

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL****Thursday, 2 December 2021**

**The PRESIDENT (Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins)** took the chair at 14:15 and read prayers.

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

*Parliamentary Procedure***PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

Reports, 2020-21—

Coast Protection Board

Native Vegetation Council

Premier's Climate Change Council

South Australian Water Corporation Charter dated September 2021

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

Reports, 2020-21—

Education Standards Board.

South Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People.

TAFE SA

**ANSWERS TABLED**

**The PRESIDENT:** I direct that the written answers to questions be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

*Question Time***NOARLUNGA HOSPITAL**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:19):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing about hospitals.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** The United Workers Union has revealed today that sterilisation technicians at Noarlunga Hospital have been directed to re-use single-use face shields. My questions to the minister are:

1. Does the minister think it's appropriate that staff, who are responsible for sterilising hospital equipment, are being directed to breach PPE guidelines?

2. Will the minister commit to meeting with a delegation of concerned hospital staff from Flinders Medical Centre and Noarlunga Hospital who are concerned about infection control breaches?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:20):** I thank the honourable member for his question. There could never have been a period in the history of our state—perhaps back to the early 1900s—but certainly in the last two years we have become incredibly more aware of the need for infection control in the context of COVID-19. We all remember the challenges the nation faced in terms of the supply of personal protective equipment for medical and health services.

I would be very surprised—in fact, very disappointed—if hospitals were giving directions contrary to the established infection control protocols. I will certainly seek further information on that.

#### **NOARLUNGA HOSPITAL**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:21):** Supplementary arising from the answer: will the minister commit to meet with a delegation of concerned staff from these hospitals?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:21):** When I have relevant briefings on the issues, I will consider how best to progress them.

#### **NOARLUNGA HOSPITAL**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:21):** Supplementary arising from the original answer: minister, what sanctions are available if there were breaches of sterilisation with the re-use of single use face shields?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:21):** I will certainly seek information in relation to that. It certainly would be an issue in terms of accreditation. The compliance with infection control procedures is an important part of hospital accreditation.

#### **NOARLUNGA HOSPITAL**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:21):** Final supplementary: if there was a direction to re-use single-use face shields, what could be the clinical outcomes if accreditation was threatened for a hospital?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:22):** Clinical outcomes from accreditation being threatened—I would suggest there wouldn't be. Accreditation is about whether or not a hospital is accredited to operate at a certain level that's relevant in terms of its engagement with its funding bodies. But accreditation per se doesn't have an impact on clinical outcomes. Certainly, meeting the standards within accreditation of course gives you the assurance that clinical practices are well based in a clinical governance sense.

#### **COVID-19 TESTING CLINICS**

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:22):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing regarding health.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** On Friday last week, two exposure sites were listed in Kingston South-East. On Tuesday this week, six exposure sites were listed in Robe. Despite this, the government has not established semipermanent testing sites in either Kingston or Robe. The closest testing available is an hour's drive away in Millicent. It took until Wednesday afternoon for a pop-up testing site to be made available in Robe and even then it was only open yesterday for two hours. Last week, the Premier told the public:

...we've got adequate SA Pathology capacity and also making sure we've got that overall testing capacity and availability right across the state.

My question to the minister is: why has there been no permanent or semipermanent testing site in the District Council of Robe or the Kingston District Council?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:23):** It's certainly the responsibility of SA Pathology to deploy its testing resources in a way which can be distributed as required with outbreaks. In terms of the two LGAs, out of numerous LGAs right across the state, I suspect there will be a number of LGAs that—

**The Hon. C.M. Scriven:** Which are exposure sites?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** Excuse me.

**The Hon. C.M. Scriven:** They are exposure sites.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** I am sorry, if she doesn't want the answer—

**The PRESIDENT:** The deputy leader asked a question; listen to the answer.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** Thanks.

**The PRESIDENT:** No? You have concluded?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** Yes.

#### COVID-19 TESTING CLINICS

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:24):** Supplementary: given the huge number of tourists who visit the Robe district over the Christmas period, what are the plans for COVID testing facilities in Robe or Kingston going forward?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:24):** As I said, SA Pathology will continue to distribute across the state the pathology resources it needs to be deployed to specific locations as specific needs emerge.

#### COVID-19 TESTING CLINICS

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:24):** Further supplementary: is the minister saying there are not specific needs on an ongoing basis in a major tourist centre such as Robe?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:24):** The opposition thinks it's somehow clever to put words in other people's mouths. It is not actually constructive. What I would say is that it is not feasible, it is not a good deployment of pathology resources, high-quality resources from SA Pathology, to have small clinics in every single community in South Australia. That is why SA Pathology continues to run a regional network of established clinics, in spite of the fact that the Labor Party in 2014, I think it was (2013 perhaps it was) had a report which they took months to dispute—sorry, to reject the proposal in their own report that they were going to close down regional clinics. This government has continued to maintain—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** —a good network of regional clinics under SA Pathology—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** —and they will—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The opposition will be silent.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** —be supported with other—

*The Hon. E.S. Bourke interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, the Hon. Ms Bourke!

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** I do regret the fact that I have offended the Hon. Emily Bourke. I know she is embarrassed that under the 16 years of a Labor government they had dozens of—sorry, I shouldn't say dozens—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** —medical imaging centre after medical imaging—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** Point of order, sir.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Point of order, the minister will resume his seat.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** Are you able to—

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** —centre that was outsourced. It was operated by private operators. Now they want to have privatisation select committees.

**The PRESIDENT:** The minister will resume his seat.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** I wonder if you are able to enlighten the chamber as to—

*The Hon. R.P. Wortley interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, the Hon. Mr Wortley! Your leader is on his feet.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** —whether the unnecessary and aggressive pointing at the opposition is parliamentary.

**The PRESIDENT:** I think everybody ought to have a look at themselves before they make those sorts of suggestions. Has the minister concluded that answer? He has.

### COVID-19 TESTING CLINICS

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:26):** Final supplementary: are there any plans whatsoever to prioritise testing facilities for areas of very high tourism over the Christmas period?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:27):** Unlike the opposition, this government has a high level of confidence in SA Pathology doing its job, and that will mean that they will continue to deploy—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** —testing resources in accordance with the risk.

### COVID-19 TESTING CLINICS

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:27):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing regarding health.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE:** Last week the Premier said, and I quote:

What we've done is very significantly expand the available time for people to go and get that PCR test... We've very significantly flexed up the workforce for SA Pathology and the available operating hours.

Only the Victoria Park and Ridgehaven testing sites operate 24 hours and last night this resulted in waits of almost three hours for people to get tested at Victoria Park. My questions to the minister are:

1. Why are there only two 24-hour testing sites, when the Premier has promised that he was significantly increasing the operating hours?

2. Can the minister guarantee that he will put in place the additional surge capacity so that this is the last time we see people waiting hours at a testing site?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:28):** The honourable member is specifically referring to two sites that operate on a 24-hour basis. The Premier was not limiting his comments to those two sites. There has been an increase in operating hours at a range of clinics, including clinics that don't open for 24 hours, and we will continue to do that in response to surge.

Certainly, I have heard anecdotally that there were waits of up to three hours at Victoria Park. I haven't received formal advice but certainly SA Pathology has staff available to be deployed to try to meet need. I think it is important to appreciate, though, that need often comes on quickly. Victoria Park, for example, is close to the Norwood cluster and it is understandable that in the context of yesterday's news there was an increase in presentations at that site.

**COVID-19 TESTING CLINICS**

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:29):** I have a supplementary question arising from the original answer: has the minister sought formal advice on waiting hours at the Victoria Park site?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:29):** I am regularly updated on turnaround times in terms of pathology tests and also in terms of the operation of the clinics.

**COVID-19 TESTING CLINICS**

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:29):** Further supplementary: if you are regularly updated can you please advise what the waiting times are?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:29):** I have already indicated what my understanding is.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I call the Hon. Mr Hood; we are going to move on.

**SILICOSIS**

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (14:30):** My question is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer update the chamber on—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The opposition has had eight supplementaries already and no doubt will have more, but the Hon. Mr Hood—

*The Hon. E.S. Bourke interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Ms Bourke!

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD:** Will the Treasurer update the chamber on the government's attempts to tackle silicosis in South Australia?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:30):** I thank the member for his question and I would imagine all members of this chamber would be interested in the response of governments—collectively—in trying to tackle the problem of silicosis in our workplace. I have reported to this chamber before that soon after coming into government I was concerned at the lack of a coordinated effort by the departments and the government in relation to tackling silicosis. There were so many agencies of government that had a potential role in a coordinated campaign, but it was uncoordinated and certainly needed, in the government's view and in my view, much better management.

I established a working group and out of that came the silicosis working party, or silicosis strategy working group, I should say, which involves now SafeWork SA, SA Health, the EPA, the Department for Energy and Mining, ReturnToWorkSA and MAQOHSC, the Mining and Quarrying Occupational Health and Safety Committee. That group is now led by SafeWork SA in terms of a coordinated strategy and response.

The government provided additional funding both through MAQOHSC and in addition to that to conduct some urgent audit findings in terms of practice within, in particular, the engineered stone industry. Between October 2020 and April 2021, SafeWork SA undertook a campaign focused on respirable crystalline silica, or RCS, in the fabrication, construction and mining industries.

I have reported previously, and I won't repeat them, on the number of site visits, compliance orders, statutory notices—both prohibition and improvement notices—that were issued as a result of that particular compliance campaign. As a result of that particular campaign, a report was published in 2021 and is available on the SafeWork SA website.

Similarly, at the national level, ministers have worked and there has been agreement to significantly reduce the workplace exposure level or standard for respirable crystalline silica on

1 July 2020. That significant reduction in that standard, or that limit, was introduced by I think all governments, but certainly South Australia was a willing participant in reducing that particular workplace exposure level or standard.

The government continues to take action both through SafeWork SA, through the Department for Health and, in particular through MAQOHSC. There have been significant organisational and structural changes within MAQOHSC and a new focus on how silicosis can be tackled in worksites. The engineered stone industry is a major focus of it, but in recent discussions I have had with interstate experts in this area they have highlighted potential concerns in relation to tunnelling contracts in the other states, and the government is making some investigations because we are obviously about to embark on major tunnelling projects in South Australia. We are anxious to ensure that workers are protected to the greatest extent possible in terms of any tunnelling activity and any exposure there might be to potentially contracting silicosis.

The work health and safety ministers meet at lunchtime tomorrow. They coordinate efforts in relation to the National Dust Diseases Taskforce, including a coordinated national response to tackling silicosis, which will be an agenda item for tomorrow. I—and I hope ensuing state governments and ministers—will continue to take a very active role in terms of a coordinated response to what is an increasingly dangerous and important activity for workers in terms of protecting the health and wellbeing of workers in that particular industry sector.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:35):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question on the topic of conflict of interests and the Ministerial Code of Conduct to the Treasurer, representing the Premier.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** As I am sure the Treasurer is well aware, the Ministerial Code of Conduct states that:

Ministers should avoid situations in which their private interests conflict, have the potential to conflict or appear to conflict with their public duty.

The Minister for Environment and Water, David Speirs, has investments in Rio Tinto Ltd and in South32 Ltd: two mining companies. These are, of course, listed in the Register of Members' Interests at present. In response to a question in the other place yesterday, the minister stated:

This was brought to my attention at the time, and I was disappointed by that, but unfortunately the Ministerial Code of Conduct, I think, precludes either the buying or selling of shares, so it would be difficult, I think—

with regard to why he had not divested of those shares.

I note that the shares were in the minister's register of interests prior to March 2018, when he became a minister. However, in March 2018 the Minister for Environment and Water did divest from Oil Search Ltd and Iluka Resources Ltd: oil and mining companies.

My question to the Treasurer is: what advice was given to the Minister for Environment and Water that divesting from shares in oil and mining was advised and undertaken, and indeed able to be undertaken, yet his shares in mining and metals—namely Rio Tinto and South32—were not?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:37):** I understand, although I obviously haven't had a chance to check the transcripts, some of these questions might have been traversed in another place yesterday, but I am happy to refer the honourable member's questions to the Premier and have a reply provided.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:38):** Supplementary.

**The PRESIDENT:** I will listen to the supplementary.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** Has the Treasurer been asked, or has the Treasurer offered advice to any of his ministerial colleagues, particularly the Minister for Environment, about companies like South32 that are coalmining companies?

**The PRESIDENT:** Well, it is difficult to bring that forward from the answer that was given, but if the Treasurer wants to respond. No? We will move on. The Hon. Ms Franks has a supplementary.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:38):** These were actually cabinet decisions and the Treasurer is a member of cabinet.

**The PRESIDENT:** Was that a question to the Treasurer?

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** No, it was a point of order as to why this supplementary was in order, because these are actually cabinet decisions. The cabinet decides, the cabinet must take a note of why the decisions were made on any of these conflicts of interest. It's the Ministerial Code of Conduct, indeed under the charge of the Premier, but administered by the cabinet, and the Treasurer is a member of the cabinet and so he should know whether or not he was asked why—

**The PRESIDENT:** The member will resume her seat.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** —the 'woke bloke' from Black—

**The PRESIDENT:** The member has made her point.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** —thought that oil—

**The PRESIDENT:** The member will resume her seat!

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** —was a bridge too far but coal was not.

**The PRESIDENT:** The member will resume her seat! It is not a matter as to what the member refers to. It is a matter as to whether the supplementary related to the original answer, and in my view it didn't, and we are now going to move on to the Hon. Mr Wortley.

#### FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE

**The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:39):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing regarding health.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY:** In what is well known as one of the greatest public health policy failures in decades, today more than 100 essential workers are walking off the job to highlight serious understaffing at Flinders that has led to breaches in infection control standards. The issues raised by staff at the hospital include—and I quote:

Management directives at the Flinders Medical Centre stopping cleaners from performing all necessary tasks due to understaffing.

Almost 600 unfilled shifts for Patient Services Assistants at Flinders Medical Centre in the past month—equating to an average shortfall of 20 Patient Services Assistants every single day.

Double shifts are regularly being asked of Flinders Medical Centre Patient Services Assistants to make up the shortfalls.

My question to the minister is: what guarantee can the minister provide that there are no infection control breaches at Flinders Medical Centre, which is our state's dedicated COVID hospital for pregnant women?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:40):** I can assure the honourable member that Flinders Medical Centre, like all SA Health facilities, has a very clear infection control framework, which, as I indicated earlier, they are required to account for in the accreditation process.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Wortley has a supplementary.

**FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE**

**The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:41):** Coming out of the minister's answer, has the minister been notified of any breaches of protocols at the Flinders Medical Centre, and why would 100 staff—essential worker staff—walk off the job if they weren't of the belief that—

**The PRESIDENT:** You have asked the question.

**The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY:** —there have been breaches?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:41):** I'm not aware of any recent advice to me in relation to infection control breaches at Flinders Medical Centre, but I will certainly make inquiries.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Wortley has a supplementary.

**FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE**

**The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:41):** Has the minister had any advice at all about any potential breaches at Flinders Medical Centre?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:42):** I cannot see how that is supplementary. One was a general comment about breaches; the other is about infection control.

**SAFE AND WELL KIDS PROGRAM**

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (14:42):** My question is to the Minister for Human Services regarding children of domestic violence survivors.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Hon. Ms Lee can start again, please.

**The Hon. J.S. LEE:** Thank you, Mr President. My question is to the Minister for Human Services regarding children of domestic violence survivors. Can the minister please outline to the council how the Marshall Liberal government is providing specialist support to help children of domestic violence survivors through the \$1.5 million Safe and Well Kids program?

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:42):** I thank the honourable member for her question and for her interest in this area. We have indeed provided funding for the Safe and Well Kids program, which was established in recognition of the significant number of women presenting for DV support with accompanying children.

There has been a lot of discussion in coalescing the child protection and domestic and family violence services in ensuring that services are providing support to both cohorts, because often the drivers for damage to their lives is the same driver—that is, domestic and family violence. So there is ongoing discussion at many levels, both directly between service providers and also through the Women's Safety Ministers forums. Indeed, I note that there were significant items at the recent round tables organised by the commonwealth, so children are recognised as a key cohort in their own right.

With that in mind, we have developed specific services targeting children who are victims as well in recognition that 55 per cent of clients who received an individual safety support package, which is the individualised funding that we provided through the pandemic, had accompanying children, and both mothers and their children required integrated case management and therapeutic supports.

This particular service, Safe and Well Kids, is delivered by Women's Safety Services SA, the Legal Services Commission of South Australia and Relationships Australia (RASA). It delivers an integrated case management response to address the safety and wellbeing needs of children and adolescents who present with a carer or parent who requires DFV services. Children and adolescents aged nought to 14 will have access to streamlined assessment case management and therapeutic support. It also provides a legal practitioner to address any socio-legal issues associated with the needs of the child.

The outcomes we are aiming for are that mothers and carers and their children are supported to remain safely together in community and culture, children's needs are seen and prioritised,



children and their parents are supported with domestic and family safety management responses, and children are assisted to overcome trauma and regulate emotions, as well as having access and support to legal advocacy. We are expecting that there will be up to 150 families who will be supported through this service.

#### ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (14:45):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Health and Wellbeing a question about hospital discharges.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** A distressed elderly man yesterday rang Leon Byner's top rating FIVEaa radio program to alert the public about the way some patients are being discharged at the RAH. According to the man, who lives in regional South Australia, his 78-year-old neighbour, whom he has cared for over many years, was swiftly discharged from the hospital and put on a commercial flight to Whyalla, the nearest town to her home with an airport.

The elderly woman was put into a taxi at the RAH to Adelaide Airport in the same clothing she was wearing—a nightie, her dressing gown and without shoes—when she was hurriedly ushered aboard a RFDS plane for Adelaide a week earlier. According to the man, who my office contacted this morning, the taxi driver kindly purchased her some shoes so she could at least board the commercial flight in footwear. I would just like to commend the taxi driver on his generosity and concern. It is a demonstration of the value of having a professional, efficient, taxi industry.

Not surprisingly, the elderly woman has been left shaken from the humiliation of her ordeal, according to the neighbour. This incident adds to the growing fear that SA Health is clearing the decks of elderly patients from the state's public hospital system to accommodate an influx of patients now that the COVID-19 outbreak is growing. My question to the minister is:

1. Will your office investigate this matter to determine if the elderly woman was discharged in an appropriate medical condition and why she was not appropriately attired for a commercial flight?

2. In the circumstances as I have described, is it normal practice for patients who are rushed to hospital at short notice to be discharged in the same clothes they were admitted in?

3. Is there a practice or a policy being pursued by SA Health to prioritise the discharge of elderly patients from our hospital system in order to make beds available?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:48):** If the facts are as the honourable member conveys them, it certainly is concerning. All patients, no matter what their age, should be accorded dignity by SA Health in terms of appropriate attire for (a) a journey in a taxi and (b) a commercial flight. I would like to seek further information.

The honourable member in his question referred to whether the lady was ready for medical discharge but in your explanation there wasn't a comment and you didn't highlight that concern. If the honourable member can give me any further information, I am certainly happy to make inquiries. As I said, SA Health aspires to treat all its patients with dignity at all times.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Pangallo has a supplementary.

#### ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (14:49):** It was actually part of the question. In relation to the discharge of elderly patients, is there SA Health policy that elderly patients are to be discharged from the hospital system to create more beds?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:49):** SA Health's policy applies to all ages, and that is that people should not be discharged until their medical treatment is completed.

**SA HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (14:49):** My question is to the Minister for Human Services regarding housing. After revealing yesterday that 16,307 criminal offences had been committed in SA Housing Authority financial transactions by breaching Treasurer's Instruction 8 and section 41 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987, can the minister now tell this chamber what the dollar value of the illegal transactions was, what was the period during which the 16,307 offences were committed, and can the minister guarantee that these offences are not continuing today?

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:50):** Oh, my goodness! We are in the middle of a pandemic and the Labor Party is focused on some findings from the audit report which I advised yesterday—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK:** Let's do a little recap, shall we.

*The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** The Leader of the Opposition might like to listen to the answer.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** In fact, the entire front bench of the Labor Party—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The opposition leader and his front bench should come to order.

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK:** Under the watch of the Labor Party, the former—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK:** —here we go—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK:** —the former Department for Communities and Social Inclusion paid some 4,000 water—

*The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, leader!

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK:** —concessions to dead people. That's I think the sort of thing of concern that the people of South Australia are concerned about.

**The Hon. R.I. Lucas:** Sounds like an AWU election.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Treasurer is not helping.

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK:** In terms of what was in this year's audit report, it is that authorisations between 1,000 and 5,000 shouldn't have been enabled by the computer system. It's a computer glitch. The Auditor-General—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK:** —has allowed—

*The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, the Leader of the Opposition!

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK:** —has allowed until—

*The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Leader! The Leader of the Opposition is out of order.

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK:** They don't want an answer, Mr President.

#### **SA HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:52):** Supplementary, Mr President.

**The PRESIDENT:** Arising from the original answer.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** Yes, indeed, where the minister referred to these being trifling. What is the dollar value of these transactions?

**The PRESIDENT:** The minister can respond, if she wishes.

**The Hon. J.M.A. Lensink:** No, Mr President.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Ms Girolamo.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! There is a member on her feet.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The opposition is wasting their own question time. The Hon. Ms Girolamo is on her feet and will be heard in silence.

#### **REGIONAL AGED-CARE FACILITIES**

**The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (14:53):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister please update the council on the government's work to upgrade regional aged-care facilities?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:53):** I would like to thank the honourable member for her question. The Marshall Liberal government is committed to providing quality health care close to home for all South Australians. The government is delivering on this commitment not only in hospital services but also in aged care. Early in November, I had the pleasure to visit the Lumeah Homes residential aged-care facility, which is co-located with the Snowtown hospital. The visit was to mark the completion of the updates to the aged-care facility, which cost \$3.4 million and created more than a dozen jobs through the life of the project.

As part of this project, the Marshall Liberal government has delivered a new air-conditioning and fire sprinkler system, new nurse call and improved site security, improvements in fire compartmentation in line with current Australian building standards, replaced the facility's roof, refreshed the facade, and provided a new kitchen servery and new ensuites in the residents' bedrooms. I am delighted to see this facility dramatically improve through the Marshall government's investment and, in doing so, provide the Snowtown community a suitable facility for aged care for years to come.

In addition to the investment in the Snowtown aged-care facility, the Marshall government has also made a substantial investment in the Strathalbyn aged-care facility, with the \$15.4 million project well underway. The project is yet another example of partnership, a partnership with the commonwealth Morrison Liberal government: \$11.5 million of the project has been committed by the state Marshall Liberal government and the remaining \$3.9 million committed by the Morrison government.

The project is not only a refurbishment and upgrade of the current facility, but we are also expanding the aged-care facility in Strathalbyn by an additional 36 beds, providing a total of 92 beds once completed. With the additional 36 beds will be a 24-bed ward for general aged-care residents and a 12-bed memory support unit for aged-care residents with lower levels of symptoms of dementia.

Complementing these additional beds will be a new kitchen and laundry facility, an updated exercise area, a hairdressing area and an outdoor private garden. The project is expected to be completed in early 2022. Once again, these two aged-care facilities are an example of the Marshall

Liberal government's commitment to delivering on care for South Australians of all ages and South Australians in all regions.

### REGIONAL AGED-CARE FACILITIES

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:55):** Supplementary arising from the original answer, where the minister referred to hospitals, aged care and air conditioning: when will air-conditioning systems, where there are aged care and hospitals co-located and they share those air-conditioning systems, be separated so that there will not be closures of hospital services, such as occurred in Kapunda hospital recently?

**The PRESIDENT:** No—you have asked your question.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:56):** I think the honourable member has a fairly naive view of what it takes to maintain infection control safety between an aged-care facility and a hospital. It is not merely a matter of air conditioning. It is also a matter of all the processes within the facility. In terms of the commitment to upgrading the facilities at country hospitals, I would make the point that this government is investing \$150 million over 10 years to deal with the chaotic backlog of capital works—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** —which the former Labor government left in relation to regional services. And that, to be blunt—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** —\$150 million only relates to hospital-related services, not aged-care services, so the honourable member gives me the opportunity of highlighting—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** —that in addition to that \$150 million backlog in hospitals we have—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** —tens and tens of millions of dollars of backlog in capital works in aged care. It also does give me—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** The Leader of the Opposition!

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** It does also give me the opportunity to highlight another exciting initiative, a partnership with the Morrison Liberal government in relation to the very facility we are talking about. The Snowtown aged-care facility has recently put an application in for an MPS capital works investment; in other words, a multipurpose service capital works investment. It has been decades—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** —since the commonwealth government invested capital works in multipurpose services. It certainly wasn't available under former Labor governments at the federal level. It is being delivered by the Morrison Liberal government—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** —and we, in partnership, are very keen to continue to build residential aged-care facilities and other aged accommodation in regional South Australia.

#### REGIONAL AGED-CARE FACILITIES

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:58):** Supplementary: when will upgrades occur to the Kapunda Hospital?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:58):** It's funny you should mention that, because I was actually at Kapunda, I think about two or three weeks ago. I met with Dr Max Van Dissel, one of the legends of country health in South Australia, and one of the things that really interested me was—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** —the quality of the services there. I think the latest investment that I was able to inspect related to day surgery.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition, order! The Leader of the Opposition, your deputy asked a supplementary and I don't know whether she can hear it, because I am having difficulty in hearing the answer.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** I certainly make the observation that the Labor members like to ask questions but they very quickly show their disinterest, because they howl down the answer. This government will continue to invest in capital works in the country, whether it is hospitals or aged care.

**The PRESIDENT:** Supplementary, the deputy leader, arising from the original answer.

#### REGIONAL AGED-CARE FACILITIES

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:59):** When will the upgrades occur to Kapunda Hospital?

*The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** I found it difficult to hear what the question was because the leader was barking away at the same time. I don't know whether the minister heard.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:59):** I have already answered that question.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Hon. Ms Franks has the call and is on her feet.

#### AUSLAN INTERPRETERS

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:59):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. I welcomed the introduction of an Auslan interpreter at today's COVID presser. Will the minister now update the previous question asked as to why they have been so absent from more recent press conferences on COVID by the Marshall government?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:00):** I haven't received the answer to the previous question, but I would question the 'so absent'. I do agree that there were some press conferences where—

*The Hon. T.A. Franks interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** As I said—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** I would like to hear the minister's answer and I can't at the moment.

**The Hon. K.J. Maher:** It's very rude!

**The PRESIDENT:** The Leader of the Opposition, I can't hear the minister. I am sure the Hon. Ms Franks wants to hear him.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** I make the point that there have been occasions where there hasn't been an interpreter present and the honourable member rightly highlighted that we need to make sure that we are communicating to all South Australians. I haven't received an answer to the previous question, but I can assure you that SA Health is alert to the need to communicate broadly.

#### **SA HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:00):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Human Services regarding housing.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.E. HANSON:** When questioned about 16,307 illegal transactions yesterday, the minister said, and I quote, 'I am not remotely concerned about this matter.' My questions to the minister are:

1. Can the minister explain in detail why she is not remotely concerned about 16,307 criminal offences being committed on her watch?
2. What other criminal offending has the minister overseen that she is not remotely concerned with?

**The PRESIDENT:** The inference in the second part of that question I think the minister should ignore. But I will call the minister. I just ask the Hon. Mr Hanson to be careful in the way he phrases those questions. The minister has the call.

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (15:02):** I thank the honourable member for his question and do note that the Labor Party don't like maintenance being spent on our public housing system because they are always attacking some aspect of maintenance or other. Indeed, when they were in government they certainly reduced the maintenance budget on a regular—

**The Hon. J.E. Hanson:** Again, you are starting with when we were in government—you're in government!

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

**The Hon. J.E. Hanson:** There will be an election shortly—

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. J.E. Hanson:** —and you won't be anymore and you can come back and say that again.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Hanson, order! Does the opposition wish to hear the answer? Then be silent.

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK:** I do note the Labor Party love the sound of their own voices. As my colleague the Minister for Health and Wellbeing noted, they love to ask a question but they don't want to hear the answer because they like to talk for themselves, so they might want to get their own YouTube channel and then they can talk to themselves because nobody else is really interested in listening to them.

Variations not approved in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 8 would have been subject to a robust control environment, including an agreed schedule of rates, as all work is carried out by a multitrade contractor, as per an agreed schedule of rates for maintenance services; and deduction and abatement rights if an authorised purchase order for maintenance services under a multitrade contractor was identified. The payment structure under the multitrade contractors is such that the authority is contractually entitled to make a deduction or abatement from future payments to the relevant multitrade contractor to offset the unauthorised maintenance services.

In terms of compliance audits, in order to verify compliance with the terms of the multitrade contractors and to mitigate the risk of unauthorised purchase orders being issued, random audits are conducted by the authority on maintenance service purchase orders on a periodic basis.

#### **SA HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (15:04):** Supplementary in relation to the answer: will the minister undertake to fully cooperate with all integrity agencies investigating this matter?

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (15:04):** I am not aware that this is being referred to any such agency. The Auditor has highlighted in their report there is a remedy that the Auditor-General and the Housing Authority have a pathway forward to.

#### **COST OF LIVING CONCESSION**

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (15:04):** My question is to the Minister for Human Services regarding the cost of living. Can the minister please update the council on how the Marshall Liberal government continues to support South Australians in reducing their cost of living?

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (15:04):** I thank the honourable member for her question. I can advise the council that under this government we haven't been paying concessions to dead people in the manner that took place under the former Labor government. That said, in the last financial year the state government delivered around \$175 million in concessions into the pockets of South Australians to assist them with a range of cost-of-living expenses.

Around 227,000 eligible South Australians receive household concessions and rebates administered through Concessions SA and DHS. Since coming to government in 2018, this government has slashed the amount of red tape and paperwork for people accessing transport and household concessions, with the average processing time for each application cut from—and I pause for effect—up to three months under the previous government, to three days in 2020-21, and currently it is two days. Improvements have included the introduction of a single application form for household concessions and access to online application processes.

As part of the COVID-19 response last year, this Liberal government's \$2 billion stimulus package to keep South Australians safe and the economy strong—sorry, \$13.3 million over two financial years supported 26,600 South Australians through the \$500 COVID-19 Cost of Living Concession boost. In addition, \$4.47 million supported vulnerable people through the International Student Support Package and Residential Rental Grant Scheme, and the \$300 SA COVID-19 Cluster Isolation Payment resulted in some 269 payments having been made so far to a total of \$80,700.

In terms of policy changes, for the first time the application cut-off date for the Cost of Living Concession, which is for low and fixed income households and which is usually due to be completed by 31 October, we have extended to 31 December to give people more time to make that particular application, and therefore more people will be eligible to have that chance to apply. We know that every little bit helps and that is why we are urging low and fixed income South Australians to see if they are eligible for this cash boost.

We also changed the accessibility for GlassesSA under an expanded program, so that people could choose their own frame and lens upgrades at their own expense, choose thinner lenses, provide children with a wider range of frames, and remove the co-payment for standard glasses for Aboriginal customers.

We have the SACEDO scheme, which means that Origin Energy will offer 21 per cent off the electricity reference price for eligible energy concession customers, and the Switch for Solar program, and that is in addition to all of the other areas of cost of living that this government has slashed, including reducing people's ongoing energy and water costs, and a range of other areas including stamp duties.

### AGED-CARE HOMES RANDOM INSPECTIONS

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:08):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Health and Wellbeing a question about random, unscheduled site inspections of aged-care homes.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS:** Four years ago, in the wake of the Oakden aged-care scandal, the government of the day announced that aged-care homes would be subject to random, unscheduled visits from authorities to check on the safety of residents and to ensure that the facility was complying with regulations. Since then, numerous aged-care and nursing homes throughout the state have continued to be caught out by the federal watchdog for a range of noncompliance issues. According to the Aged Care Quality Safety Commissioner, there are currently 15 aged-care homes in SA that it has imposed noncompliance orders on. My questions to the minister are:

1. How many random, unscheduled checks of aged-care homes has the government undertaken since the original announcement was made?
2. What has been the outcome of those random searches?
3. Has any aged-care nursing home been sanctioned by the state government as a direct result of those site visits?
4. Can you provide a list of names and locations of where the checks have occurred?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:09):** The relevant agency for oversight of accreditation for aged care is the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, which is an agency of the federal government. It manages compliance with eight Aged Care Quality Standards. Whilst SA Health does maintain clinical governance oversight of its own facilities, it is the commonwealth agency that does the unscheduled visits that the honourable member refers to.

### AGED-CARE HOMES RANDOM INSPECTIONS

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:10):** Supplementary: are there any specific criteria for selecting aged-care sites to be targeted?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:10):** I am not aware of that. It may well be that there is some publicly available information on the criteria. Certainly, in relation to our partnership with the commonwealth, in terms of the pandemic, one of the indicator issues that was I think brought to the state authority's attention was the level of compliance with infection control measures. It goes back to our earlier conversation and the relevance of the infection control for pandemic response, but I will certainly seek, on behalf of the honourable member, information as to whether there are, if you like, KPIs or indicators as to when the commonwealth agency might plan unscheduled visits.

### AGED-CARE HOMES RANDOM INSPECTIONS

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:11):** Further supplementary: are there reciprocal reporting requirements between the state and federal authorities in relation to the random checks?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:11):** I don't think we get regular reports in terms of the visits that the federal agency makes. The federal agency does publish on its websites information in relation to noncompliance and sanctions. That information is generally available, and I presume in their annual reports they would report on the number of visits they make and how many of those are unannounced.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** Point of order, Mr President: it's the Treasurer's last question time and we haven't had a single Single Touch Payroll question. Dorothy Dixers seem to be absent. What has happened, Mr President?

**The PRESIDENT:** There is no point of order.



**COVID-19 INFORMATION LINE**

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:12):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing about housing. Why is the COVID-19 information hotline that provides people with information on isolation and quarantine requirements only open from 8am until 8pm?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:13):** I might take from that question the suggestion from the Hon. Tung Ngo that there might be value in extending the hours beyond 8am to 8pm. I'm not aware of that suggestion before, but I am happy just to seek a response from my officers.

**COVID-19 VACCINATION**

**The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS (15:13):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing regarding vaccinations.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS:** The Premier and Professor Nicola Spurrier have said that vaccination rates are key to moving from the lockdowns and lockouts of the earlier stages of the COVID-19 pandemic to return to a more normal way of life. Will the minister update the council on COVID-19 vaccinations in South Australia?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:13):** I thank the honourable member for his question. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic South Australians have been working together as a community to ensure that we keep our state safe and strong. Alongside the outstanding work and tireless efforts of our health staff, this has been a key factor in South Australia's successful response to the pandemic. Just as we have seen in the past, COVID-19 continues to bring fresh challenges. Just last week, we saw the Omicron variant emerging, and scientists across the planet are working to get more clarity on its transmissibility, severity and its response to vaccines.

As Professor Nicola Spurrier and the Premier and many others have said, we have to learn to live with the virus, and key to living better with the virus will be the take-up of vaccines. Here in Australia we have three safe, effective vaccines available from a wide range of sources: GPs, pharmacists, immunisation providers, state-run mass vaccination clinics, standing clinics and mobile clinics. Governments and their partners are doing what they can to make these vaccines available.

As in other areas of the response, South Australians have stepped up and shown their community spirit. Over a week ago, we passed the milestone of 80 per cent of the population over 16 having both doses of the vaccine. The next phase of our move to living with COVID will come when 90 per cent of the population over 12 have received both doses of the vaccine.

With 89.5 per cent of the population over 12 having their first dose as of yesterday and 80.5 per cent having both doses, we are well on track to reaching 90 per cent having their first dose over the coming weekend and then, perhaps in three or four weeks' time, 90 per cent double-dosed.

I thank all South Australians who have received their vaccine doses. Your choice to get vaccinated helps protect not only yourselves and your loved ones but the entire South Australian community. To anyone who is thinking about getting the vaccine, the cases we are seeing emerge in recent days is a reminder that COVID is present in South Australia. This is not a cause for alarm. The Marshall Liberal government has been working to ensure our health system is ready. We have excellent contact tracing teams and we have maintained sensible public health measures.

However, the best protection from hospitalisation and severe illness is vaccination. I encourage every eligible South Australian who has not received a dose of the vaccine to go and get vaccinated as quickly as they can. The latest update I received showed that there were 28,000 vaccine appointments available at metropolitan mass vaccination clinics. There are thousands more available at pharmacies and GPs.

I would urge all South Australians to roll up their sleeves, to get vaccinated, to protect themselves, those they love and the communities of which they are a part.

### FLAMMABLE BUILDING CLADDING

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:17):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Treasurer, representing the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport in another place, a question about flammable building cladding.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** It was revealed in the media recently that potentially flammable cladding on one of Adelaide's most recognisable and tallest buildings is being replaced after a government-led audit. *The Advertiser* reported the Grenfell Centre office tower on Grenfell Street, otherwise known as the 'black stump', was among dozens of buildings identified as having aluminium composite panels following a statewide audit triggered by the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire in London, in which 72 people died.

The building is home to a number of government and private tenants, including SA Health, PIRSA and law firms Lipman Karas and MinterEllison. Work is expected to be completed by February 2023. The building was identified as part of the government's South Australian Building Cladding Audit Interim Report undertaken in 2019, scant findings of which were released in October that year. My question to the minister is:

1. How many buildings identified as part of the audit have had their cladding replaced?
2. How many other buildings identified as part of the audit are still to have their cladding replaced?
3. How much has the government spent to date replacing the questionable cladding on government-owned buildings?
4. How many buildings in total were identified as having potentially flammable cladding as part of the audit?
5. How many are privately owned and how many are publicly owned?
6. Are private owners legally bound to replace the potentially flammable cladding?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:19):** As tempting as it might be, all I can say is I will refer the honourable member's question to the minister and bring back a reply.

### PUBLIC SECTOR WORKFORCE REJUVENATION SCHEME

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:19):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Treasurer on the topic of the Public Service rejuvenation scheme.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** In June this year, the Treasurer announced the public sector rejuvenation scheme. This offers an incentive, for those who have had service of 10 years or more in our public sector, of \$50,000 to leave the public sector and, if they have served for less than 10 years, some \$25,000 to leave the public sector. That scheme concludes at the end of this month.

1. Can the Treasurer update how many public servants have availed themselves of that scheme and left the Public Service?
2. What has been the amount of those \$50,000 and \$25,000 payments to date?
3. What departments have they left the Public Service from?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:21):** I am happy to take the detail of that question on notice and provide an answer to the honourable member. There has been, I am advised, significant interest in the scheme from members of the Public Service in availing themselves of the scheme.

My recollection is that I have been asked to extend the scheme in one area in particular—I think it is in relation to education. There are particular benefits for providing it to members of that department in terms of the start of the new school year as opposed to just before the school holidays, evidently, on my recollection. My recollection is I have approved the extension of the scheme for that

particular department in that particular area. But I am happy to gather whatever information we can and provide some response to the honourable member.

**The PRESIDENT:** Before calling on the business of the day, can I indicate to members that the well-regarded member of the catering staff, Mr Christian Tanchot, is about to celebrate his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in the coming days. I invite members to respond to him on that milestone when they see him in the building.

### *Bills*

## **MARTINDALE HALL (PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT) BILL**

### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 10 June 2021.)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (15:22):** I rise to speak on this bill and indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition. I also indicate, as the shadow minister for environment and water in another place, the member for Port Adelaide, the Hon. Dr Susan Close MP, has indicated publicly and in debate on the bill, that the opposition will not be supporting the bill in this form.

Martindale Hall is a Georgian style mansion located in Mintaro which has significant heritage value to this state. Built in 1880, it has 32 rooms with a large cellar, well-maintained surrounding grounds, totalling 19 hectares, and an impressive coach-house. The building and surrounds were famously used for the 1975 film *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. The site is currently privately managed and is visited by some 15,000 visitors a year. The bill before us today is apparently designed to remove constraints around upgrades and maintenance on the building.

Despite these claims, to the best of our knowledge, the Minister for Environment and Water has failed to share any of the advice or the reasoning that he has said limits the work that is able to be undertaken at this site at the present time. I understand the minister even promised to release this advice publicly, in a radio interview.

The opposition has three main areas of concern with this legislation. The removal of the conservation park surrounding the grounds sets a dangerous precedent, and it is possible that this will be the first example of a conservation park being extinguished without alternative protections being gazetted or legislated.

The Minister for Environment and Water certainly could not provide any examples of a conservation park being extinguished with no alternative land or protection being granted as an offset, when asked earlier this year. Extinguishing the charitable trust is another point of contention amongst those worried about the passage of this bill. The concern is that this could negatively impact future private property owners from donating land and buildings to the government for public use.

Martindale Hall was originally gifted by the Mortlock family to the University of Adelaide in 1972. As part of Jubilee 150 celebrations, the university then handed the site to the state government in 1986 with the intent that it be used and accessed by all South Australians. I wonder if the Mortlock family or the university would make the same decision again if they knew the building could be used for an upmarket resort?

The third issue the opposition has with this bill is one that is shared widely among stakeholders: the power the bill invests in the minister of the day to develop policies and guidelines on the future use of the building and land, including the leasing of land to private operators.

Unfortunately, we currently have a minister in charge of heritage in this state who has overseen the destruction of Shed 26 at Port Adelaide, an attempted bulldozing of the Waite Gatehouse in Urrbrae and the eviction of the National Trust of South Australia from Ayers House after more than 50 years of custodianship. This list does not inspire a lot of confidence in the Minister for Environment and heritage.

This bill is opposed by the National Trust of South Australia, the Protect Our Heritage Alliance and many local leaders in the Clare and Gilbert Valleys region. Labor will oppose the bill in this chamber.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. N.J. Centofanti.

*Adjournment Debate*

### **ADJOURNMENT DEBATE**

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

That the council at its rising do adjourn until Tuesday 3 May 2022.

I will outline for members of the council that it is the government's position that this chamber should sit whatever days the House of Assembly sits, so I have only used 3 May at this stage because I understand there is to be a debate this afternoon in the House of Assembly and we will not know when the House of Assembly adjourns to, as to whether it is after the election—which was the normal practice in 2013 and 2017, prior to the last two elections—or not.

I also accept that the majority in this chamber, whether the assembly does or does not sit, may seek to amend the motion. I indicate that if the assembly is sitting next week then certainly the government would accept an amendment for this house to sit next week, or whatever the date is that the House of Assembly sits. The other thing I will say for the benefit of members is that this will allow members (if it is our last sitting day) to farewell members, if they wish. If it is not, then there will be another go at it, some other week or weeks, whatever that is.

I would propose, and I have advised the Leader of the Opposition of this, that after members have spoken to this particular motion I would seek leave to suspend the sitting of the council until we do know when the House of Assembly is going to adjourn to and then this house can decide what particular date it wants to adjourn to in the full knowledge of whether or not the House of Assembly is sitting.

I will give the usual thankyou for the end of this particular year's parliamentary session. I thank you, Mr President, for being the President of this particular chamber. I thank the whips, although one is absent today but in his absence I thank the whips for the work they do. I thank all other members of the Legislative Council for, generally, the productive way we work together in terms of the operations of the Legislative Council.

I thank the clerks and the table staff for everything they do for all of us, whether it be in this chamber or on the very many parliamentary committees that we have. I certainly thank the messengers—Mario and the team—for everything they have done for us this year. I thank Hansard for everything they do to fix all of our problems and errors. I thank the catering staff, caretakers, protective security and all the others who tend to all of our needs here in parliament each and every year. I also thank the library staff for everything they do for members collectively.

As I said, this may or may not be the last sitting day for the parliament and/or the Legislative Council, so with that there are a number who have indicated that they are going to retire. Mr President, I wish you and the Hon. Mr Wortley very well and best wishes for whatever future challenges there might be in our still COVID environment. I wish you well and I thank you for your public service to both your parties and also to the community that you have served. It may or may not be the Hon. Mr Darley's—again, he is absent today—final sitting day or days. I thank him for his public service and his contribution and I certainly wish him the very best for the future as well.

As I flagged four years ago, this will be my last run around, so I want to at this particular time thank my party because if my party did not endorse me almost 100 years ago I would not be here. I know I owe my parliamentary career and political career to my party and I thank them and all the various people who have been within the party over those many years. I thank also all of my parliamentary colleagues, in particular my parliamentary colleagues present in the Legislative Council and in the House of Assembly, but I also collectively thank the very many parliamentary colleagues I have served with over many years.

As I said to our new Governor when she was installed, it certainly brought home to me that I had made the right decision about retiring when the daughter of an ex parliamentary colleague was

now the Governor of the state. It was affirmation that the decision I had made, that it was time for me to sail off into the political sunset, was correct.

I want to thank the very many staff members over many years who have served me, both my current staff who have been outstanding and the many staff over many years who have worked with me. I thank them. I thank the many public servants in two iterations in government, in the nineties and the last four years. We have outstanding public servants in this state, and I publicly acknowledge the service that they provide. I thank in particular the ones I have had the pleasure of working with.

I also thank the many members of the media. I have generally had a productive relationship with most of them and I thank them for that level of cooperation over many years. Many of the ones I have worked with over many years have retired, but I thank past members of the media and also the current members of the media.

I obviously want to thank my family, in particular my wife, Marie, for her support. We are coming up to I think it is almost the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our very first date. We remember the anniversary of our first date, which was at the grandly titled University of Adelaide MedBall, which was certainly not that. It was a swim through at the University of Adelaide out in, I think, a park somewhere in Walkerville. It was grandly titled, but anyway I thank Marie very much for her love and support for, as I said, almost 49 years. She has only known politics all through that time.

I thank also my four children: Ben, Tim, Matt and Hannah. They have only known politics. Ben is now just over 40. They have been there through all of it, so I thank them very much for their love and support over that long period of time.

Finally, I want to thank the many members of the general public I have engaged with over 40 years in one way or another. In particular, can I take an indicative group: the very many patrons I have met over the years at the Myer food court who have very generously shared with me their views about my competence or otherwise in a free fashion over those many years.

What I can say to the Minister for Health is that I think the one benefit I have seen from the global pandemic we have endured with COVID-19 is that with the compulsory wearing of masks I have noticed a slightly lower level of public abuse than I have endured in recent times because at least some people do not recognise me because I am wearing a mask. So there was one upside in relation to mask wearing as a result of COVID-19.

In concluding, can I quote the immortal words of that great Australian orator Jeff Fenech, 'I love youse all.'

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (15:34):** It is my duty to place on the record some comments in appreciation and thanks to the Hon. Rob Lucas for his service to the Legislative Council as a member since 1982, for his time as a minister in the Brown, Olsen, Kerin and now Marshall governments, for his careful stewardship of countless pieces of legislation which will be enshrined in the law of the state—and therefore he exists within the statutes forever—and as a parliamentary colleague of mine since 2003.

We did seek to have a special motion for the Hon. Mr Lucas, but being the humble man that he is he flatly refused, and so we are respecting his wishes. While many of us have been fortunate to get to know Rob well over the last few years, I would like to place on the record some of his highlights. He might not agree with them, but here we are. We have been trawling through the records to obtain details of his life.

Rob Lucas was born in the small town of Kure, Japan, in 1953, and moved to Mount Gambier at the age of just seven months old. His father, Bob, served as a corporal with the army postwar and met his mother, Yvonne, an interpreter and typist for Army public relations. At the time Robert joined the Legislative Council, he was only the second member who could trace their immediate heritage to an ethnic group other than Anglo-Saxon. I am pleased that we have seen strong growth in the diversity of the people who are now in these chambers, especially of Asian heritage.

Having arrived in South Australia in 1954, Rob went to study at Marist Brothers Agricultural College and Mount Gambier High School before attending the University of Adelaide, where he

earned bachelor degrees in economics and science as well as a masters degree in business administration.

In 1978, he married his lovely wife, Marie, who has no doubt been a bedrock in all future success for him. Rob went on to work for the Liberal Party, serving in the role of assistant state director of the South Australian division immediately prior to his election to the Forty-Fifth Parliament in November 1982. At the age of just 29, Rob joined the Legislative Council as the youngest member of the council at that time, and he probably holds some form of record since. This election saw a change of government and the completion of the Tonkin premiership, and also saw the introduction of daylight saving in our state.

In 1983, Rob delivered his maiden speech in this chamber and made reference to some of the basic values he held as a Liberal, namely, those of fairness and equality opportunity, which have no doubt played a role in guiding his decision-making on all matters which have been before him here over the past 39 and a bit years.

Serving his first few years here as a diligent member of the loyal opposition, Rob was elevated in 1985 to the front bench. In 1989, he assumed the additional role of Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, a position he held until the election of the Brown government in 1993, when he joined the cabinet and Executive Council for the first time as the Minister for Education and Children's Services, as well as continuing his leadership role within the parliamentary Liberal team as the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council.

In 1997, Rob was sworn in as Treasurer. As he stated in his first budget speech, our state could not hope to grow and prosper as long it was weighed down by the crippling State Bank debt and its costs. By the time of his last budget in that government, delivered on 31 May 2001, the outlook for South Australia was much more positive.

Following the election of the Rann government in 2002, he returned again to the role of Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council and held many important portfolios, 21 portfolios across those 16 years, including treasury, police and health, to name just a few. While not in government for this period, he played a significant role in legislative and policy development, which is to the benefit of all South Australians.

Following the election of the Marshall Liberal government in 2018, Rob obviously became Treasurer again and together with the rest of our parliamentary Liberal team we have shared in the privilege of delivering a plan for South Australia and delivering on the mandate entrusted to us by the people of South Australia.

In his entire career, he has served with integrity and diligence every single day. Whether it is responding to the impacts of a global pandemic, delivering \$17.9 billion in critical infrastructure investment so that we as a government can continue to get on with building what matters, or growing our health spending to \$7.4 billion this financial year, his work has continued to go from strength to strength.

In preparing my contribution today, I have come across some interesting facts. For instance, upon Rob's impending retirement at the next state election, he will have been a member of parliament for 14,378 days. It might be comparable to the number of doughnuts he has consumed in that time! He has also contributed to over 850 debates in this chamber, potentially close to a thousand contributions. He has had many great achievements, including, for example, as the first Treasurer to be appointed from the other house, which is a break from traditional Westminster conventions.

It is quite difficult to summarise what is a truly remarkable parliamentary career in a single speech; however, I hope that I have conveyed some of the enormous appreciation of the government and members in this place for everything he has done. We have already mentioned the Myer food court, so I am sure that will continue to be a highlight. We wish Rob all the best for his retirement in whatever the future holds. To Rob and his wife, Marie, his four children, Ben, Tim, Matt and Hannah, and his growing cluster of grandchildren, we wish them every future health and wellbeing.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:41):** I rise, too, to pay tribute to retiring members. Given the constraints of the day and because the Hon. Rob Lucas made it very clear to the party room of his desire to make these valedictories low key, I will make my

remarks short and understated. The Hon. Rob Lucas is a legend of the Legislative Council. He is the fourth longest serving member of this place in its 178 years. On 19 March 2022, the Treasurer would have served more than 39 years in this place. As I said, only three members of this place have served longer.

The Hon. Rob Lucas believes in the role of the Legislative Council as a house of review. He embodies the culture of this place: calm, considered, collaborative. I suspect he thinks the council should be more calm, more considered, more collaborative. The Hon. Rob Lucas is a legend within the government of South Australia. The leader is not gradually dimming the lights as he leaves stage left. At the end of a marathon four decades' service, he is still an active Treasurer in a reformist government. His stellar stewardship of the economy and the finances of the state during the global pandemic is the crowning achievement of a distinguished career. He leaves parliament at the time of his choosing and at the top of his game.

The Hon. Rob Lucas is a legend of the Liberal Party and its values. He has been a lead campaigner for our party for more than 40 years, even before he came into this place. Within the parliament, the Hon. Rob Lucas has been a strong, consistent, conservative voice in this chamber, rooted in his Catholic faith. The leader will be sorely missed. The Premier, other ministers and me rely on his depth of knowledge, his substantial expertise and his wise counsel. I wish him all the best for his future endeavours and dare to hope that he might still find time to provide us with his counsel.

I would also like to acknowledge the service of the Hon. John Dawkins. The President was born in Gawler and spent his childhood living on a farm in the Gawler River. He has never lost his roots in rural South Australia. He received an Associate Diploma in Farm Management from Glenormiston Agricultural College and, having studied journalism, still maintains an active interest in rural media.

I first met the Hon. John Dawkins when he served federal members and subsequent to that he was elected to this place on 11 October 1997. In particular, as Minister for Health and Wellbeing, I want to acknowledge the service of the Hon. John Dawkins for his strong contribution to suicide prevention, not only at the state level but also at the national level. He was the inaugural chair of the Suicide Prevention Council and a key proponent for the Suicide Prevention Bill which passed this place yesterday. I wish John and Sheila all the best for the future.

**The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS (15:45):** I rise to support the remarks of my colleagues, the Hon. Michelle Lensink and the Hon. Stephen Wade. I will not regurgitate the statistical information that is most important about the Hon. Rob Lucas; it is very much appreciated but there is no need for me to repeat it.

What I would like to do is make sure that I put on the record for eternity some of the things that the people of South Australia really do need to know about the Hon. Rob Lucas and our friendship over the years. I acknowledge the fact that he has been a calming influence, not only on this chamber but certainly on myself. He is a very self-deprecating fellow and pretty cheeky. As a friend, I can say that he would take great delight in taking the micky out of his friends in any sort of public environment that we were in, but was always happy to receive as good as he gave.

A long-suffering West Adelaide Football Club fan, a St Kilda fan, perhaps not so much a long-suffering Manchester United fan, because they have certainly brought him some joy over the journey—not so good at the moment. However, I am sure the Hon. Rob Lucas in his retirement will not have to tape games and watch them at 2am and 3am while he is beavering away working through his ministerial duties that he has taken home. Hopefully, he will do that at a reasonable time.

He is fortunate to have a fantastic family—his lovely wife, Marie, and terrific children and grandchildren. I am sure they will bring him an enormous amount of joy going forward. I know he has always been a wonderful father, and I am sure his grandchildren will be quite amused when they are old enough to realise the incredible service he has given to the people of South Australia.

Rob is an incredibly loyal friend and he is an incredibly loyal member of the Liberal Party. He has always put the party before himself. I remember one particular time when he was unfairly dealt a backward slap by a new leader of our party, and I think I was encouraging him and I to be quite

radical, but he said, 'Calm down, young fellow. You've got a longer career ahead of you and you've got to ride the ups and downs of politics'—always the calming influence.

People out there in voter land would not know that Rob's knowledge of sport is really quite incredible, both Australian and international, and not just covering the major sports that most would think of but right across the spectrum. How he was never South Australia's best minister for sport and recreation is beyond me. I know the Hon. Frank Pangallo is well-versed in many sports but the Hon. Rob Lucas would certainly take some stacking.

I am sure the Hon. Rob Lucas and I, when he is a retired gent, will find time to hunt down a serve of lamb's fry and bacon somewhere. That has been one of our favourite pastimes—which we have not done for a little while. Sadly, neither of our wives are all that interested in cooking it for us, but I have put in a bit of work, I have to say, over the last 18 months during COVID to improve my skills in that area, so I might be able to lure him away from some sporting replay that he is watching and give him a reasonable feed of lamb's fry and bacon.

Rob, you have been an incredible friend—and this is not a eulogy. I am thinking that we might catch up occasionally, usually probably when it is your buy and not my buy, but looking forward to the next chapter of your life. However, you have a bit to do between now and March because you have to make sure that you help steward our great party to another election victory.

In closing, I would also poke a little bit of fun at the Hon. Russell Wortley. I met Russell Wortley when we were both schoolboys in long pants kicking around the back streets of Pooraka and we both still laugh about how we finished up in the Legislative Council, a fellow from Whyalla and a guy from Pooraka. I am sure that Russell will not be left behind the door when good things are given out. He has always managed to land on his feet and I am sure he will enjoy a long and happy retirement.

**The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (15:50):** I know that the Hon. Rob Lucas is thrilled to have everyone speak about him and his incredible service to the Legislative Council for nearly 40 years.

**The Hon. T.J. Stephens:** He gave you some notes, didn't he?

**The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO:** Absolutely. The Hon. Rob Lucas's service to the people of South Australia and to the council, as the Father of the House, is quite remarkable. Having known the Hon. Rob Lucas and his family for nearly three decades, it has been an incredible privilege to be working as his colleague in this place for the final eight months of his career. I have enjoyed listening, observing and seeing the master at work. He remains the ultimate professional. I can never really quite believe how relaxed he always remains.

I have been watching his career for over 30 years and he is a wonderful role model to our parliamentary team, our party and to me. His economic management is second to none. I know the coronavirus pandemic has presented its challenges but we are all in this incredible position here today as a state because of his economic management and vision.

The Hon. Rob Lucas has left incredibly big shoes to fill. He has certainly left an incredible legacy for other parliamentarians to follow and for South Australians, who he has dedicated much of his life to, to benefit from. I sincerely hope he enjoys the next stage of his life with his wonderful wife, Marie, his children and his grandchildren.

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (15:51):** I also join the other honourable members to pay tribute to our dear colleague the Hon. Rob Lucas. Even though we knew this day was coming for a while, since he announced that this would be the last term of parliament for him, it is still going to be really difficult to imagine the Parliament of South Australia without the presence of the Hon. Rob Lucas.

He actively discouraged all of us in the joint party room to speak about him, but it is hard to follow, I suppose, the instructions this time. Many of my friends have asked, 'Are you sure the Hon. Rob Lucas has not changed his mind?' I said, 'I have asked him many times and many of us have asked him many times. He definitely has not changed his mind.' And the other question would be, 'Is the Hon. Rob Lucas the longest serving member of parliament in South Australia?' Close to it, as the Hon. Stephen Wade has mentioned. Sir John Lancelot Stirling OBE actually served for 48 years, from 1881 to 1932.



Despite the fact that the Hon. Rob Lucas has not served the longest, he has definitely had the most outstanding and distinguished parliamentary career and we need to acknowledge and pay tribute to his achievements. Personal achievement does not just mean something for him or his family, or the Liberal Party. His achievement has carried through to deliver many community services to all South Australians and we ought to be very grateful.

The fact that the Hon. Rob Lucas also has Asian heritage—his mother was of Japanese ancestry—that itself means a lot to me, as an MP with Asian heritage, because it is something that I look up to. Over the years, he has been a great mentor. He symbolises something. When I hear negative comments such as, 'You are just a first-generation migrant. What makes you think that you are better than the white Australians in serving us in South Australia, or in Australia?' these sorts of comments, when I look at somebody like the Hon. Rob Lucas, he is someone who I truly value.

He gives hope to multicultural community groups and to myself. He is a person of dignity, he is a person with intellectual capacity, and he is someone who really believes in delivering services and serving the community. He has knowledge and wisdom. Many colleagues have already commented that he is as cool as a cucumber. He is always able to maintain that calmness and composure as the Father of the House—and now he is not just that, he can be seen as the grandfather of the house and grandfather to his grandchildren.

Another remark I want to make is this: some of my trainees, when I asked them, 'What was the most memorable time for you when you were a trainee in parliament?' they said, 'Working for you, Jing, but the most memorable time is actually having conversations with the Hon. Rob Lucas.' One particular trainee came up to me and I said, 'What would you consider as the most memorable time?' He said, 'Most of the time the trainees are young people working here, a bit fearful of the Hon. Rob Lucas because of his stature and his position. However, when you do get to sit down next to him, he treats everybody equally, he is considerate and he is friendly.' This particular trainee said to me, 'Just having a conversation with Rob Lucas makes you feel special, makes you feel that you are the most important person in the world.' That is the sort of comment he probably has not heard, and I think it is good to acknowledge that.

If you are ever going to have yum cha with the Hon. Rob Lucas, just remember this: he only needs to have fried rice, soy sauce and dim sum, because that will make him really happy. The rest of the yum cha dishes are a bit too fancy, so you do not have to go to the extent of ordering too many yum cha dishes for him.

I recently had lunch in the Parliament House dining room. A number of staff came to me and said, 'Is it true that the Hon. Rob Lucas will be retiring?' I said, 'Yes indeed.' They said, 'Can you please wish him the very best wishes because people don't realise how funny and how humorous, how humane, he is, because when he serves drinks at the parliamentary Christmas party he is always really friendly, he always wants to be the first to serve those Christmas drinks to the staffers'—not to the MPs but to the staffers. So I want to convey those particular best wishes and thanks for the Hon. Rob Lucas.

Finally, I want to wish the Hon. Rob Lucas and his family, his lovely wife, Marie, the very best upon his retirement. I do not think this is the last time we will see him in parliament. I do not think this is the time to say farewell as such, but I want to wish him and his family the very best. I would also like to acknowledge the other contributions by other honourable members who are retiring. I wish everybody best wishes for their retirement.

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:58):** One of the unfortunate aspects of being the seventh speaker is that much of what I was going to say has been said, so members might be pleased to hear that I will not be repeating a lot of it. I found myself crossing things off as they were listed as previous members spoke.

Can I echo the Treasurer's comments that he made with respect to the staff in their various forms in this building: we are very well served, whether it be by the Clerk himself or all of those who work under him. Sincere thanks to all of you. You make our lives much easier and much better. I know that the service is done most sincerely and I want you to know that it is sincerely appreciated, so thank you.

Can I also just take a moment to acknowledge the other members who are retiring, before I turn to the main part of my contribution this afternoon dealing with the Hon. Mr Lucas. I would like to acknowledge the Hon. Mr Wortley, who has announced he will not be recontesting the election next March. He and I were elected on the same day, back on 18 March 2006, nearly 16 years ago now. Whilst I think it is fair to say that he and I have quite divergent political views and views of the world, I have always found that Russell has entered discussions genuinely and that he genuinely has the best interests of the people that he represents at heart. I have always found him to be a decent person and someone who genuinely advocates for those that he represents with a sense of reasonableness and integrity, if I could put it that way.

Members may not be aware that Russell and Dana and their then young son, Che, actually came to my house for dinner some years ago, when I was on the crossbench. We were living in our current house, so it was about nine years ago, because we had only been in there a few weeks—we still had furniture around the place. It was a most enjoyable evening. The reason it came about was that I am a big fan of paella, or pay-eh-ya as the Spanish would say, and Russell claimed to make the best paella in the world. I said, 'Well I'd like to sample some of that,' so he agreed. He actually brought around to my house and cooked on my barbecue a fantastic paella; it was really something to remember. So I thank him for that, and I take the opportunity to wish him well in his future endeavours and Dana and Che as well.

Sir, you have also indicated that it will be your last term, that you will not be seeking re-election in March, and I want to pay tribute to your 24-year career, or 25, would it be, actually, given that it is 2007?

**The PRESIDENT:** Twenty-four.

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD:** Twenty-four. I beg your pardon. Your 24-year career, eight more than I have contributed to this place. You have indeed risen to the highest position in our chamber. You are to be congratulated on being the President. I think you have been a very good President. I think you have been a very fair President and one who has, where possible, gone unnoticed, and that is the sign of a good President. There are times when, of course, you need to assert yourself, and that is what a good President would do—where it is hard not to notice you and appropriate that we should. Can I also say that I am impressed by the fact that you were able to serve as Government Whip for, I think, 16 years?

**The PRESIDENT:** Unfortunately, Opposition Whip.

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD:** Of course, I beg your pardon, Opposition Whip, yes, you are right. That was a faux pas, wasn't it? That is a long time to serve as whip. I wonder if there have been too many more that have served that length of time. As a whip myself I understand that it is a pretty busy and quite important role; the chamber does not function if the whips get it wrong. I want to pay tribute to you for that as well.

You have also had a number of other achievements, including your work—I think the most significant work, really, in some ways, that your career has presented to this place—in the area of suicide prevention, culminating in a great achievement just yesterday, which we have acknowledged on Facebook. I hope you will say a few words about that when you get an opportunity. I do want to acknowledge your service to this place, John. I think you are a very decent human being. I have enjoyed your friendship. Thank you, and may I take this opportunity to wish you and Sheila all the very best for your future.

Now I turn to our leader, the Treasurer, the Hon. Mr Lucas. There is so much I could say. As I said, members have spoken before me, and a lot of it I have had to cross off. There is no point going over the same, but I will touch on a few things that were mentioned by other members.

You have to go right back to 1982 when the Hon. Mr Lucas was originally elected. I was in year 8 at high school, with a bowl cut and a tracksuit top, so it seems a long, long time ago. I was literally 12 years old. I am 51 now, and it is hard to think just how long ago that really was. Anyone who can survive in this place for that length of time I think is well and truly deserving of credit, purely for that alone.

It was not much later, 1993, when Rob was appointed Minister for Education and Children's Services and then Treasurer in 1997. He was, of course, twice Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council. I wonder how many members have been a Leader of the Opposition twice in this place. I suspect very few. Leaders of the opposition, if they do not succeed in becoming significant members in government, do not usually get another opportunity, but such was his compelling presence in the chamber and his natural ability to debate so compellingly that really he was the obvious choice. So 40 years in the Legislative Council next year really is literally a lifetime of work that must be acknowledged.

I think the thing about the Hon. Mr Lucas that is quite surprising to some people is that he is actually a reformer—a legislative reformer. Of course, this goes against his public image, if you like. He presents as quite conservative. I guess his Catholic faith has something to do with that but also his extreme frugality. Until recently, he was the only member I was aware of who would use coins or money in the members' bar, and I think he is still quite upset that the members' bar does not take currency. I have not used currency for a number of years; it is a foreign thing to me.

Despite that public persona of conservatism and frugality, the reality is that he is the man who has introduced significant reforms to this place over the years, including the sale of ETSA when he was Treasurer, wiping out some \$3.5 billion of state debt. I think this may have been forgotten by some but he also introduced what I think was a very significant reform, that is, the basic skills test in South Australian schools which is now at the core of the NAPLAN testing that we use nationally. There was a lot of opposition at the time to introducing that basic skills test, and yet Rob stood his ground and persisted with the reform because he believed it was the right thing. I am glad he did because I believe it has been a very useful assessment basis for the progress of our kids in schools.

More recently, in this term of government, he has been the architect of land tax reform, lowering the top rate from 3.7 per cent to 2.4 per cent, he reduced the emergency services levy quite substantially, and then significantly reduced the payroll tax impost, particularly wiping it out for small businesses, essentially. It is a record of reform that I think he can be very proud of. It is not something that necessarily the public may automatically associate him with, being a reformer, but when you take the time to look at his record, clearly that is what he is.

If I had to describe the Hon. Mr Lucas in three words, these would be the ones I would choose: I would say intellect, I do not think anyone could dispute that he has a substantial intellect; he is a loyal person, as the Hon. Mr Stephens said, and his loyalty is one of his most admirable qualities; and the other thing that is rare in someone of such high intellect is that he is a truly humble person, and his humility is something that I have grown to greatly respect over my time in this chamber.

One example of that came about in an interview he did recently on the eve of his last budget, and as he was preparing he was interviewed by the ABC. It was at that time after such a lengthy career and so many achievements over the years that journalists automatically turned the questions to the aspect of what legacy will you leave, and what do you perceive your legacy might be? The comments that I will read to you that he gave to that journalist just serve to highlight his humility. He said, and I quote directly:

I'm not much worried about personal legacies; what I'd like people to see me as is part of a team. If the legacy is that I was part of a team, together with the Premier, that showed leadership, showed strength and made the right decisions at the right time, which minimised the number of people that died and saved as many jobs as businesses, I'd like to see that as part of a legacy.

He also admitted that he simply did not have time to be sentimental and to focus on those things, and I quote again:

There's so much work to be done—you don't have time for reflection, emotion and nostalgia—you just get on with the job of trying to make the decisions as best as you can. When you get to my age, you don't worry too much about those sorts of things.

He has always been self-deprecating. I think it has been a truly formidable career and one that will be very hard for anyone to match. I doubt that anyone will do 40 years in the Legislative Council with such esteem, with such humility and with such outstanding results. Certainly, I do not expect to see

that in my lifetime. If I can achieve half of what the Hon. Mr Lucas has achieved in his career, and I am well short of that at the moment, I would be truly proud of my service.

Could I take the opportunity to wish Rob, Marie, their four children and their four grandchildren the very best for a future which is well deserved.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (16:09):** I rise to speak to this adjournment motion. Firstly, I would like to thank all the people in this place for their support over the last 18 months, other members, Legislative Council staff and other support staff. It has been a period like no other and I am grateful to the wonderful people in this chamber, as well as the wonderful wider South Australian community, for all their kindness and support.

I would now like to take the opportunity to acknowledge my colleague the Hon. Rob Lucas. There are many reasons to celebrate 1982. It was of course the year that the Treasurer was first elected into the Legislative Council, and it was also the year that I was born. The Treasurer is someone I have had the enormous pleasure of serving the wonderful people of South Australia alongside with. While my service is just beginning, hopefully, I reflect on the wonderful example that he sets. Hands in pockets, always calm and measured, he is someone I aspire to. I have also had the privilege of serving on our state executive with the Hon. Rob Lucas for a number of years prior to my election into this place and in this role, similarly, he was always reliable and steadfast.

I would like to thank my colleague the Treasurer for his service, leadership and guidance. He has been an absolute staple in politics in South Australia certainly in my lifetime. There is not much that has happened in South Australia over the past nearly four decades that the Hon. Rob Lucas has not been involved in. He was patient initially in opposition and then served our state in government from 1993 to 2002, when he also led the government in this house.

He has held many portfolios and shadow portfolios that we have already heard about; however, I think he will be best remembered for his fiscal management. Having held the Treasurer or shadow treasurer portfolio for 19 years, he was there to assist with the clean-up after the collapse of the State Bank in the early nineties, and we could not have asked for a better Treasurer to guide us through the COVID-19 pandemic. My husband often comments that he wishes I had learned more about financial management and the difference between 'nice to have' and 'must have' in my time working with the Treasurer.

As a small business owner prior to entering politics and someone who lives and is raising a family in the Riverland, I am acutely aware of the difference a Liberal government makes and the importance of strong financial leadership from our Treasurer. Treasurer, it has been an absolute honour getting to serve, albeit for a short time, with you. You have left a legacy of dedication, service, hard work and conservative fiscal management. I wish you, Marie and your wider family all the best in your retirement. Thank you, and I am not sure how the Myer food court will survive without your patronage.

I would also like to acknowledge the service to this chamber of yourself, Mr President. I remember fondly your encouragement of me to pursue a career in politics and reflect on those words all those years ago in relation to where I now stand in this place. It has been a pleasure serving the wonderful people of South Australia alongside you. While my service, again, is just beginning, I reflect that your political career started alongside my uncle, Neil Andrew. I congratulate you on your long and successful career in this place. I want to thank you for your service and wish you, Sheila and your wider family all the best in your retirement.

I would also like to acknowledge the Hon. Russell Wortley for his service to the Labor Party and to this chamber. I have enjoyed my time with the honourable member on the Natural Resources Committee, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone here a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year. I look forward to coming back to this side of the chamber when the new session of parliament commences in 2022.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (16:13):** I rise to also acknowledge those who are leaving this place, first of all the Hon. Rob Lucas. Almost 50 years is a considerable achievement in any

workplace. I suggest that this workplace has some peculiarities and so I observe that 40 years in this particular workplace is a particular achievement.

One of the traditions of this place, I am told, is that we put aside our political differences, however great they may be, to honour the service of colleagues as they are leaving this place. The Hon. Rob Lucas has often spoken about the importance of traditions. His respect for the parliamentary processes and traditions is something we have heard about on a number of occasions, and I believe he holds that respect for tradition very wholeheartedly and sincerely.

I can only speak about my own experience of the Hon. Rob Lucas, which is that he has been forthright, polite and helpful, and I thank him for that. Indeed, my Labor colleagues advised me when I came here myself, not quite four years ago, that if the Hon. Rob Lucas has made a commitment then he will honour it. I think that is an important value to acknowledge in any place and particularly in this one.

He is also a good conversationalist. On the rare occasions that I have found myself next to him at a social occasion, I have perhaps been surprised to find what things we do have in common or what conversations we can share with some pleasure. We can learn something from everyone around us, I think, and I have been able to learn a number of things from the Hon. Rob Lucas. One of them is that there are times to be concise and then there are times to speak like Rob Lucas. That is a compliment; trust me.

I also acknowledge the other members of this place who are leaving, including the Hon. John Dawkins. I acknowledge, Mr President, your 24 years here and thank you for your service as President. I also acknowledge, of course, my colleague the Hon. Russell Wortley, who was President before my time.

One of the things I particularly recall with fondness in regard to Russell is when he came down to Mount Gambier before I was elected and we were doing various electioneering things. We happened to go past the street where I had lived as a teenager. I pointed out the house, which I think my parents would acknowledge was extremely modest, and Russell commented something about his own upbringing and reflected on the fact of how far we had come.

I did recall that in my maiden speech, when I was talking about the wonders of our democracy and the fact that people can come from very humble beginnings in Australia and come to be lawmakers. I also wish Russell very well in whatever his future endeavours may be. For all those who are leaving, one hopes that everyone comes to this place with a desire to serve. I want to thank you all for your service and wish you the best for your futures.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:16):** I too would like to acknowledge the fabulous career of Rob Lucas. As has been pointed out, 40 years in any job is certainly a milestone, but to do it in the Public Service and to do it in the distinguished way that the Hon. Rob Lucas has done is a credit to him. I am scratching my head thinking about when I first met Rob Lucas. It was in 1985. He had just been elected. He had only been in the job for about three years, and he arrived at the offices of News Ltd, which were across the road. I think they were just preparing for the next state election.

I remember being called up to the room and a number of Liberal stalwarts were there: Roger Goldsworthy, Martin Cameron and the bow-tied Legh Davis were there, and the one who really struck me was the fresh-faced Rob Lucas. Now he has salt-and-peppery hair, but it was certainly striking dark hair that he had. I remember the grin across his face when I shook his hand. We were about the same age, I think, at the time.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** Anyway, that is when I actually first met him. I will not go into any detail about the nature of the meeting that day. I will keep it confidential. I may actually leave it for my memoirs one day. That is where I first met him, and he did make an impression upon me, as a young journalist at the time. Over the years, our paths have crisscrossed, not as frequently as they have with others, but I must say that on the occasions that they did I found him an utterly professional individual, quite forthright and a very good media performer.

Even to this day, he does exceptionally well when he has to do media interviews and also speak on various issues. He is quite gifted in doing that. He also has a great habit of coming up with nicknames for politicians. I think we can recall that for the Hon. Tom Koutsantonis he dubbed him Turbo Tom and I think one of his nicknames for the Hon. Russell Wortley was Fabio.

The Hon. Rob Lucas actually introduced me to a new noun when I started here in parliament some nearly four years ago. I had never come across this word until the Hon. Rob Lucas used it, and it was 'perineum'. I then had to look it up and it is an actually an obscure place on the body, in a place where the 'sun don't shine', and I am sure Mr Lucas knew occasions in this place when to use that word.

As I said, he has been quite a warm and generous man with his time and his sage advice. In fact, he was actually the first MP I met within this place soon after we were elected. I had quite an enjoyable meeting with Mr Lucas. I will always remember one of the first things he said, 'And there won't be any Dorothy Dixers.' I do not think that was a promise that they were able to keep.

I have always noted his measured demeanour in this place in debate and during question time and, as has been pointed out, that habit of his hands in his pockets. He certainly knows how to restrain himself, particularly in debates when they get volatile. I always watch to see how he reacts. It is very difficult to really egg the Hon. Rob Lucas to that point.

He is adept at one thing, I have noticed, in question time—he is a master of winding down the clock if he has to, and he has done that. He does it without any notes and that really shows the intellect that he has, as has been pointed out, on topics that have been raised. His knowledge of the parliamentary process, after such a long time, as you would expect from such a veteran, is quite proficient. As I said, I have found him quite knowledgeable on many of the topics that have been thrown up at him.

I think this place will actually miss Rob Lucas. As I said, he does present in quite a measured way and I have found him quite an able and admirable leader in this place for the government in the period I have been here. I have also found on occasions that we have had some banter, but I enjoy his company. So I think he will be missed. As has been pointed out, I do not think the food hall at Myer will miss him because I think Rob Lucas will still probably attend there.

The other thing I remember about Rob is, in my media career—my media career started in 1971—he is one MP that I do not think there has really been that much scandal about. I cannot recall a Rob Lucas scandal in the media. There may have been one thing about a government car or something, but really there has been no scandal with him. He was always proud of the car that he had. I think it was the Hyundai, was it not?

**The Hon. R.I. Lucas:** Volkswagen, VDub.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** The VDub, but you had a Hyundai as well, did you?

**The Hon. R.I. Lucas:** Yes.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** Yes, you had the Hyundai and the VDub as well. I would hope you would have donated those to the National Motor Museum or something. I will finish off and say that he is quite a measured person and he would have actually made a good member of our party, he is such a centrist. I am sure Nick Xenophon would have welcomed him. Anyway, I would like to wish the Hon. Rob Lucas and his family all the best. He has given tremendous service to the state of South Australia, and I am sure that many in the community would acknowledge his presence in this place.

I would also like to acknowledge the others who are leaving us: firstly, you, Mr President. Your contributions to this parliament have been enormous in the service you have given to both your party and the people of South Australia, and the great work you have done in suicide prevention. It is fantastic that you are able to finish in this place on the day that bill has gone through and will shortly receive assent.

That is a great credit to the work you have done in that capacity and the work you have done in other areas as well, including in regional areas. Your interest in rural press has been acknowledged in this place and the work you have done there. I know you have often got up and spoken of places

you have gone to—certainly regional newspaper awards and evenings—acknowledging the work that regional press does and its importance to the community. You have been at the forefront of promoting that and you have also done great work elsewhere in this parliament. I think you will be missed.

I have found you to be quite a forceful and imposing President in my period here. You have been quite kind to me in recent weeks regarding my brief explanations. You have not come down on me all that much. I have learnt a lot from you, Mr President, and I think you have retained great control in this place. You have brought an air of dignity to the role and I thank you for your service in that position. I wish you and Sheila all the best. I am sure we will see you here quite regularly and I will always enjoy having a chat with both of you when you are present here.

Finally, to the Hon. Russell Wortley. One thing that you find in this place is that there are really nice people, good people, good blokes, and I find that Russell is a decent bloke. Over the years, our paths have not crossed all that much journalistically but I was at *Today Tonight* when Hendrick Gout launched a series against Russell Wortley. I had no part in that, and I will admit that, but I always remember being red-faced if I ever bumped into Russell or Dana if they were dining at Scuzzi's cafe on O'Connell Street.

The thing is that Russell actually took that in his stride and let it pass as if, 'You know, that's what happens when you're an MP. You are going to have to cop that in the cut and thrust of the world that we are in.' I thought that was indicative of the nature of Russell Wortley. The other thing I found was that he has a tremendous appearance, he has kept the mullet alive, but the thing I notice is that Russell does not have grey hair.

He has been a valuable contributor on the committees that I have been on. I have worked with him on the timber committee with the Hon. Clare Scriven, and he also worked on my ICAC committee, along with the Hon. Tammy Franks and others in this place, the Hon. Nicola Centofanti and the Hon. Heidi Girolamo, and he was a valuable contributor. I always appreciated the advice that Russell had.

Again, he had a calming influence, he took things in his stride and I certainly enjoyed working with him. I was very appreciative of the way he presented himself and also the advice that he gave me. He has been in this place as a President as well, and during that period I understand that he certainly presented the position with dignity and professionalism, which is important.

So I wish both you and Sheila all the best, Mr President. Russell is not here at the moment, but I wish him all the best in what he endeavours to do and I am sure that we will enjoy the famous Russell Wortley iced coffee, which he introduced me to when we were in Mount Gambier. How I take my iced coffee now is Russell Wortley style. Thank you again and all the best for Christmas and the new year to all the members in here.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:30):** What can be said about the impenetrable Robert Ivan Lucas, the father of the SA Parliament, that has not already been said? They say that blue blood must run through his veins and after serving as assistant state director and almost 40 years in this place, in various portfolios and lots and lots of patience in opposition, and his unwavering and dogged loyalty to the Liberal Party, I reckon they are on point.

During those almost four decades of political service he has almost seen as many Liberal leaders, I think, but even that has not steered him off course. His impact and influence on this place cannot and should not be understated. I often wonder if there is anything that makes him flinch. If there is, it certainly does not show. In fact, so convincing is he that our Treasurer has something of a reputation—he may not know this—of making others in this place second-guess their own support for certain positions they take.

I have certainly heard some very funny accounts of his time in opposition when certain people in government questioned their own policies, during very lively debates in this place, as a result of the now Treasurer's very eloquent and convincing arguments. He is not a lawyer, as he always reminds us, but he certainly has a way with words and articulates his arguments convincingly. I have had text messages from very frustrated people during the course of debates to substantiate those very convincing arguments.

Since coming to this place I have always said to stakeholders and representatives, if there is money involved and you want to get the job done, then your first priority should be to get the Treasurer over the line. How you go about this is another question altogether. We know that is a challenge in itself because, as we all know, it can feel like moving mountains, and that is only when you think you stand half a chance of convincing the Treasurer that something is a good idea.

Of course, there are always those issues that divide us, like gambling, where we know the Treasurer will never budge, not even an inch, but despite the topic you can always be assured he will have come to this place having done his homework and always ready to defend the government's position with the fervour and passion that he is so renowned for. As a political stalwart he knows—better than any I have experienced—how to get under your skin. I will never forget the Treasurer telling us problem gamblers would walk over hot coals to get to a poker machine, nor did I necessarily disagree with him. While our views on gambling policy will always be poles apart, those words certainly had the desired effect on me, even as a staff member.

When there is a deal to be done, though, I have found the Treasurer to be an effective and trustworthy negotiator, even if he does drive a very difficult bargain. If you are only concerned about dollars and cents, then it is my very firm view that he makes an exceptional Treasurer because he makes tough calls without batting an eyelid. I think those in his party, all of the members sitting on this side, and others who have had the benefit of his counsel over the years, are richer and certainly much wiser for that experience.

I have known the Treasurer since starting in this place as a raw, naive, bright-eyed law graduate working for Nick Xenophon—your good friend Nick Xenophon—and sometimes those 17 years feel like a life sentence. So how you have lasted almost 40 years is well and truly beyond me. But in all seriousness, over that time the one thing that has always struck me about the Treasurer is that his word is his honour. I have had firsthand experience of that and I will always be very grateful for it.

Away from the rough-and-tumble of politics, I have always known you to be a good—I do not know why I am getting upset over the Treasurer, but you know these things happen.

**The Hon. T.J. Stephens:** You really do like him, don't you.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS:** I do. He is a good man who is firm in his beliefs and I am actually just sorry it took me as long as it did to get to appreciate him. On the retirement of the Hon. Mark Parnell and despite our political divide I declared that he was up there with the finest. In fact, I said Mr Parnell sat at number one of my top three. Ditto you, Treasurer, and thank you, sincerely. I look forward to crossing paths with you—this is going to be a very busy Myer food centre—in the food court and beyond in the years ahead. I hope that the extra time you have with your family and grandkids is rich and rewarding.

I would like to also say, Mr President, a big thank you to you for your service as President. I do not know if we will ever again find a voice quite as strong as yours in this place. You have certainly done an exceptional job at keeping a very rowdy group of people under control. You have supported many of the requests that I have put to you. I have always found it very good to deal with you. You are a true gentleman and a pleasure to deal with.

I think your advocacy and work on suicide prevention and surrogacy will go down as your greatest achievements in this place, Mr President. I, too, join my colleagues in wishing you and Sheila well in your retirement.

The Hon. Russell Wortley, who is not here, has always kept me very entertained.

**The PRESIDENT:** We should not be reflecting on whether a member is here or not, but I am allowing it to happen.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS:** I will not do that. The Hon. Russell Wortley, who sits across from us, has always kept me very entertained, as minister in this place and as the former President of this place, for his very unique style and ways of doing things.

I remember the first time I met Russell, and he has not changed at all. I do not think it is often that we have a husband and wife serving in this place at the same time—probably for very good



reason, even if it is just your home life—but I guess it certainly makes it easier to appreciate each other's work commitments. I have always found the Hon. Russell Wortley good to deal with. He is a decent man.

But I think where I have had a better insight into the things that drive him and his passion is through his work on committees, because that is where the things that are important to Russell Wortley shine through. So I echo the sentiments of other members in relation to the Hon. Russell Wortley. I am sure there will be many more multicultural events that we will continue to see him at over the course of the years.

As I have said in this place before, if there is one thing that I love about coming to this place, it is the chats that I have every day with the staff around the building, so at this time of the year I would like to thank all those staff who keep the wheels turning in this place: Frank, James and Reece, who save me almost every day when I forget my pass; Craig, who helps with just about everything; and Ben, who in my opinion runs the most important part of this building. These are the people who work here each and every day and who make what we do possible and I am exceptionally grateful for the chats that we have and for the friendships that we have formed along the way.

I would like to acknowledge a messenger who used to work in this chamber, Antoni, who left us to go and work for the other chamber but has since decided to return home to the UK. I certainly enjoyed the many years of conversations and chats that I had with Antoni about our families and home matters and so forth, and I wish him and his family well.

To our clerks and the table staff: to Chris, Guy, Leslie, Emma, Anthony and Kate, thank you. To Todd, Karen, Charles and our beloved Mario, who keep everything working in here, thank you. To parliamentary counsel, led by Aimee Travers; the library staff, led by Dr Weste; catering; caretakers; security personnel; and of course Nicky and Karen, who make every day in this place a joy and deserve their very special mention: thank you all. And to Hansard, who make sense of all the scribbled notes, thank you. I wish all of you well, I wish you good health and I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy festive season.

In closing, to my team as well and my colleague Frank Pangallo; to Sean and Adrienne and Jody and Tina and Mariam and Claire, who has only just left us, thank you in more ways than one for putting up with me—for one, for my chaotic ways—for keeping us grounded and for helping us get through another year in this place. You are all amazing, and we would not be able to do this without you. I wish all honourable members a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (16:39):** Serving in this place, there is only one other greater honour, and that is family. To be in this place is an incredible achievement for everyone. I can certainly agree with the Hon. Clare Scriven that I never thought I would be getting up to say words about the Hon. Rob Lucas.

I do feel like all my little stories have been taken, even ones I thought were going to be quite unique. The Hon. Nicola Centofanti, I discovered I have something in common with you today, because my line was going to be, 'The only thing I think I have in common with the Hon. Rob Lucas is that the year I was born was the year you were elected.' You have been here all my lifetime. I have not known a parliament without you in it, and I do want to thank you for your service. I have more often not agreed with your opinions, but you are a true, loyal person to your party and to your beliefs, and that should always be truly respected.

Some of your colleagues said it was quite hard to pick one legacy that you wanted to leave for your party. Perhaps I was going to use the story the Hon. Frank Pangallo used: it was for your old faithful servant, your Hyundai. I understand now the ministerial fleets are G80 Hyundais, so perhaps that was going to be your legacy for the state.

I know it will be very hard for the bar here to break their long-serving tradition to have a long mac waiting on the front bar for you after question time. I did enjoy sitting next to you at the President's dinner, because the Hon. Rob Lucas does not like cheese, and I love cheese, so that was a very good combination. I was going to get you a farewell present, but I did not have time to drop into Foodland and grab a barbecue chicken from the back of the store.

I would also like to thank the Hon. Russell Wortley. He went from being a plumber and gasfitter to the head of the gas sub-branch of the TWU and on to being a minister of this great state and also a President of this chamber. Russell has always put the interests of workers first. He is also the person who helped open the door for me in my political career. Way back in 2006, I was his staff member. For this I will forever be grateful.

Russell has always put the interests of workers first, and his working love is the TWU family, but his real love, which I think we all see on a regular basis, is his love for Dana and his son, Che. So I do thank him for his support and his friendship over the many years.

To you, Mr President, I would like to thank you for your excellent advocacy of the country press association, a dear love of mine from my first job outside study. It was through a country newspaper, and you have been at every country press awards that I have ever been to, so thank you for your support in that area. When you leave, we have two people leave the parliament: you and Sheila. It has been lovely to see the support she gives you. I am sure that will continue outside this chamber.

I would also like to thank every member in this chamber and wish you a merry Christmas and particularly to our staff, who keep this place running.

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (16:43):** I, too, would like to say a few words to you, Mr President. When I got elected eight years ago, in 2014, straightaway I was allocated the whip position for the government. I remember the first day here I had no idea what 'whip' meant and what I was meant to do. But I found the Hon. John Dawkins. He was then the Opposition Whip and was a very good and experienced whip. Throughout that time he never played politics. He never set traps for someone new here or got me to make mistakes.

I think the only mistake I made was one time with Peter Malinauskas, I think in the first week he got here; we got mixed up with the pairs and Peter got locked out. I think that was the only mistake. Jokes aside, throughout my career here I have found the Hon. John Dawkins to be very nice and very helpful. What I liked most is that he never played politics, and whenever I needed help, he explained how the whip works and he passed on his experience to me. So I appreciate his guidance and help throughout all those years, and his friendship since he has been the President and in various roles around the chamber. Good luck with your retirement with Sheila, and I hope I continue to have a friendship with you.

Another person I would like to acknowledge is the Hon. Russell Wortley. As many honourable members have said, the Hon. Russell Wortley is very cool. I am not sure between the Hon. Rob Lucas and the Hon. Russell Wortley who is more cool, but they both play the game hard. However, behind the scenes, Russell does not have any anger or carry-on, nor does he take things personally once the battle is over. I would like to thank him for his friendship and for his contribution to this parliament.

The third person I would like to acknowledge is the Treasurer. Before I started here, I was working as a staffer for Minister Jack Snelling and I got to understand the roles of public servants and members behind the scenes. When we were in government then, everyone was fearful of the Hon. Rob Lucas because he played the game hard in opposition—hard and often ruthless.

Before I arrived here I was warned that Rob is tough and rough, and I was really nervous sitting across the chamber from Rob sitting in the front staring at me. I was petrified. I remember the very first day—I cannot remember who advised me, it could have been various members, that Rob had an Asian background, his mother was Japanese. I thought, 'That's good. At least we can relate somehow.' So the very first day here I went out and tried to make friends with Rob. I said, 'Rob, we are Asian—we are brothers, okay—so go easy on me.'

The truth is that in opposition the Hon. Rob Lucas often attacked and gave government members a lot of stick. I remember one time he picked out each individual member and he went through them one by one and said how useless they were and all that stuff. I cannot remember who was sitting next to me, it could have been the Hon. Gerry Kandelaars, and I thought, 'Oh no, I am next.' I was getting nervous and I thought, 'What is he going to say about me?' Anyway, when he got to me, he thought about it and he said, 'Hm,' and he left me alone and moved on to the next one. To me, that was really good. I did come over and thank him afterwards.

To put all that aside, Rob played the game hard but behind the scenes the Hon. Rob Lucas is very kind and very generous. Like other honourable members said, what I like about the Hon. Rob Lucas is that whatever he says, he sticks to it.

I think, in business or in the work we do here, honouring our words is very important. Very often people think politicians are slime and only look after our own interests, but the Hon. Rob Lucas is completely different. He keeps that tradition where words mean something. It is very important and it is a credit to him that he keeps that tradition, even though he plays the game very hard.

I also know that the Hon. Rob Lucas looks after the new members. Often, other members who have been here longer are on good wickets and on a better scheme than most new members, but Rob, to his credit, who has been here the longest, always stands up for new members when we talk about the working conditions of elected members here. Not only that, he even goes out in the media to defend the working conditions of new members. You do not find anyone here who would do that except for Rob. As a new member, I am very appreciative of that because not very often do people speak up on someone else's behalf.

I know that when former Premier Jay Weatherill, when he was no longer in politics, broke his leg, Rob was the Treasurer. Because Jay Weatherill did not have a car, Rob got his driver to drive Jay around for five or six months while Jay was recovering. Rob did not have a driver, so he was using his Hyundai to drive around. It shows his care for other members behind the scenes. Not many people are aware of that kind of story and he does not go around and brag about it or leak it to the media so they can print the story about him and make him look good. It just shows that he is a real person.

As soon as I was elected as a member here, I found Rob maintained that friendship and relationship even in this house. I know now he is the Treasurer, and every now and then I would text him and ask him things. He would text me back. I know my staff are in awe of him because every now and then I would send him a letter about something and he would sign the acknowledgement letter back to me.

The first time my staff got that letter they said, 'Tung, come here. Look at that. The Treasurer actually signed your acknowledgement letter.' I know they were very impressed with the Treasurer doing that because usually you get a junior staff member to sign the acknowledgement letter, but having the Treasurer sign the acknowledgement letter to a member of parliament or to myself, I thought, was very good of him.

Another matter the Hon. Jing Lee touched on was Rob's Asian background. As an Asian person myself, I am very proud of him. When I mention to a lot of my friends that Rob has an Asian background and he is half-Asian, they are all in awe of him and just cannot believe that someone with an Asian background has been able to achieve so much. Unfortunately, that story has not been promoted widely, but I am trying my best to promote that he is a person we can relate to and all feel proud of his achievements.

The only thing I am still not able to get Rob to do is try Asian food. Very often he will hang around the Myer Centre. I think, being brought up in Mount Gambier, maybe the Asian or Chinese food was terrible there, as he seems to not be very keen on Asian food. I hope that now he has more time I will be able to take him out to some of the Vietnamese places so that he can change his tastebuds and I can make him into a real Asian.

Another thing about Rob is he has an incredible memory. I know when he was in opposition and I was on the government's Budget and Finance Committee he remembered things from way back, minor things. During his questioning, you were sitting there and you could see that he would set traps. It could be two or three meetings prior to that, and a lot of people cannot remember things that go way back, and they would often say something and because Rob has such a great memory he was able to get public servants or government ministers into trouble.

I think now that he has a lot of time, with his great memory of this place, maybe he could write a memoir or something about the history of this place because no-one else is able to tell the story. I know he is shaking his head, but he has such a good knowledge and it would be useful for

others down the track, future members, to be able to read the history of this place, while he still remembers.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank him for his contribution to the state of South Australia. Good luck to him and his wife, Marie. One of the great things about this place is that we can fight very hard but afterwards we can always be friends. Hopefully, I can continue that friendship with him. I hope to be able to catch up with him every now and then.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. I. Pnevmatikos.

*Sitting suspended from 16:57 to 17:20.*

#### *Bills*

### **STATUTES AMENDMENT (CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE) BILL**

#### *Final Stages*

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

#### *Adjournment Debate*

### **ADJOURNMENT DEBATE**

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. R.I. Lucas (resumed on motion).

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (17:21):** In my very quick words to this motion, I seek to move an amendment to the motion that is before the chamber:

Delete '3 May 2022' and insert '8 February 2022'.

In speaking to the amendment and the motion I wish to very quickly thank everybody who makes this place happen, as other members have, acknowledge the very long service of the Hon. Rob Lucas to this place, acknowledge the service and effort to the broad labour movement of the Hon. Russell Wortley, and of course you, sir, for your dedication to this chamber and all the work you have done on issues that you are so passionate about.

**The PRESIDENT (17:22):** Before we allow the Treasurer to sum up the debate and go to a vote, I have some remarks I would like to make. Firstly, it has been a wonderful privilege to be the President of this chamber. There may be further opportunities early in the new year, but today is the day for thanking people who have contributed not only this year but in my time in this chamber directly, but specifically of course in my role as President.

I thank all members of the Legislative Council. We have a way of doing things here that we should be proud of. I think sometimes there is an attitude towards the way we operate that might mean that we can improve. I think we certainly have improved some of that in the last 14 months. Certainly today, we had 18 questions and 20 supplementaries, which I think is probably one of the highest levels of questions, which has given everybody a fair go and I am very proud of that.

When we look at the way in which some other places operate—and I have had the ability this year to watch the House of Representatives and to sit in on the Senate chamber right next to the then President—I think we hold our heads pretty high. I compliment all members on that. Obviously, the clerks, the clerk assistants and all the chamber staff, are the most fabulous people I have had the privilege to work with. I think Chris in particular as the secretary of the JPSC this year has had, along with me as the Chairman, a number of difficult issues to deal with and I thank him for his stewardship of that role.

Obviously, we all rely on our own staff but also those who serve us in so many ways across this building and beyond. Others have made mention of particular people but I will refer to the wonderful staff who work for Hansard, catering, the library, building services and the cleaners, who are never here when we are here (except for one or two), parliamentary counsel, the chauffeurs, the security officers, PNSG and many others.

I particularly give my thanks to the whips. As the Hon. Mr Hood indicated earlier today, I spent 16 years as a whip so I think I have life membership of the whips union—and the Hon. Mr Ngo gives me the thumbs up. The Leader of the Opposition was also a whip alongside me. The whips play a

really important role in the way we operate. Until you have filled that role I do not think people understand the breadth of it. I also thank my personal staff: Tegan, Tom, Claire and Dave. I know I am not supposed to do this but Tegan is up there keeping an eye on me right now.

I also thank my past staff. On 12 October, a day after I went 24 years in this place, I had a dinner for my former staff. While I have not had a great turnover, you have a number of trainees—and I have had the privilege of having some extra staff as whip and as the Premier's advocate—and it was great to gather those people together in this building back in October. None of the things we do in this place we can do without our staff around us, the people who support us.

As I said, I think we are also very privileged that in this place we have members of parliament who have good relationships with each other across the divide. As many have heard me say before, when new members have come to this place—and I have served with I think 57 different members in my 24 years—I tell them that if you think you are not going to make friends on the other side of the aisle or with the crossbench, then you are making a great mistake because the friendships you develop here are very valuable to the way you operate in this place but also outside the building just as much.

I will say a few words to respond to the words that were said earlier in relation to my service here. I came here in the middle of October 1997. I walked up King William Road and, in a humble manner, came through the Legislative Council door and met the Hon. Rob Lucas, who introduced me to Jan Davis. Rob told me that he did not know where I would be housed where my office would be, because we did not have a President and we were not going to have a President I think until probably early December. Rob allowed me to use the minister's office for that period because he was not using it while parliament was not sitting, so I remain grateful to him for that.

I am not grateful to him for referring to the fact that he has been here for a hundred years because that would mean I have been here for 85, and it is not quite that long. In relation to Rob Lucas, I think one of the things we have lost in this place is the annual parliamentary cricket match. I have to say that we were all ready to go but the media copped out of it. But it was one of the great days that we had every Maundy Thursday every year. Visions of Rob Lucas opening the batting with Kevin Foley remain very much in my mind and the fact that, I think at the age of 43, I was asked to open the bowling—and the fact that I got four wickets—was a bit of a surprise to me and probably to Rob Lucas, I think.

The other thing I will say about the Hon. Rob Lucas is that, for the first five years I was whip, Rob was the leader and we worked together very well in that regard and that served me very well for the next 11 years when almost all of those responsibilities fell on my shoulders. I am very grateful to the Hon. Rob Lucas for helping me to develop that work as a whip, which was very useful given that I served with five different Labor whips in this place, seven House of Assembly whips in the Liberal Party and under five different leaders of the Liberal Party overall in that time, so I do appreciate that.

I also recognise that the Hon. Rob Lucas gave great credit to, as he described, 'my party', 'his party'. The fact is, very few of us get elected into this place without the great support of many volunteers, people who do not aspire to come to this place but will work very hard to help others get here. While I am in suspension from my party I think, at 48½ years of membership, I still have more membership of the Liberal Party than anybody else who is currently in the parliament and I look forward to resuming that membership when I am no longer the President.

I also give great acknowledgement to the Hon. Mr Wortley, who served in this place. Firstly, I think we were on a committee together. We were on a committee together when I went through some tough times and he was very supportive of me at that stage. Even as a minister, or President, he always called me 'my boy' and I think I am much older than the Hon. Mr Wortley, so I take that as a compliment. I did enjoy serving as Acting President while the Hon. Mr Wortley was in this role. Even though he still tests me out with his mobile phone skills over there, we have a friendship that will remain and I appreciate that.

I know the Hon. Mr Lucas referred to the fact that we do not know whether the Hon. Mr Darley is standing again or not, but I give great credit to the Hon. John Darley. I do not know that too many of us would have launched a parliamentary career after having been retired for 15 years, and having dabbled in selling cattle and doing all sorts of things like that, but he has his great passions and he

has been a great supporter of mine and I give him great credit for his service to South Australia in this place. For the fact that at his tender years, which are much greater than the Hon. Mr Lucas, the Hon. Mr Pangallo or myself, he was still here bright-eyed at 1.30 in the morning the other week, I give him great credit.

There are just one or two matters that I would like to cover. People have mentioned my work in suicide prevention. I recall the fact that there have been a number of members of this place and the other place who have had issues of suicide or attempted suicide in their families while they have been here, while I have been here, and in some small way I know I have been able to help them.

I think a number of times in recent days, and particularly since the bill came back here yesterday, I have had a number of comments right around this state and beyond that that action will save lives and that Suicide Prevention Australia and many others are urging other jurisdictions to follow the lead not only of legislation with some words in it but the fact that we have in this state in the last 3½ years put the structures there. I give credit to the government for allowing me to go and do a lot of that work, and the health minister has been very supportive in that regard. I think those structures are there, they are working really well and we have now put them into legislation, as they should be. I am very grateful for that.

I am very grateful for the work that Karen McColl and Tanya Malins did in my office as the Premier's Advocate for Suicide Prevention. They have been in that office throughout its existence since the middle of 2018 and they have worked passionately with the community, but particularly in relation to the development and passage of the Suicide Prevention Bill.

On another note, many people have made some very generous references to my wife, Sheila, today. Without my work in suicide prevention, I would not have met Sheila. I was in Manchester University in 2014—some know this—I went to see one of the leading professors in the world in relation to suicide prevention and he took me to lunch at the Manchester University library restaurant. I must say that not everybody I have been to see about suicide prevention has taken me to lunch, but he did.

While we were there, a lady came up and asked me, 'Excuse me, but where in Australia are you from?' I was shocked because I could not believe she had picked up on my very softly spoken voice, but she did. I told her I came from Adelaide—she of course has two grandsons who live here—and that is how we met. She came out here a year later and most people know the rest of the story. So I would not have met Sheila without my work in suicide prevention, and that is one of the different ways, I suppose, that things happen in life.

I did come here, probably, with some things in mind that did not include my work on suicide prevention and certainly did not include doing all the work I did for some 15 years on legalising and advancing surrogacy legislation in this state, but those efforts, and also my efforts for the best part of 24 years as an ambassador to Operation Flinders, have focused very much on changing people's lives in this state. I feel very proud of that because I think we have changed people's lives in those areas—probably many more—but I am particularly proud of that and I am very grateful for the support I have had right across the political spectrum for that work.

A couple of things I remember well: one is that in the days of the Hon. Diana Laidlaw as Minister for Transport, I persuaded her that we ought to not go down a path of putting lots of numbers on highways in South Australia. The Highways Department—I am not sure what it was called at that stage—were very keen on the British system and so they were rolling out the B82s and the C35s and all these different things.

I was very keen that we expand the number of roads that were actually called a highway and used some of the historical names. I remember a well-meaning public servant drafting something, which the Hon. Diana Laidlaw showed me, which was basically telling me that, 'The honourable member should get out of the way; don't be a pesky MP.'

I am very pleased to say that in the time since then, as much as most of the roads in South Australia do have a letter and a number—and most people could not tell you what they are—what we have experienced is a great expansion in the names of highways around this state that recognise many of the pioneers of this state or the geographical features of this state. I am very pleased to have had a very minor role in that.

There is another one much closer to home. I had to fight a few people on the JPSC. I am not sure that the Hon. Rob Lucas was a fan of mine in this endeavour, but the changing of the dining rooms is one that I passionately fought for for a number of years.

I felt it was bizarre that the then Members' Dining Room was such a large room, a beautiful room only available to members, and then, of course, when we were busy we would partition half of it off for strangers. We worked for a long time to get the JPSC to agree to swap the dining rooms over. We now have a wonderful large room which is the Strangers' Dining Room, which visitors thoroughly enjoy, and the smaller room is a much better place for members who just want to dine with members privately. I am pretty keen to remember that one as a little achievement in the life of this place.

We may or may not be back in the new year, but I would like to acknowledge the great support I have had, particularly in the last couple of years, from my daughter, Leah, and my son, Tom, who are known to many here—their support for their old man has been terrific—and to Sheila, of course, who came here telling her friends in England that politicians in Australia were not like the ones in the UK. I think she has worked out that there is probably a fair bit of similarity to some of it. She has been a great support to me, and I am very privileged that she was happy to marry me about 2½ years ago.

There may be another occasion, so I reserve the right to say a little bit more, but on this occasion—and the Hon. Mr Maher will well recognise the relevance of this—I have been here long enough.

**The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (17:42):** Mr President, I was unable to be here a while ago when all the nice words were being said, but I would just like to make a couple of comments in regard to yourself and the Hon. Mr Lucas. When I came here 16 years ago, I actually did not like you. I used to sit where the Hon. Ms Jing Lee is, and you were sitting here, and we used to throw barbs across the—

**The PRESIDENT:** Did we?

**The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY:** Quite often—and, honestly, you made your views about me quite plain when you tried to throw me down an opal mine up at Coober Pedy.

**The PRESIDENT:** I saved you from going down the opal mine.

**The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY:** No, you did not, you tried to throw me down it! That was the real story. But getting to know you on these committees, you get to realise, and this is why committees to me are so, not important for that reason but so handy, you actually get to know people personally who you are often fighting against across the chamber.

I found you to be a very decent person, easy to talk to. Your commitment to mental health and suicide prevention was quite spectacular and something you should be quite proud of. My views changed about you many years ago. As I said, it is amazing how you can have a view about somebody, but once you get to know them, if you have an entirely different understanding of these people, you realise that your views really were wrong.

I wish you and Sheila a great life after politics. I have no doubt it is in your blood—the Liberal is in your blood—so no doubt you will be out there, active in some of the rural areas in the years to come.

The Hon. Mr Lucas, all our political careers are dwarfed by your contribution to this parliament. Naturally, a lot of the things you believe in I am at the opposite end of, but you are committed, you believe strongly in what you like and what you do and you are a very formidable opponent in this chamber.

You are probably one of the most formidable opponents but the amazing thing is that when you come outside the parliament and you come out of this chamber, the Hon. Mr Lucas is like Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde—such a different person. You would not know it was the same person to meet with and have a talk with. I wish the best for you and your family. Enjoy your retirement. I am sure you will be quite active in retirement, or you may just be sitting on a La-Z-Boy somewhere taking in

the sun. It has been a pleasure working in this parliament with the both of you, and I wish you all the best.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (17:45):** I will keep this brief. I was not going to make a contribution but I am struck to make one, and also to remark upon the amendment. I want to start by saying that when I first came into this place, my former boss, Natasha Stott Despoja, came in for lunch to celebrate my election and she looked around this chamber, which was a very different red chamber to the Senate where I had worked for her, and said, 'Wow. It is so intimate in here.'

It is a small chamber. It is an intimate chamber. We often come back to this building not just for our daily work but for committee meetings and the like, and there is only so far you can go when you have to face each other the very next day, day in, day out. It is a very different environment to either the other place or Canberra. It is a place also that I have noticed many more female faces in since I started, but I have noticed that every single time we lose somebody from this place and gain another person it shifts markedly because of that intimacy.

I want to commend the work of the Hon. John Dawkins, the Hon. Russell Wortley and the Hon. Rob Lucas. I was struck by something the Hon. John Dawkins said when he rose just now. Mr President, I commend you for your work on suicide prevention. But it was actually the Hon. Rob Lucas who, when my brother died by suicide, showed me a kindness that has stayed with me, and he in fact sent me home as well because I was not really coping at the time, and that genuine compassion and concern for my wellbeing is something that has stuck with me so thank you for that. I will not remember fondly the three-hour speeches but I do remember that fondly.

I also remember the strident debate over the work, health and safety laws when Minister Russell Wortley fought valiantly to finally get those through after a year of opposition—a year-plus of opposition—from the Hon. Rob Lucas.

I want to say that there was another member of this place until recently who did carry coins and used them in the members' bar and that was the Hon. Mark Parnell, the former founding parliamentary member of the Greens. I want to remark that he is a big loss in the parliamentary representation of our party but it is a generational and continuity change that we must and should have, and I certainly have very much welcomed the Hon. Rob Simms and his team to this place. I do believe that the Greens continue to bring our brand of politics in a way that epitomises our four pillars.

I also look forward to the soon to be, hopefully, honourable Yesha Joshi one day joining us. She used to take part in those cricket matches as a staffer and is a keen cricket fan, and should we be able to increase the Greens' membership of this place to three people perhaps those cricket matches will be back on again. Until then, I do look forward to returning to this place in February to continue to do the work. In fact, only half of the members of this chamber are up for election, should there not be any more unusual occurrences for the year, lest I jinx it.

We have work that we continue to do. There are several committees continuing to meet and I think they are doing quite important work, not least being the COVID committee. In these extraordinary times, I think the parliament and the democratic processes should be cherished and respected. I think we are actually in a time where the work we are doing is deserving of us returning in February to ensure that what needs to be done is being done and that the democratic processes are reflected in these quite extraordinary times.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (17:49):** I rise to conclude the debate. I thank honourable members for their kind words in the earlier stages of the debate. We are about to vote, however, on an amendment to the main motion. I indicate the government will be opposing the amendment. The amendment is to bring back the Legislative Council on 8 February.

Since the commencement of this particular debate, the House of Assembly has now voted to adjourn the house until after the election, consistent with the position adopted by the former Labor government prior to the last two elections. In 2017, prior to the 2018 election, in the first week of December, the Leader of Government Business, the Hon. Mr Koutsantonis, moved the adjournment of the house until May. Prior to the 2014 election, in the first week of December, the then Leader of Government Business in the House of Assembly moved a similar adjournment motion to adjourn the house until May.



So the precedent established by the former Labor government on two occasions was to adjourn the house at the scheduled end of the sitting for the parliament and for people then to, in essence, sell their wares to the people of South Australia in terms of their worth or otherwise for the election. All this government has done is follow exactly the same precedent as the two Labor governments, in terms of seeking to move a motion—that has occurred.

My understanding, from informal discussions with the Labor Party and crossbenchers, is that there is support to bring back the Legislative Council for 8 February. I indicate that government members will divide on the first motion to make it clear as to who voted which particular way, but if the amendment is successful we do not intend to divide on the second vote.

The other point I would make is that, given the other house is not sitting, there can be no legislation passed in the next sitting of this parliament because there will be no House of Assembly. There will be no government business to transact. There will be question time and whatever non-government members wish to apply themselves to during that particular period.

So we should make it quite clear that this is not a choice of further legislation, further bills being processed and the parliament being able to vote for or against anything. It will be merely the Legislative Council sitting by itself, asking questions, I guess, in terms of question time. I think 8 February is approximately 10 days before the scheduled start of an election period. If the election period is 28 days, the election is on 19 March, so it is approximately just on 10 days prior to the formal start of the election period.

I do not intend to delay, because the numbers seem to be there to support this, but for all those reasons I place on the record, as I said, that it is extraordinary. I have not had a chance to track back through the records to see whether it has ever occurred before in terms of the Legislative Council continuing to sit 10 days before a scheduled election period. Certainly, we have had fixed-term elections, I guess, only for 20 or 30 years. I do not think it has occurred during that particular period of time, but if the majority in this chamber votes a particular way, the majority votes a particular way, and it is what it is, as I am oft quoted as saying. We will oppose it and we will divide on the first motion.

The council divided on the amendment:

Ayes ..... 10  
Noes ..... 5  
Majority ..... 5

AYES

Bonaros, C.  
Hanson, J.E.  
Pangallo, F.  
Wortley, R.P.

Bourke, E.S.  
Maher, K.J. (teller)  
Pnevmatikos, I.

Franks, T.A.  
Ngo, T.T.  
Scriven, C.M.

NOES

Centofanti, N.J.  
Lensink, J.M.A.

Hood, D.G.E.  
Lucas, R.I. (teller)

Lee, J.S.

PAIRS

Darley, J.A.  
Girolamo, H.M.

Wade, S.G.  
Simms, R.A.

Hunter, I.K.  
Stephens, T.J.

Amendment thus carried; motion as amended carried.

*Parliamentary Procedure***SITTINGS AND BUSINESS**

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (17:57):** I have just informally spoken to the Leader of the Opposition. I think the majority's intention is to sit for that sitting week, so to assist I move:

That Orders of the Day: Private Business that were adjourned to Wednesday 8 December 2021 be adjourned to Wednesday 9 February 2022.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (17:59):** I move to amend the motion as follows:

Delete 'Wednesday 9 February 2022' and insert 'Tuesday 8 February 2022'.

The Treasurer indicated in his last contribution that the government does not intend to do any government business whatsoever, so what the Treasurer by extension means is that on Tuesday 8 February there be question time and nothing else, which does not seem to make much sense. There are 140-odd private members' businesses still remaining on the *Notice Paper*. It would make much more sense, if the government does not want to do anything on the Tuesday, that private members be given an opportunity to do that, so I have moved that it be amended from 9 February to 8 February.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

At 18:00 the council adjourned until Tuesday 8 February 2022 at 14:15.

*Answers to Questions***KURLANA TAPA YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE**

In reply to **the Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN** (21 September 2021).

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services):** I have been advised:

As at 21 September 2021:

- 33 Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre staff were receiving workers compensation, almost 60 per cent of whom were working at Kurlana Tapa on modified duties or Return to Work arrangements
- 16 were on leave, including annual, long service and maternity leave, leave without pay or time off in lieu (TOIL)

**CHILD PROTECTION**

In reply to **the Hon. C. BONAROS** (28 October 2021).

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services):** I have been advised:

**Foster Carer Reviews**

While the Department for Child Protection (DCP) was finalising its mechanism for consolidated reporting on foster carer reviews, it used compliance reporting from each contracted NGO to ensure legislative requirements were met

In terms of formal quarterly NGO contract reporting against the foster carer review KPI, this commences in the current quarter of 2021-22 (quarter two). Any necessary performance management responses required under DCP's Contract Performance Management Framework will be initiated as part of the quarter three contract management follow-up process.

**Temporary Staffing Contracts**

In accordance with the DCP Contract Performance Management Framework, temporary staffing service providers have submitted their 2021-22 quarter one KPI reporting through DCP's Contract Management and Licensing System.

**Performance Development Plans (PDPs)**

DCP's PDP completion rates continue to improve and, as at 30 September 2021, 74 per cent of staff had a current PDP. In terms of the new performance management system, which was recently procured by the department, a planned pilot phase is underway and it is expected that full implementation of the system will be complete by the end of December 2021.

**HOUSING TRUST**

In reply to **the Hon. E.S. BOURKE** (28 October 2021).

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services):** I have been advised:

The 12 completed actions include: 1.1, 1.2, 2.8, 3.2, 3.7, 3.8, 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.6.

The remaining 21 are on track.