record highs.

Sadly, there have been some other aspects of the economy that haven't been performing as well as we would have liked. That is disappointing, as I said in my previous answer. Now we are focused on doing what we can to combat, obviously, impacts of the coronavirus going forward, which will be significant—we know that—and also making sure we can look to where we can get further investment in South Australia and capitalise on some of the natural advantages we have.

STATE ECONOMY

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:28): Supplementary arising from the answer: can the minister explain to the chamber what would constitute the South Australian economy being in recession?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:28): You can look at a whole range of statistics and factors in it, but in the end we are looking at the areas that we can continue to grow. At the end of the day, I am not going to stand in this place and be verbally by the members opposite to put words in my mouth.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: We know that state final demand fell by 0.1 of 1 per cent. We know that for a fact.

VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENT

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:29): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Trade and Investment regarding statistics.

Leave granted.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: Recent numbers from the Bureau of Statistics show that venture capital and private equity investment in firms headquartered in South Australia dropped by 40 per cent in the last financial year. This comes after the government took policies like GlobeLink

to the last election and promised to boost business confidence through a focus on entrepreneurship in schools and new visas. My question to the minister is: given that South Australian start-ups rely on venture capital funding, how would the minister rate the government's success in attracting new venture capital in South Australia?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:30): I thank the honourable member for her question. Of course, you only have to have a look at the excitement down at Lot Fourteen and the businesses that are coming in, the start-ups, the entrepreneurs who are there. I am confident that we will have continued investment in South Australia. There are some businesses—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. E.S. Bourke interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Bourke, do you want to answer your own question or would you like the minister to answer your question? Listen in silence. Minister.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: There is a range of things that are ongoing that the government is doing, that my department is doing, and we will have some exciting announcements over the coming weeks about great things that are happening in South Australia.

VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENT

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:31): I have a supplementary arising from the original answer. The minister has highlighted that he is very excited about the investment and opportunities in South Australia but can he highlight if he is concerned that the venture capital investment is drying up in South Australia?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:31): As I said, the members opposite like to highlight individual statistics. The information that we are getting—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Are we ready for the answer or do you want to answer it yourselves? Minister, continue please.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: They have highlighted some of the individual statistics. I am very confident that we will see a range of very exciting announcements made over the coming months by the government in relation to new investment in South Australia.

VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENT

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:31): Supplementary arising from the original answer: can the minister confirm what the venture capital has dropped to in South Australia from the last financial year?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:32): I will have to take that question on notice. I don't have those figures with me today.

VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENT

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:32): Further supplementary arising from the original answer: does the minister now think it was a mistake to axe Investment Attraction South Australia in 2018 after it attracted billions of dollars to South Australia?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:32): I thank the honourable member for her question. My advice after the election was that there was only one project that the Investment Attraction board put to the department. It was actually the department that did all the work and the vast majority of those good people are still doing that for South Australians.

VOLUNTEERS

The Hon. J.S. LEE (14:32): My question is to the Minister for Human Services about how the government is supporting our valuable volunteers. Can the minister please provide an update to the council about how the Marshall Liberal government has lowered costs for volunteers through free screening checks?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:32): I thank the honourable member for her question and acknowledge her interest and her good work, particularly amongst multicultural communities, where there are many volunteers who provide fantastic services to people in our community.

We know that South Australia has a strong heritage of volunteering. We have some 900,000 South Australians volunteering every year, which equates to 66 per cent of the population. The statistics are particularly high in regional South Australia, being some 56 per cent. Also, 45 per cent of respondents to the 2018 survey of volunteering volunteered formally with a local community organisation or group and 46 per cent volunteered on an informal basis; for example, child minding or helping a non-relative with yard or home maintenance.

Formal volunteering is very common particularly in the 35 to 54 age group, which I think is somewhat surprising. I think a lot of people assume that it's often recent retirees. We have a strategy in terms of young people as well and are very keen to ensure that young people are part of the volunteering strength of South Australia. It provides benefits for them in terms of gaining new skills, connections in the community and assisting them when they are formally applying for work.

So far, since the government has made screenings free for volunteers, which formerly was \$59.40, which was the highest cost in the country, we have saved volunteers in the community some \$3.4 million, and that has assisted individuals to put that funding towards other uses or take-up screening. Certainly, when the Premier and I met with some community groups at Little Athletics, we were advised that the free screening had allowed parents to become volunteers in other services as well. We have emergency services and charities and a whole range of organisations which are doing invaluable work.

In addition, for those clubs which formerly had to pay for those screenings, they are able to use that funding now towards purchasing equipment. It's provided some relief for them in terms of assisting them with their day-to-day operations. We are very grateful that the parliament did pass the legislation last year, which has enshrined free screening checks for volunteers in perpetuity, and long may that continue. Once again, I would like to acknowledge the honourable member for her very important work in this area.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The PRESIDENT: Just before I go to the Hon. Mr Pangallo, can I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of former member of the Legislative Council, Mario Feleppa.

Question Time

SA HEALTH WORKPLACE CULTURE

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (14:36): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Health and Wellbeing a question about SA Health's workplace culture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: An antibullying medical summit in Adelaide over the weekend was told that South Australia's health system has the worst workplace culture in the country and, worse still, it is putting lives at risk. Organised by the AMA, this summit, which was attended by dozens of the state's leading health officials, doctors, clinicians and other medical professionals, was told an AMA survey had found that throughout SA Health, the state's biggest government department, with more than 30,000 full-time staff, there were high rates of bullying and harassment, a poor hospital culture, fatigued doctors working long, unregulated hours that put patients and medicos at risk, and the Royal Adelaide Hospital was rated worst on almost all key measures such

as hours worked, workplace culture, professional development and abuse from colleagues. My questions to the minister are:

1. Are you shocked by the findings of the AMA survey?
2. Are you concerned the survey warned that lives are at risk due to the appalling workplace culture within SA Health?
3. What is the government going to do to address the findings of this survey?
4. Has your office seen or requested a copy of the survey's findings?

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:38): I thank the honourable member for his question. Just to clarify, I was at the summit. It was a pleasure to be there and to hear a range of presentations. The summit highlighted that the poor culture and bullying within SA Health is not a recent issue; it is a longstanding issue. This government is determined to address it.

In terms of the risk to patient safety, I think it would be obvious, some of the examples. For example, in relation to fatigue, obviously a health professional who is working long hours may be fatigued and, like any other worker, their clinical skills might be blunted by the fatigue. The other aspect highlighted at the summit, particularly by Dr Chris Moy, the president, was that disrespectful relationships between staff can actually inhibit patients getting the best care. He used an example on Saturday that I heard him use in the media as well, where a senior consultant basically slammed the door in the face—figuratively—of a clinician who was seeking a transfer from one ward to another. So respectful culture at every level in the organisation is very important.

The parliamentary occupational health and safety committee did an inquiry into bullying and fatigue, initiated, I understand, by one of the government members last year. I commend the committee for its work; it is being respected within the industry. I am looking forward to getting further briefings from the department in terms of their response. Also, in that context, I acknowledge the presence at the summit of Mr Stephen Patterson, the member for Morphett, who chairs that committee.

The other set of recommendations, if you like, that I am looking forward to receiving is from the summit itself. Dr Moy gave an undertaking to me and to the summit that he would forward the outcomes of the summit. I am looking forward to receiving that. The point I would make, and I know that Dr Moy shares this view, is that this is a shared venture. Many of the issues actually relate to medical professional to medical professional relationships. A number of them relate to management, which is within the purview of government, and of course the wider system issues.

Bullying and culture will only be transformed with a collaborative relationship. It has been a major focus of the KordaMentha initiative, it has been looked at by the parliamentary occupational health and safety committee, it has been commented on by the ICAC commissioner and the AMA provided the opportunity for the summit last weekend.

I would like to take the opportunity to publicly acknowledge the leadership of Dr Moy as President of the AMA and the AMA, as a whole, for the summit. It was a very interesting overview from a range of stakeholders with different perspectives on the culture and bullying issues, and I look forward to receiving the recommendations.

FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:41): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Trade and Investment regarding freight.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY: The official Liberal Party website provides information to the public who want to know more about the Liberal government team. The member for Heysen, Josh Teague, is reported to be the honorary consul for Sweden, and a great consul I'm sure he is. The website also states:

Josh is a strong supporter of the Marshall Liberal Team's GlobeLink plan. GlobeLink will provide businesses with the competitive advantage they need to get premium local products to international markets, while removing freight trains from the Adelaide Hills and reducing tracks on the South Eastern Freeway.

My question to the minister is: what exactly is 'the Marshall Liberal Team's GlobeLink plan' that the member for Heysen strongly supports? How many of the 100 trucks that were lined up on the South Eastern Freeway on Monday would have been off the road if GlobeLink had gone ahead?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:43): I thank the honourable member for his ongoing interest in freight movements in South Australia. Of course, members in this chamber would be well aware that one of the policies the Marshall Liberal government took to the election was to invest—I think it was a commitment of up to \$20 million—in the business case for a project called GlobeLink.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: The members opposite don't like it. They actually should have read the fine print where it said 'it is a business case'—which we did: we invested some money and we had a business case done for GlobeLink. As members would know, in the last couple of months it was released. My good friend and cabinet colleague the Hon. Stephan Knoll, the Minister for Planning, Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, released the final report to say that, at this point in time, it's not economically viable to do so.

I would also highlight the second part of the member's question about the 100 trucks that were queued up. That was after, I think, an unfortunate jackknife with a truckload of chickens, which was very unfortunate for the travelling public and, of course, for all the chickens involved in the accident. I saw the Freight Council and a number of other bodies then start talking about bypasses of heavy freight through the Hills, because this will be an issue as the freight movements—if members opposite listen in silence—we know are going to continue to grow.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: Clearly, the members opposite are not interested in listening to some information. All they want to do is continually interject and disrupt. While all of the time that they were in government—16 long, dark, hard years of Labor—every year the Freight Council would put out their projected increases in freight movements. We know the freight task is going to continue to grow. We have put a proposal. We said we would look at a business case. We have done that. Clearly, we have seen that, again, the public say that this is an issue for the South Eastern Freeway.

One accident and basically we had a blockage of 100 trucks queued up, a whole bunch of commuters. The community then have come out and said, 'What are the other options?' The government will continue to look at other options because the freight task will continue to grow. We know that it will continue to grow, and we will continue, as a government, to look at options to make that road flow more freely and to try to deal with the increased freight task. But it is clear that after 16 years Labor did nothing—not a single thing.

GLOBELINK

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:46): Supplementary: does the minister admit to this chamber now that in future anytime he releases a major policy leading to the next election we will all have to read the very fine print at the bottom of the page? Secondly, has the minister advised his Liberal Party colleagues that the GlobeLink policy was only ever to write a report and not to build any road, rail or airports?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:46): I don't know which state the honourable member lives in and which parliament he is a member of. It was very clear at the election that our commitment was to invest up to \$20 million in the business case for GlobeLink. We fulfilled that commitment.

GLOBELINK

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:46): Supplementary.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr Wortley has a further supplementary question.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY: I couldn't hear his answer.

The PRESIDENT: I couldn't hear you because of the Hon. Mr Hunter.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY: Has the minister advised his Liberal Party colleagues that the GlobeLink policy was only ever to write a report and not build any road, rail or airports?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:47): I don't know how much clearer I can be. The policy was to commission a business case. We said we would invest up to \$20 million to do an extensive business case. We did that, and the report was released about a month ago.

CORONAVIRUS

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (14:47): My question is for the Minister for Trade and Investment. Can the minister share how the government is supporting South Australian industry in responding to the challenges of the coronavirus?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Minister for Trade and Investment will answer the question and be heard in silence.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:48): Thank you for your protection, Mr President. The members opposite are very excitable today. I do thank the member for his ongoing interest in particularly this issue that is confronting us, which is coronavirus.

A number of our industries face significant global challenges in relation to coronavirus and particularly countries to try to contain the spread. Yesterday, I briefed the chamber in particular on how we are dealing with the rock lobster industry. A couple of weeks ago, I gave the chamber an update on the challenges facing international education. Today, I would like to share some further updates.

The situation is constantly evolving. The Department of Home Affairs has put travel warnings in place not to travel to China or Iran and to exercise a high degree of caution travelling to South Korea, Japan, Italy and Mongolia. Numerous airlines have scaled back their routes to South Australia and many major industrial conferences, both in South Australia and overseas, have been cancelled.

I know a number of tourist groups and study tours have been cancelled or postponed, including from countries other than China. They are Japan, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. Of course, these developments will affect our international visitation numbers.

An increasing number of companies are suspending international travel for their employees, having an aversion to large gatherings. We are seeing a flow-on effect to a number of major industry conferences and events being postponed to a later date. Notably, this includes the Festival of Australia, an event run by Austrade to promote Australian businesses in China. I can also advise that it has just been announced and confirmed that the AFL match between St Kilda and Port Power will no longer be played in Shanghai but will be played at Marvel Stadium.

Chinese seaports are open and largely functioning, but air freight is significantly disrupted, particularly affecting premium exports such as lobsters and others. Many factories are closed across China, which will impact both the supply chain of our importers and manufacturers as well as prices for key resource commodities. Despite this, it is great that we now have our trade offices on the ground, which are providing timely, intelligent advice to South Australian businesses in an ever-changing environment.

Of course, it has been widely publicised that there are difficulties for many of the Chinese international students in commencing their tertiary studies in time for the semester this year. Chinese

international students now make up 34 per cent of South Australia's international student numbers, down from 42 per cent two years ago, and the data released by the Department of Home Affairs on 1 February showed that we now have just a tick under 6,000 students due to start studying who are still offshore at this time.

In response, the Marshall government has been working closely with StudyAdelaide, the universities and our other affected educational institutions. We have met with accommodation providers and Chinese student leaders, and have convened special meetings of the Ministerial Advisory Council for International Education. All three South Australian public universities have set up direct communication lines with their Chinese student cohort and have been very proactive in supporting the students with alternative learning options, deferral of courses and flexibility with critical study dates, and I commend them for their diligence and immediate response.

We need to work together as a state in responding to the coronavirus, and it could be as simple as just supporting our Chinese community. I have also arranged a briefing—which she has had—for the Hon. Zoe Bettison in her capacity as shadow minister for trade and investment to update her on the effects of the coronavirus, and I continue to offer that briefing as an evergreen offer to make sure the opposition is fully briefed on developments with the coronavirus.

With the spread of coronavirus around the globe we expect these challenges to continue. The Marshall Liberal government will continue to work hand in hand with industry to respond decisively on all these impacts.

PUBLIC HOUSING ENERGY POLICY

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (14:51): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Human Services about energy policies for public housing.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL: Over the last few years an increasing number of public housing properties are being fitted with solar panels and batteries. That is a good thing and we look forward to more of it.

Last week, the Energy and Water Ombudsman, Mr Sandy Canale, reported a growing area of complaints to his office in relation to solar panel households whose systems would shut down during periods of low demand. This meant that households were being denied any feed-in tariff. In other words, unless they were at home and using the electricity generated from their solar panels themselves the power was effectively wasted, with no feed-in tariff being paid to the householder.

The other thing the Ombudsman reported was that about half of the so-called hardship customers were paying less off their debts than they were using in electricity, which meant their debt was continually rising. There were about 8,000 electricity customers in that category and the average debt was \$1,668. My questions are:

1. Is the minister confident that all public housing tenants with solar panels are getting full value for their systems; in other words, that they don't fall into that category of people whose inverters are shutting down during periods of low demand?
2. What steps is the government taking to arrest the growing energy debt being incurred by low income households, including those in public housing?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:53): I thank the honourable member for his question. Yes, he has identified that there is a specific program for public housing properties to install solar panels, which is a cost of living that is of particular concern for the government, particularly for low income households.

The commitment is that solar panels will be installed on 75 per cent of suitable Housing Authority properties. That, of course, is subject to the suitability of the property, which includes whether the building's physical structure can support the housing, the aspect of the roof and those sorts of issues.

The program will support the existing virtual power plant project, which involves a Tesla virtual power plant of solar and Powerwall home batteries. The phase 1 stage was the installation of

100 home energy systems to effectively have a trial so that we could test how well this works. That was expanded to a further 1,000 systems, which were all installed by December last year. We are in phase 3 now, which is based on the outcomes of those trials. We are looking at a further 3,000 systems. The Department for Energy and Mining is the lead agency for the program.

In relation to whether our Housing Trust clients are getting full value, I am not aware of those specific complaints being made about those systems. I will double-check with the authority as to whether there have been any issues raised. If there had been, then I imagine they would be raised with the Housing Authority because a lot of our tenants are obviously in fairly regular contact with the authority.

Given that it's a contract that's run through housing, it's quite closely kept with providers who the government would regard as legitimate. If anybody has gone through the exercise of looking up solar providers, there is a monte of providers out there and it's incumbent on individuals to do a lot of research because there is a huge number of providers who are all in the market at the moment. Clearly, ours is a control, but I will double-check that and provide more advice to the honourable member.

In relation to energy for low income households, there is the Origin deal, which provides 20 per cent of people's electricity. This is for people who are eligible for energy concessions. So people are provided with the energy concession and they are also eligible to switch to Origin as their provider, which will provide 20 per cent off their electricity and 11 per cent off their gas. These are all some of the ways in which we are trying to reduce cost-of-living expenses for low income households.

STATE FINAL DEMAND

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (14:56): My question is to the Minister for Trade and Investment. Can the minister outline the sectors of the economy that have contributed to what he claims is 0.1 per cent decline in state final demand? Secondly, what does the minister think are the best measure or indicators of trade and investment in South Australia?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:57): I thank the honourable member for her question. As I outlined earlier, the areas that have been doing particularly well in South Australia are some of the sectors—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: —from a tourism perspective. Certainly, some of our exports are doing well; some are not, unfortunately. Of course, state final demand is broadly a measure of spending in the domestic economy and a whole range of factors relate to that.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: Clearly, there are sectors that contribute to it, like the housing sector. There is a whole range of sectors, but the ones that I am directly responsible for as minister, from a trade and investment point of view, are exports, tourism, international education, some of the areas that have been doing particularly well.

The members opposite don't get out enough to realise that we have had a couple of particularly bad droughts. We have had problems and, of course, debt. We have had some grain grown, but most of it has not gone to export, it has gone interstate to other states, so it hasn't been measured as actual exports for the economy. There are a range of sectors that the Marshall Liberal government will look at. We need to continue to focus on growing our services sector.

Services are not a particularly large part of our economy, compared to some of the other states, and I think that's where the other states are bigger and more resilient—Victoria and New South Wales in particular—and that's an area that will have an ongoing focus for the government.

STATE FINAL DEMAND

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:58): A supplementary question, arising from the answer where the minister gave a definition of sorts of state final demand: does the minister stand by his claim earlier that it has contracted by 0.1 per cent for this second quarter?

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:58): My advice is that it has, and I also note that the real trend over the last 12 months is that it remains unchanged, the actual figure. So the economy, it's no shock to anyone to say that it is not travelling in a particularly positive direction.

As I said, the members opposite just don't get out enough to see that we have some particular problems in our economy, particularly in an economy that has a large focus on industries other than the services sector, which tend to be much more resilient in times like this. That's why, as I said in my previous answer, we are going to have an ongoing focus on growing the services sector of our economy.

MEDICAL CANNABIS

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (14:59): My question is directed to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the minister update the council on access to medical cannabis in South Australia?

The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:59): I thank the honourable member for his question. In public discussion of medicinal cannabis, it is sometimes said that medicinal cannabis is illegal in South Australia. Let me be very clear on that at the outset: access to prescribed medicinal cannabis in South Australia is legal, just as it is in other Australian jurisdictions, following the passage of commonwealth legislation in 2016.

The mechanism for approval for medicinal cannabis products is through the Therapeutic Goods Administration, just as for other pharmaceutical products. Currently in Australia there is only one medicinal cannabis medicine registered for use. There are, however, many unregistered medicinal cannabis products available in Australia through commonwealth-approved importers and suppliers.

Along with other Australian jurisdictions, South Australia works within a national framework. The framework includes the ability for Australians to make online applications for faster and streamlined approvals for medical practitioners to prescribe medicinal cannabis products. However, South Australia does lag behind other Australian jurisdictions in prescribing rates. We are well below the national proportion you would expect for our population.

The Marshall government acknowledges this slower take-up rate in South Australia. We believe that there is a range of factors affecting the decision to prescribe or not to prescribe. One of those is the relatively short time that medicinal cannabis products have been available, meaning that often GPs will not have access to the information which would allow them to confidently consider medicinal cannabis as a potential treatment option.

To this end, earlier this week SA Health wrote directly to GPs and GP representative organisations providing information and resources to help GPs educate themselves about medicinal cannabis. As well as links to the information already available on the SA Health website, the email includes links to online training modules available from both the AMA and the RACGP.

Any decision to consider medicinal cannabis as a treatment option is a matter for the patient and their medical practitioner, taking into consideration the patient's clinical information and the safety and efficacy of the product for the condition being treated. The final decision about patient access to medicinal cannabis must be made by clinicians, not politicians. I encourage general practitioners to make use of the material available to them to ensure that South Australians are able to access the potential benefits of medicinal cannabis.

SOLID WASTE LEVY

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:02): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Treasurer a question about the solid waste levy.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: On 1 January this year, as part of the budget, the solid waste levy increased from \$100 to \$140 a tonne—a significant hike that blindsided the waste industry. By 2022-23, that increase is expected to raise an additional \$25 million a year. The levy is collected by the Environment Protection Authority, which it transfers to another government agency, Green Industries South Australia, which is supposed to use the funds to reduce solid waste in South Australia, including to 'save money, protect the environment and stimulate industry development'.

This fund now has about \$100 million sitting in it—a level it has been at for the past four or five years. There are growing industry concerns the money is not being used for the purposes for which it is raised, and is being used to prop up the government's consolidated revenue. My questions to the Treasurer are:

1. Is the \$100 million fund managed by Green Industries SA being used to prop up the government's budget bottom line to make it look healthier than it actually is?
2. Have you directed the environment minister to transfer some of the funds raised via the solid waste levy to general revenue as an inter-government transfer?
3. Can you explain the reasoning for the significant hike in the minister's inter-government transfer from \$19 million in 2018-2019 to \$49.6 million in 2019-20 (a hike of \$30 million)?
4. Can you explain where that \$30 million is being redirected?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:04): I think the government nationally is now being lauded as a very green-friendly, environment-leading government, led by the Premier and the Minister for Environment. I will be very surprised if other governments, both Labor and Liberal, over the coming months in their coming budgets, don't follow the trailblazing lead of the Marshall Liberal government in relation to increasing the waste levy and driving environmentally friendly waste reduction policies.

The discussions I have had with other jurisdictions have very much demonstrated great interest in the trailblazing work of the Marshall Liberal government in this area. I think people are acknowledging that governments, both state and federal, must do more in terms of the environment and must do more in terms of reducing waste.

An important part of this is to drive important financial incentives, or economic imperatives, to industries to say, 'Okay, you need to invest, but you also need to be encouraged to invest more in waste reduction strategies.' The more we can do to prevent lazy organisations just seeking a cheap option to dump waste to landfill, with all the problems that creates for the environment and for South Australia, the better it will be. As I said, I will be surprised if we don't see other governments, both Labor and Liberal, nationally follow the trailblazing lead of the Marshall Liberal government in this particular area.

To be fair, I think the New South Wales government was the first government to significantly increase the waste levy. The Marshall government adopted similar policies in the budget to which the member has referred. The use of the fund has been largely governed by policy decisions taken by this parliament and initiated by the former Labor government. They were supported by the parliament and that allowed a wider use of those funds than just waste-related policies.

There were a range of new provisions written into the legislation by the former government. The Hon. Mr Hunter might correct me if I'm wrong, but he may or may not have been the minister responsible at the time. Certainly, it was a former Labor government minister who drove these particular changes to say, 'We need to use this funding not just for waste reduction but for more climate-friendly policies.' That was a decision taken by the former Labor government and this government has adopted exactly that.

The last budget made it quite clear that, with some of those climate change responses and policies that we were adopting, we are very proud to say that, unlike 16 years of inaction under the former Labor government, we are going to save West Beach and we are going to save Henley Beach. We are actually going to stop the destruction of those beaches, which should be the pride of South Australia, by using some of the funds that have been generated through these sorts of levies, which

under the legislation, on the advice of Crown law and others, we are entitled to use for these sorts of climate-friendly policies.

As I said, there may be some in this community—maybe even some in this parliament—who say, 'Blow West Beach. Blow Henley Beach. If it disappears, it just becomes bare rock pushing hard up against the road and against the surf lifesaving club down there and we're prepared to accept it.' Good luck to them. That was the policy adopted by the former Labor government. Every year, we would spend millions and millions of dollars transporting sand from the northern beaches down to West Beach to try to preserve it for a short period of time until the next storm came in and washed it all away again. We said, 'Enough of that. Let's have a long-term solution that involves a pipe and considerable expenditure.'

Over the forward estimates, some of this money to which the honourable member has referred, which is sitting in the fund at the moment, will be used to fund that sort of long-term thinking to resolve some of the issues. This government isn't about adopting a strategy to prop up the budget and pocket these sorts of funds. We are about trying to drive positive environmental policies, in relation to climate-friendly policies, in relation to waste reduction and all of those innovative areas that the Minister for Environment is better placed to talk about than I am, as a mere Treasurer, and our Premier, who is certainly very aware of these sorts of issues.

I will conclude by saying that I will be stunned if other states, both Labor and Liberal, don't follow the lead of New South Wales and South Australia in significantly increasing their waste levy.

SOLID WASTE LEVY

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:09): Supplementary arising out of the answer: Treasurer, you mentioned that there are other trailblazing initiatives and then you referred to the movement of sand from Semaphore to West Beach. This has been going on for years, as we know, though it has been trucked. In fact, your government—

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Pangallo, ask your supplementary question.

The Hon. R.I. Lucas interjecting:

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Well, it will be, but just a clarification—

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Pangallo—

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: I am just trying to clarify—

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Pangallo, I am sorry—

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Mr President, I'm trying to—

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Pangallo, I'm speaking, you are not. Ask your question. You don't get another opportunity to give another explanation.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Thank you, Mr President. Can the Treasurer please explain what these so-called trailblazing initiatives of the Marshall government are?

The Hon. S.G. Wade: It's a Dorothy.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:10): I thank the honourable member for another Dorothy Dixier in this particular area, but let me very quickly summarise again. It is not just the carting of the sand; that is what the former government did. There is a long-term solution to save both West Beach and Henley Beach, which involves a pipeline. So I won't go over that again. But there is a range of initiatives in relation to regional beaches, which are diverse in terms of the problems they have. Some of our beaches in some of our regional areas are suffering a problem of too much sand accumulating in their particular area and we are having to look at how we can actually assist in those areas. Others have got another problem, which is not enough sand. So there is a range of regional beaches that are also going to be funded in relation to it.

In relation to the other areas, I am aware of some very, very exciting opportunities that are being discussed at the moment which are being driven by the fact that it is now significantly more expensive to just dump waste into landfill. Councils and others are saying, 'Okay, rather than that,

maybe we should be looking at either ourselves or—I would hope perhaps—'joint venturing with private sector operators and others to say: what can we actually do to recycle some of this waste which previously was going into landfill, because now it's too expensive at \$140 to be just dumping into landfill? Can we actually spend the money and actually recycle and come up with some useful products?'

There are all sorts of exciting opportunities being developed. Minister Stephan Knoll only recently, together with minister Speirs I think, was waxing lyrical about a particular project in the north-south corridor precinct, which was using some recycled product as part of the product in the surface that was going to be used there. There are some exciting opportunities being discussed by private sector operators in saying, 'Okay, at this particular price, we think we can construct a plant which may well be able to recycle the plastics and other things which are just being dumped into landfill at the moment.'

What is driving them is saying: people are now talking to us, because of the \$140 just to dump waste into landfill. It is just money down the drain, if I can put it that way, or it is money being wasted. Why don't we look at what the business opportunity or the environmental opportunity or the economic opportunity might be, which might involve jobs, in actually recycling some of the stuff which is being just dumped into landfill at the moment? They are the sort of exciting opportunities which are being discussed, probably more specifically with people who have greater knowledge than I do as a mere Treasurer, but even as a mere Treasurer people have spoken to me and said, 'Hey, we are looking at opportunities. We are talking to minister Speirs and the environment department and other departments about these opportunities.'

The PRESIDENT: I call the Hon. Mr Ngo. Actually, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Government benches!

STATE FINAL DEMAND

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (15:13): My question is to the Treasurer. Given it was a major focus at a press conference the Treasurer held early today, can the Treasurer confirm that state final demand actually contracted by 0.2 per cent, not 0.1 per cent as has been claimed by some. Secondly, if that is the case, why didn't the Treasurer save his colleague from embarrassing himself numerous times today in the chamber?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:14): The *Hansard* record will show that the first reference to 0.1 was made by the Leader of the Opposition.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: Yes, it was. You go to the *Hansard*.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Lee.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Supplementary question arising from the answer.

The PRESIDENT: I'm sorry, but you really need to jump up a little bit quicker. I'm sorry. The Hon. Ms Lee.

CONCESSIONSSA

The Hon. J.S. LEE (15:14): My question is to the Minister for Human Services.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Sit down, the Hon. Ms Lee.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! You are wasting question time. The Leader of the Opposition, enough. The Hon. Ms Lee.

The Hon. J.S. LEE: My question is to the Minister for Human Services—

The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Ms Lee.

The Hon. J.S. LEE: My question is to the Minister for Human Services about government concessions. Can the minister please provide an update to the council about how the Marshall Liberal government is lowering costs and improving services for low income South Australians through ConcessionsSA?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (15:15): I thank the honourable member for her question. Of course, some of her thunder has been stolen by—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: —the Hon. Mark Parnell, who asked a question which also relates to some of these matters. I referred in my earlier response to the Hon. Mr Parnell about the Origin deal that is available to our energy concession recipients which will enable a potential combined usage reduction of up to \$585 from their annual energy bill.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: In addition, one of the—

The PRESIDENT: Minister, sit down for a moment, please. I am struggling to hear the minister give her comprehensive answer. Minister, please get to the nub of it so that we can move on.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: One of the new initiatives which we were very pleased to roll out, I think late last year, was our one-stop shop called Better Budgets, which provides all the information from across government in relation to all of the things that people can avail themselves of to assist them with their cost-of-living costs, including all of our concessions, in addition to things like sports vouchers and a range of other reductions which impact on household energy bills.

We were very pleased as part of all this to initiate some systems improvements as well in terms of the time it takes for people to apply for their concessions. It used to take a couple of months for them to come through but it now takes less than a week for them to be approved and then potentially applied. Better Budgets also has things like the emergency services levy and that sort of information.

The government also runs a range of programs with our non-government partners that include financial wellbeing and resilience programs, and there is a range of these. There is the Good Shepherd Microfinance program, which has been highly successful in terms of assisting people with no-interest loans. We have the Food Security Program, which many people would be familiar with, Foodbank, which provides a statewide service, and the Utilities Literacy Program.

A number of these programs come particularly through financial counsellors. When I was up in Peterborough last week the counsellors let people who come to them know about all of the state government concessions because sometimes people aren't aware of what's available to them. We are very pleased that these organisations are assisting people when they come to them for services so that they can access the range of discounts available to them through a range of concessions.

WOMBAT CULL

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:18): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Treasurer, representing the Premier, a question about the Premier's comments in the other place about the wombat population on the Yorke Peninsula.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: In question time today, the Premier informed the other place that the wombat population on the Yorke Peninsula numbered some 1,200 and were affected by mange. He claimed that this mange had been transferred to the dogs in the Point Pearce community and was the reason given for the cull of 200 wombats that has been approved by the Department for Environment and Water.

I note that, according to the Natural Resources' own website of the state government—naturalresources.sa.gov.au/northernandyorke—the southern hairy-nosed wombats are described as an endangered species. I also note that no scientist in this state has ever claimed that the number of 1,200 wombats populate that colony on the Yorke Peninsula. I note that where mange exists in wombats, where it has never been identified as existing on the Yorke Peninsula, but where it does exist in wombats, culling is in fact not the appropriate measure to take.

I imagine that the Premier is operating on information from the Aboriginal Lands Trust that the wombats have a brown tinge to them. I am informed by the Wombat Awareness Organisation that a brown tinge on a wombat means it is starving to death, that it is emaciated and dying slowly of starvation. I ask the Treasurer, representing the Premier, where on earth he got his facts that he misrepresented today in the other place on these wombats that are due to be killed?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:20): It won't surprise the honourable member, I am sure, to know that I am no expert on wombats of any particular variety. So I will take the honourable member's question on notice and refer her to the Premier and/or the Minister for Environment and bring back a comprehensive reply on wombats.

Matters of Interest

RADIO ITALIANA

The Hon. J.S. LEE (15:21): It is a great honour to rise today in parliament to congratulate Radio Italiana 531AM for its 45 years of outstanding service to our South Australian community. Forty-five years ago, on Monday 3 March 1975, Radio Italiana delivered its first program on air at 6pm in Italian language in South Australia. It was then known as Radio Paesano, and Enzo Dobrilla is believed to be the first Italian voice to be heard on air in Australia.

Yesterday, 3 March 2020, it was a privilege to be invited by Dr Antonio Cocchiario AM, on the actual day of its anniversary, to speak directly on air to convey our heartfelt congratulations to Radio Italiana on behalf of the Premier, the Hon. Steven Marshall, and the South Australian government on their significant milestone of 45 years. As a first-generation migrant myself, I witnessed firsthand the critical importance of multicultural media and the roles they play in connecting people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Australia is now a proud multicultural country, but it was not always the case. While we acknowledge that successive Australian governments had dismantled the White Australia Policy, we should be grateful that it was under the Fraser Liberal government that the immigration intake started to become more diverse and multicultural. For instance, some 200,000 Asian migrants came to Australia between 1975 and 1982, of whom 56,000 were Vietnamese refugees. During that period, the Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs was created and extensive assistance was given to resettlement and multiculturalism, including the establishment of the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS).

As a result of extensive post-World War II immigration to Australia, including campaigns by the Italian community, the federal government began to consider the need for ethnic broadcasting. Until 1970, radio stations were prevented by law from broadcasting in foreign languages for more than 2.5 hours per week. With this in mind, one can imagine the challenges that the Italian community and founding members of Radio Italiana had to go through in order to deliver its first transmission in 1975.

The launch of the first Italian broadcast in 1975 was a momentous occasion. It is my privilege to acknowledge the vision and determination of the Italian community of South Australia for having the foresight and leadership to produce the Italian radio programs.

Radio Italiana has come a long way since transmitting from the homes of volunteers in 1975. From humble beginnings, when initial programs were produced around a table at Luciano Barteletti's home, the production was then transferred to the 5UV studios. Today, it proudly has its own premises, reaching over 90,000 listeners of Italian heritage across metropolitan and regional South Australia. I wish to pay tribute to those early pioneers and dedicated volunteers who laid the foundations for this success and whose legacy continues to make a difference today.

My sincere thanks go to the current president, Mr Mario Romaldi; the patron and immediate past president, Commodore Don Totino OAM; and all the board members, staff and volunteers for their strong leadership, tireless efforts and dedication to promoting Italian culture and language over our airways.

In addition to broadcasting, Radio Italiana has also carried out many humanitarian and philanthropic projects. A leading example is the compassion and generosity shown by Radio Italiana in their support of communities affected by the devastating bushfires across our state. Through a successful radiothon campaign and a bushfire fundraising dinner held on 22 January, Radio Italiana contributed over \$50,000 towards the SA Bushfire Appeal. I was very pleased to represent the Premier at that fundraising dinner, and I was joined by the Hon. Vincent Tarzia.

I congratulate Radio Italiana on their 45th anniversary and thank them for their outstanding contributions in enriching our South Australian multicultural state. I very much look forward to attending the gala celebration later this year.

COUNTRY PRESS SA AWARDS

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (15:26): I have been a sponsor of the Country Press SA Awards since 2002. During last Friday night's 2019 awards dinner at Glenelg, I was pleased to present my award of Best Community Profile to *The Border Watch*. I also represented Premier Steven Marshall in presenting the South Australian government award for Best Road Safety Reporting, also won by *The Border Watch*. It was a great night for the Mount Gambier paper, which also took out the category of best newspaper with a circulation of over 4,000, while the Millicent-based *The South Eastern Times* won the award for paper with a circulation of under 4,000.

I acknowledge the presence of the President and the Hon. Emily Bourke at the awards dinner, as well that of numerous lower house MPs, both federal and state. *The Border Watch* also took out the awards for Best Advertising Feature, Best House Advertisement, Best Sports Photograph and the Excellence in Journalism Award, which was won by Sandra Morello.

The Leader at Angaston won the following categories: Best Front Page, Best Advertisement (Image/Branding) and Best Supplement. *The Courier* at Mount Barker took out the awards for Best News Photograph and Best Photograph. *The Bunyip* at Gawler was successful in the categories of Best Advertisement (Priced Product), Best Headline and the Young Journalist of the Year award, which went to Sam Bradbrook. The Best Sports Story award went to *The Pennant* at Penola, while the award for editorial writing was won by *The South Eastern Times*.

As I said, I have been involved with Country Press SA for a very long time, even going back well before I came to this place, when I was doing some part-time writing for *The Bunyip* back in the eighties, or it might even have been a bit earlier. The then editor nominated one of my efforts for a Country Press SA award. Needless to say, I did not win anything, but that probably started my interest in and association with this organisation, which represents the network of very good country newspapers that we are blessed with in this state.

Can I indicate particular thanks to Mr Darren Robinson, who is the President of Country Press SA; Mr Ian Osterman, a past president who was the emcee for the evening; Mr Trevor McAuliffe, the long-serving executive officer for Country Press SA; and my own particular thanks to Paul Starick from *The Advertiser*, who for the second year in a row was the judge of my award. I think, like any of these organisations that put on events like this, they rely very much on the voluntary efforts of judges but also the generous support of many sponsors.

It was also good to see great representation from country newspapers from Gippsland, Narrabri, Country Press Australia and also Country Press Victoria in supporting their colleagues in this state because, as we all understand, newspapers in any sense and particularly in the country

areas are under some pressure from other electronic forms in this day and age. However, I think most of us are aware of the great efforts that those country papers put in to provide news to their local communities. They have people who live and work in their communities and so they have a great feel for the things that are important to them. With those few words, I commend once again Country Press SA to the council as a great organisation within South Australia.

SEEDS OF AFFINITY

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (15:31): Last week, the members for Hurtle Vale and Port Adelaide and I met with women from Seeds of Affinity. The women talked about their programs and the lack of government support vulnerable women receive. I welcome women from Seeds of Affinity who have joined us in the gallery today. The rate of imprisonment for women, particularly Aboriginal women, continues to grow at an alarming rate. Criminalised and imprisoned women are amongst the most vulnerable in our community. We in this place have a duty to improve women's transition out of prison and into a successful life of the woman's choosing.

There are many factors that lead women to become imprisoned, and each case is unique. Linda Fisk is the co-founder of Seeds of Affinity. Her childhood was difficult. She grew up in an alcoholic and violent environment. Her own experiences led to an early life of drugs, crime and imprisonment. In this context, Linda and her parole officer, Anna Kemp, created Seeds of Affinity. They recognised the gap in support services for women both in prison and trying to leave prison.

Linda's personal experience transitioning out of gaol and Anna's role in assisting those coming out of gaol have framed Seeds of Affinity's programs. Recognising that every woman's experience is different, Seeds of Affinity try to cater to individuals. They offer a combination of community group activities and social enterprise projects to actively engage criminalised women as both providers and recipients of support.

The programs run by Seeds of Affinity offer a safe and supportive space for women to talk about their experiences, meet new people and build a sense of community. Over the past 12 years Seeds has been conducting workshops and information sessions inside the Adelaide Women's Prison, supported individuals both pre- and post-release, provided community education, produced literature and training manuals and created prison toiletry packs.

It is incredible to think that Seeds of Affinity has been able to achieve so much with such little funding. It shows the resilience of these women and their drive to assist those who want to create a better life. Seeds of Affinity rely on donations, volunteers and their social enterprise to operate. New women are encouraged to participate in the social enterprise. Women make products such as toiletries and baked goods. By participating in these activities, women experience working alongside people in a cooperative environment. This assists with the social and emotional wellbeing of prisoners. From participating in this social enterprise, women not only build a sense of belonging but also skills that prepare them for bigger tasks.

Every participant within Seeds of Affinity's programs has a reduced rate of offending and many have not reoffended since their involvement with the organisation. Women's recidivism rate in Australia is 50 to 60 per cent within two years of release. In sharp contrast, Seeds of Affinity has a success rate much higher than this: seven out of 10 women involved between 2006 and 2015 have remained out of prison for more than five years.

Linda once said in an interview that prison is not how we improve the lives of women, that that can only happen in the community. Many of the women involved with Seeds programs continue to engage with the community and have returned to Seeds of Affinity for support when they felt at risk. Women have gone on to regain custody of their children, secure housing and employment or engage with further education and training. Some have even taken on leadership roles within the organisation, strengthening the organisation's reach to more vulnerable women.

Recently the 'Reducing Reoffending: 10% by 2020' report had bipartisan support. It recognised that women leaving prison require a targeted, tailored response if they are to successfully return to and stay in the community. However, in South Australia there are currently no funding organisations that provide that service. We have a responsibility to highlight this gap in the system and to create opportunities for women who want to be part of our community. When women are

encouraged to share their own strategies and participate in organisations such as Seeds of Affinity they become empowered.

WOMBAT CULL

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:36): I rise to discuss wombats and World Wildlife Day. Yesterday was World Wildlife Day, and our Minister for Environment and Water posted on his Facebook page a lovely message that I wholly endorse. It is headed, 'World Wildlife Day', and has pictures of various fauna and flora. The post reads:

It is such an important time to protect and care for our beautiful natural environment. Show your support by donating to the Wildlife Recovery Fund. All money raised will go towards re-establishing habitat for wildlife in South Australia's bushfire affected landscape. Donate here:

It had a link to the Wildlife Recovery Fund and a picture of a kangaroo. The irony was not lost on the Wombat Awareness Organisation, which posted that message from the minister, urging supporters who were opposed to a cull of 200 wombats on the Yorke Peninsula to let the minister know what they thought.

I watched with great interest last night as that page received dozens of messages and feedback for the minister about the decision of his department to cull 200 wombats. It grew quite quickly over the course of the night, and it was near 50 or so before I went to bed. When I woke up this morning there were 457 messages recorded, but not a single one of them, in the past 10 hours while I had been asleep and not looking at my Facebook page, were visible. A few hours later the minister's department, or the minister himself, deleted not just the Facebook post but the page entirely. I suspect those 457 plus messages were not to his liking.

Indeed, the approval of a permit to cull 200 southern hairy-nosed wombats is not only not to the South Australian community's liking, it has also raised serious international concerns. According to the letter of the law, killing wombats is actually taken as serious business in this state, so serious that we have a maximum penalty for destroying a southern hairy-nosed wombat without a permit set at \$2,500 or six months' imprisonment, with the court's jurisdiction to impose additional penalties if more than one animal is involved. In the place where the permit for a cull has been approved, there were six wombats found dead, shot, but no action was taken. Now we have approval from this department for a cull of 200.

The decision of the department needs to be made on various impacts, including environmental, ecological, economic and social. DEW also needs to be satisfied that the application for a destruction permit is focused on minimising adverse impacts rather than reducing populations. It also provides that whoever applies for such a cull permit needs to demonstrate that a range of nonlethal and humane management techniques have been put into action and their effectiveness evaluated and that the proposed culling techniques comply with the appropriate code of practice. That code of practice, of course, requires that an adult wombat is shot in the head and a baby wombat is decapitated. It is, in fact, breeding season so, of those 200 wombats due to be shot, many may well be decapitated as they are joeys.

This approval has not only caused ire on Facebook but local elders—including Quentin Agius, who is an Adjahdura traditional owner as well as a Narungga and Ngadjuri elder—have been so concerned that they have spoken out in the media. Indeed, Mr Agius has put out a press release that has been incredibly critical and condemning of this move. He has also stated that he was not consulted. In the past 24 to 36 hours, traditional owners, locals, Narungga people have expressed their concerns directly to me and my office, saying that they were similarly not consulted.

Today, in the other place, the Premier claimed—and these had certainly been the rumours that I had heard—that the wombats were to be culled because they had mange and it was being distributed to the dogs in that community. Mange is not a reason to cull wombats. The community was not consulted. The minister needs to withdraw the permit that his department has authorised to kill 200 wombats and then maybe he can turn his Facebook page on again and celebrate World Wildlife Day.

SCHOOLGIRL ASSAULT

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:41): Back in February, South Australians were shocked and disturbed by a video posted on social media of the brutal bashing of a 13-year-old Adelaide school student named Maddy by two other girls at her school. Maddy suffered horrendous injuries that required hospitalisation for facial surgery to her damaged jaw and teeth. She now has to have extensive endodontist dental treatments for the next five years to ensure she is able to have three, possibly four, dental implants fitted.

There was the expected outpouring of rage from our community in the media and, of course, the obligatory late reaction from the education minister, the Hon. John Gardner, and his department. I am bewildered and disappointed to report that the minister, his department and the school have badly failed Maddy. When firm and decisive action was needed, their appalling lack of inaction sends a poor message to our community about the tolerance level of bullying in our school system, which is endemic.

One of the bullies who attacked Maddy has since pleaded guilty to the assault in the Adelaide Youth Court. However, this matter is far from over. Maddy is unable to attend school. Today, I received an alarming email from Maddy's mother. Let me read some of it, and I quote:

I write to you out of complete desperation and exhaustion.

The people who filmed the assault are still at school without consequence, the large group who went with the attackers are still at school without consequence, the other kids in the group who made threats of beatings are still at school without consequence—despite us bringing it to the school's attention the day before the attack.

My child was entitled to a safe education and that was her right. The school told me she would be safe. They knew exactly what these kids were capable of and they ignored the threats. Where does my child go to school now if she can't return.

Her letter continues, but you get her concerns. Yesterday, on Leon Byner's FIVEaa radio program, former DPP Stephen Pallaras QC said he was in disbelief when he learned of Maddy's plight from her mother. He also said the school had called her a few times but had not offered or given counselling to Maddy and her family, even though it had been requested. The school also refuses to communicate in writing. The education department? Well, it has not made any contact whatsoever. Why not, I ask?

The local federal member, Tony Zappia, and local state member, Dana Wortley, have written to the minister. No response. Appalling but not surprising. Federal Liberal Senator Alex Antic also promised to get answers from the minister. Again, nothing. Respected psychologist Michael Carr-Gregg believes Maddy appears to have been victimised twice—once by the school bullies and then by the inept system that should be protecting her, ensuring her education continues unhindered in a safe environment. I am totally disgusted at the manner in which this has been handled, and our community should be horrified.

Last year, we passed Mr Gardner's Education and Children's Services Act, which gives schools and the department wideranging powers to deal with these types of obnoxious and antisocial behaviours. Among them, a school can move a child to another if there are concerns about the health, welfare and safety of students and staff. Clearly, this has not happened.

Principals can also exclude students for the rest of the school term if the principal believes there are reasonable grounds that a student has threatened or perpetrated violence. The principal can also expel a student in instances like this. Has this happened? No. Remember, one student has pleaded guilty to the assault. The department and schools have a responsibility in ensuring the safety and welfare of students who go to school every day. This is not happening.

I suspect they are afraid or intimidated because there is also a race issue here, as the bullies are Aboriginal. Race or colour should not be an issue. Last night, I bumped into minister Gardner as he was leaving parliament. He had no idea this matter had been widely discussed on the leading radio program in its timeslot and heard across the state.

The minister needs to take a good, hard look at himself and his department and question his highly paid advisers about the way this has been mishandled. They might consider this a one-off

type of incident, but it is not because they continue to happen and are mismanaged. In the meantime, Maddy faces ongoing medical costs and psychological issues. Who is going to meet them?

VIETNAMESE BUDDHIST CONGREGATION KANGAROO ISLAND VISIT

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:46): Many in this chamber and in the other place have spoken about the recent tragic bushfires and devastating losses on Kangaroo Island. Lives were lost, houses were lost, and vehicles, livestock, native animals, pets, farms and forests gone. I expect more destruction would have occurred if not for the island's fearless firefighters.

During these fires, I understand that large CFS trucks could not reach some of the island's fire-impacted areas so volunteers, risking their own safety, used their small and relatively agile fire units to extinguish blazes, saving lives and property. I understand many of the volunteer firefighters are farmers, battling wildfires with their own farm fire units and their personal vehicles, usually small utilities equipped with water tanks. Each farmer pays for their unit's fuel and equipment as well as maintenance and repairs.

In the shadow of these fires, I was honoured to join 75 members of the Unified Vietnamese Buddhist Congregation of Australia and New Zealand visiting Kangaroo Island. The congregation, having raised over \$390,000 from Buddhist members and temples, is assisting fire-ravaged communities around Australia. After learning of Kangaroo Island's devastation, it wanted to help. Local member for Mawson, Mr Leon Bignell MP, who is working tirelessly to support the KI community, told the congregation about these volunteer farmer firefighters with their 200 or so fire units. Moved by this knowledge, on Monday 24 February, the congregation donated \$55,500 to subsidise repairs and maintenance to farm fire units at six island motor mechanics.

Now, hardworking firefighting volunteers may access a \$300 payment to help meet servicing and repair costs. We expect about 185 volunteer firefighting vehicles to be serviced through this donation. The congregation's visit also helped Kangaroo Island's economy, booking out local eateries, buying KI products and taking the ferry. However, perhaps more importantly, the congregation gave islanders hope and lifted spirits. As a Vietnamese Australian, the support given by the congregation fills me with pride. Seeing other Vietnamese people extend their arms to help others during such a difficult time for our country reciprocates the kindness we received as refugees arriving in Australia.

Once a refugee, I wholeheartedly understand and appreciate why many migrants seek to repay Australia's generosity in welcoming us. Our gratitude is also understood by our next generation born here, on this occasion exemplified by over 20 young dancers from the popular Phap Hoa Lion Dance group. The troupe performed spectacularly on KI after the congregation held a prayer ceremony for locals. These amazing young people contributed \$5,500 from their troupe savings to the donation.

I was proud to be part of this special occasion and I thank everyone involved. I especially thank the firefighters and volunteers who worked so hard during the over 40 days of blazes and the clean-up; the 75 Vietnamese Buddhist monks, nuns and followers who visited KI; Senior Venerable Thich Nguyen Tang from the Quang Duc Monastery in Victoria; and Senior Venerable Thich Vien Tri and Ms Lan Nguyen from Phap Hoa Vietnamese Buddhist Temple for their dedication, passion and support in driving this initiative.

Lastly, I will share a message of thanks from a KI business, demonstrating the impact of the congregation's visit. I quote:

Josh and I are still so warm with love and with tears of joy after today. Thank you. We lost everything on 3rd Jan and after today you have helped us to realise we have lost nothing but gained everything. You have today made our very difficult time so much easier and today was just magical and you have all helped us to focus on what is important... love, balance and the blessing of incredible support and people plus two very special and adorable lions. From the bottom of our hearts. Lucy and Josh.

Time expired.

GENERAL MOTORS HOLDEN

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:51): I rise today to speak about the closure of Holden's in Australia. Holden itself has a history deeply rooted in Australian, and of course South Australian,

culture. As I am sure it has for many people in this place and those listening today or watching on the video feed, the closure has caused great sadness in our community.

Over the years, this Australian car maker has manufactured many vehicles that have become highly recognised throughout the country. Their story is one of Australian success and started way back in 1856 when James Holden opened the Holden Saddlery, which was a manufacturer of horse saddles, harnesses and equipment. When his son took over the business in 1887, they focused more heavily on vehicles. This was the birth of Holden as we know it today. The famous Holden lion and stone badge was created in 1928, when sculptor George Rayner was hired to create the logo. Prior to this, the Holden logo was actually a winged worker who was kneeling in front of the factory.

Car manufacturing in Australia provided working opportunities for those coming to the country in the waves of post-Second World War immigration. In 1948, Holden manufactured the FX 48-215. This is widely known as the first car made in Australia and for Australia. At the time it was released there were major celebration events in capital cities right around the country, with the car on display as it did a tour of the nation. It was a time when the car you drove was almost a symbol of the value system you had and said a lot about who you were.

One of the more memorable television commercials throughout the 1970s featured the Holden as a hallmark of Australian culture, along with 'football, meat pies and kangaroos'. I am sure members remember that or, if they are not quite old enough to remember that, would be aware of it at least. After many years of success, it was with great sadness that in 2017 Holden's Elizabeth manufacturing plant in Adelaide was shut down. This was the end of the Australian production line for the Holden brand and, as we all know, the manufacturing industry for vehicles closed shortly thereafter.

The global financial crisis impacted many different businesses and Holden was, unfortunately, no exception. Its parent company, General Motors, was unable to support extensive new investment into the brand and, regrettably, the company became unprofitable. The loss of over 1,000 jobs made an impact in the state, as I am sure the end of Holden now will affect those who were directly employed at the facility the hardest.

Although this loss is challenging not only for South Australians but for Australians who have followed the brand closely, the success of the Australian business over the last few decades must be celebrated and certainly remembered.

The recent Superloop racing car event held in Adelaide has marked the end of an era for Australian car racing fans as well. One of the primary rivalries in the sport is the competition between Holden and Ford that they put themselves through on the track each and every Supercar race. It is the end of the Aussie versus Aussie, so to speak.

I have a nostalgic feeling when I think about the brand itself. One of my very first cars was a Holden, as I am sure it was for many other members here. My brother worked for over 20 years at the Holden factory at Elizabeth. I was a proud Holden owner in an era when most people had either a Ford or a Holden, as I was growing up. I even had when I was in high school—and members may shudder when they think of this—one of those Holden jackets that were very popular in the 1980s.

The brand became an integral part of so many lives in South Australia and it is now ingrained in our history. Although it was in part the distinctive design elements that created the brand, it was also the fact that we were loyal to the Australian brand: the fact that it was an Australian brand created its own following. Its long history defined the company and created this loyalty to the product they produced for so long.

It was an excellent car, particularly the later models, in my experience. I had a number of the later model Commodores over the years and found them to be excellent cars. It was a tribute to Australian manufacturing and it is indeed a tragedy that the brand will no longer be made here in Australia.

*Bills***AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (PUBLIC ACCESS) BILL***Introduction and First Reading*

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:58): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to require the installation and registration of automated external defibrillators in certain buildings, facilities and vehicles and for other purposes. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:00): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I rise today to introduce my private member's bill, the Automated External Defibrillators (Public Access) Bill 2020, which I introduced last year on World Restart A Heart Day. The bill is aimed at saving the lives of over 2,000 South Australians and potentially thousands of people visiting our great state each and every year.

For many South Australians, when we think of threats to our lives we are most likely to think of bushfires—days like we have recently experienced in the Adelaide Hills and on Kangaroo Island, and the terrifying Ash Wednesday fires in 1983. I am sure our fire prevention and protection responses will be thoroughly reviewed at a national and state level following the catastrophic bushfires we have experienced in South Australia this summer, and I look forward to the parliament acting on the recommendations and reforms forthcoming from those inquiries.

Fire protection laws which passed in the 1990s have, for many years, required that buildings and community facilities have fire equipment like smoke detectors, automatic sprinklers, fire extinguishers and appropriate training to stop the outbreak and spread of fire. These laws have no doubt stopped, to a large degree, lives being lost, although, of course, one life being lost to a fire is one life too many. Deaths from fires are too high, with an average of 10 people per year losing their lives from a fire, but parliament, to its credit, saw the threat and did something about it so that today fewer South Australians are dying from fire than they were a decade ago.

However, there is another threat to life in South Australia that we have not addressed in any systematic or strategic manner, not just in South Australia but nationally, as I believe this is the first legislation of its kind in Australia. Not a week passes by when I happen upon incidents involving heart attacks. They are either life saving, life changing or sadly, in so many cases, life ending, when they could have been avoidable if help or equipment was readily available.

One of the most recent and uplifting stories of survival against the odds was the collapse from cardiac arrest of Greg Page, the famous yellow Wiggle, while he was performing on stage in front of his adoring young fans on 17 January for bushfire relief at the Castle Hill RSL. Lucky for Greg, quick-thinking nurse Grace Jones was on hand in the audience. She immediately recognised that he was in trouble. He had no pulse and no sign of breathing. His heart was in a non-productive rhythm condition known as ventricular fibrillation. She rushed to his side, performed CPR and applied an AED that happened to be there, shocking his heart back into a normal rhythm. It saved his life.

Greg says that he is eternally grateful to the people who stepped up and used their training and skills to save his life: Grace, Kim Antonelli, Steve Pace and Therese Wales. He has now resolved to learn CPR too. He also says that it has brought to light the importance of the availability of AED machines in public places, workplaces and potentially in homes, which my bill intends to do, and more. Let me quote Greg:

These machines should be as readily available as fire extinguishers, fire blankets and smoke detectors...as is the case with all these other preventative measures...It's hoped that they're never needed, but with more awareness and more availability of these life-saving practices throughout our community we can all rest assured that many more lives can be saved, just as mine was. And for that, I'm eternally grateful.

I reached out to Greg recently to inform him of this bill and my desire that this legislation be adopted in other states. He was unable to make it here today; however, he is extremely supportive and I will soon travel to Sydney to catch up with him and discuss an awareness campaign I wish to roll out to all MPs in all our parliaments.

Another amazing survival story I would like to share with you all today is that of one of my journalist colleagues, whom I am sure you have either met or whose fine work you have read in *The Advertiser*, Miles Kemp, one of the paper's most senior staff, who is married to a family friend of ours and former MP and Labor government minister, Grace Portolesi. Miles was travelling on a bus one night in January. He overshot his intended stop and, as he alighted at the Paradise Interchange, collapsed from a suspected cardiac arrest. Two passers-by sought help from a security guard at the interchange. Thankfully, the former Czech soldier knew how to perform CPR. He worked on Miles for a good eight minutes before an ambulance arrived. They worked hard to resuscitate him using CPR and then bursts of an AED.

Grace told me Miles's heart had stopped beating for nearly 20 minutes and that it was touch and go whether he would make it. He did make it and, incredibly, in one of those rare instances, Miles suffered no major heart or brain damage, although his journalistic colleague and mate, Caleb Bond, jokingly questions that. I visited Miles in the Royal Adelaide Hospital, where I also met his charming and relieved mum. He recounted his good fortune in having a good Samaritan on hand and the brilliant efforts of the ambulance crew and, of course, the cardiac specialists at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. He has recovered and is back on the beat.

Time is vital in situations like this. The sooner someone is treated with a defibrillator the greater the chance of survival. For every minute treatment is delayed, the chance of recovery is reduced by 10 per cent. This bill also aims to have these devices fitted on public transport and at major interchanges. I was also made aware of a recent news item on Channel 9 about a courier van driver who had crashed his vehicle after a hard episode and was saved only because of a passing motorist who carried an AED in his car. I intend having one in my car. I have also raised the matter with the South Australian Taxi Council. Imagine having a network of 1,000 plus AEDs on our roads, much like they do in Singapore.

I would also like to acknowledge the presence here today of Lisa Kelly and her courageous daughter, Mandy, who are with us. Lisa is with an organisation known as Australian Hearts, a strong advocate body for AEDs in our community. I first met Lisa when she flew in from Sydney on the day I introduced the bill last year. She too has a compelling but heartbreaking backstory. Her 39-year-old husband, Brent, was exercising in Sydney's north-west with Mandy in 2017 when he suffered cardiac arrest. Had an AED been available in the park, Brent may well have been saved. Lisa has now made it her life's mission to get as many AEDs in the community as possible.

After making a plea in an email to radio announcer Ray Hadley in 2018, Mr Hadley lobbied the New South Wales government to commit \$4 million over four years to help grassroots sports clubs purchase the devices. More than 430 defibrillators are being rolled out across New South Wales in the first round of the program. Lisa invited me to speak at the Australian Hearts Under the Stars gala fundraiser in Sydney last November, where I met Lisa's delightful kids—Mandy, Byron, Georgie and Joel—along with members of her wonderful and supportive family, board members of Australian Hearts, Associate Professor Jamie Vandenberg of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and former New South Wales premier Nick Greiner.

While in Sydney, I also spoke with an Officeworks manager, originally from South Australia, who proudly informed me that the company had rolled out nearly 150 AEDs in their New South Wales stores. Their parent company, Coles, is doing likewise in its supermarkets. A rising number of businesses seem to be recognising the value of having these devices in public places. However, we do need to encourage more to follow suit.

Mandy delivered such a heart-wrenching yet eloquent speech about the last hours she spent with her loving dad and how she desperately sought help from nearby strangers to save him. She spoke of how she held his hand to tell him how much he was loved by his family, while waiting for what Mandy says was an eternity for the ambulance to arrive. They applied an AED and rushed him to hospital. Mandy felt like this was a surreal dream. She never once thought that her fit and energetic dad would die. Mandy demonstrated enormous courage and maturity on that day in 2017. With her distraught grandfather she had to break the news to her siblings and other family members. Brent would be so proud of her as well as of his wife, Lisa, who works tirelessly in building his lifesaving legacy, the Brent Kelly Foundation.

In undertaking a wideranging consultation to develop this bill, I had the pleasure of meeting with a number of heart attack survivors who owe their lives to AEDs—people such as Daniel Lowe, who is also in the chamber today, who learned firsthand the difference it makes when there is an AED nearby. The Onkaparinga Hills father of three, aged 39, owes his life to an AED and to those who acted quickly to use it. Dan collapsed and died for 12½ minutes while doing a workout at Orangetheory Fitness in Hawthorn three years ago. In a lifesaving move, the gym had invested in an AED. With the help of four other gym goers, whom Dan calls his angels, the HR specialist survived. I met with Dan recently and he very succinctly articulated what happened. He said:

I wouldn't be here today without the defibrillator, and the heroic efforts of my angels, I would have died there and then—it's as simple as that. It turned out that I had an electrical defect of my heart, which I was totally unaware of at the time. I was at my gym doing a regular workout. Without any warning signs, I collapsed and 'died' for 12.5 minutes before being brought back to life. I don't remember anything about it—but I know I wouldn't be here if not for the gym having an AED—and my wife would be a widow and my children wouldn't have a father.

These are just some of the stories of joy and despair wrought by heart attacks. It is incredible to realise that we can do something so worthwhile in our community and at such small cost. The Council of Ambulance Authorities informs me that more than 30,000 people suffer cardiac arrest in Australia each year. Cardiac arrest kills an estimated 2,045 South Australians of all ages and fitness levels every year. Tragically, less than 10 per cent of those struck down manage to survive.

Why do we just accept these deaths? It is possibly because we do not think there is anything we can do about it. Partly, it is because we have had an ad hoc approach to the provision of automated external defibrillators—AEDs, as they are more commonly known—relying on one-off grant programs, the fundraising efforts of sporting clubs and other voluntary organisations, a patchwork of local government and industry initiatives and other well-meaning but inadequate efforts to try to get AEDs into locations where they have been shown to be needed and wanting.

I will give some credit to the state government, which provides a grant to local sporting clubs to purchase a defibrillator through the Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing's Active Club Program. However, I was disturbed to find out that during the latest round of the Active Club Program, few, if any, clubs applied for such funding for an AED. I am pleased to say there is something more strategic and effective that we can do about it and it is surprisingly simple: it is making AEDs widely accessible.

As I have pointed out, AEDs are proven lifesavers. It has been proven that the availability of an AED can dramatically lift survival rates for people who suffer cardiac arrests from 10 per cent to 70 per cent, an incredible statistic. St John Ambulance tells me that if someone has a sudden cardiac arrest right here in this chamber—heaven forbid—and we are able to get an AED onto that person within a minute, the chance of survival is 90 per cent, especially if it is combined with CPR, what is called the 'chain of survival'. But for every minute defibrillation is delayed, the chance of survival decreases by 10 per cent.

The chain of survival response begins to fail if people have to wait for CPR or an AED. If a South Australian in cardiac arrest has to wait five minutes for an AED to be applied, that person has only a 50 per cent chance of recovery. If the wait is nine minutes, then it is a 10 per cent chance of recovery. If it is 10 minutes or more, your chances of recovering are next to nil, which leads me to my point: South Australians cannot wait another minute.

We cannot put pressure on ambulances to be faster and we cannot train enough people to be expert in CPR, which can be quite a physically challenging procedure to undertake as a non-professional. However, we can ensure that AEDs are in the places we live, work and play, and we can do this right now for a relatively low cost. You do not need any special training or expertise to use an AED; anyone can use it.

The bill I put today will save lives because AEDs save lives. Mine is just one voice among many who are unanimous in agreement about what is needed. The Australian Institute of Health and Safety recently called for more AEDs to be installed in workplaces. The Governor-General, General David Hurley, has been encouraging all workplaces, public buildings, community centres and schools to undertake CPR training and to install more AEDs.

With the support of St John Ambulance—and I welcome Steve Yeo here today—the We Are Australian Hearts organisation, the Brent Kelly Foundation and survivors of heart attacks who owe

their lives to the actions of passers-by administering CPR or an AED, I drew up this bill that would ensure that South Australians are within three minutes of a defibrillator. Many survivors of heart attack who owe their lives to the actions of passers-by administering CPR and/or an AED have urged me to pursue and develop this bill.

In developing this bill, I, a heart attack victim myself, was somewhat surprised to learn that in Australia we do not already have legislation or consistent funding arrangements to ensure that AEDs, these vital life-saving devices that have been proven time and again to be critical to surviving a heart attack, are readily available when needed. We cannot put a price on saving a life but, frankly, the cost of a TGA-approved AED at around \$1,600 to 2,000 is a small price to pay considering these devices have a long lifespan, require very little maintenance and require virtually no training to operate.

In the meantime, lots of companies, clubs, councils and businesses are already doing the right thing in South Australia. I know that Coles and Woolworths are rolling them out across their chains of supermarkets and Bunnings is equipping all its warehouses. One great South Australian company that is also taking this seriously is the Peregrine Corporation, which coincidentally employs Dan as one of its HR specialists. It was aiming to put AEDs in 40 of its business sites by the end of December 2019, because the Peregrine Corporation knows and cares about the difference an AED can make.

The Peregrine Corporation knows the implications of this because a couple of years ago one of its key staff, a man in his 50s, experienced sudden cardiac arrest at home, right here in the metropolitan area of Adelaide. There is almost no chance that an ambulance, even on a good day, could get to metro locations in under 10 minutes, and there was no AED nearby in the community that this person could access. A good South Australian was lost that day because there was no AED nearby.

Honourable members know only too well that I give the AHA and Clubs SA criticism where I think it is due. Well, on this occasion I give praise where it is due. Their grants program has led to the installation of 208 AEDs at clubs and hotels in regional locations across the state and all of them are registered with emergency services, so if you call 000 they can tell you about the AED nearest you. Another 104 AEDs will be installed in AHA member hotels by the end of March.

Some local governments are doing the right thing too, like Adelaide city council. Councillor Phillip Martin initiated the project titled 'Saving a life can be shockingly easy'. Along with 25 AEDs throughout the CBD come distinctive public art signage, designed by Daniel To and Emma Aiston, to ensure that as many people as possible know where to find them—a smart move, because there is no point having AEDs in public places if people do not know where they are.

Adequate signage on the outside of buildings and at the exact site of an AED is something my legislation ensures. I hope to see a lot more of Daniel and Emma's signage for AEDs, as it is distinctive and highly visible, especially at night. There is one by the River Torrens at the Popeye wharf near the rotunda; it is quite a distinctive sign and easy to see.

The Adelaide city council initiative is good news for people who work in the CBD, but I want to make sure that every South Australian has a second chance at life if they ever get struck down by a cardiac arrest, and not just if they happen to live or work near a business or a council that is doing the right thing. We need AEDs in the places we all live, work and play. Every business and government needs to do their bit to fit out existing buildings and when they build new facilities. It cannot be done by chance, good intentions or as piecemeal projects, as laudable as these are.

I was pleased to be advised by the federal Minister for Health, Mr Greg Hunt, that he had committed \$2 million in 2019 to ensure that AEDs were in all men's sheds and \$1 million to share the cost of AEDs fifty-fifty with caravan park operators. This bill is designed to ensure that the availability of an AED is not dependent on the generosity and actions of volunteers or the fundraising efforts or grant application writing skills of sporting and other benevolent individuals and organisations—although, of course, I encourage them to apply for grants that are available.

There is also no legal impediment to using an AED, and the Civil Liability Act 1936 good samaritan clause safeguards individuals who provide assistance in a life-threatening emergency.

The training component of this bill simply provides for those who would otherwise be required to complete first aid training to receive training in AEDs as part of that training, although of course AEDs are able to be operated by untrained personnel as well.

The bill I am introducing today requires all new buildings over a certain size and all major works over a prescribed value to have a publicly accessible AED installed. It demands there is clear signage, just like we expect for fire equipment.

Once this bill becomes law, I know it will save lives because we have seen it happen already in places like Kangaroo Island. UK born and trained Dr Tim Leeuwenburg has been a rural doctor on KI for the past 15 years. He noticed that there was a high incidence of cardiac arrest on the island. In some cases, it would take 17 minutes or more for paramedics to reach a person who had suffered a cardiac arrest. Tim instigated the HeartSafe KI program on the island. Today, there are now more than 40 AEDs installed, with 1,200 islanders—that is, one in five of them—trained in CPR. KI is now one of Australia's leading HeartSafe communities.

Tim's team includes his wife, Trish, and paramedic Mick Berden, who were unable to attend today. They maintain a database of available AEDs and train people in hands-only CPR and the use of AEDs. The program works in conjunction with the GoodSAM smart app, which shows locations of AEDs and also those trained in their use. My bill similarly requires the minister to ensure there is a website and a smart phone app that will show the location of AEDs.

On Kangaroo Island, it was not long before they started seeing lives saved. Lawn bowler John Vigar, aged 71, became the first life saved on the island from an AED three months after it was installed at the Kingscote Bowling Club in 2017. John tells everybody today not to hold back giving CPR, even if it means breaking a few ribs. He begs other communities to get accessible AEDs, too. Today, I commend my bill to you all to ensure AEDs are installed right across the state. As I said, South Australians cannot wait another minute.

This bill clearly legislates the provision of AEDs in a wide range of settings to ensure that, at any critical moment, an AED will be ready and available to use. Most importantly, there is the maximum chance someone will know where the AED is or how to locate one using a modern smart phone app and the 000 number. This bill aims to vastly improve the accessibility to AEDs, to try to emulate places such as Tokyo, which has 40,000 AEDs. O'Hare airport in Chicago has one AED every 100 metres. All public and private schools in Cincinnati in the US have AEDs for children and youth who are affected by sudden cardiac arrest. In Cleveland, Ohio, all front-line fire trucks have AEDs, effectively doubling AED availability at incidents they attend.

South Australians are dying from sudden cardiac arrest and they simply do not have to. We do not have to accept 2,045 South Australians dying from cardiac arrest and associated heart issues every year. To get to the technical detail of the bill, the automated external defibrillator bill does the following. It commences in 12 months after the day on which it is assented to by the Governor; that is to give sufficient time to plan for and implement the provisions of the legislation. It defines that an AED is a defibrillator. The AED must be approved by the TGA. They restore normal heart rhythm and can be used by untrained personnel.

The definition section is self-explanatory and is to ensure that a wide range of buildings and vehicles are included in this legislation. They can also be added to by regulation. It defines a designated building or facility. There is a comprehensive list, including public buildings and facilities, sporting facilities, schools, tertiary and skills training facilities, corrections facilities including police stations, retirement villages, aged-care facilities, residential parks such as caravan parks, casinos and theatres. To be clear, this section also uses the definitions of 'public building' and 'facility' consistent with the building code. These can be added to by regulation as well.

The bill defines a prescribed building as a building on land used for commercial purposes if it is constructed after the relevant day or major works, which is defined as over \$100,000, and on the relevant day after they have been commenced on a building that will exceed 600 square metres. These prescribed buildings can also be added to by regulation. This does not cover residential homes. The act binds the Crown, but the Crown cannot prosecute itself.

The bill also entails that an owner of a designated or prescribed building or facility must ensure that one AED is installed for every 1,200 square metres of floor space and it is an offence to

not do so, with a penalty of \$20,000. The bill ensures that AEDs are also required in emergency service vehicles and buses over 14 seats, trams, trains and larger commercial buses. It is the relevant authority or owner who is responsible for compliance. It is an offence to not do so, with a penalty of \$20,000.

The bill identifies that a designated entity—and this is clearly defined—must ensure that the AED is properly maintained and tested at least once every 12 months. It is an offence not to do so, with a penalty of \$20,000. The bill prescribes that, if an AED is installed inside a building or facility, the owner of the building or facility must install a sign indicating that an AED is nearby near the AED and outside near the entrance to the building or facility. If an AED is installed outside of a building or facility, the owner must install a sign saying that an AED is nearby. If an AED is installed in a vehicle, the relevant emergency authority or the prescribed owner is responsible for doing so and to not do so will incur a penalty of \$2,500.

The responsible minister is the minister for the Health Care Act 2008. The minister must also keep a register of AEDs. The AED register must have the AED's location, times during which it is accessible and information prescribed by the regulations. This must be published by the minister on the website. The designated entity, in respect to the building facility or vehicle in which an AED is installed, must provide this information to the minister, if already installed, within two weeks of the relevant day, or in other cases within two weeks of the installation, and notify the minister of any changes. To not do so is an offence with a penalty of \$2,500. The minister must also make this information available on a smart phone compatible application. The app must provide directions from the location of the operator of the app to the AEDs.

The minister must develop and implement a strategy to inform the public about AEDs. The communications must also include information about location and registration of AEDs, the need to install signs and the fact that a person does not need to be trained to use an AED. The strategy must be implemented as soon as practicable after the relevant day and continue to be promoted for five years hence.

The minister must establish a training scheme for AEDs for persons who must complete first aid training under the Education and Care Services National Law (South Australia) or the Work Health and Safety Act 2012 or any other person prescribed in the regulations. They must be provided with training within three years of the relevant day and then within three years after this. The Governor is given regulatory powers as necessary or expedient for the purposes of this act. You can see the list of standard regulatory powers given.

I conclude my remarks by asking honourable members in this place to help save South Australian lives by supporting my private member's Automated External Defibrillators (Public Access) Bill. I know that South Australians dying from cardiac arrest cannot wait another minute, and I know their families will be eternally grateful if we save just one of those 2,045 people suffering fatal cardiac arrest in our state each year. I commend this bill to the chamber.

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

ROAD TRAFFIC (SOUTH EASTERN FREEWAY OFFENCES) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:35): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Road Traffic Act 1961 and for other purposes. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:36): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I rise to speak on the Road Traffic (South Eastern Freeway Offences) Amendment Bill 2020. You will recall that in late 2019 this parliament passed my private member's bill, the Statues Amendment (Suspension of South Eastern Freeway Offences) Bill 2019, to address a number of unintended consequences of the new South Eastern Freeway laws.

It was important to urgently get that legislation through, as we did, because so many people were unfairly and unintentionally losing their licence for a first offence under those laws. However, that bill did not completely fix all the defects with the law that are now the subject of this bill.

As you know, the South Eastern Freeway carries in excess of 50,000 vehicles every day, 4,400 of these estimated to be heavy vehicles. Sadly, in 2014 we witnessed a number of serious truck crashes on the down track of the freeway that involved large rigid and articulated trucks losing control due to a range of factors, including excessive speed failure or improper use of braking systems, truck defects and driver error.

These accidents resulted in the loss of many lives and many more cases of serious injury and trauma that were investigated by the state Deputy Coroner, Anthony Schapel. In response to these serious accidents, the government of the day enacted a new suite of legislative measures applying to a short section of the South Eastern Freeway and in doing so implied that the entire suite of those laws had come from the recommendations of the Coroner. On 11 December 2019, the state Deputy Coroner confirmed in writing to the Minister for Transport, the Hon. Stephan Knoll, that:

In fact, the coronial recommendations to which you (the Minister) reportedly referred were concerned with trucks over 4.5 tonnes, the thrust of the recommendations being that between Crafers and Urrbrae all heavy trucks both rigid and articulated, and regardless of the number of axles possessed, should be subject to the same legal requirements. I advise that the Court has not made any recommendation in relation to small buses in terms of speed limit, low gear selection requirements, the lane in which they should be driven or penalties for infractions of the same.

The minister has been well aware of the defects in this law since the regulations commenced on 2 April 2019 and came into effect on 1 May 2019 when these specialised speed cameras, able to detect these offences on that section of the South Eastern Freeway, were finally installed and became fully operational.

The new cameras could now detect trucks and buses under the new laws, not just vehicles with five or more axles. Drivers of those larger rigid and articulated vehicles with five or more axles have been subject to this legislation since 2014 and thus are highly aware of these offences. Not so the newly-caught smaller truck and bus operators who were unaware of these laws that started to impact unsuspecting drivers on 1 May 2019.

While my private member's bill in 2019 dealt with the most immediate issues related to the severe loss of licence penalty for a first offence, this bill seeks to address the state Deputy Coroner's advice that buses were never the subject of the Coroner's recommendation. In his correspondence, the state Deputy Coroner refers to Mr Darren Coull, a very successful operator of a small fleet of tourist buses, who raised concerns with the Coroner that the laws not only captured buses unintentionally but also required buses to drive at slow speed in the same lane as the large articulated and rigid trucks, often sandwiched between two enormous trucks of over eight tonnes, for a very slow stressful trip being tailgated down this specific section of the freeway.

It is the opinion of expert drivers and trainers that it is only a matter of time before these small buses are mown down by trucks that they are forced to share one lane with. Mr Coull tells me that his business has been adversely affected, with a \$25,000 fine because he elected not to disadvantage his poor unsuspecting driver/employee who would have lost his licence and hence his livelihood under the mandatory loss of licence provisions.

My bill of late last year removed this mandatory loss of licence for the first offence but the state Deputy Coroner's letter and Mr Coull and many other constituents' experiences highlighted how buses were still an issue that needs to be addressed. We still have a huge number of volunteer bus drivers, hirers of small budget 14-seater buses, who were told that they did not need a special licence as they were considered to be the same as a car, and small tourism operators who are struggling with the dual negative effects of the South Australian bushfires and now coronavirus (COVID-19) who are still unintentionally captured by this law.

My bill fixes this by removing all buses from this legislation. They will still be subject to other special road rules that apply to buses but they will not be caught by this law that applies only to this small section of freeway. The other issue that my bill addresses is that it restores judicial discretion in regard to matters where the driver or owner elects to be prosecuted. Expert traffic lawyers have

pointed out to me that the discretion that magistrates commonly have, where a cancellation of licence is a possible penalty, should be restored in the interests of justice.

The hundreds of constituents who have come to me and, I know, to other members in this place have demonstrated that some judicial discretion needs to exist given the seriousness of the penalty still applicable, particularly for second and subsequent offences. As many have commented, the intentions of this law in regard to heavy trucks were very good but they needed to be confined to trucks. The ongoing unintended consequences make this very bad law that needs to be fixed.

I have also written to the police commissioner, pointing out to him that it appears that he also has a discretionary power to waive fines in certain circumstances. I am yet to hear a response, but I understand he is seeking legal opinion. With those comments, I commend the bill to this chamber.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. T.T. Ngo.

Motions

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. M.C. Parnell:

That the regulations under the Genetically Modified Crops Management Act 2004 concerning Designation of Area No. 2, made on 19 December 2019 and laid on the table of this council on 5 February 2020, be disallowed.

(Continued from 19 February 2020.)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (16:46): As we know, the issue of the GM moratorium in South Australia has been rather vexed. In order to understand both sides of the argument Labor has met with those who are seeking to have the moratorium lifted, those who see a benefit, primary producers and their peak bodies. We have also met with concerned South Australians who want our state to remain free from genetically modified crops. There are indeed valid arguments on both sides.

Due to the far-reaching consequences of lifting the moratorium, South Australian Labor wanted to ensure that the parliamentary process to achieve this was completely thorough. However, we saw last year that that was not the case, with the Minister for Primary Industries seeking to effectively overturn the Genetically Modified Crops Management Act through regulation, without going through parliament to amend the act. Hence, the disallowance motion was moved last year.

As members would know, under the act the moratorium is currently in place until 2025. The broadbrush approach would have meant that the moratorium was lifted across all of mainland South Australia, with the exception of Kangaroo Island. Mainland communities who wanted to maintain their GM free status were ignored with that blunt tactic. Then, last year, at the last minute, the government introduced a bill which was rushed through and then ultimately defeated. However, on 18 February this year the minister established a process which should have been followed right from the beginning by laying on the table the Genetically Modified Crops Management (Designated Area) Amendment Bill 2020.

The opposition will give the government's bill due consideration. However, it was naive of the Marshall government to attempt to change major legislation through a change in regulation. Ultimately, Labor is focused on doing the right thing by the whole of the state and doing the right thing in terms of parliamentary process being respected. We also need to respect the needs of all the separate communities in South Australia, communities that may well have a divergence of ideas in terms of whether or not GM should be allowed in their area.

We want to achieve the right outcome that allows broadacre farmers, particularly those who want to access the GM canola technology, to get what they want but, at the same time, not at the expense of communities in South Australia that enjoy the benefits of GM free status. We are also very aware of the field trials that are being conducted on wheat, barley and other crops that will enable greater drought and frost resistant crops in addition to other potential worthwhile GM attributes.

We on the Labor side have never doubted the science behind GM, but we do understand there are growers who believe they gain a market advantage from being GM free. We are very keen

to have a full debate. We do not think that regulation is the way to change the moratorium that would otherwise be in place until 2025. We will therefore be supporting the Hon. Mark Parnell's motion.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (16:49): Firstly, I would like to thank the Hon. Mark Parnell for introducing this motion for the disallowance of the GM crops regulations. Many of us have spoken at length about GM, both in this chamber and in the other place. Many of us, on both sides, have spoken about the pros and the cons, the benefits and the detriments, and the advantages and the disadvantages of allowing the cultivation of genetically modified crops in South Australia. Many of us feel very passionately about this issue.

One thing I do not want to do today is rehash and repeat what has already been said a number of times in this chamber. Instead, I would like to draw attention to the contempt shown by the government regarding GM, what the future looks like for this issue and how they have used this issue as a political football. Rather than give the matter the proper attention and consideration a change of this nature deserves, the government has attempted to introduce GM through a shifty regulation. Instead of introducing a bill for the parliament to debate last year, as we all know is the proper process, the government attempted to sneakily make reform through regulations. Without the option of debate and with the shifty nature of attempting to change GM regulations, it was not surprising that this was not supported by this chamber.

After those sneaky regulations were disallowed, the government decided to rush a bill through the parliament just before Christmas. The government only gave the parliament hours to consider a GM bill—that is right, hours. It was nothing more than a stunt. The government gave us mere hours to consider a topic as complex as the lifting of the moratorium in South Australia to allow GM crops to be grown.

While this was insulting to the members of this chamber, most importantly it was insulting to the farmers and the industries that are invested in this issue. Not only was it insulting, it was against a rule of parliament that when a government introduces a bill, or if any member introduces a bill, it is supposed to sit on the *Notice Paper* for 10 days to give the opposition and the crossbenchers the opportunity to consult with communities and stakeholders in order to develop a thoughtful and considered response to a bill.

Clearly, that is not possible in the last few sitting days of the year, when farmers are racing against the clock to finish the harvest and businesses are racing against the busy end-of-year schedule. Despite the lack of consultation and the lack of time, the government brought back parliament with the sole intent of passing a bill. They brought back parliament with only one thought, that of passing one bill. The Premier even spruiked this bill at the AHA lunch that very day, only hours before they hoped to pass the bill in this chamber. The Premier, the Hon. Steven Marshall, boasted at the AHA lunch that this was a government of reform and that he looked forward to the bill passing shortly through this chamber. We all know how that went.

Instead of coming to sit in this chamber to watch the bill being debated, as was done for the land tax reform, the Premier was absent. The Premier was here when land tax was being debated, but he did not afford GM the same respect. Obviously, this bill was just not high enough on the government's priority list, despite the fact that they say it is. The Minister for Trade and Investment compared the nature and changes of this bill to the invention of the tractor.

The government's actions showed their lack of care. The fact is that they were absent from the debate of the day for which they had brought back this parliament so that we could debate and pass just one bill—their bill—to bring GM crops into this state. They were not here. It was playing a stunt; it was nothing more than political football on an issue that is so important to this state.

Labor has extended an olive branch and wants to work with the government in a bipartisan way so that everyone can win in this debate. We want to give local communities the ability to opt in to retain a GM free status so that they can market themselves as being GM free and possibly receive a premium for that GM free status.

The government has repeatedly said, 'This should be about choice,' so let's give communities choice. We need to be giving the power back to our local communities because they know what is best for them. Let's hope the government starts taking this issue of genetically modified crops with

the appropriate weight, care and attention it deserves, which cannot be done through shifty regulations and rushed political conversations.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (16:55): I am very happy to offer some comments on behalf of the government in relation to the honourable member's motion to disallow the regulations. I firstly make some comments in relation to the contribution just made by the Hon. Emily Bourke. I do not know where she has been for the last 16 years since the moratorium was in place. It has been in place since 2004. There has been a long, long conversation across all of regional South Australia, in fact all of South Australia, over that 16 years.

She talked in in her contribution about the lack of consultation. As members would know, it was late in 2017 that the moratorium extended to 2025 by a deal that the Hon. Mark Parnell stitched up in the very last days of the former parliament. So this issue has been well ventilated. Then, of course, we had the select committee that was part of that deal. The Hon. John Darley supported the Hon. Mark Parnell. I think Mr Darley is not here today. Having said that, he was on the select committee and he has formed the view that the moratorium should be lifted. He took all the evidence. He was, if you like, an honest broker in that particular debate and he has seen fit to lift the moratorium.

The government funded an independent review and sought recommendations from the Genetically Modified Crop Advisory Committee, which supported the government's position on GM to lift the moratorium, so I think it is a bit rich for the Hon. Emily Bourke to say there has not been any consultation. It is now almost two years since the election and there has been significant consultation in those two years, and of course the debate had raged for a number of years prior. That is why the Hon. Mark Parnell rushed the changes through.

The Hon. Emily Bourke even hit the nail on the head about producers possibly getting a premium. The review found that, since 2002, there would be no premiums for South Australian producers, despite being the only mainland state with a GM crop moratorium.

The Hon. C.M. Scriven interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Scriven, we have listened in silence to your contribution.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: We have GM crops. As we know, canola is grown in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland. Those economies are booming. They are going really well. In fact, earlier today the opposition was offering some comment around South Australia's economy, yet interstate the economies are going better and they do not have a GM moratorium.

There is a range of factors that dictate economic conditions. However, I find it almost insulting to the farming community that they say, 'Let's work through the legislation in debate.' I remind the 22 honourable members of this chamber that there are no farmers sitting in this chamber anymore—not one. I am a retired farmer, or have moved on from farming. The Hon. John Dawkins was one, but not one of these people opposite who say, 'This is a contempt of the parliament,' and, 'We know what's best.' Why do we not listen to the stakeholders who actually want this benefit?

I have taken the Hon. Tung Ngo to the South Australian-Victorian border. You can have GM canola grown alongside non-GM canola. The farmers get the benefit of having the GM canola if they choose or if they choose to be GM free and grow non-GM canola they can do that as well. If the fence at the Victorian-South Australian border is good enough, the fence between two farmers' properties anywhere in South Australia should be good enough.

It is quite frustrating that it looks like the numbers will be such that these regulations will be disallowed and then the farming community gets a level of uncertainty again. We on this side of the chamber want to provide our farmers with certainty. It is tough enough when it does not rain. It is tough enough when you have global market conditions against you. It is tough enough when you have coronavirus and all the other things that are confronting our nation, and yet we are now trying to deny our farmers access to some technology.

I am not going to rehash the debate for too long, as I said. We want our farmers to have certainty, and I make it very clear that we will continue to reintroduce regulations until the legislation is passed.

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (16:59): In summing up the debate I would like to thank the Hon. Clare Scriven and the Hon. Emily Bourke for their contributions and support. I also thank the Hon. David Ridgway for his contribution.

This is the second time in the last three months that the Legislative Council is to vote on a motion to disallow these regulations. The arguments in favour of the motion have not changed substantially in those three months. As other members have said, I also do not propose to repeat those arguments again now, but I do need to reflect on some recent developments.

What is most incomprehensible to me is the government's belligerent approach to this issue. Yesterday, we saw the minister issue a press release that included a promise to 'continue to reintroduce regulations lifting the GM moratorium on the SA mainland if SA-Best, the Greens and the Labor Party disallow them in parliament.' That is the threat. Rather than focusing on good policy, good legislation and protecting the best interests of all South Australians, the minister is saying, 'It's my way or the highway.' Effectively he is saying, 'If you keep disallowing my regulations I will just keep reintroducing them.'

When we do, for the second time, disallow these regulations—which I fully expect we will very shortly—tomorrow's *Government Gazette* may well see these regulations re-emerge from the ashes for a third time, exactly the same regulations, and it will be no surprise to the minister or any other member to see a third disallowance motion introduced soon after that. The minister seems to think that by mounting a war of attrition he can somehow convince those who do not agree with him to just give up. That is not going to happen.

I think the minister's attitude is contemptuous of the parliament and our proper lawmaking processes. It is contemptuous of the Legislative Council. Even worse than that, it is contemptuous of consumers and of farmers, the vast bulk of whom do not want and will not plant genetically modified crops.

The minister seems to say that by continually reintroducing the same regulations he is somehow providing confidence to invest in South Australia. That is absolute rubbish, because even Grain Producers SA, who support lifting the moratorium, are smart enough to advise their members that planting GM crops in reliance of these regulations and before the issue is properly resolved in parliament is fraught with danger. To quote from the Grain Producers newsletter to members that was sent out on 31 January:

While GPSA cautiously welcomed these new regulations following the defeat of legislation in Parliament late last year, it is expected that Greens MLC Mark Parnell will immediately move to disallow these regulations, which (if successful) would re-instate the moratorium across South Australia.

For that reason, GPSA has warned growers to exercise caution given the legal uncertainty which exists at this stage. If the moratorium is reintroduced, growers possessing GM material may face fines of up to \$200,000 under the current provisions of the Act.

So far from providing certainty and confidence, the minister's belligerent approach in continuing to try to do this through regulations is adding to the uncertainty that farmers are facing. What is also galling is that when other members of parliament have the temerity to suggest that farmer protection measures should be put in place to deal with the inevitable contamination and losses that will accompany introduction of GM crops, all they get from the minister is vitriol and criticism. The minister went so far yesterday as to claim that if the agrochemical corporations were forced to stand behind their products and to accept responsibility when things go wrong they would boycott South Australia.

We need to think this through, we need to nut this out. We know that contamination from GM crops to non-GM crops is inevitable. Everywhere that GM canola has been grown it eventually spreads off farm. We also know that this contamination can result in loss and additional expense for those landholders whose properties are contaminated. Yet the minister says that if we try to make the multibillion dollar international agrochemical corporations responsible for the losses that their products cause, then they will boycott South Australia.

Let's put this in the context of how our society works. We do not allow uninsured motor vehicles on our roads. We do not allow uninsured airlines to fly over our communities. Doctors and lawyers cannot practise their professions without insurance. Requiring businesses to stand behind the safety of their products, their services and their processes is already enshrined in many state

laws. It is not a new concept. As well as the examples I just gave, we have laws, for example, where the EPA can demand security deposits, bonds and financial guarantees from companies in situations where spills and other contamination will be expensive to clean up. Without the guarantee, you do not get a licence to operate. That is the law in South Australia.

Yet, in the case of GM crops, the minister wants to give Monsanto, now owned by Bayer, a free ride with no responsibility whatsoever for the harm we know their products will cause. Instead, he prefers a free-for-all where farmers sue each other in the courts for damages and where struggling rural communities are further divided, whilst a company that was most recently valued at \$100 billion gets away scot-free. That is not what we want for South Australia, in my view.

If the minister had any credibility on this matter, he would abandon his plan to use subordinate legislation to undermine the will of the parliament and he would instead prosecute his plan B. As other members have referred to already, the minister has a plan B. He has a bill that he has introduced into the assembly to achieve the same outcome as these regulations. The minister says that they will be debating that bill in the assembly this week and that we will receive it in the Legislative Council sometime after that.

Of course, legislating is not the government's preferred option because they do not want to consider any amendments. In fact, the minister yesterday went so far as to claim that some parts of the industry would rather wait until the moratorium expires in the year 2025 than accept some of the accountability and transparency measures that have been proposed by other MPs. In relation to how best to enshrine accountability and transparency, I will leave that debate for another day, but the clear message to the minister is that he cannot avoid this debate. That is what parliament is for. We owe it to South Australians to consider all the implications of government policies and to pass legislation that considers the interests of all South Australians, not just the interests of a few.

The final thing that I will say is to thank those members and staff who came along yesterday to the briefing that I convened to hear an alternative point of view to that being promoted by the minister. I know not all members could attend, so just briefly one of the people who addressed MPs was a fourth-generation farmer, Bob Mackley, from the Wimmera.

When reflecting on the Hon. David Ridgway's comment that a fence should be enough, what he showed us were photos of the fence that had been completely knocked over by the GM canola in flood conditions, flooding onto the neighbour's property, contaminating the neighbour's property, travelling distances of hundreds of metres. Mr Mackley talked to us about the efforts he had to go through to try to clean up that mess and the division that it caused in the community. He described how he had previously been on friendly terms with his neighbour but this GM contamination spoiled everything.

Members also heard yesterday from Dr John Paull from the University of Tasmania. He is a renowned environmental scientist and expert in organic agriculture. He is the editor of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Organics* and has presented around the world on this topic. Members also heard from Mark Gower, the general manager for NASAA Organic. That is the certifying body. That was the session for MPs, and later in the evening they were joined by even more experts. We had Dr Judy Carman, a director of the Institute of Health and Environmental Research, and also Robert Rees, the agricultural economist. Robert's contribution was particularly important because he has worked in this industry for government for many years.

The take-home message from all of these people, in both the public forum I convened last night and also the briefing session for MPs, was that the moratorium serves South Australia well. It will serve us even better in the future if we embrace the opportunities that it affords and we must have rocks in our head if we thought lifting it was a good idea.

The government's position of allowing GM crops does come with a range of hidden costs. Those costs and the implications of GM crops have not been properly addressed, and the government is so far refusing to address them. If that remains the stand-off, waiting until the current moratorium expires in 2025 and a possible change of government before then may be the most likely outcome. Certainly, keeping the moratorium in place until 2025 would be an outcome the Greens would certainly support, but for now the best that we can do is to disallow these regulations and then debate the government's bill when it eventually reaches us from the Assembly.

The council divided on the motion:

Ayes 10
 Noes..... 7
 Majority..... 3

AYES

Bourke, E.S.
 Hunter, I.K.
 Parnell, M.C. (teller)
 Wortley, R.P.

Franks, T.A.
 Maher, K.J.
 Pnevmatikos, I.

Hanson, J.E.
 Pangallo, F.
 Scriven, C.M.

NOES

Dawkins, J.S.L.
 Lensink, J.M.A.
 Wade, S.G.

Hood, D.G.E.
 Lucas, R.I.

Lee, J.S.
 Ridgway, D.W. (teller)

PAIRS

Bonaros, C.
 Liberal Vacancy

Darley, J.A.

Ngo, T.T.

Motion thus carried.

Bills

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC HEALTH (CONTROLLED NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS)
 AMENDMENT BILL**

Final Stages

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

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from 3 March 2020.)

The Hon. J.S. LEE (17:16): It is a great honour to rise today to support the adoption of the Address in Reply given by our Governor, His Excellency the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC, at the opening of the Second Session of the Fifty-Fourth Parliament this year. His Excellency is a great asset to South Australia. His incredible hard work and dedication, along with Mrs Lan Le, can be witnessed and felt in every corner of South Australia. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Governor and Mrs Lan Le to their outstanding commitment to serving the South Australian community. We are incredibly fortunate to have his Excellency and Mrs Le serving South Australia with their greatest care, highest respect and sincere affection.

Mr President, I would like to add my congratulations to you on your elevation and esteemed appointment as the new President of the Legislative Council. We have full confidence that you will serve the role with distinction and maintain the highest order and dignity of this chamber.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the former President, Mr Andrew McLachlan CSC, and thank him for his meritorious service to the council and to the South Australian parliament. I wish Mr McLachlan all the best as the new Liberal senator, and no doubt with his intellectual capabilities, experience and conviction he will represent South Australia well. I look forward to continuing to work with him in his new capacity.

It is my pleasure to get back to the Address in Reply. I would like to congratulate His Excellency for his great vision, set out in his speech that opened the Second Session of the Fifty-Fourth Parliament. We are moved by his heartfelt acknowledgement in thanking firefighters and emergency services personnel and volunteers and in expressing his deepest sympathies with communities that have been affected by the devastating bushfires in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island. I thank the Governor for outlining the efforts taken by the Marshall government in addressing the challenges of the impacts of the bushfires and reaffirm our commitment and determination to help affected communities get back on their feet as soon as possible.

The outpouring of support from South Australians has been a fantastic reminder of the resilience of our people and what makes South Australia such a remarkable place to live. In my role as the Assistant Minister to the Premier, I have personally witnessed the tremendous response and incredible fundraising efforts generated by a long list of community groups that support the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island bushfire-affected communities during these devastating times. I will provide a more significant contribution when I speak to the South Australian bushfires motion later this afternoon.

In his speech, His Excellency highlighted that South Australia is a state that is dynamic, vibrant and enterprising. I am a proud member of the Marshall government that works hand in hand with our industries and communities to embrace big thinking and bold change to take our state forward in a new century. Over the last two years, it has been a privilege to be part of a responsible government that has consistently delivered the commitment to create more jobs, lower costs and provide better services.

His Excellency highlighted in his address that our state economy is maintaining a solid level of employment and rising levels of business investment. It is great that South Australians and investors are showing confidence that our state has a prosperous future full of opportunities and that our community is responding to this potential. For instance, South Australia has the third lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of all states, with the rate dropping to 5.7 per cent in January.

Apprenticeships are vital to building a skilled supply of workers for industry as we move to a more diversified economy. Businesses that I have spoken to indicated to me that they are encouraged by the state's largest skilled migration pathways that will breathe new life into South Australia, particularly in the regions, by enabling employers to grow their businesses by finding the skilled workers that they need.

I am pleased that the Minister for Innovation and Skills, the Hon. David Pisoni, in the other place announced the signing of two Designated Area Migration Agreements (DAMAs) in April 2019. These agreements will deliver more flexibility for businesses to deal with immediate skills shortages while they are training their local staff to grow their businesses. Initiatives like the \$203 million dollars of investment in Skilling South Australia and DAMAs are just two of the ways that we are solving the skills problem that the previous Labor government failed to address.

I am also pleased that His Excellency highlighted in his speech that the loss of younger South Australians to other states and elsewhere to seek jobs has reduced significantly. More young South Australians are in training and on the pathway to new jobs thanks to the training investment and reforms by the Marshall Liberal government. Validation from an independent source is a testament to our government's good work. The latest data from the Productivity Commission's annual report on government services stated that the Marshall government delivered the highest boost of skills training and funding in the nation, boosts to non-government training providers and delivered improved employment outcomes for students.

In terms of future infrastructure, in his speech His Excellency highlighted that the Marshall government has invested a record \$12.9 billion on infrastructure over the next four years, which is acclaimed as South Australia's largest ever infrastructure spend. An array of infrastructure projects will no doubt benefit from this record investment, which in the long term will provide 80,000 construction jobs and better services for all.

The Governor also outlined that the government firmly believes that South Australia offers a blend of economic and environmental opportunities that are highly attractive to businesses that can harness new technologies, ideas and knowledge, while offering their employees a lifestyle that is

second to none. The sky is no longer the limit in South Australia because we have the Australian Space Agency. It is up, up and beyond.

We are very pleased that the agency opened its headquarters in Adelaide on Wednesday 19 February. This exciting milestone will act as a launching pad to triple Australia's space economy to \$12 billion and create up to 20,000 jobs by 2030. Thanks to federal government investment, we have also secured the headquarters of SmartSat CRC, Mission Control and the Space Discovery Centre in the heart of the Adelaide CBD at Lot Fourteen. Not every city of our size is presented with such a groundbreaking opportunity that will transform our economy and our landscape.

Some honourable members may have heard the saying, 'If you build it, he will come,' in the movie *Field of Dreams*. The slogan of 'if you build it, they will come' embodies the vision that if someone dedicates attention, effort and energy to an idea, that idea can manifest into reality. The Marshall government is definitely demonstrating leadership and investment in Lot Fourteen, and it is bringing together the most ingenious minds in defence, space, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and creative industries to push boundaries and foster collaboration and opportunities for current and future generations.

I recently spoke at the International Student Welcome Reception hosted by the University of South Australia. I met many, many bright students with bright minds, and they are excited about being in a city that is home to the Australian Space Agency. While I am on the topic of international students, I wish to thank His Excellency for highlighting that South Australia's international education sector has overtaken wine as the export sector generating the highest earnings for our state. The investment by our government in StudyAdelaide has certainly delivered tangible outcomes. The number of international students enrolled in South Australia has exceeded 40,000 for the first time.

His Excellency also highlighted the Marshall government's initiatives that are already reducing living costs for hardworking South Australian households, families and businesses. For example, sports vouchers for primary-aged children for swimming and other sports lessons have been doubled to \$100, which has resulted in the take-up of the vouchers increasing by more than 40 per cent. We have delivered massive reductions in ESL bills; we have abolished payroll tax for all businesses, generating more jobs in the economy; and we have also introduced power bill concessions.

Multicultural leaders and community members have also praised the Marshall government for abolishing fees for volunteer checks. Under the previous government, volunteer screening checks were \$59.40 each. Since the Liberal government's promise to deliver free volunteer screening checks, the South Australian not-for-profit sector, including our multicultural communities and volunteers, has saved more than \$3.4 million in the past 12 months. This is fantastic news because it means millions of dollars have been injected back into the sector to help organisations like sports clubs, community service organisations, emergency services and charities to deliver more vital services for our community.

The Governor mentioned in his speech that the Marshall government remains committed to encouraging a better educated and healthier South Australia. In terms of education investment, over the next four years our government will be spending \$1.3 billion on capital works programs to build education infrastructure to ensure our kids have state-of-the-art facilities. Almost 100 schools will share in the \$856 million of upgrades. Thousands of students and families from Henley High School, Brighton Secondary School and primary school, Underdale High School, Hallett Cove School, Plympton International College, Ocean View College and Adelaide Secondary School of English can now see what their future school will look like, with \$73.8 million being spent across the eight schools, with designs and concept images recently revealed.

In addition, His Excellency also announced that the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) completions are at their highest in nine years. It shows the commitment of the Marshall government to our education sector. I want to touch very quickly on investment into health. The Governor highlighted in his speech that the Marshall government remains focused on supporting a healthier South Australia. Over four years, we will be spending \$1.5 billion on building health infrastructure.

The government is certainly very serious and it is taking on a strong commitment to combat and prevent domestic and family violence. While visiting various cultural community groups, I found that domestic and family violence in these communities is not good. So it is good to see that there is support coming to address these areas in terms of providing 40 new domestic violence crisis accommodation beds and a \$4 million commitment to deliver a state-first pilot program. There is also a suite of policy implementations to address this area to improve the safety of women and children in South Australia.

It is a great honour to serve the Premier as his assistant minister, particularly in the portfolio of multicultural affairs. I am proud that His Excellency highlighted in his speech the importance of the rich diversity of our multicultural society. I know that he is a strong supporter of multiculturalism in our state. Recognising that our state's key piece of multicultural legislation is now 40 years old, our government is taking steps to review and modernise the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commissions Act 1980. We are putting in place plans to advance multiculturalism in South Australia and are ensuring that there are policies that reflect the changing needs of our community, recognise the valuable contribution of our diverse communities and support the development of responsive services by the Marshall government.

It is a great privilege to be a part of the Marshall government, which is working closely with industries and our community to address the many economic and social challenges caused by natural disasters, such as drought and bushfire, and the risks associated with the coronavirus outbreak that could have a potential impact on our health system, tourism and many export sectors. Despite these challenges, South Australians are demonstrating a high level of resilience and willingness to work with our government to overcome these obstacles. I thank all South Australians for their commitment to working together with our government in strengthening our economy, valuing our diversity and building a strong future together.

As a proud member of the Marshall government, I am fully committed to delivering better services for all South Australian families and businesses. Once again, I offer my sincere thanks to His Excellency for his outstanding service to South Australia. It is a great honour to join my colleagues in supporting the growth agenda and vision set out by His Excellency. I commend the motion to the chamber.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. J.M.A. Lensink.

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 18 February 2020.)

The Hon. J.S. LEE (17:34): I rise today to support this motion wholeheartedly, and I join the Premier, the Treasurer and my parliamentary colleagues in both houses of the South Australian parliament to express our deep condolences on the loss of lives and the devastation experienced by

affected communities as a result of the unprecedented ferocity of the bushfires in South Australia this summer.

As members of parliament, we collectively extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends who are suffering from the sad loss of lives caused by bushfires in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island. It was heartbreaking to see the confronting damage caused by these horrifying fires burning down trees, national parks, farms, properties, taking lives and injuring many. As a community, we stand together with those who have been affected, and we share their anguish, their pain and despair. Our thoughts and prayers are with all victims, their families and friends.

On 9 January 2020, the CFS reported the total area destroyed by the Kangaroo Island bushfires stands at 200,000 hectares. It was reported that some 186 dwellings, 870 outbuildings, sheds, barns, hay sheds and carports had been destroyed. Livestock losses are devastating, with a total financial impact for the agricultural sector alone estimated to be more than \$19 million. Other sectors heavily impacted by these bushfires include tourism, the wine industry and our national parks and wildlife.

I want to pay tribute to our dear friend and Mayor of Kangaroo Island, Mr Michael Pengilly, who has shown tremendous leadership working with his community during these most difficult and frightening times. I have spoken to him numerous times and caught up with him recently at the tourism summit. He said that the KI community is resilient and he is encouraging people to visit Kangaroo Island and support the #BookThemOut tourism campaign.

I am pleased to report that 101 people from the Nepalese community of South Australia, through NRNA, visited Kangaroo Island on 16 February 2020 to show friendship and support to the impacted communities, and they call on other multicultural communities to do the same—what a motivating message. By visiting bushfire-affected regions and by promoting Kangaroo Island as a tourism destination, we support KI's economy and the social wellbeing of the locals.

It is hard to imagine the multidimensional hardship that people are facing after these ravaging bushfires. Beautiful landscapes and natural habitats for wildlife were wiped out and are unrecognisable. Many have lost homes they have lived in since childhood. Everything vanished into thick smoke and ashes, including the irreplaceable contents that were destroyed, such as photographs of children and grandchildren and other valuable memorabilia that can never be recovered again.

The Marshall government is working alongside our resilient community and doing whatever it takes to support recovery and rebuilding work so that those affected communities can be supported to get back on their feet in the recovery and rebuilding process. It is going to be a long hard road ahead, but we want to reassure the affected communities that we will help them every step of the way.

The Premier, the Treasurer, the Minister for Human Services and other colleagues in their contributions to this motion have stated on the public record their strong commitment to this disaster recovery process, ensuring that our communities can access the bushfire recovery financial assistance and various relief grants packages. The Marshall government put in place the disaster recovery processes to ensure the management of the flow of funds to bushfire-impacted communities will be the top priority for spending approvals over the coming months. In addition, extra resources have been allocated in the health portfolio for mental health and wellbeing, as well as in the environment and water portfolio.

In these unfortunate times where Mother Nature becomes destructive, we are lucky that human nature becomes constructive. Throughout the bushfire crisis, we saw the best of human spirit and kindness by our South Australian community. We witnessed courageous individuals become local heroes, risking their lives to rescue people and animals in the most dangerous situations. We further witnessed tremendous generosity and commitment by individuals, community groups and businesses, reaching out to others and actively participating in bushfire appeal activities in response to the worst bushfire season we have seen in the history of South Australia.

I want to place on the record my heartfelt admiration, respect and gratitude for the heroic efforts of the hundreds of firefighters, emergency services personnel, Defence Force personnel and volunteers. Without their determination, courage, contributions and selfless sacrifice many more lives

and homes would have been lost. I consider these firefighters and emergency services personnel as superheroes. They must be built differently; with enduring strength and determination they can work under the most stressful, dangerous and unpredictable conditions. We salute these heroes.

We also thank all the volunteers who have supported on the front lines and behind the scenes by providing food, water and accommodation to firefighters, and the countless doctors, nurses, ambulance officers, paramedics, police officers and so many others who contributed to the rescue efforts and, of course, the ongoing recovery efforts. These volunteers come from all walks of life, and many come from multicultural backgrounds. We thank them all for responding as one big community.

His Excellency the Governor, in his opening speech to parliament, praised the commitment of our firefighters and emergency services workers, saying that no praise is too high for them. I wish to thank His Excellency for his outstanding vision and for providing the platform to publicly recognise and acknowledge representatives of the Country Fire Service, the Metropolitan Fire Service, the State Emergency Service and the National Parks and Wildlife Service by placing them in the honour guard outside parliament on the opening day of parliament. Furthermore, their presence in the gallery of the Legislative Council on the opening of parliament was also publicly acknowledged on 5 February 2020.

The bushfires in the Adelaide Hills and on Kangaroo Island have inflicted unimaginable damage on properties, natural resources and wildlife, and there is a difficult and long road ahead for those who have been affected by these tragic losses. Can a crisis bring out the best in people? Sometimes it can, and we are incredibly fortunate that the bushfire crisis brought out the best in the people of South Australia.

South Australians stand together united in our determination to help those in need in rescue missions and afterwards in recovery and rebuilding processes. People are lending their hand to communities, businesses, industries and to restoring and rejuvenating our environment and wildlife habitat. It is at times like this that the Aussie spirit of mateship and fellowship shines through brightly. It made me even prouder to be an Australian as we witnessed the best in human nature during the horrendous bushfire crisis facing South Australia.

There is an overwhelming outpouring of love, a sense of responsibility and solidarity for bushfire-impacted regions. Just about every single day we are moved by the generosity, kindness and strong leadership of individuals, businesses and community groups who are digging deep and putting compassion into action by donating their time and money to assist their fellow South Australians in their time of need.

Today, I would like to give praise and place on the public record my appreciation and thanks to a vast number of multicultural community groups and organisations who have contributed to the SA Bushfire Appeal. I thank these community groups who responded to the call by Premier Steven Marshall when he said, 'The most important thing, quite frankly, is the need for money.' As Assistant Minister to the Premier, with a strong connection to the multicultural communities, I am incredibly humbled that so many multicultural organisations have responded compassionately to the Premier's call to drive their own fundraising activities for the bushfire appeal. I am going to seek the chamber's indulgence so that I can present a list of these organisations, not in any specific order. Each contribution is a gift of unconditional love and support to affected communities and therefore each group deserves our respect and recognition in parliament today.

From the Italian community, Radio Italiana has contributed over \$50,000 to the bushfire appeal. The Marche Club also organised a fundraiser with Riding for Disabled, 1300 KOALAZ and Radio Italia Uno, and raised approximately \$18,000; that is a great effort in conjunction with Radio Italia Uno. The Veneto Club has donated \$10,000, which is a generous donation. The Molinara Club has raised \$2,380. Other notable fundraisers are Serafino Wines, along with other McLaren Vale businesses down south, which raised \$45,000 towards their local CFS station. Many more Italian clubs and associations have also donated. So far, the Italian community has raised over \$120,000.

The Muslim community has certainly been very busy conducting many prayer sessions and fundraising activities. The Islamic Society of South Australia has raised \$7,000 to the SA Bushfire Appeal and have also donated \$1,000 to the CFS Foundation. Human Appeal International distributed trucks of hay to farmers to feed animals on Kangaroo Island. The South Australian

Hazara-Afghan community has grown over the last three decades. They have combined their effort with a number of organisations and have raised an incredible amount of \$89,244. The Fatima Zahra Mosque and Hussainia Inc. have raised \$30,125 for the SA Bushfire Appeal. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community raised \$5,000. So the Muslim community certainly has been actively participating in the SA Bushfire Appeal.

Now I will turn my attention to the Chinese and South Asian community. A group of passionate Chinese business chambers and associations have raised \$34,159.90. It was driven by the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, together with 15 other organisations. The Australian Chinese Medical Association (ACMA) used their Chinese New Year dinner to raise \$10,000 for the CFS Foundation and an additional \$8,000 towards the Kangaroo Island Mayoral Relief and Recovery Bushfire Fund. Despite the coronavirus challenges in Chinatown, Adelaide, they used the Lunar New Year street party and their Chinese New Year dinner to raise a generous \$10,000 for the SA Bushfire Appeal.

A group of musicians, the SA Master String Quintet, through DC Australia Culture and Education Services, organised a bushfire fundraising concert and raised \$17,559. I want to pay special tribute to these musicians because when they were hosting this fundraising concert, a thief broke into the Baptist church where the concert was held. One of the musicians had their purse and phone stolen, yet through their own generosity, even though they had lost money, they still wholeheartedly contributed to the bushfire appeal, which is such a gesture of kindness that needs to be paid tribute to and recognised.

The South Australian Federation of Chinese Organisations from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos have also shown a strong commitment. They donated \$5,565. The Guan Gong Temple Teo Chew Association, through prayers, raised \$8,620. The BalaBala Laser Clinic, a local Chinese business, donated \$2,000 to the CFS Foundation. The Tong De Association used their Christmas function to raise \$2,000 for the CFS Foundation.

The Malaysia Club donated \$3,000 to the CFS Foundation. The Singapore Business and Social Association donated \$1,372.30 to the SA Bushfire Appeal. The Wat Sri Rattana Wanaram Thai Forest Monastery from the Thai community raised \$2,000 directly for the Mylor CFS station. The Chin community of South Australia from Myanmar, through the Adelaide Chin Christian Church, donated an incredible \$8,000.

Zomi Innkuan Adelaide, also from Myanmar, a very small emerging refugee community, did an exceptionally good job in raising an impressive amount of \$9,000. The Vietnamese community in South Australia raised \$22,000. They also donated an additional \$10,000 to the Australian Red Cross. Additionally, they hosted another fundraising event on 29 February and donated \$12,200 directly to the local CFS station.

From the Indian community of South Australia and the subcontinent community, the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Adelaide Temple raised \$6,325. The Hindu Society of South Australia raised \$4,325. The Indian Australia Association of South Australia, at the recent Indian Mela, raised \$5,250. The Kalalaya School of Indian Performing Arts organised a concert and raised \$2,501. Shivagarjana Adelaide, which is a band that plays the traditional drums, performed in Rundle Mall as well as at Glenelg, raised \$2,425 for the State Emergency Relief Fund.

The Telugu Association got active and cooked over 600 sausages at a Bunnings store and raised \$1,111.50. Vaishnav Sangh of Adelaide, a Hindu organisation, raised \$1,001 towards the SA Bushfire Appeal. Gurdwara Sarbat Khalsa, a Sikh temple based in Prospect, raised \$10,000 for the Gumeracha CFS station. United Indians of South Australia donated \$2,000 to the SA Bushfire Appeal.

The Nepalese community in South Australia also got really busy and organised a fundraising dinner. Their effort reached a \$8,528 donation. The South Australian Bangladeshi Community Association (SABCA) raised \$1,600 and they presented a cheque at the celebration of International Mother Language Day on the weekend.

Adelaide Sri Lankan Buddhist Vihara organised a special service of prayer. They raised \$1,828.50. The Ceylon Tamil Association from the Sri Lankan community raised \$1,000. The Sri

Lankan Association of South Australia also conducted a fundraising concert and raised \$4,000, which they donated to the Kangaroo Island Mayor Relief and Recovery Bushfire Fund.

Other community groups which have been active include the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia. They held a very successful radiothon and generously donated \$20,000. Bund der Bayern, Adelaide's energetic Bavarian dance group, raised \$1,000 in Hahndorf. The Laziza Multicultural Festival raised \$550.

I have no doubt that there are many more organisations, businesses and individuals across South Australia who have been doing many more fundraising campaigns and making donations. I want to thank every single one of them. Every dollar counts and every contribution, no matter how big or small, will make an enormous difference to those affected by this tragedy.

I thank each and every one who has demonstrated a strong sense of community spirit in standing together with our community. Your generosity and act of kindness will provide not just financial assistance but much comfort and hope to those in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island to ensure recovery and rebuilding is on track to allow normality to resume as soon as possible.

The Marshall government is determined to work together with our community to implement the full suite of disaster recovery plans and introduce new measures to tackle future challenges ahead. With those remarks, I wholeheartedly commend this motion to the chamber.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (17:56): I thank all honourable members for their contribution to this important motion and for the unanimous support that it has attracted and is going to attract. In particular, I want to acknowledge the excellent contribution from my colleague the Hon. Jing Lee. I know she has acknowledged the magnificent work of the multicultural communities in South Australia, and I join with her—and I know I speak on behalf of the government and the Premier as well—in thanking all of those communities for the magnificence of the work that they undertook and continue to undertake in supporting those in need.

I also want to pay tribute to the Hon. Jing Lee because I know that with many of those groups and associations it has been through her hard work and organisation that many of them have made this contribution as well. So I acknowledge the work my colleague has done in that particular area. With that, I thank honourable members for their support for the motion.

Motion carried.

At 17:57 the council adjourned until Thursday 5 March 2020 at 14:15.