

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, 19 May 2022

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. T.J. Stephens)** took the chair at 14:16 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 Attorney-General (Hon. K.J. Maher)—

Public Sector (Data Sharing) Act 2016 Review 2021 by Paul Rice QC dated December 2021

Government Response to the Environment Resources and Development Committee inquiry into the Coast Protection Board and Coastal Legislation

By the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development (Hon. C.M. Scriven)—

Restrictive Practices Guidelines under the Disability Inclusion Act

### *Ministerial Statement*

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOSPITALS**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:18):** I table a copy of a ministerial statement made today in the other place by the health minister.

#### **OFFICE OF HYDROGEN POWER SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:18):** I table a copy of a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Energy and Mining in the other place.

### *Question Time*

#### **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT**

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:21):** My questions are to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding FTEs:

1. What is the total current FTE of the Department of Primary Industries and Regions?
2. What is the total current FTE of the Department of Primary Industries and Regions by division?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:21):** I thank the honourable member for her question. She is certainly free to look at the budget of the previous government to see what the expected FTEs are. In terms of current FTEs, it will go forward through the budget process. Estimates, of course, is the appropriate time to ask such a question, and I would be pleased to provide information that's available then.

**The PRESIDENT:** Supplementary question, the Hon. Ms Centofanti, and then I will go to the Hon. Ms Franks.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** I am actually sorry, I didn't hear what you said, the Hon. Ms Franks. Would you like to repeat that?

#### **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT**

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:22):** Can the minister explain why she just directed a member of the Legislative Council to ask a question in a forum that the Legislative Council member has no role in?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:22):** I think I suggested that that was the appropriate forum rather than directing the Leader of the Opposition, but I am fairly confident that she is a member of a party that has quite a strong role in estimates.

#### **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT**

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:22):** Supplementary—I'm speechless. I'm speechless, Mr President.

**The PRESIDENT:** That is not a supplementary question. Sit down.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** Can the member please answer the question, a very simple question, about total current FTEs of her department?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:22):** I've already answered the question.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! You've asked your supplementary question. We will listen to the answer.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** I've already answered the question. Thank you.

#### **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT**

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:23):** Supplementary: does the minister actually know the answer to the question?

**The PRESIDENT:** Minister?

#### **REGIONAL LABOUR FORCE**

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:23):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding the regional labour force.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** In response to the federal government's announcement of the new agricultural visa, it was reported on 22 October 2021 that the ACTU president, Michelle O'Neill, opposed the program. My question to the minister is: given her union mates are blocking the federal government's agricultural visa program, which has actually been welcomed by stakeholders and industry as a step in the right direction, how is she going to solve the regional labour force shortage crisis in South Australia?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:24):** I thank the honourable member for her question, stating first of all, obviously, that a number of the matters she is talking about in terms of agricultural visas fall within the scope of the federal government.

I think it's very interesting in terms of: what am I going to do to solve it? I am certainly very invested in addressing this issue, which appears to be in stark contrast to the former government. They did, after all, have four years to address the regional workforce crisis and the regional housing crisis. What have we seen from them over that four years?

I have been out in the regional areas, both before the last state election and of course since, and the two major issues are regional workforce and regional housing. In all of my regional visits, have I heard from employers, from industry, about the wonderful work that the former government did to address these issues? No, I haven't, and why is that? Because they did very, very little. To expect that after eight weeks in government we will have solved the problems that were unaddressed, in the main, by the previous government is really quite ludicrous.

I think it is incredibly important that we work on the regional workforce issues. It's incredibly important that we look at all of the reasons why we have not got a suitable workforce and a sufficient workforce in regional areas. I think it's an area that is worthy of some consideration. To be frank, it would be ideal if this could be looked at in a bipartisan way, because the regional workforce is something that lasts over a long period of time that we need to have long-term planning for.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Continue, minister. I would like to be able to hear the minister.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** What we are seeing, unfortunately, despite those opposite saying, 'We are all for the regions', what they want to do is score political points instead of actually work constructively towards how we can address these issues in terms of the regional workforce. There are a number of issues that we need to look at.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Order from both sides! I can't hear the minister.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** I was very pleased to be involved recently in an online forum, Regions Rising, which was going to be in Mount Gambier as a physical face-to-face event but unfortunately had to change because of COVID, where the various issues around regional housing were looked at through the lens of workforce issues. I think it's incumbent upon those in government and those in opposition—those in parliament—to look at how we can solve these problems over the long term.

What we have had is an over-reliance on shipping people in. We need to ensure that we have the right balance between relying, for example, on backpackers, because we saw that during COVID we couldn't rely on that as a workforce solution. So we need to look at, absolutely, encouraging backpackers back, and I'm very glad that the latest ten-pound Pom program and campaign has been received so very well.

I was speaking just earlier this week with some stakeholders who were saying that is an excellent initiative. Of course, that is focused on the tourism industry, but they acknowledge that that will actually flow through to other areas of regional workforce issues. People come on the ten-pound Pom program, they will perhaps work in tourism, but then they may well move on to other roles in regional areas which are important, whether those roles are in agriculture, horticulture, tourism, hospitality and so on.

So I think it's an important program that we have already initiated—a small one, but a first step in the right direction. I sincerely hope that those opposite, instead of trying to score cheap political points after being in government for four years and not achieving the outcomes that were needed to address regional workforce shortages, would actually look at how they can work constructively. If they have any ideas I'm more than happy to meet with them to discuss them.

#### REGIONAL LABOUR FORCE

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:28):** Supplementary: can the minister confirm that the ten-pound backpacker return fare scheme is only being offered to 200 people?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:28):** As I mentioned, the ten-pound Pom program is an important first step and there will be more work to come to address all of the issues that were left so badly unaddressed by the former government.

**REGIONAL LABOUR FORCE**

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:28):** Supplementary: can she confirm that the scheme has only been offered to 200 people?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:29):** I think regional businesses will be much more pleased to have 200 extra workers in than none. I think 200 is an important first step. I think that's an important step to make sure that we do address—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** —some of the workforce shortages that are there in regional South Australia, particularly for the tourism industry. I look forward to seeing the success of that program and further steps that we will be taking to ensure that our regional workforce needs are better served than over the previous four years.

**REGIONAL LABOUR FORCE**

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:29):** Third supplementary, Mr President.

**The Hon. C.M. Scriven:** From the original answer?

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** From the original answer on ten-pound Pom backpacker return fares.

**The Hon. C.M. Scriven:** That wasn't in the original answer.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** It actually was in your original answer.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I will allow the supplementary. Ask your supplementary question and let's move on.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** Can the minister confirm that the ten-pound backpacker return fare scheme, those people who are applying need to pay the equivalent of \$459 for a working holiday visa prior to applying?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Minister, you can choose to answer that or not.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**REGIONAL LABOUR FORCE**

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (14:30):** Yes, I do. Can the minister clarify why the program is only open to those from the UK? Why is it just Poms that are being eligible for the scheme? Why is it not being open to others?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:30):** I thank the honourable member for his supplementary question. I am happy to refer that question to the minister responsible in the other place and return to the chamber with an answer.

**FRUIT FLY**

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:30):** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding fruit fly. Can the minister please confirm that she is confident that her department has been able to maintain sufficient staffing levels to support fruit fly eradication efforts in the Riverland, which includes inspecting fruit trees, organically baiting and releasing sterile flies?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:31):** I thank the honourable member for her question and I am delighted to update the chamber on the state government's response to fruit fly in the Riverland. As I think I have mentioned before, my first regional visit as the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development was to the Riverland to meet with key stakeholders involved in the fruit fly response.

The South Australian government remains committed to maintaining South Australia's status as the only mainland state which is free of fruit fly, and continues to apply a significant effort to eradicate the pest from multiple outbreak sites in the South Australian Riverland. Our operational teams are applying fruit fly bait and are collecting fallen fruit from affected sites as well as releasing millions of sterile flies every week to combat the pest.

The affected industries have invested significantly in playing their part in the eradication effort and the government is committed to continuing efforts to return those businesses to enjoying the benefits of the pest-free area. Now of course for the stakeholders involved it is important that they are able to work with government in a collaborative and constructive way. That is one of the reasons I was so surprised to hear the comments from the member for Chaffey recently on radio that did nothing more than whip up, one might even say, hysteria and panic amongst the industry with his errant claims about workforce.

The member for Chaffey this week said on ABC Riverland radio that PIRSA currently had 'less than 40 staff on the ground at the moment'. I am advised, and indeed over the past two weeks, there has never been fewer than 50 staff on the ground responding to these outbreaks and there has never been fewer than 60 responding in total to the outbreak when you include other staff who are assisting in the coordinated response.

It is most unhelpful that the member for Chaffey is spreading misinformation. I am advised that we usually have around 70 staff on the ground—some have been away sick recently of course with COVID, affected as many industries are. I am also advised that an additional 11 staff have been inducted just this week.

The member for Chaffey went on with some other claims also, but I am sure we might get to those. So just in summary, the state government is committed to ensuring that as a state we maintain our fruit fly status, and we will continue to have staff on the ground in various roles.

#### FRUIT FLY

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (14:34):** I ask the minister: what additional resources is the department being provided with to facilitate the fruit fly response, or is her department expected to deal with the response within current resources?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:34):** When there have been fruit fly outbreaks, my understanding is that over the past period, under the former government, the department would go and seek extra funding. They are continuing to do that, and that funding has been provided.

#### FRUIT FLY

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (14:34):** Supplementary: to reiterate my supplementary question, are there additional resources being provided to the department or are they being expected to operate within resources already allocated?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:34):** I did answer that question. Additional resources have been provided when they have been asked for.

### NEXUS ARTS

**The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (14:34):** My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Will the minister inform the council about the In\_Site: First Nations Emerging Curator Program and the current exhibition at the Nexus Arts Gallery?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:35):** I would like to thank the honourable new member for his question and his longstanding interest in and appreciation of the arts. It was a distinct honour to officially open the exhibition at Nexus Arts Gallery last week entitled *Internally disPLACEd: borders and belonging*. It is an important exhibition, curated by Wakka Wakka woman Dameeli Coates, exploring how Aboriginal peoples' connection to country interacts with the colonial notions of borders. The exhibition explored the way in which we take country with us even if we are physically different or distant from it. It shone a light on some of the wrongs of colonisation, particularly the dispossession and forced movement of many Aboriginal people.

The exhibition was a result of the In\_Site: First Nations Emerging Curator Program, which is a partnership between Nexus Arts and the Flinders University Museum of Art, supported by the South Australian government. It is an innovative program which aims to widen the participation of First Nations people in the museums and galleries sector here in South Australia and around the country. In particular, it allows First Nations curators to access the support of Nexus and the Flinders University Museum of Art and to forge their own pathway into the industry. It is important work that I am proud that South Australian institutions are involved in.

The exhibition itself is, I believe, still on display at the Nexus Arts Gallery on North Terrace, near where the Jam Factory is. Nexus Arts is an important cultural institution in our state and particularly focuses on work reflecting the diversity of our society. It originated as the Multicultural Arts Workers Committee in the 1980s to its current position as a leading arts centre, and it has done much work to highlight important issues in our society.

I would particularly like to pay tribute to Emily Tulloch, the CEO and artistic director of Nexus Arts, for all the work that she leads in this organisation. The works in this particular exhibition include a piece by the curator, Dameeli Coates, entitled *I carry country*. They are woven containers made of recycled and discarded materials, as well as reeds from the artist's garden. They are designed to be reminiscent of scratchy mission blankets and also reflect that even when Aboriginal people are off country we carry country with us wherever we go.

Similarly, many of the works in the exhibition draw on the Seven Sisters dreaming story about the origin of the seven stars that make up that cluster. This story is one of the most widely distributed across Aboriginal communities around Australia in relation to creation stories and reflects on the fact that many elements of country can be found wherever you travel across Australia.

I commend this exhibition to all honourable members and anyone else who is interested in a thought-provoking exhibition which explores some very important concepts for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. It was an honour to play a role in the opening of the exhibition. I look forward to seeing what comes next in the In\_Site: First Nations Emerging Curator Program.

### METRICON

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (14:38):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Treasurer in another place, a question about financial exposure.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** It has been reported today that the country's largest homebuilder, Metricon, is in crisis talks with the Victorian government over \$195 million worth of social housing contracts it has with the company. The talks come amid soaring costs in the building industry and claims the company is in financial troubles and follow the sudden and unexpected death of Metricon's co-founder and chief executive officer, Mario Biasin, earlier this week.

According to Metricon's website, it builds homes across South Australia and has nine display home locations across the Adelaide metropolitan area and the Hills. My question to the Treasurer is:

1. Does the state government have any contracts with Metricon?
2. If so, what is the value of those contracts and what are the contracts for?
3. Has the government been approached by Metricon to be updated on the financial viability of its business or has the government approached Metricon for reassurances after learning of its woes?
4. If it does have contracts with Metricon, what financial exposure does the government face should the company collapse?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:39):** I thank the honourable member for his important questions and I will refer them to a minister in another place and bring back a reply.

#### OVERLAND TRAIN SERVICE

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (14:40):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

**The PRESIDENT:** On the topic of?

**The Hon. J.S. LEE:** Regarding the *Overland* train service.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.S. LEE:** During question time on 5 May this year, the minister said that the Malinauskas Labor government is reversing the decision of the former Liberal government to cut funding to the *Overland* train service.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. J.S. LEE:** My questions—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Just hang on. You are actually now in government, not in opposition, so you sit there quietly, and you do as well, the Hon. Mr Wortley. Continue, please.

**The Hon. J.S. LEE:** My questions to the minister are: can the minister please provide reassurance that the Malinauskas Labor government is committed to providing recurrent funding for the *Overland* train service—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. J.S. LEE:** —and has the state government—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. J.S. LEE:** —consulted their Victorian counterparts regarding ongoing funding for this service—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Continue, please.

**The Hon. J.S. LEE:** —and will the funding for this service be included in the upcoming state budget?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:41):** Thank you very much for this question. I am very pleased to receive this question from the honourable member.

**The Hon. K.J. Maher:** It sounds like a government question.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** It does sound like a government question, as the Hon. Mr Maher interjects.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** I am sure those opposite would never set up one of their team members. We know that they always work so well as a team, they don't have any infighting and, of course, they don't have any factions; we know that. So that would never occur that the honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition in this place would be set up. I do understand why members might think that she is being set up. After all, this is a question about the iconic *Overland* train service.

This is a question about a service which received only a relatively small amount of funding from the former Labor state government. I think, if my recollection is correct, it was \$1 million over three years. That was an important piece of funding to ensure that the service could continue. It's a service, of course, that is very important to regional towns, such as Murray Bridge and Bordertown, because it offers one of the few public transport options, particularly to Bordertown. I have spoken with a resident in Naracoorte who has mobility issues and, of course, he finds it incredibly difficult to access any other services that will get him to Adelaide or to Melbourne.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** I know there is not a whole lot—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** —of understanding on the other side about the South-East—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The two leaders, if you want to have a chat, go outside.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** I don't think there is anyone from the other side who lives in the Limestone Coast, but I am happy to be corrected, so they may not realise that there is not an airport in Bordertown, there is not an option from Naracoorte to fly to Adelaide or to fly to Melbourne.

**The Hon. R.P. Wortley:** Ridgway didn't realise that.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** So if one is unable to drive, or indeed has mobility issues, that makes car or bus travel very difficult—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** —because there is, of course, a coach that goes through, then the *Overland* is one of the few options remaining to them. Despite that, despite their purported commitment to the regions, despite their purported commitment—

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** Point of order: we are now up to I think it is three minutes and 15 and the minister is yet to even touch base on part of the question.

**The PRESIDENT:** There is no point of order. Minister, please continue, but—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Interjections are out of order. Please continue, but we do need to get on with the business of the day,

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** Certainly, sir.

**The PRESIDENT:** Let's answer the question and then we will move on.



**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** It is a bit disappointing to again find that the Leader of the Opposition in this place is so disinterested in services to regional South Australia that she wants to close down the argument. She wants to close down my answer to this question.

**The PRESIDENT:** Minister, let's get back to the topic.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** This is a very vital service. I have attended events both in Murray Bridge and in Bordertown to highlight the importance of this service. It was a commitment before the election made by the then Labor opposition that we would reinstate that funding, and I am very glad to be able to report to this place that this is a government that keeps its promises. I look forward—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** Indeed, not like GlobeLink, or 'globlink' as the honourable member refers to. This is a promise that we have made, and I look forward to that coming to fruition.

#### OVERLAND TRAIN SERVICE

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:45):** Supplementary: will funding for this service be included in the upcoming state budget; yes or no?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:45):** I think 2 June is when the budget is being released, and I look forward to sharing all that information with you at that time, or the Treasurer will do so. I am sure we will have many discussions about the excellent programs, the excellent commitments, of the Labor government that will be funded in that budget.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Wortley, you are testing my patience.

#### OVERLAND TRAIN SERVICE

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (14:45):** Supplementary arising from the original answer from the minister: she confirms that there will be funding. We just want to know: how much?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:46):** If I recall correctly, the commitment was for a million dollars over three years. Of course, that was to reinstate the money that was cut by the former Liberal government, cut by the Marshall Liberal government, cut because they are not interested in providing services such as the *Overland* train service—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** —in conjunction with the Victorian government, which of course had to step in because of the outrageous decision of the former Marshall Liberal government. The Victorian Labor government stepped in and provided that additional funding.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Minister!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** Our government's view is that we should be taking an appropriate share. The *Overland* travels within South Australia. It shouldn't be just the Victorian government that is contributing to that funding. I look forward to this funding coming forth and us fulfilling our promises, as opposed to those who sit opposite in the previous Liberal government.

#### OVERLAND TRAIN SERVICE

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:47):** A supplementary arising from the original answer.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Before we go on to the supplementary question, it is most unusual for me not to be able to hear the minister because her own team is drowning her out.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, the Hon. Mr Hanson!

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK:** Yes, Mr President, I made that observation myself. Why is the minister happy to refer to the budget in response to this question but she refused to answer questions, and referred them to estimates, in response to the first question today about FTEs in her own department?

**The PRESIDENT:** You can answer it. Answer it, but we're moving on.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:47):** I was certainly under the impression that the date of the state budget was well-known information. Perhaps those opposite haven't actually caught up with the parliamentary sitting calendar and the announcement of when the budget will be, but I can certainly inform them that the budget will be in June and we look forward to sharing it with you then.

**The PRESIDENT:** The last supplementary, the Hon. Mr Hood.

#### OVERLAND TRAIN SERVICE

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (14:48):** Supplementary to the minister: what was the Labor government's promise in terms of the amount of funding for the *Overland* prior to the election?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Hon. Mr Hood has asked his supplementary question. Are you going to answer the supplementary question, or are we moving on? It's up to you.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:48):** I am happy to answer the question again, but what I will suggest is that the Hon. Mr Hood looks at *Hansard* from a few minutes ago when I answered. What I said was, 'If I recall correctly, it's a million dollars over three years.'

**The Hon. D.G.E. Hood:** So you're not sure.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** I am repeating the answer that I have made. Certainly, I do encourage those opposite, if they wish to—I think there is an expression that says, 'When you're in a hole, just keep digging.' They seem to keep digging further and further down. This is a service that was cut by the Marshall Liberal government. Funding was cut by the Marshall Liberal government—

**The Hon. D.G.E. Hood:** Supplementary, sir.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Hood, sit down.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** —and yet they want to reiterate over and over again, emphasise and re-emphasise, their cuts to this service. This is an important service for regional South Australia. I am very pleased that the Malinauskas Labor government supports this service and supports regional residents.

#### OVERLAND TRAIN SERVICE

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (14:49):** Supplementary.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Hood, this is the final supplementary question. We need to move on.

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD:** So the minister is confirming that she is not sure what the commitment was?

*Members interjecting:*

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

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I want to hear the Hon. Mr Hanson's question. Order, the Hon. Ms Lee!

#### FERAL DEER

**The Hon. J.E. HANSON (14:49):** I understand why the opposition might not want to. My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister update the council on the government's commitment to eradicating feral deer in South Australia?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Could the government benches be silent while the minister is trying to answer the question. This is most unusual.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:50):** I am very hurt by your interjections. I thank the honourable member for his question and for his interest in the state government's response to ensuring the feral deer population is kept under control. South Australia's feral deer population could grow from 40,000 to more than 200,000 in the next decade, which would have a significant negative economic impact on primary industries, and that is if it is not addressed.

Feral deer cost South Australian primary producers \$36 million in production losses, and the figure could be as high as \$242 million per year by 2031 if they are not addressed. These are part of the findings from the Feral Deer Control Economic Analysis Report, commissioned by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA), with landscape boards and Livestock SA.

In response to the findings of the economic analysis, \$4.3 million will be spent on feral deer control programs in South Australia over the next four years, between 2021-22 and 2024-25. The government of South Australia and landscape boards are providing \$2 million, with the Australian government committing \$2.3 million to undertake deer control across South Australia, with priority regions for control efforts identified as the Limestone Coast and Hills and Fleurieu regions, in partnership with landscape boards.

Feral deer are an agricultural, environmental and social pest—I am referring to feral deer, not those opposite.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** I am just clarifying—

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** Point of order: she treats this council with contempt, and I ask that she withdraw that.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! You can withdraw that and then move on, please.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** I withdraw. They eat native plants, trample saplings and damage mature plants, and they are the cause of production losses of around \$36 million in 2020-21.

Feral deer compete with native wildlife and livestock for pastures and contribute to erosion in creek and river systems. They can also be a hazard on roads, of course, and cause vehicle accidents. I remember, as I was leaving Kingston on one of my many trips down to the South-East and back just a couple of years ago, just out of Kingston we missed a deer by about one metre. It was quite frightening for my children, who were in the car, and it certainly does bring home the sort of issues regional residents are dealing with whenever we go onto our roads.

The numbers of feral deer across the state are on the rise, and the analysis indicates that, if further action is not taken, populations could explode by 500 per cent in the next decade. The government of South Australia is committed to helping reduce numbers of feral deer around the state, through the South Australian declared animal policy for feral deer, with enforceable fencing and tagging standards to prevent the escape of farmed deer. In addition, there is also a requirement for landholders to destroy all feral deer on their properties.

**FERAL DEER**

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:53):** Supplementary: given that previously residents have been put in danger where culls of deer have happened on their properties and they have not been informed, what has PIRSA done to correct those previous errors?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:53):** If the honourable member would like to provide me with the specific details, I am happy to follow that up, thank you.

**FERAL DEER**

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:53):** Further supplementary: does the minister understand that, if you are going to shoot feral deer, you need to tell people who live in the area that you are going to shoot feral deer, or you put them in danger?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:54):** As I mentioned, if the honourable member would like to provide specific details of what she is referring to—where and at what times—I can ensure that is addressed.

**The Hon. T.A. Franks:** Well, that's what I asked. Has that issue been addressed, because it used to happen?

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. T.A. Franks:** Has it been addressed? Do you even know that?

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Hon. Ms Centofanti has a supplementary question.

**FERAL DEER**

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:54):** Supplementary: can the minister inform the chamber about the tool used for reporting of feral deer?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:54):** I am happy to take that on notice and bring an answer back to the chamber.

**YOUTH DETENTION**

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:54):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question without notice to the Attorney-General regarding children in detention.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS:** In South Australia, young people aged between the ages of 10 and 18 can be remanded in or sentenced to youth detention. In 2021, I spoke in this place about a study from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare that revealed South Australia detains children at a higher rate than the national average. We also know that First Nations children are overrepresented in youth detention and usually account for over half of those detained.

Last year, a report issued by the Guardian for Children and Young People found that children are sometimes held in custody at the City Watch House, which is an adult facility. The report stated that being detained in an adult facility was potentially exposing those with significant trauma backgrounds to unnecessary stress and risk. My question to the minister, therefore, is: how many children are currently in detention in South Australia, and are any of those currently being detained in adult facilities such as the City Watch House?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:55):** I thank the honourable member for his question. It is an important one. I don't have direct portfolio responsibility for youth detention. That rests with my colleague the Minister for Human Services in another place. It does of course touch quite significantly upon my portfolio areas in the Attorney-General's and justice area and, unfortunately, as the honourable member has outlined, in the Aboriginal affairs area. I will refer those to my colleague in another place and bring back a reply as soon as I can.

**YOUTH DETENTION**

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:56):** Supplementary question: has the minister been briefed about the bail trial being run by the Department of Human Services, which was funded in last year's budget, for under 14s?

**The PRESIDENT:** I will allow it, minister, because it refers to young people.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:56):** I thank the honourable member for her question. I haven't been briefed about that, but it certainly, from the sounds of it, sounds like something that I would be interested in so I will ask for information on it, thank you.

**YOUTH DETENTION**

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:56):** Supplementary: has the minister read the report issued by the Guardian for Children and Young People regarding the situation that children find themselves in?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:57):** I will check. There are a whole range of reports and also statistics that have been released over the last few months. I will check if that's one that I have had come across my desk but, if not, I will make sure that I do.

**YOUTH DETENTION**

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:57):** Supplementary: how many children detained have not been given legal representation before questioning by SAPOL?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:57):** I thank the honourable member for her question. Again, it's not one that I have information readily available on and it's not in my direct portfolio area, but it is an important question and I will ask my colleague in another place and bring back a reply, if those statistics are available.

**PORT AUGUSTA ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS**

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (14:57):** My questions are to the Attorney-General:

1. Has the Attorney-General met with Liquor and Gambling Commissioner, Dini Soulio, regarding alcohol restrictions in Port Augusta?
2. Has the Attorney-General had discussions with the member for Stuart regarding alcohol restrictions in Port Augusta?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:58):** I thank the honourable member for his question. Liquor licensing is a portfolio responsibility of my colleague in another place, the member for Enfield, the Hon. Andrea Michaels, who has consumer and business affairs, so I will refer any questions to do with liquor licensing to that minister. Certainly, I have had lots of discussions with a number of my ministerial colleagues and other members about a whole range of issues dealing with not just their portfolio but their electorates.

**PORT AUGUSTA ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS**

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:58):** Supplementary: I think the question was directed to the Attorney in that whether or not he has or hasn't met himself with the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner, Dini Soulio.

**The PRESIDENT:** You can please yourself, if you need to answer that.

**YADU HEALTH ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**

**The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:58):** My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Will the minister update the council about the need for new facilities at the Yadu Health clinic in Ceduna?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:59):** I thank the honourable member for his question.

It is an important question and I have had an update from a number of my colleagues about Yadu Health in Ceduna. I think we can all agree that all South Australians should have access to health care whether they are in Adelaide, in the CBD, in the suburbs or in remote or rural parts of our state.

Unfortunately, Aboriginal people on the Far West Coast of our state have significant challenges facing delivery of health services from the Yadu Health service in Ceduna. The Yadu Health Aboriginal Corporation provides critical health services for Aboriginal people from its Ceduna clinic, providing support to communities in Ceduna and the surrounding areas. I'm advised that Yadu Health sees some 3,000 patients per year.

However the clinic faces problems, which is well known, including black mould, roof leaks around live electrical cabling, and walls and ceilings made of painted-over asbestos. I'm advised some parts of this building have been condemned as being unsafe for workers and are not even fit to be used for storage. The clinic is not fit for the people who work at Yadu Health service, nor for the people who access its health services. These issues are not new; they have been around for some years.

My friend and colleague in another parliament, Senator Marielle Smith, has similarly raised these issues with the federal government in the Senate. Despite these issues being raised, there has been no help forthcoming for Yadu and its problems with the infrastructure. There are still significant issues that need to be addressed.

I am proud that a commitment of this Labor government, that we made in opposition as an election commitment, was to provide \$2.5 million to support the construction of additional accommodation for Yadu Health services, and I am pleased that we are working with the federal Labor Party—and we will know in a couple of days' time whether it is a federal Labor government or not—who have a commitment to provide \$13.35 million to build Yadu Health.

I was proud to be part of the joint announcement from the federal and state Labor parties in Ceduna, alongside the shadow minister for Indigenous Australians, Linda Burney, and South Australian Senator Marielle Smith. It was a very welcome commitment that will make a huge difference for Aboriginal people on the Far West Coast and ensure they have access to the health care they need and should expect.

It is a sign of the strong partnership we hope South Australia will have with the federal government, especially in the area of Aboriginal health. It is an important commitment not just for the Yadu Health clinic but for these communities. That is why we made this commitment, and an incoming federal Labor government joining with the state Labor government would go a long way to improving the health and lives of Aboriginal people on the Far West Coast with the building of a new health clinic at Yadu.

I am very pleased for the information I was able to provide the chamber that has been provided to me by my colleague the honourable member for Kaurana and health minister, Chris Picton.

#### **YADU HEALTH ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (15:02):** I have a supplementary question: when the minister says 'additional accommodation' at Yadu—and my understanding is that some of the services proposed to come out of the additional accommodation include dental services—is the minister suggesting, by the use of the word 'additional', that the facilities being funded by the \$2.5 million are not part of the main Yadu building?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:02):** I thank the honourable member for his question; it is a reasonable question. In terms of how the physical infrastructure will be built, I don't know, so I won't be too brave as to provide further information than the health minister has already provided to me, but I suspect that will be part of the design process.

#### **YADU HEALTH ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (15:03):** A further supplementary question: considering that the Attorney-General and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has conceded that this facility has not been fit for occupation for some years, if the additional accommodation is beyond the main building, is the

honourable member suggesting that if a federal Labor government is not elected on Saturday the Yadu facility will continue to operate in a condemned facility?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:03):** It is a firm commitment that a federal Labor government will provide this funding. There are rounds for funding for remote Aboriginal health services from the commonwealth. I would be very, very hopeful that the Hon. Stephen Wade and all his colleagues would put as much pressure as possible on a Liberal government if they are re-elected, as we would be doing, to provide the much-needed funding so that it can be done.

**The PRESIDENT:** I call the Hon. Ms Game to ask her first question.

#### FOX BAITING

**The Hon. S.L. GAME (15:04):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Attorney-General, representing the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, on fox baits.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. S.L. GAME:** I have had correspondence from a wheat and sheep farmer from the Eyre Peninsula whose family have owned their farm since 2013. He tells me that in that time the Landscape SA board has always given the landowners fox baits to control numbers, due to the hefty levy farmers pay each year. He states:

Since baiting, we have had a better lambing percentage but also noticed a huge amount of extra native animals. One in particular, plovers. I think we would have easily about 50 plovers here now on this farm when before we started baiting we had none.

Foxes are declared a pest animal under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019. Farmers are doing their bit to control this pest animal that has preyed on our native wildlife population. Why is Landscape SA now charging landowners for fox baits, and will they consider reversing this decision for the sake of landowners and native fauna?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:05):** I thank the honourable member for her excellent first question in this chamber and her interest in this area. I will refer that question onto my colleague in another place, the Hon. Susan Close, the member for Port Adelaide and Deputy Premier, and bring back a reply for her.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Ms Lensink.

*Members interjecting:*

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

#### PORT AUGUSTA, REMOTE VISITORS

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (15:05):** Sorry, I was too busy interjecting. I apologise, Mr President. I was so distracted by the concept of Labor raising taxes through fox baits. My questions are to the Attorney-General regarding remote visitors in Port Augusta.

*The Hon. I.K. Hunter interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I want to hear the question, please.

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK:** My questions are to the Attorney-General regarding remote visitors in Port Augusta:

1. Can the Attorney-General confirm whether he has had any communications with Aboriginal elders regarding remote visitors and alcohol restrictions in Port Augusta?
2. Can the Attorney-General and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs confirm whether he has had any communications with the city of Port Augusta regarding remote visitors or alcohol restrictions in Port Augusta?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:06):** I thank the honourable member for her question. I have regular conversations and representations from Aboriginal elders and from regional cities. Nearly all of them, I think, are on the expectation that I will keep those conversations private in exercising my duty, so I'm not going to go in this place or with the member into private conversations I have with people.

#### AGTECH FIELD DAYS

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:07):** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister update the chamber about the recent AgTech field days that have occurred throughout April and May?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:07):** I thank the member for this question. The PIRSA AgTech field days commenced on 28 April 2021 at the Struan best practice demonstration farm. The field trips enable producers to connect directly with developers and entrepreneurs and are a way to provide advice to developers to better understand primary producers' needs and their operating environment in real-time, as well, of course, as the challenges and opportunities to help streamline and improve their operations.

The two field days recently held at the Struan best practice demonstration farm on 28 April and in Nuriootpa on 10 May were attended by primary producers, technology providers and industry representatives, and the key topic of discussion across both field days was the value and benefits technology use on farm can provide to primary producers. That includes in terms of reduced labour inputs, a reduction in costs, increases in productivity, risk reduction and, of course, peace of mind.

In total, the five field days have attracted 370 primary producers, technology providers and industry representatives, and I thank the AgTech division of the Department of Primary Industries and Regions for their work in organising these events alongside their dedication to connecting and resourcing our primary producers in their on-farm practices.

The AgTech field days and the continued work through the AgTech Solutions Program is one of the many ways of continued support to our primary producers in making agriculture in South Australia more productive, profitable and sustainable, and I look forward to the future events planned through our regions from the program.

#### AGTECH FIELD DAYS

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:08):** Supplementary: minister, what is the extent of the funding that the Malinauskas government has provided for the field days here in South Australia?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:09):** I thank the honourable member for his question. I am happy to take that on notice and bring an answer back.

#### AGRITECH GRANTS

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:09):** Supplementary arising from the original answer.

**The PRESIDENT:** The original answer was quite extensive.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** Can the minister announce when she is going to finalise and indeed announce the AgriTech grants?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:09):** I thank the honourable member for her supplementary question, which as I recall is identical to a question, I think, two weeks ago when I said that I will be doing that—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The two leaders, enough! Minister, have you finished your answer?



**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** No.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Please finish your answer so we can move to the crossbench.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** As I said to the honourable Leader of the Opposition at that time, I will be doing that as soon as I can and I look forward to being able to make those announcements.

### SKYCITY ADELAIDE

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:10):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney, representing the Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, and in his own capacity, a question about SkyCity Adelaide Casino.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS:** In June last year, AUSTRAC, Australia's financial crimes watchdog, revealed it was investigating the Casino after it identified potential serious compliance with the Australian Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006—an issue which I have raised in here several times now. AUSTRAC's concerns were identified as part of a compliance assessment it commenced more than two years ago focusing on the Casino's management of customers identified as politically exposed persons. The Commissioner for Business and Consumer Services revealed last year he had suspended his own review of the Casino, pending the completion of that investigation. In a market update to the ASX last month, the Casino's operator, SkyCity, said:

For clarity, AUSTRAC has not filed proceedings against SkyCity Adelaide or indicated whether it intends to take any enforcement action against SkyCity Adelaide, but enforcement action remains an option open to AUSTRAC. At this stage, the timetable for completion of the AUSTRAC investigation into SkyCity remains unclear.

My questions to the Attorney are: since forming government, have the Attorney or the minister in the other place been briefed by AUSTRAC on its ongoing investigation into SkyCity Adelaide Casino? If not, has the government sought a meeting with AUSTRAC to be briefed on the investigation into the Casino and, if so, what was the extent of the information provided to date?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:12):** I thank the honourable member for her question. It's certainly not something I can recall being briefed about, but I suspect I wouldn't be. As the honourable member pointed out at the start of the question, it's not in my portfolio area, but I certainly will refer that to the minister responsible in another place and ask for her to draft a response that I can bring back to this place.

### BAIL CONDITIONS

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:12):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General regarding bail conditions in South Australia.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD:** It has been reported in the media in the last week or so that the Adelaide Magistrates Court granted bail to an alleged gang member, Banok Banok, who was arrested in relation to a fatal stabbing in the CBD. It was revealed this individual has had nine previous convictions and six arrest warrants over the past two years alone, and was breaching bail conditions at the time of his latest arrest. Banok was released on home detention bail in this instance, despite South Australian police imploring the magistrate regarding the alleged offender in custody, stating that the court could 'have no confidence that he would adhere to his bail conditions'.

My questions to the Attorney-General are:

1. If nine previous convictions and six arrest warrants are not enough to require an alleged offender to remain in custody, then what would be enough?
2. How many South Australian offenders are currently on bail who have previously committed an offence whilst on bail (if the Attorney has any data to share with us to that effect)?

3. Does the Attorney-General believe that the current level of individuals reoffending whilst on bail is acceptable and, if not, what is the government's plan to mitigate the problem of individuals reoffending whilst on bail?

**The Hon. R.P. Wortley:** Your talents are wasted on the back bench, Dennis. You should be on the front bench.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Wortley, I don't think the Attorney-General needs your help.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:13):** I thank the honourable member for his question. In relation to his first question about that specific matter, that is of course, as the member would be aware, a matter for the courts. We as a parliament provide the legislation and the framework in which the courts make their decision based on facts and individual circumstances. I don't have all the individual circumstances of this matter. In the system of government in which we live, there is a separation between the legislature and the judiciary, for good reason.

We create the framework and it is the courts that look at individual cases, and I think that is an appropriate mechanism that continues. In relation to the number of offences committed by those on bail—I think was the second question—I don't have statistics in relation to that. If they are available I am happy to go away and ask for them to be brought back, which would then inform the next two questions, so I am happy to take those on notice and if they can be found to bring back an answer for the honourable member.

#### BAIL CONDITIONS

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:15):** Supplementary: I thank the minister for his answer, but he didn't quite address my last question. Has the government contemplated what it might turn its mind to in addressing these issues?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:15):** I thank the honourable member for his question and certainly that will be dependent upon what the issues are in relation to those statistics. I don't have those, so I can't turn my mind to—if something needs to be done about an issue, I'm not sure what the statistics are, but as I said I am happy to, if statistics can be found, provide an answer to the minister which can inform the third and fourth questions he had.

#### INDIGENOUS BUSINESSES

**The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (15:15):** My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Will the minister inform the council about the contribution Aboriginal-owned businesses make to the South Australian economy.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:16):** I thank the honourable member for his question and his repeated interest in this chamber in areas to do with Aboriginal affairs. I am happy to report that Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and businesses make an important contribution not just to this state but to our country. They contribute to the economy, provide jobs for Aboriginal people and provide important services that many people rely upon.

Just last week, I had the opportunity to visit one such Aboriginal-owned business in Adelaide doing just that. The South Australian and Northern Territory franchise of Enterprise Car and Truck Rental based on Grange Road at Beverley is owned by Cedrent, a business that funds the Far West Coast Aboriginal Community Trust. These are innovative and expanding businesses providing important vehicle hire services in the city and across regional South Australia.

The business operates on sites across much of South Australia, including a number of outlets in the Northern Territory, Ceduna, Coober Pedy and Port Augusta, and is expanding into other areas we were informed. I was fortunate to have a look through their site at Beverley, to meet some of the people who run the business that contribute to this Aboriginal-owned and controlled enterprise. I want to thank Robert Larking from Scotdesco Aboriginal community for showing us around the site, and to the board for taking me through how the business supports work that benefits Aboriginal people on the Far West Coast through the profits the business makes.

Because an important component of this business is income that goes back to the Far West Coast Community Trust, it provides benefits for the local Aboriginal community. The Mirning, Wirangu, Kokatha, Yalata, Maralinga Tjaratja peoples and the descendants of Edward Roberts together make up the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation, a registered Native Title body, and benefit from investments like those of the Enterprise franchise.

This is just one example of an Aboriginal-owned and operated business making a contribution to our state. Across South Australia, Aboriginal businesses are not just providing quality products and services to consumers, but are also providing support to communities in a real and meaningful way.

As we head shortly into Reconciliation Week in a few weeks' time, I encourage members to look at supporting Aboriginal-owned and controlled businesses. There are a number of websites, including Supply Nation, that such businesses can be found on. Supporting Aboriginal-owned and controlled businesses is a practical way individuals can continue the work of reconciliation, and support local Aboriginal people in South Australia.

#### INDUSTRIAL HEMP

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:18):** My question for the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development is: will she update us on the research trials and number of licences that have been made under the Industrial Hemp Act?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:19):** I thank the honourable member for her question. I am happy to take the question on notice and bring an answer back to the chamber.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Ms Franks, it is going to be challenging to get a supplementary out of that answer.

#### INDUSTRIAL HEMP

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:19):** Has the minister taken any interest in the fact that the Industrial Hemp Act falls under her portfolio, and has she acquainted herself with not just the industry but the researchers?

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER:** Point of order: it is a very good try, but I cannot see how that possibly can relate to the original answer.

**The PRESIDENT:** Thanks for your encouragement, the Hon. Mr Hunter. I will take the supplementary. Minister, would you like to provide an answer?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:20):** I am very interested in all of the industries of our state, particularly those industries that have an impact on regional South Australia. The Malinauskas Labor government is one that is very keen to ensure that we have a growth agenda going forward. Of course, we were elected because of our focus on the future, something that the former government didn't seem to achieve. In terms of the industries that fall within my portfolio, I am very fortunate to have the portfolio of primary industries, regional development and forest industries.

**The Hon. I.K. Hunter:** And we're lucky to have you.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** Thank you very much.

**The PRESIDENT:** Interjections are out of order, the Hon. Mr Hunter. Minister, ignore them, please.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** So far in my eight weeks as minister I have been meeting with a number of stakeholders across a number of different industries, and of course I have also undertaken a number of regional trips already. I understand that I have had an introductory briefing in regard to the matter that the member has raised, and of course I am looking forward to pursuing further opportunities for the state, for regional industries, and indeed contributing as part of the Malinauskas Labor government, as part of the Malinauskas Labor team, to be able to encourage business and

encourage industry in our state. We are very fortunate, I think, to have Peter Malinauskas, or the member for Croydon, as our leader, because this is a leader who has a vision for the future—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** —something that sadly has been lacking for the previous four years.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** I look forward to providing further information—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** —on this particular industry in due course.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

*Address in Reply*

#### **ADDRESS IN REPLY**

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from 17 May 2022.)

**The PRESIDENT:** Before I call the Hon. Ms Curran, members, be aware it is the Hon. Ms Curran's maiden speech and we will afford her the courtesy that we always do for a member making their maiden speech.

**The Hon. L.A. CURRAN (15:22):** Mr President, parliamentary colleagues, friends and family in the galleries, it is a great honour this afternoon to deliver my maiden speech to this parliament. As this is the Address in Reply, I thank Her Excellency the Governor for the speech with which she opened this parliament. Mr President, I congratulate you on your election to the role of President of this chamber, an important job which I am sure you will deliver with great distinction.

Mr President, it is my understanding that there has been a total of 277 members of the Legislative Council in South Australia's history. I stand before you today incredibly humbled to be the 23<sup>rd</sup> female member of the Legislative Council in South Australia. Growing up, this opportunity is something that I could not dream of. It is true that you cannot be what you cannot see, and so sometimes you must forge your own path, no matter what the adversity.

You see, I spent my adolescent years growing up in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. At the time, a nation of great societal limitations, particularly for women. As a woman living in that place, I was not allowed to drive a car, let alone put my hand up for public office. In Saudi Arabia, women were first allowed to stand as voters and candidates in 2015, the year after I graduated high school and some 121 years after this parliament legislated the rights of women to stand for public office and to participate equally in representative democracy.

While I have now left that place and am fortunate enough to stand here in this chamber, it is from that experience and so many more that the magnitude of the privilege bestowed upon me to represent South Australians here in the Legislative Council is not lost on me today. I hope that across our great state that young girls and women will look upon our parliament as we continue to see more women elected and feel inspired by the knowledge that they can achieve anything that they desire, so long as they are willing to put in the hard work.

My family is the centrepiece of my life. I am the proud first—and I would like to say favourite, although my sister will likely disagree—daughter of Andrew and Noeleen Curran. My mum was born in Wagga Wagga, country New South Wales, to Barbra Steel. Barbra was born in Mount Lawley,

Western Australia. She was the second born of nine children to George and Eileen Leach. Barbra finished school at age 15 to undertake a hairdressing apprenticeship and later went on to join the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps at age 18.

Barbra travelled to New South Wales and was stationed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Military Hospital in Ingleburn, which received casualties of wounded soldiers evacuated from Vietnam. Like many women of that era, she had to forgo her military career when she married a soldier and later went on to have three children.

I would like to acknowledge my Uncle David Steel, who is here in the chamber today. Whilst I sadly never had the opportunity to meet my grandmother, as she lost her battle with acute myeloid leukaemia at the young age of 45, it is an honour to have two of her children here today in this chamber who have supported me along the way.

My mum, Noeleen, grew up in a defence family, moving house and changing schools every couple of years, as they were posted to different locations around Australia. She attended the University of New England to study archaeology, where she joined the Army Reserves and met my dad.

After graduating with an honours degree in historical archaeology, she worked for the National Parks and Wildlife Service in New South Wales, various environmental firms and as an archaeological consultant over a period of 10 years. She returned to university to follow her passion for teaching and, after graduating again, taught in schools, for the Department of Defence in various education-related roles. Since returning from Saudi Arabia, mum has completed a master's in education, specialising in educational leadership.

My dad, Andrew, was born in Manangatang, country Victoria, to Bernard and Janet Curran. My grandfather, Bernard, was born in Mildura and spent his childhood in Manangatang and Melbourne. After school, he returned to Manangatang and worked on his father's farms as a stock and station agent and later as a farmer himself.

Nana, Janet, is from Deniliquin. She is here in the chamber today and I would like to reflect on just how special it is that she can be here for this moment. She spent her childhood on family farms in Deniliquin, went to boarding school in Melbourne, and left school at the end of year 10 to become a nurse. Nana worked in the hospital and ran farms with my grandfather throughout Australia at different periods, eventually ending up on a farm near Armidale, New South Wales.

My grandparents have always stressed the importance of education to their five children and 11 grandchildren. They taught us the importance of dignity and hard work. As a result, all of their children worked hard and continue to work hard to achieve tertiary qualifications, of which I am sure my grandparents are very proud.

My father grew up on farms. After high school, he joined the Army and attended officer training at Royal Military College, Duntroon. He later joined the New South Wales Police, where he served with distinction in uniform, plain clothes and undercover duties. He left the police to study engineering after 10 years' service. Over the past 20 years, dad has worked in Australia and the Middle East as an engineer. He has won a number of awards for his work, including South Australia's Engineer of the Year in 2021.

I am the very proud older sister to Isabella, who is in the chamber today. She has achieved much in her short life, having already received a bachelor's in medical research and is currently studying a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery. At this stage of her studies, Bella hopes to go on to be a paediatric cardiothoracic surgeon.

For five generations, the Currans were farming families. I have a deep understanding and empathy for the challenges that our rural communities are facing in these difficult and challenging times. These communities are impacted heavily by a range of factors outside of their control, such as drought, flood and pestilence. These communities face real challenges in relation to services, employment, population retention and opportunities for their children. It is my goal to use my time in this place to try to benefit these communities as much as I can. We must not underestimate how important these rural communities are to our state and to our nation.

Mr President, I am a firm believer that it is not what happens to you but how you react to it that matters and that the events of one's life do not necessarily define who you are or what you can achieve. In my short 26 years, I have been faced with what I like to refer to as 'character-building moments'. These moments have helped to shape the person I am and give me the passion to be an advocate in our community. You see, I had to grow up quickly at a young age.

When I was five years old, my father had been working undercover for the New South Wales police, infiltrating bikie gangs, murder suspects and other criminal organisations. After a threat was identified against my family, as a result of this work, we were placed on the witness protection program. One of my earliest memories as a child is of officers evacuating us from our home, being taken by a convoy of police cars in the middle of the night and being shuffled from safe house to safe house to keep us safe.

After some time on witness protection, my family and I started a new life in a new state. Although it was a horrible experience, my family views that time as a price worth paying. As a result, I am an ardent supporter of all those people who serve our Australian community, and I hope that the work we do here in this place can mean that they can do their job with greater safety. My family's experiences have instilled the importance of public service in me and the sacrifices that everyday Australians make when they choose that calling.

Throughout my time in this place, I will champion for all those who serve our community, those who put on a uniform every day to make sure they keep Australians safe, at times to the detriment of their own safety. I will champion to ensure that they are given the best support possible so that they are able to do their job safely and, importantly, are given the support they need after they finish their service. I will champion for the support of their families, who themselves make many sacrifices to support their loved ones through the challenging times that they face.

Like many of our frontline workers, after my dad left the police he suffered from severe PTSD and found it challenging to hold a full-time job for a number of years. These were lean times for my family, who tried desperately to put food on the table and pay for utilities. This taught me three very important life lessons: first, how tough life can be for many Australian families; secondly, that success comes to those who persevere and continue to try, no matter how many obstacles they encounter; and thirdly, the fundamental importance of the family unit.

The resilience and strength shown by my parents in getting out of witness protection and starting a new life is something that has inspired me throughout my life. It is through watching their work ethic and determination in the face of adversity that Liberal values have been instilled in me. Faced with life-changing events and with two small children displaced from their ordinary routine, my parents did what Australians are known to do: they dusted themselves off and they got on with their lives.

Some years later, my dad took a job in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which at the time, and still somewhat to this day, is a country of many societal limitations and governed by Sharia law. Now, before I discuss some of the challenges of that nation, let me just say that my family and I loved our time as guests in Saudi Arabia and that the Saudi people are amongst some of the most inviting and friendly in the world. I was incredibly fortunate to be their guest, but it was not without its challenges.

We lived there throughout the Arab Spring, a particularly challenging time for the Middle East. We moved there only a few years after bombings that resulted in the deaths of many expatriates, severe curtailing of free movement and increased security. We lived in fortified compounds with machine-gun pits, tanks and soldiers. Our car was searched for weapons and bombs each time we came home and when we went to our school compound.

I was required to wear an abaya and, when instructed to by religious police, cover my hair. Religious police were often accompanied by a police escort, who were able to order the detention and the arrest of violators. This is a place where beheadings, lashings and stonings were common. Where at the time, women were not able to drive a car and guardianship laws were still in place. Where there was one line for women and another for men. Where you would go to a restaurant or a food court and there would be one dining area for women and families and a separate dining area for men.

A place where there was no freedom of speech, public worship or association. A place where the media and the internet were censored, and where there was a ban on all public demonstrations and marches. I share these experiences because while I lived what was a fortunate life, with amazing opportunities in a foreign place, from a young age I was deprived of the many freedoms we take for granted here in this country. This is why I hold my liberal values dear. I have seen firsthand what it is to not have the basic equality of opportunity—something which the Liberal Party, and ultimately this parliament, should always strive to protect. I am a passionate defender of our nation's values, the rule of law and the institutional societal constructs we at times take for granted living in South Australia. It is because of my experiences that I am a staunch advocate for the protection of our freedoms here in Australia.

I believe that my parents are incredibly brave people. They moved to a foreign and mysterious land to be able to provide opportunities for my sister and I. Through their leap of faith their children were able to obtain a world-class education and see a great deal of the world, things that may not have been possible had they not taken that risk. I cannot help but look back and reflect on the courage it took to make that decision: moving your children to the other side of the world, to a place that you knew would have had many challenges and adversity, in a search for better opportunities. I do not know that I would have been so brave as to make that decision to move to the great unknown to start a new life. Mum and dad, you are my biggest personal inspiration, and I will be forever grateful for all you have done for Bella and I.

Mr President, while there were many challenges outside the walls of our compound, inside was our sanctuary. Here we were blessed with a strong sense of community and belonging. We were often all from different places, yet shared the same home. The children were third culture kids, we were navigating cultures that differed so vastly from our own, yet somehow created our own experience and adapted to that of our host country.

The many cultures I have been fortunate to be exposed to have left an imprint on me. I share this because here, in this country, we have a melting pot of cultural influence, with many who have places that have left an imprint on them. It is our shared values of mateship, freedom and democracy, and the belief in a fair and tolerant society, which helps to bind us together. I hope that as members of this place we never forget the one thing that unites us: we have all chosen to make Australia our home.

At 18 I moved to South Australia for the opportunity to study. I packed a suitcase and I left my family behind to move to Adelaide, a place I had never been to. This idea was terrifying, and I can only imagine the challenges faced by those who leave their home country to make Australia their new home. The reverse culture shock when I returned made me feel very homesick for my family, but this of course all settled as I assimilated back into my way of life in Australia.

It was at university that I met my fiancé, Cameron—coincidentally at the University of South Australia Liberal Club tent. Seven years, four houses, three campaigns and a seven-month-old Labradoodle later, and here we are. I am fortunate to share my life with such a loving, dedicated partner, one who constantly supports and pushes me to do better and be better, someone who says, 'Say yes to every opportunity,' someone who, whenever I have been met with questions about whether we want children (and who would raise those children, heaven forbid I ever be elected), around my age, whether I could hold my own when a man was not around, or any other question that my male counterparts would never receive, has been proud to say that women can do it all, and I am proud that one day when we have children they will be able to see that mum and dad work as a team.

People often ask me, 'Why did you pick Adelaide if you had never been here before?' The answer was the Fringe Festival. Someone told me about this amazing arts festival that took place every year, about the beautiful beaches and wine regions, all within a short drive of the CBD, and, South Australia, you have not disappointed. I am a proud South Australian. While I may not have a long lineage of South Australians in my family, I chose to make South Australia my home. I chose to lay my roots here because I can think of no better place to start a family one day than here.

As the youngest member of the Legislative Council, I am a passionate advocate for young South Australians. There is no denying that throughout the COVID-19 pandemic young

South Australians have been disproportionately affected. Every South Australian deserves the dignity of work. Whilst the national unemployment rate may be sitting at 3.9 per cent, and the national underemployment rate at 6.1 per cent, the youth unemployment rate currently sits at a far larger 8.8 per cent.

In March of this year, it was reported that house prices in South Australia are growing at a faster pace than the 'national rate, with a lack of supply pushing the median value of metropolitan homes up by 25 per cent a year'. This is not obtainable for young South Australians—South Australians who are aspirational, working hard to save in the hope that, one day, they will be able to afford a home for their families, but they are struggling to keep up with the price rises as they try to reach their financial targets. These are but a couple of issues and challenges that our young South Australians are facing.

From my perspective, I am a firm believer in a small government, that is, for the government to create an environment and for enterprises to flourish but to then get out of the way and let business get on with the job. It is important to note that, where possible, I think the government of the day should look to create a 'hand up' instead of a 'handout', and that we in this place should seek to create a South Australia where people are self-sufficient so that South Australians are not forever dependent on government decisions.

One of the best gifts you can give someone is an education. Every child deserves one. I was fortunate to have parents who believe in the importance of an education. They fostered and nurtured my sister's and my learning, and I have had the benefit of them leading by example. As a child, I watched both mum and dad go back to university to start a new life. I became my mum's guinea pig for her lesson plans as she studied teaching and I sat up the back of lecture theatres with my dad as he studied engineering. I am fortunate for this because I learnt, through their example, the importance of hard work, perseverance and grit, but most importantly I learnt that nothing in life is handed to you. If you want something, it takes hard work.

I graduated from the American International School—Riyadh with an International Baccalaureate Diploma and later went on to receive a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the University of South Australia and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the College of Law. This education has helped to strengthen my understanding of the world around me. In my view, our greatest challenge in this place is acknowledging when we do not need to legislate and to know when it is time to get out of the way.

There are many people who I owe thanks to along my journey to this place. I would like to acknowledge and thank my family for their love, support and patience. Thank you for the late nights putting up corflutes, the long days standing at polling booths, the many hills climbed letterboxing and the many phone calls being my sounding board. My being here would not be possible without your love and support throughout this long journey.

I would like to acknowledge my fiancé, Cameron. Thank you for your love and for believing in me and for pushing me to do better. Thank you for licking postage stamps and stuffing envelopes until midnight and for joining me on my countless long country drives just to keep me company. I would not be where I am today without you, and I am so blessed to be able to share this journey of life with you. I cannot wait to marry you. I would like to acknowledge and thank my soon to be family-in-law, who are in the chamber today, for welcoming me into the family and for your support of both Cameron and I.

I would like to acknowledge the Liberal Party, without whom I would not be here. My success in being elected is something that we, the Liberal Party, all share. It is not mine alone. It is mine because of the incredible support that I have received from state council and the broader Liberal Party. I would like to say just how grateful I am for that support and for the belief that you have placed in me that has enabled me to stand here today.

I thank all of my state parliamentary colleagues who have assisted me on my journey, but in particular the President of this place, the Hon. Terry Stephens; our Liberal Party leader of this place, the Hon. Nicola Centofanti; and the Hon. Heidi Girolamo MLC. I thank my federal parliamentary colleagues, who have also given me guidance along the way, in particular Tony Pasin MP, the member for Barker; Senator Alex Antic; and Nicolle Flint, the member for Boothby.



I would like to thank the Liberal Party leader, David Speirs MP, member for Black, for the faith that he has placed in me in appointing me as the Shadow Parliamentary Secretary to the Shadow Attorney-General, responsible for Child Protection and the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, and to my Liberal colleagues in the Legislative Council for the faith they have placed in me, a fresh-faced junior MP, to be your Opposition Whip.

I would like to acknowledge and thank some key people in the Liberal Party who, throughout my journey, have gone above and beyond in their support and guidance: to State Executive members over the last few years, in particular to Ben Hood, to Lachlan Haynes (and his lovely wife Sarah), to Courtney Nourse and to Ella Winnall. To members of the Mawson branch, where Cameron and I resided for some time, but particularly to Di and John Harvey and SEC President Peter Wadewitz.

I would like to acknowledge Fiona Lee, Zane Basic, Alexander Hyde, Amie Pike, Neil and Krys Howard, Diana Wiseman, Rowan Mumford and Greg O'Brien for the support they have given me. I would like to acknowledge the presidents of my paired SECs throughout the election: the President of Kaurana, Acting Mayor of the City of Onkaparinga, Simon McMahan; President of Reynell, Shane Carter; and President of Hurtle Vale, Emma Godfrey, and her husband, Liam.

I would like to acknowledge loyal party members who have stuck with me since my first campaign in Reynell, who continued to assist me in my campaigns in Kingston, and most recently in the 2022 election, in particular to Ronald Anson and Terence and Rosalind Jones. There are too many of you to name who have offered your support, guidance, friendship and advice, which has helped me along my journey to parliament. You all know who you are. It takes a village to run for parliament, and I thank you for the support and the faith you have entrusted in me.

To those who stand opposite me, and to those who I know from time to time we shall disagree, I think it is important to remember that we stand in this place wanting to create a greater South Australia than when we inherited it. At times, we may have different views on how this will be best achieved, but I strongly believe that the things that unite us as South Australians are infinitely more important than those that divide us.

Despite our political differences, I look forward to working with all in this chamber on this endeavour and in giving my all to the betterment of South Australia. Thank you.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

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

#### *Bills*

### **STATUTES AMENDMENT (CHILD SEX OFFENCES) BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 5 May 2022.)

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (15:49):** I will speak briefly to this bill, which naturally the Liberal Party will be supporting as in large part it replicates a bill that was introduced by the former Liberal government. I indicate I will be the lead speaker on this legislation.

This particular bill amends the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935, the Child Sex Offenders Registration Act 2006 and the Sentencing Act 2017. The bill will substantially increase the maximum penalties for child exploitation material offences and child grooming offences. The penalties for this type of offending under the Commonwealth Criminal Code are currently higher than the South Australian equivalents in the Criminal Law Consolidation Act. In the interests of consistency and to reflect the seriousness of the conduct these penalties will be raised to match those of the commonwealth.

The bill also removes the separation of these offences into basic and aggravated classes in respect of the child exploitation material offences. Whilst many factors can make an offence aggravated the most common aggravating feature of a child exploitation offence is the age of the

victim. The opposition notes that the government, in reintroducing this bill, would retain the distinction in respect of grooming offences.

Under the reintroduced bill in its present form, therefore, aggravated forms of child exploitation material offences are removed. In their place these offences will have one significant maximum penalty that applies regardless of the age of the child. This will not soften sanctions for people viewing exploitation material depicting very young children. The new general maximum penalties are higher than the existing aggravated penalties.

The bill makes it clear that exploitation of a child of any age is totally unacceptable. Removing aggravated status for offences against very young victims also assists the mental health of law enforcement personnel, who would not need to spend as long looking at this heinous material in order to classify the charges. It also simplifies the charging process when the exact age of the child depicted in the material is not readily apparent or cannot be proved. The age or apparent age of the child will, of course, still be relevant and courts will be able to take it into account when selecting an appropriate penalty.

The bill also ensures that child groomers are not given leniency because they were not actually communicating with a child. In many instances, undercover police officers pose online as children and predators attempt to inappropriately and criminally communicate with these fictitious children. Automatic chatbots are used in the same way.

This bill enacts a strict policy that offenders should not be given leniency simply because their belief that they were speaking to a real child turned out to be incorrect. Their intention and belief at the time of the offending still makes them a danger to real children in our community. In particular, the bill will provide clarity in relation to the offences of dishonest communication with children, which is known as Carly's Law, and a registrable sex offender failing to inform police of reportable contact with a child.

A child, for the purposes of these offences, will include a person the offender believed was a child or a fictitious person represented to the offender as a child. Whilst the offences are currently open to interpretation, this will put the matter beyond doubt. The bill will also amend various sentencing provisions that reference the age of the victim to make clear that if the victim was fictitious their age for the purposes of sentencing can be the age that offenders believe them to be at the time of the offence.

The amendments that were filed this morning bring the bill now into line with the bill that passed the Legislative Council during the previous government. The reintroduction of these provisions latterly, I understand, is the result of briefings and communications by the shadow attorney-general in the other place. I thank him and his staff, in particular, for their assistance in my speaking to this bill in this place.

Members who followed the debate in the last parliament would be familiar with these provisions. It is a satisfactory outcome that the bill now includes that important component from the original bill passed last year. The amendments to schedule 1 dealing with class 1 and class 2 offences are the subject of several discrete changes to the provisions in the 2021 bill. I would just like to let the Attorney know that particular changes that differ that we would be interested in having a further explanation on include clause 5A(1)(eea), (6)(fa), (9)(ka) and (15)(wd). With those comments, I indicate support for the bill.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:54):** I rise very briefly to indicate that the Greens will also be supporting the bill. I will have a few questions for the Attorney at the third reading stage, but we are supportive of the bill.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:54):** I rise on behalf of SA-Best to speak in support of the Statutes Amendment (Child Sex Offences) Bill. As we know, the bill seeks to substantially increase penalties for child grooming and child exploitation offences and other child sex offences, which is something we and the entire community support wholeheartedly.

It picks up many of the initiatives contained in the previous government's bill, which did not progress before parliament was prorogued, and in many instances imposes heavier penalties. I acknowledge the work of the former Attorney-General in this regard as well. It also goes further than

the previous bill by increasing penalties for other child sex offences, including unlawful sexual intercourse, indecent assault and the use of children in commercial sexual services.

As in the previous bill, the bill sensibly removes the distinction between basic and aggravated child exploitation material offences, most commonly dependent on the age of the victim. Currently, an offence is aggravated if the person knew the child was under the age of 14. Removing the need for this classification will not only save time and resources but, really importantly, it will stop the further mental trauma of investigators who have to sift through and view this child abuse material to determine if a child was indeed 13 or 14, for example. Approximate age will continue to be taken into account in sentencing.

The bill also seeks to strengthen our laws in relation to fictitious children in response to the prevalence of child sex predators infiltrating online platforms and social media. Faced with increasingly exorbitant numbers, law enforcement agencies are being forced to engage in new methods in their ongoing battle to catch these individuals. Undercover police officers often pose as children in online conversations with predators. The bill pre-empts any future difficulties in convicting these monsters who engage with fictitious victims.

It also provides certainty in the use of artificial intelligence, often referred to as 'chatbots', as referred to by the Hon. Ms Lensink. It is not enough that the offender believed that the virtual victim was real and of a certain age. The bill makes sensible amendments to keep up with the changing landscape to ensure convictions going forward.

We have seen there have been some amendments filed by the government, which include the addition of producing or disseminating childlike sex dolls and possessing childlike sex dolls as class 2 registrable offences under the Child Sex Offenders Registration Act. Members will no doubt remember that we introduced this bill into this place in 2019 after it became apparent that disturbing childlike sex dolls were being discovered by South Australian police and our laws were not adequately equipped to respond. Since then, there have been a string of cases before the courts to prove that legislation is working in stamping out child sex offenders.

The last amendment further adds dishonest communication with children, better known as Carly's Law, to the class 2 scheduling cases where a convicted person was sentenced on the basis the communication was made with the intention of committing a sexual offence of a child. SA-Best is very supportive of any measures aimed at stamping out child sex offending and will continue to advocate as strongly as we can for sensible legislation with that goal, and supporting the same proposed by other honourable members.

Our team was successful in getting Carly's Law passed, not only at the state level but at a federal level, with the unanimous support of parliaments. That is something I am exceptionally grateful for and happy with. We were also successful in criminalising childlike sex dolls with the unanimous support of this parliament, and that is something I think we are all exceptionally happy with, particularly given there already have been a number of successful prosecutions in this area.

None of this happens unless we all work together on these issues. I am equally pleased that when we identify a problem or a loophole, as has been identified now with a piece of legislation as important as Carly's Law, we can work together in a bipartisan way to address it. I cannot emphasise enough the critical work that Carly's mum, Sonya Ryan, has done and continues to do to raise awareness and educate our kids about the risks of online grooming and the predatory behaviour that tens of thousands of paedophiles and sexual deviants are bringing into our lounge rooms each and every day—into our kids' bedrooms each and every day.

There are an estimated 500,000 sexual predators online each and every day. The Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation received 33,114 reports of online exploitation in 2021 alone, up from 17,400 in 2018. In the past 12 months they have reviewed over 217,000 media files relating to the reports they have received, and I acknowledge how difficult a job this is for those dedicated individuals who are equally as dedicated, and doing their level best to protect our kids.

There is one particular offence I might just say something further on, an issue that was raised in the Criminal Justice Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and more recently by the courageous Grace Tame. The 2021 Australian of the Year spoke

to the meeting of Attorneys-General on 12 November last year calling for a change in legal definitions. That call inspired the ACT Attorney-General to introduce a bill to change the name of 'sexual relationship with a child' to 'persistent sexual abuse of a child'.

Any time I have the opportunity to glance at a higher court list I am shocked and appalled, as I am sure many of my colleagues are, at the number of child sex offences being prosecuted. Maintaining an unlawful sexual relationship appears again and again in those lists, and I think, as has quite rightly been pointed out to us now, it is a term that many of us have real concerns about. The use of the word 'relationship' conveys a message of consent, and it certainly does not reflect the seriousness of offending. There is a lot of concern around the casualisation of the language, and that somehow this is something that the victim and the perpetrator are consenting to.

We have initially flagged with the Attorney-General that we would be filing an amendment. Following conversations however with the Attorney, and correspondence with his office and discussions with his office, we appreciate it is a very complex area of law as it turns out, which has been the subject of much debate including legal challenges to the High Court. The Attorney has provided us with written correspondence in relation to this issue, but the last thing that we want, particularly given that we are dealing with this bill now, is to make it easier for a child sex offender to avoid conviction on a legal argument.

I might just point out, based on the correspondence that has been provided to me by the Attorney, for the benefit of members, in 2017 the High Court delivered a significant judgement in two appeals—*Hamra v The Queen* and *Chiro v The Queen*—dealing with the existing South Australian offence of persistent sexual exploitation of a child prescribed by section 50 of our criminal law code. The decision clearly created a number of significant difficulties including that the accused may be held accountable for less serious acts. And then in order to overcome those issues the advice that I have is that we pass legislation in this place.

Section 50 was replaced in 2017 by the current offence, which is based on the model provisions recommended by the Criminal Justice report of the royal commission. Subsequently, in 2021, the heading to that offence was changed from 'persistent sexual abuse of a child' to the current heading of 'unlawful sexual relationship with a child' in order to properly reflect the elements of the offence and avoid argument as to the interpretation.

So when I say that the last thing we want to do is to make it easier for a child sex offender to avoid a conviction on a legal argument that is precisely what the government was seeking to do through this place. It was changed, as I said, to properly reflect the elements of the offence and avoid arguments as to the interpretation of the provision as a result of other changes that were made in our legislation. But I am glad to hear that the Attorney still shares the concerns that have been raised. I am very pleased that this matter is being looked at by the meeting of Attorneys-General.

I note also that the royal commission itself has grappled with the use of the term 'unlawful sexual relationship', but they, too, despite their discomfort with that language, acknowledge that they were content to adopt it in the interests of achieving the most effective form of the offence. In doing so, they said that it does not sit easily with the exploitation involved in child sex abuse offending. However, it is acknowledged that it may help emphasise that the *actus reus* of the offence and what the jury needs to be satisfied of is the existence of the relationship and not the particular underlying acts.

Despite their level of unease or being uncomfortable with that language, they were content that if they adopted that it would be the most effective form of offence and likely outcome of successful prosecutions. I acknowledge also that the Attorney has conveyed to me that any amendments we move to this section have to be carefully considered to ensure that we do not undermine the intent of those provisions, but also place on the record his willingness to work with us to address Ms Game's aims and the issues addressed by the royal commission. They certainly cannot be undertaken in the time frame available to us now, but again I acknowledge that he has indicated his willingness to do so following this bill. There is another bill that I understand that we are looking at considering into the future, which will also deal with some other issues that have not been dealt with in this bill.

I will hold the Attorney to his word on that issue. Regardless of what the meeting of Attorneys-General does federally, I think it is worth us pursuing that here. With those words, I am happy to indicate SA-Best's support for this bill.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:06):** I commend the government and my colleagues in this chamber for supporting this important piece of legislation that increases penalties for child sex offences. This is 2022, and it is gratifying to know how attitudes from government agencies, including police, have changed significantly to these crimes in recent years. This must be attributed to those in our community who fought long and hard to make governments and authorities sit up and take notice and do something to stop these heinous and predatory acts that were allowed to happen, in so many cases, through wilful blindness of the very agencies set up to protect children, like the former disgraced families and community services, later rebadged as Families SA.

I would like to acknowledge and pay tribute to John Ternezis, a man who for two decades has continually battled a corrupt system while seeking the justice which consistently failed him and his daughter Katrina so badly. I first came across the terrible abuse of Katrina in 1998, when she was only 14. Katrina was a troubled juvenile runaway who was preyed upon for two and half years by a man, Andrew Smith, who was twice her age and plied her with drugs and sexually abused her. She fell pregnant at 14—14, Mr Acting President. She was still a child herself.

It was persistent sexual exploitation of a vulnerable child. It was unlawful, but the laws in place failed to protect Katrina. Mr Ternezis went everywhere to get help, to get some justice. The authorities did nothing. They turned a blind eye to what was happening. Katrina's disturbing case was also raised in parliament, in this very chamber. Nobody cared.

As a last resort, Mr Ternezis came to me when I was at *Today Tonight*. We exposed the sickening abuse that was happening and we sincerely believed it would have led to action being taken, that a shocking wrong would surely be addressed. How mistaken I was. Mr Ternezis was left angry and frustrated. Again, the authorities shamefully failed to lift a finger. Youth Court orders were ignored, even when Katrina sought their help. Each time Mr Ternezis complained and begged for assistance, he says he was met with lies and cover up. He accused Family and Youth Services of deliberately misleading the courts, yet Mr Smith was still free and able to abuse Katrina.

The state government absolved itself of any responsibility of putting this child and her baby under state care, so Mr Ternezis, who already had his own family to care for, had to take custody of the infant. He went to integrity agencies asking for an investigation into those government departments. They, too, turned him away. John said it left him with the impression that, as far as those agencies were concerned, an adult who had sex with a minor, supplied her with drugs and got her pregnant had broken no laws.

John told me today, and I will quote him, 'It is a crime to try and protect your family in this state.' After years of hitting deathly silence and bureaucratic brick walls, John Ternezis's last hope was the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse. He travelled to Brisbane in 2016 and told his alarming story of abject neglect of a child to a stunned royal commissioner who immediately referred the matter to South Australia Police. That is what it had to take for something to be finally done.

Mr Smith was arrested and charged with, would you believe, just one count of sexual exploitation of a child. In 2017, Smith pleaded guilty. The sentence, a paltry one year. This bill, should it pass, has a maximum penalty from 10 to 15 years for unlawful sexual intercourse. Even though Katrina was the victim of a shocking crime, John Ternezis has been told that Katrina is not entitled to compensation from the state, a lawyer telling him they did not want to embarrass the government. Mr Ternezis vows to continue his quest to get justice and compensation for Katrina, who is now 37. I trust that this legislation will ensure that there will be no repeat of what happened to Katrina or her father.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (16:12):** I thank all members for their contributions today and indications of support. These are, indeed, exceptionally important matters. Last time a substantially similar bill was presented to the parliament it met with equal levels of support, and I

think that shows how seriously everyone in this chamber and in this parliament takes issues of committing these sorts of offences against children.

I want to note some of the comments, particularly those made by the Hon. Connie Bonaros, and want to join her in thanking Sonya Ryan for the work that she does. I have been fortunate to talk to Sonya Ryan a number of times, and at one forum in particular at Mount Barker with the federal member Mayo, I recall. It was an interesting forum about the dangers of various internet sites. I can say that after Sonya took the crowd at the Mount Barker movie theatre, which was hosting, through that, I went straight home and had a good look at the kids' phones and went through with them what they do. It is actually scary how much is out there that can be harmful to children.

I also reflect on the issue the Hon. Connie Bonaros raised in relation to the use of the word 'relationship' in these offences. I agree and I thank her for bringing it to my attention. It is a problematic way to describe these offences. However, I am keen, if there is a way that we can legally have the same impact on the statute books and in headings that now get interpreted as part of statutes, to see if it can be changed.

The strong advice I have received, as I have passed on to the Hon. Ms Bonaros, is if we went to what it said before or removed it, we risk having people only convicted on, as the High Court said, the lesser two offences, which is completely against the intention of what we do. I am keen, if there is a way, to reflect what the offences are without having any possibility that someone who commits these vile acts against children has any way of serving less time in jail—I am keen to do that.

Having said that, I look forward to the committee stage. Particularly, I know the Hon. Michelle Lensink has questions that we will traverse when we get to those clauses and those amendments in the very near future.

Bill read a second time.

*Committee Stage*

In committee.

Clause 1.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS:** I state from the outset that, as I indicated in my second reading contribution, the Greens are supportive of this bill. One of the issues that has been raised with us in the past, though, and that we have been concerned about is around potentially unintended consequences; if there were a situation where two minors, as in people under the age of 18, were exchanging images between themselves—I am thinking of a romantic relationship between two children, high-schoolers, for instance—not wanting them to be potentially prosecuted or to find themselves on a sex register or anything like that.

I raised this issue with the previous government when a similar bill was before this place and was advised that the chances of prosecution in those circumstances were considered pretty slim. I want to confirm with the government that there are no changes to existing provisions in the new legislation and that indeed the chances of prosecution in those circumstances are pretty slim.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** I thank the honourable member for his question. My advice is that nothing in the changes that are presented in this bill compared with the last one would see the chance—even though it is very slim—of a young person being prosecuted increase. I think that is the question that was asked.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS:** To provide some context, it has not been so much of an issue here in South Australia but in some other jurisdictions. I am looking at New South Wales. I know there have been issues regarding young people being criminalised, so I did want to raise it in this context. Thank you to the Attorney for his response.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS:** Perhaps by way of further clarification, would the Attorney like to confirm that we have what we have also dubbed the 'Romeo and Juliet provisions' in South Australia, which are aimed at dealing with those, and we are not touching those for the purposes of what the honourable member has just said?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** I thank the honourable member for her question. I am advised that recognition of the very young offenders, even though one might be a couple of weeks older than the other, does tick over a certain threshold. We are not in any way aiming to change any of those with this bill.

Clause passed.

Clause 2.

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK:** The amendment of section 63B, which is at clause 14: the keen-eyed shadow attorney-general has raised that the basic and aggravated offences in that particular clause appear to be still basic and aggravated, and I am wondering whether that is consistent with the rest of the legislation and, if not, is there an explanation for that, please?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** I thank the honourable member for her question. The bill removes those aged-based differentiations for essentially image-based offences, so those where proving the age of someone in an image can be in question, where it makes prosecution difficult, so for those image-based offences it is removed but retained elsewhere.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS:** Perhaps if we can confirm for the record, the advice provided at the briefing was that that also extends to the hentai, the manga, in terms of the depiction of children under a certain age as well. So child exploitation material covers all of that, including the hentai material?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** I can confirm that the advice I am getting is the same, that it applies the same penalty whether or not it is a fictitious child as well.

Clause passed.

Clauses 3 to 5 passed.

New clauses 5A and 5B.

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

Amendment No 1 [AG-2]—

Page 4, after line 3—Insert:

5A—Amendment of Schedule 1—Class 1 and 2 offences

- (1) Schedule 1, clause 2(e)—delete paragraph (e) and substitute:
  - (e) an offence against section 49(1), (3) or (5) of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935* (offences relating to unlawful sexual intercourse) other than an offence that occurred in prescribed circumstances;
  - (eaa) an offence against section 49(6) of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935* (unlawful sexual intercourse with a person with an intellectual disability) if the victim was a child other than an offence that occurred in prescribed circumstances;
- (2) Schedule 1, clause 2(k)—after '*Sentencing Act 2017*' insert:
 

as in force before the commencement of the Sentencing (Serious Repeat Offenders) Amendment Act 2020
- (3) Schedule 1, clause 2—after paragraph (k) insert:
  - (ka) an offence resulting in the person being sentenced as a serious repeat offender under section 53(1)(b) of the *Sentencing Act 2017* if, in at least 2 of the relevant serious sexual offences, the victim was a child;
- (4) Schedule 1, clause 2(q)—after 'Commonwealth' insert:
 

as in force before the commencement of the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Slavery, Slavery-like Conditions and People Trafficking) Act 2013 of the Commonwealth
- (5) Schedule 1, clause 3—after paragraph (a) insert:
  - (ab) an offence against section 23 of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935* (causing serious harm) if—

- (i) the victim was a child; and
  - (ii) the offence arises from the same incident as a sexual offence;
- (6) Schedule 1, clause 3—after paragraph (f) insert:
- (fa) an offence against section 63AA of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935* (production or dissemination of child-like sex dolls);
- (7) Schedule 1, clause 3—after paragraph (g) insert:
- (gaa) an offence against section 63AAB of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935* (possession of child-like sex dolls);
- (8) Schedule 1, clause 3(ja)—delete paragraph (ja)
- (9) Schedule 1, clause 3—after paragraph (k) insert:
- (ka) an offence against section 139A of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935* (dishonest communication with children) if the person was sentenced on the basis that the communication was made with the intention of committing a sexual offence against a child;
- (10) Schedule 1, clause 3—after paragraph (sa) insert:
- (sab) an offence against section 272.15A of the *Criminal Code* of the Commonwealth;
- (11) Schedule 1, clause 3—after paragraph (sbc) insert:
- (sbd) an offence against section 273A.1 of the *Criminal Code* of the Commonwealth;
- (12) Schedule 1, clause 3—after paragraph (si) insert:
- (sia) an offence against section 471.25A of the *Criminal Code* of the Commonwealth;
- (13) Schedule 1, clause 3—after paragraph (v) insert:
- (va) an offence against section 474.22A of the *Criminal Code* of the Commonwealth;
- (14) Schedule 1, clause 3—after paragraph (w) insert:
- (waa) an offence against section 474.23A of the *Criminal Code* of the Commonwealth;
- (15) Schedule 1, clause 3—after paragraph (wc) insert:
- (wd) an offence against section 474.25C of the *Criminal Code* of the Commonwealth if the person was sentenced on the basis that the act was done with the intention of committing a sexual offence against a child;
- (16) Schedule 1, clause 3—after paragraph (y) insert:
- (ya) an offence against section 474.27AA of the *Criminal Code* of the Commonwealth;

#### 5B—Transitional provisions

- (1) Despite section 6(1)(a) of the *Child Sex Offenders Registration Act 2006*, a person is not, and is taken never to have been, a registrable offender for the purposes of that Act if, before the commencement of section 5A(1) of this Act, the person was a registrable offender only because—
- (a) the person was sentenced for an offence against section 49(6) of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935* (unlawful sexual intercourse with a person with an intellectual disability); and
  - (b) the victim was, at the time of the relevant offence, of or above the age of 18 years.
- (2) Despite section 6(1)(a) of the *Child Sex Offenders Registration Act 2006*, a person is not, and is taken never to have been, a registrable offender for the purposes of that Act if, before the commencement of section 5A(8) of this Act, the person was a registrable offender only because the person was sentenced for an offence against section 69 of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935* (bestiality).
- (3) Despite section 34(2) of the *Child Sex Offenders Registration Act 2006*, a reference to an offence in section 34 of that Act does not extend to the following offences committed before the commencement of this subsection or for which a person was sentenced before the commencement of this subsection:



- (a) an offence against section 49(6) of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935* (unlawful sexual intercourse with a person with an intellectual disability) where the victim was, at the time of the relevant offence, of or above the age of 18 years;
- (b) an offence against section 69 of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935* (bestiality).

This is the insertion of the schedule list. The Hon. Michelle Lensink asked about clause 5A(1)(eaa), and I can advise, in relation to that, that this was very similar to what was in the last one, except it adds in 'other than an offence that occurred in prescribed circumstances'. That is in there, I am advised, deliberately for the prescribed circumstances the Hon. Connie Bonaros talked about, the Romeo and Juliet-type scenario.

The next one asked was in relation to subclause (6)(fa). In reviewing all of the provisions that were in there, it was discovered that inadvertently the new-ish offences of childlike sex dolls had not been included in there, so that brings those into there.

I think, if I am getting it right, the next one was subclause (9)(ka). I am advised that there are extra words added to this. Carly's Law of course incorporates communication that might not be of sexual nature. We are talking about a sex offender register, so it makes it clear that if it comes within the ambit of Carly's Law it is on the basis it was made in relation to sexual offending. The same explanation applies to subclause (15)(wd), adding those extra words onto the end.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS:** Perhaps just for the benefit of the record, it would be worthwhile confirming also that nothing in this bill undermines the aggravated offence that continues to exist in Carly's Law when there is an intention meet with a child in order to commit a subsequent criminal offence.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** I am advised there are two different parts of Carly's Law, and the higher penalty will apply if you intend to do that.

New clauses inserted.

Clause 6.

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

Amendment No 1 [AG-1]—

Page 4, after line 10—Insert:

- (ia) in the case of an offence against Part 3 Division 8A or section 63B(1)—knowing that the victim of the offence was, at the time of the offence, under the age of 14 years; or

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS:** I will just make one point, and I only raise this because of discussions we had around the terming of 'relationship'. I am just flagging with the Attorney that I have had some feedback to our office that has indicated some similar concerns around the words 'commercial sexual services'.

Again, we appreciate what we are trying to address, but I just flag with the Attorney, should it land on his desk, that the concerns that have been raised are that it is not possible to provide a service when you are exploiting a child and, therefore, given that I raised the other issue of relationship, the question that was raised with me is: why are we using the word 'services' when it comes to what is otherwise deemed, I suppose, acceptable as terminology but perhaps not so when it comes to child sex offending? I just place that on the record for your benefit.

Remaining clauses (7 to 19) and title passed.

Bill reported with amendment.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (16:29):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

*Address in Reply*

### ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption (resumed on motion).

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (16:30):** I rise to speak to the Address in Reply. I support the motion; indeed, I thank Her Excellency the Governor for her wonderful service not just to our state but for her service in opening this Fifty-Fifth Parliament of South Australia.

I am reminded of the Talking Heads song *Once in a Lifetime*, and I think we are at an important moment in time. We have a new government, we are recovering from a once-in-a-lifetime global pandemic, and climate change is hitting us at full force. This new Malinauskas government has made some big promises. They are big commitments, and the Greens are looking forward to working with the new Malinauskas government to ensure that they keep those promises, that they honour those commitments, that they realise some of their progressive agenda.

We are also here to push them to go bolder, to go better. We will hold them to high standards in their campaign promises for the future—absolutely, yes, for the future—but that future must be for all South Australians. Indeed, as the new Premier has said, 'We're here to govern not just for the next four years but for the next generation.' Well, that next generation will be dealing with a world with more extreme weather as a result of climate change and the after-effects of COVID-19.

The Greens will work with this government—when they listen to us and are quiet in the chamber—to ensure that no-one is left behind as we move into an uncertain future. We have only one chance to recover from this pandemic. We can return to the normal we once knew or we can, in fact, create a better future if we seize this opportunity.

The most immediate crisis that needs our urgent attention to achieve that better future is, of course, the climate crisis. In September 2019, in this place, the members of the then Legislative Council passed a motion introduced by my former colleague the Hon. Mark Parnell declaring a climate emergency. I am proud to have been part of the chamber that declared a climate emergency: I hope to be part of the parliament in which both houses of that parliament declare a climate emergency in coming weeks.

In the intervening two years since this council recognised the severe and significant challenge we face, much has happened. We have experienced severe bushfires and floods have left people homeless; in fact, in Australia we are now seeing the first generation of what could be called climate refugees, as people, particularly on the eastern seaboard, face years of homelessness and transience.

We are also seeing biodiversity loss and vegetation loss, but this is just the beginning. We have declared a climate emergency, and I believe we will reaffirm that in coming weeks, but we need to start treating it like an emergency; that is, we need an action plan. Indeed, we need look no further than the IPCC report. In April the IPCC released its report on the mitigation of climate change. That report called for transformational change in all sectors.

In our region the majority of our greenhouse gas emissions are from fossil fuels and industry. Here in South Australia we have led the charge with renewable energy use, but we can be bolder and better by progressively moving away from fossil fuels entirely. That means repealing the electric vehicle tax. That means switching to 100 per cent renewable publicly owned energy. That means investing in electric manufacturing. That means supporting the new announcements today with regard to hydrogen.

With a progressive government at the helm, we Greens believe we have the opportunity for South Australia to be real change makers and for that change to have a lasting impact on our emissions for our planet and for the people yet to come, those future generations.

One thing that they will not thank us for was our stewardship in recent years of the St Kilda mangroves. Indeed, those mangroves will take generations to be restored and repaired, if that can

happen at all. The conservation of natural vegetation is fundamental, also, to the mitigation of climate change. The dying of the St Kilda mangroves is a disaster. The previous government allowed it to happen, and those dill ministers of the Marshall government pickled our precious St Kilda mangroves, with more than 193 hectares lost.

In this place I called then for urgent action to halt the hypersaline water leaks and for recovery and for the long-term health of this global, globally significant wetland to be restored, and I am very pleased to have seen the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, be down there early on in her term as minister and Deputy Premier, talking to those who know best, working with the experts and the community. I do hope that the mangroves will be much loved by those generations to come in their previous state.

Another very important challenge that this state faces is, of course, the Murray River. It has long been a contentious topic, certainly nationally. The management of the Murray-Darling system does have implications for the health and longevity of our dearly beloved Coorong and Lower Lakes region in particular, a place cared for by those first nations people of the Ngarrindjeri throughout time, which now suffers from poor management upstream.

The new Minister for Climate, Environment and Water has gone on the record saying that this is, of course, enormously important for South Australia, and we do not disagree with her one jot. We look forward to working with Minister Close on progressing the health and wellbeing of our precious Murray River.

The Labour agenda was set by the then opposition and now Malinauskas government, and it is one where many of the announcements are very much welcomed by the Greens. We look forward to that commitment, for example, to jobs and work as being a major priority for the Malinauskas government. This is hardly surprising: it would be a priority for a Labor government.

But I put the Labor government on notice that they cannot pick and choose with workers' rights, that all workers deserve rights and protections in their workplace, that sex work is work, that sex workers' rights are human rights and that sex workers in South Australia currently are not even able to lawfully join their union, let alone enjoy the workplace rights afforded every other worker in this state.

We also hope that we can go bigger and bolder by exploring a job guarantee for our future generations and for wellbeing and a better normal for those now. A jobs guarantee is a long-term project, but it could be done with short-term trials that would take dedicated effort and require collaboration across all levels of government. But I believe the time is now right to start exploring a return to full employment, a rejection of the view that we should be locking into our economy high levels of unemployment.

To keep workers precarious, casualised, underpaid and at risk is not a better normal. It was the old normal. It is not something we should be returning to. We should be lifting our eyes to the stars and looking at solutions like a job guarantee to ensure those future generations enjoy prosperity in this very fortunate state we live in.

I know that Labor has announced many areas of reform for education and training, and we particularly welcome the recognition in disability of an autism plan and look forward again to working with the government on those areas. I imagine that my colleague the Hon. Rob Simms will have much more to say about those areas as we progress in this parliament, given he holds those portfolios.

We do caution the Malinauskas government, which has an intention for a university merger, that it needs to talk to those in the sector—not just those loudest voices in the sector. Universities are too precious to treat as an experiment, and we cannot afford them to fail. Renewed investment in education, quality public education at all levels, and something that is accessible to all with the removal of fees, is something that the Greens will long champion and hope that we can one day return to.

We support returning our public transport system into public hands. That of course includes the trains and the trams, but it also includes the buses. Once we see that public transport system back in public hands and the end of the failed experiment of privatisation of what are essential public

services, we also need to see an increase in those services and infrastructure to support growing areas. We have just seen what the lack of that essential service in areas such as Mount Barker and the further northern suburbs can do. I hope it will not take electoral backlash for this government to act.

We also welcome the Labor government's commitments to an increased intake of refugees. In the period of the election, I was very heartened to hear of the release of Amin Afravi, who was detained here in Adelaide. I am not sure if people are aware, but the sad legacy of our refugee policies in this country has seen people in this state detained needlessly, cruelly and for significant periods of time, against all human rights respect.

Amin Afravi arrived in Australia in 2013. He arrived by boat. He had left his family, including his young son, in Iran because he sought to avoid torture. Unfortunately, Australia did not save him from that torture. He was detained in Christmas Island for three years; he was detained in Manus Island for three years; and then under Medevac he was detained in Australia for three years. It should not take an election to have seen his release and his human rights restored, and the trauma that he has suffered may never be repaired. Since being in detention, he suffered inhumane medical conditions and without sufficient treatment.

In March, he was transferred to the Adelaide Immigration Transit Accommodation detention in Kilburn. I would like to think that everyone who was in Kilburn, South Australia, was afforded human rights in 2022, but this man was not. I am pleased that there has been some relief given to some of those we have treated so cruelly for so many decades now. In 2021, he described his time in detention as 'an animal's life.' We would never treat animals as cruelly as we have treated this man. It was to our shame that he was detained in Kilburn, and I am so pleased that he has now been released.

There is much work to do as well with new industry and new ways of thinking. One that members will not be surprised to hear that the Greens will be placing at the priority of our work to reform and create a better path for future generations is that of drug law reform, and in particular around our treatment and criminalisation of cannabis.

Indeed the barriers to accessing medicinal cannabis, whether they be our road rules or indeed the ridiculously high prices that patients are required to pay, are just the tip of the iceberg. When we criminalise people who use cannabis, we criminalise not some drug dealer, we criminalise a person who perhaps has a health issue or perhaps seeks a recreational option. By declaring a war on drugs, however, we are actually continuing a war on people.

Many other jurisdictions around the world have now seen the error of this way. It does not work. Criminalisation of cannabis simply does not stop people from seeking access or accessing cannabis. What it does do is create a black market, a criminal opportunity, and a significant level of misery amongst many people who, for medicinal reasons, seek to access it.

It also creates misery for those who are seeking, like many people do in their younger years, to try new experiences. Simply having an approach of criminalising this particular drug I think is something that South Australia needs to leave behind as we look to be bigger, bolder, better and smarter in our approaches to drugs in our culture.

Treat drugs as a health issue and not a criminal issue and we will end up with healthier populations and fewer criminals. To me, it seems a no-brainer. Unfortunately, so far, we have not had the leadership and the courage of politicians who are so far out of step with the general population on this that it is just not funny.

I ask members of parliament to look to New York, to Thailand, to jurisdictions that once heavily criminalised the use of cannabis, and to look at their new approaches; to look at Portugal and the success that they have had there; to look at this issue, which is a health issue, as simply that; to allow people to get help when they need it and to stop criminalising people, particularly from the most marginalised and vulnerable communities, and creating more human misery and higher levels of criminality when it is simply needless and does not need to continue, let alone the financial impact and the financial opportunity of creating a legal, lawful cannabis industry here in this state when we know that it in fact grows quite well in this state. We have a long history in this state of it being grown, and the criminalisation has simply not worked.

Another sector that this government, I believe, needs to invest in is the arts sector. It is still in crisis as a result of the pandemic. As of May 2020, arts workers lost \$7.5 million of income in those first weeks alone of the pandemic. The source of that was the I Lost My Gig website in Australia. There has been a 55 per cent decline in revenue for arts organisations in that year, and it equated to a drop in revenue of over \$73 million; 34,000 South Australian arts workers have been impacted. Yet, here we are—the Festival State—a state that has long celebrated arts and cultural life and that should be attracting, supporting and retaining our artists and our arts workers, yet unfortunately because of COVID we are losing not only those skills but literally those people from this sector.

For our next generation we need to cultivate that arts sector. We need to bring it back to being the thriving entity that it was as well as the addition that it makes to our collective cultural landscape. It is often said that Winston Churchill, when faced with the idea of cutting the arts budget during the war, responded with the proposition that he would not cut the arts budget because otherwise what were we fighting the war for? It is not true; he did not really say it, but what I love is that somebody wrote that and we have repeated it time immemorial for decades and decades, and that is the power of the arts.

I also want to reflect on the election. Mr President, I congratulate you on your elevation to the Presiding Member of this place. I note that we have changed sides in this chamber and that the blue team and the red team have swapped seats, but the musical chairs continues to exclude the minors and the crossbenchers being proportionally rewarded for the vote that they achieve in the elections with the seats that they then hold in this place.

We have 69 seats in this parliament in total, and we have only two Greens, in this council in the upper house, and that is because, of course, despite the Greens having the biggest electoral success we have ever had, where we had a 2.5 per cent statewide swing in the House of Assembly and a 3.2 per cent swing to us in the Legislative Council, and we saw the wonderful Hon. Rob Simms returned rightfully returned to his place in this council, our 9.1 per cent of the vote in the lower house does not give us 9.1 per cent of the seats.

In fact, if it were a proportional system in the lower house, we would have four seats in the other place. It is not a fair system when the minors cannot break through and it is a winner take all, 50 per cent plus one, election. Almost 100,000 people voted for the Greens in the state election, but we only hold two seats. Here we are, and we will honour those 100,000 people and we will make this government bigger and bolder and better, and certainly a lot greener.

I do, however, want to thank our 47 lower house candidates, who campaigned fiercely in their communities, who were diverse and dedicated and did so without the likelihood that they were going to be elected. They proved that not only are Green votes powerful but the Greens are a powerful force. I have to say that particularly in the seats of Heysen and Unley, where we polled particularly well, we put the old parties on notice that even with their current system of 50 per cent plus one we are going to give it a red-hot go.

**The Hon. R.A. Simms:** And West Torrens.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** The Hon. Rob Simms, of course, has been returned to this place, and I am sure that that will not be the last interjection that he makes about the member for West Torrens, or the potential new Greens member for West Torrens one day. I do in particular want to acknowledge our second Legislative Council candidate, Yesha Joshi. I had hoped that the Greens would elect an additional two, to create three positions in this place.

Many members of this council know that Yesha joined my office as a trainee in my first year in this parliament in 2010 and she then became a permanent staff member, first as my office manager, then as my researcher, eventually going on to work for the former Treasurer in the Department of Treasury and Finance in the public sector, but I am assured that certainly that did not change the flavour of her commitment to the political party of the Greens.

She would have been a wonderful addition to this place. She would have added to our diversity, she would have lowered the mean age substantially, and she would have certainly been feisty, because I can tell you, you do not want to pick a fight with Yesha Joshi. It is a fight that she put up valiantly and we only narrowly lost. I congratulate the Hon. Russell Wortley for that seemingly

impossible achievement of coming in on the fifth spot on the Labor ticket, but I also note that it was a progressive swing that was on.

I note that the Greens, the Animal Justice Party and the Labor Party worked quite closely in this election. I also want to pay tribute to Louise Pfeiffer, who was the lead candidate for the Animal Justice Party, and assure those who supported either the AJP or the Greens or the Labor Party that we will do our darndest to improve animal welfare in this state, and we have a big agenda ahead of us. I note that the Labor Party came to this election with the biggest list of promises I have seen in the animal welfare space in some time and we look forward to them honouring each and every one of those commitments.

With those words, I note that we have some way to go in seeing to fruition some of the big ideas outlined by the Malinauskas Labor government. I certainly look forward to working with the community, with South Australians and with all sides of parliament on those big ideas, such as a Voice to Parliament, such as Treaty, such as the Hydrogen Jobs Plan, and honouring the faith that has been put in us by the community for what is this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

I never thought I would live through what we have lived through in the last two years, and I am sure most South Australians did not see it coming. I am sure most South Australians want us to do better in the future, to create that prosperity, to govern for not just the next generation but for future generations and for that future to be for all of us. With that, I commend the motion.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **VISITORS**

**The PRESIDENT:** Before I call the Hon. Mr Hood, can I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of Mr Maheshwor Neupane, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, from Nepal, and members of the local expat community. Welcome.

#### *Address in Reply*

#### **ADDRESS IN REPLY**

Debate resumed.

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (16:56):** I rise to support this motion in appreciation of the speech with which the Governor opened the First Session of the Fifty-Fifth Parliament. I would like to thank Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, for her diligent work in her esteemed role and trust our new parliament will endeavour to work and support her objectives to advance the welfare of our great state.

Her Excellency brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from a remarkable career into her relatively new appointment as Governor, and she is fulfilling her duties with characteristic distinction. I also acknowledge Her Excellency's attendance at the opening service to mark the beginning of the parliamentary year, which I had the privilege of co-hosting, along with the leaders of Christian Church of South Australia, on behalf of the South Australian Parliamentary Christian Fellowship. We are grateful for her presence at that important time of reflection and encouragement.

I joined Her Excellency in welcoming the 14 newly elected members of parliament, particularly our three new colleagues in this place, the Hons Laura Curran, Sarah Game and Reggie Martin, and of course for those re-elected members, with whom I look forward to working constructively in the best interests of all South Australians.

We certainly do not share the same policies or views on every matter—that is obvious—but it is safe to say that we will do all we can in order to promote the common goal of bettering the communities in which we live and work. It is my sincere hope that our robust discussion and debate in this place will be effective in ensuring the best possible outcomes for the electors we have both the duty and privilege of representing.

I congratulate the Labor Malinauskas government on its election to office and echo the sentiments of the Leader of the Opposition in this place that it is indeed a privilege to live in a democratic society where we have the freedom of election and being elected, the freedom of political

participation and where change of governments can occur and have occurred and do occur with peaceful transition.

This is particularly pertinent when we are now witnessing a previously, I would say, somewhat inconceivable violent assault against the sovereignty and democracy of a foreign nation (Ukraine, of course), which does caution us not to take for granted how blessed we are and how we should be vigilant in protecting the founding principles of our state and our nation.

Indeed, when I opened the service I mentioned a moment ago marking the commencement of this parliamentary year, I took a moment to reflect on the extraordinary changes our world has experienced since the previous state government was elected just over four years ago. It has only been four years, but a lot has changed in that time.

When the Marshall Liberal team came to power just over four years ago, I do not believe any of us could have imagined a hot war on European soil was even remotely possible, nor could we have predicted or anticipated the incomprehensible effects a global pandemic would inflict upon all of us. We have much to be thankful for over that four-year period, and I take this opportunity to express appreciation for the outstanding work of the former Premier, Steven Marshall, and former health minister, the Hon. Stephen Wade, in leading us through such an unprecedented time in our recent history.

Due to their management, South Australia avoided an estimated 4,400 deaths during the first wave of COVID alone as well as daily case rates of up to 40,000 during the Omicron outbreak. This achievement could not have been possible without the sound guidance from the Chief Public Health Officer, Professor Nicola Spurrier, and police commissioner, Grant Stevens. I offer them both my sincere thanks. Of course, that was in conjunction with the tireless efforts of our frontline workers, essential workers and generous volunteers, whom I sincerely commend.

South Australia, under the leadership of the Marshall government, is fortunate to have fared incredibly well in comparison with many other jurisdictions on almost every measure, including lockdowns. Just over the border in Victoria, the city of Melbourne suffered the longest lockdowns of any city in the world. It is my hope that over the next four years, the Malinauskas government will likewise navigate and respond appropriately in an effort to mitigate and manage the residual effects of COVID-19 on the people of our state. This pandemic is not over, although we are hopeful it is almost over.

Her Excellency noted that in order to accomplish this the Malinauskas government would seek to enshrine nurse-to-patient ratios and increase hospital and ambulance staffing ratios—100 more doctors and 300 more nurses, to be precise. These are all important measures that come off the back of the Marshall government's significant investment into South Australia's healthcare system, resulting in the upgrade of all suburban hospitals, the reactivation of the Repat, the expansion of emergency departments right across the metropolitan area and the employment of more doctors, nurses, ambulance officers and health staff than ever before in our state's history, with staffing levels more than 2,500 higher than the mid-2018 levels when the Liberal government came to power.

I note the current government is also seeking to reform the Emergency Management Act, which we have dealt with just this week, to deal with the ongoing transmission of COVID-19 in the community, with the relevant bill receiving passage in the other place and, as I said, progressing through our house just this week.

Her Excellency also mentioned the Malinauskas government's intentions to invest in the construction of a hydrogen plant in Whyalla. This is interesting policy and something that I think much can be said about. It is certainly a very expensive project and one that I think requires great debate, examination and scrutiny by all the parties, including the government itself of course, to ensure that South Australian taxpayers receive the value for money that they expect.

Whilst I do agree that we should certainly explore alternative means of gathering electricity, I would personally like to see us consider other means of electricity generation for base load power, including the elephant in the room that is almost never mentioned in Australia, somewhat

perplexingly, and that is nuclear power. Nuclear energy has the potential to be the key to our future energy security.

The zero-tolerance policy towards nuclear energy adopted by many environmental activist groups ignores the fact that it is used safely and effectively overseas, and it has incited an unfair fear of atomic energy here in Australia. Public discourse on the topic of clean nuclear energy needs to be reorientated towards fact-based science and reasoned discussion. We need to go beyond the controversies and selective arguments sometimes used to present the indisputable facts about energy supply and demand and how base load energy needs can potentially be met, in part at least, by nuclear power, or in some countries almost wholly by nuclear power.

I accept that nuclear energy carries its challenges and risks. That seems to be self-evident. As with every form of energy production, nuclear energy is no different in that regard, but we need to understand that these risks are frequently misunderstood and often misinterpreted and somewhat exaggerated. This is the only way we can develop sound, rational and effective energy policies that will sustain our state and nation into the future.

Nuclear energy is emissions free, which is something that is increasingly important. South Australia is well poised for the development of a nuclear industry, given our nation boasts the world's largest known uranium resources. Uranium is an abundant resource that we have historically refused to use for our own energy-producing benefit yet one that we are content to export for other countries to utilise. This hypocrisy should cease.

South Australians have a right to access the most reliable and most affordable electricity supply, whatever form it comes in, which is essential to maintaining comfort, convenience and enhancing economic competitiveness. To this end, I am of the strong view that all power sources, including nuclear energy, should be considered properly where they prove to be the most reliable and cost-effective options. In short, all options, including nuclear, should be on the table. None of us want to experience again a state-wide blackout like we did in 2016, which put our emergency services at risk, cost businesses hundreds of millions of dollars—possibly more—and resulted in devastating losses in hospitals and medical facilities all over the state, not to mention costs to other related businesses.

The Marshall Liberal government took swift and necessary action to avoid the reoccurrence of such a crisis and succeeded in increasing the reliability of South Australia's power network. I do not think that is in dispute, but at the same time household bills were reduced by some \$400 a year on average. Despite Labor's previous opposition to the project, I would urge the Malinauskas government to ensure the high capacity interconnector between South Australia and New South Wales is completed on schedule to provide increased energy security and further reduction of power costs for South Australians.

Should the new government proceed with it, I have no doubt they will seek to take credit for the benefits it will afford, including lower power costs, which will inevitably come. This is an essential part of our energy future in South Australia. To reiterate the point, I believe that all of these matters should be considered equally. The interconnector is a given, but why do we not consider other options for baseload power, including nuclear energy?

A brief reference was made by Her Excellency to our growing defence, cyber and space industries, which has undoubtedly been fostered by the Marshall Liberal government's establishment of the facilities on Lot Fourteen. The redevelopment of the former Royal Adelaide Hospital site into a vibrant global precinct, which cultivates ideas, creativity and innovation, is a credit to the innovative foresight of the previous government to identify and seize any opportunity to revitalise our state.

Due to the site's transformation, Lot Fourteen now boasts a curated and collaborative research and business ecosystem that has attracted leading international companies to operate within the district, creating thousands of jobs and showcasing our state on the world stage. With the Australian Space Agency basing its operations at Lot Fourteen, South Australia now has a burgeoning state industry that will continue to attract interest and investment for many, many years to come. This offers exciting career opportunities, which I am confident will continue to retain our best and brightest right here in South Australia, where they belong.



Although the current Premier stated publicly that he agrees that Lot Fourteen has been of immense benefit to the state, there is of course one project initiated by the former state government that his new government was vehemently against, and that is of course the riverbank arena. The so-called basketball stadium, as it was labelled and as the now government likes to refer to it, would have provided South Australia with a 15,000-seat venue, replacing the Adelaide Entertainment Centre.

Analysis has revealed that the riverbank arena could have generated \$300 million in a single year through hosting concerts, conventions, exhibitions and court sports, which require between 3,500 and 10,000 seats (and of course can be more on some occasions). It would also link up with the Adelaide Convention Centre, which has found that our city has missed out on hosting over 80 such major events just in recent times.

It was a spectacular, world-class design that could have ensured Adelaide was not continually bypassed by the biggest names in the entertainment industry, for example, and would have enabled South Australians to attend informative medical, scientific and other conferences without the need to travel interstate, because at the moment we simply do not have a venue large enough, and it is an opportunity lost in my view. It is a missed opportunity that not only had the potential to significantly boost our economy long-term, but would have ensured that South Australia remained renowned as one of the most liveable cities in the world, indeed the most liveable city in Australia. I watch with interest to see what the newly-elected state government has planned for that particular site.

It may surprise some to hear that I do support some measures the Malinauskas government has promised to implement, as detailed by Her Excellency in her speech, including the establishment of five new technical colleges and the construction of a new Adelaide aquatic centre. These are good initiatives, and I believe should be supported. However, in relation to the swimming centre, I still regard the Liberal's plan to have it funded by all three levels of government as a more prudent approach. I hope that both these projects do not experience cost blowouts at the taxpayers' expense, and of course we would all like to see the Malinauskas state government emulate the Liberals' responsible fiscal approach to the management of our state's budget throughout its term—that remains to be seen.

With this contribution I wish to join with honourable members in assuring Her Excellency of our commitment to conducting all elements of our duties as elected representatives of our state and its people to the best of our abilities. I commend the motion to the council.

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

#### *Motions*

### **REGIONAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. N.J. Centofanti:

That this council commends the Marshall Liberal government for recognising the importance of regional South Australia and its communities, noting their contribution to our economy worth more than \$29 billion per year, through:

1. Investing \$3 billion across more than 1,000 regional projects;
2. Upgrading hospitals, doubling country cancer services and upgrading about 4,800 kilometres of regional roads; and
3. Implementing the Our Regions Matter blueprint following extensive consultation with regional communities about what is needed to improve opportunities for the 29 percent of South Australia's population living and working outside the metropolitan community.

(Continued from 4 May 2022.)

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (17:10):** I rise, without surprise to the chamber, to speak against this motion.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE:** I know. It is a surprise, is it not. As I have mentioned many times in this chamber, I am proudly from our regions. I grew up on Yorke Peninsula, an area where community is everything, the community my family still calls home. But you cannot have a strong community if you do not invest, listen and work with those communities.

The Hon. Nicola Centofanti has asked that this council commend the former Marshall Liberal government for recognising the importance of regional South Australia. I have the utmost respect for the Hon. Nicola Centofanti, but I find it confounding that the honourable member introduces this motion as the new Leader of the Opposition in this place as one of her first acts of the new session of parliament.

Clearly, the opposition have not done much self-reflection or learning about what went wrong for them in their short time in government. As the saying goes, actions speak louder than words and, in the case of the opposition, the actions of ordinary voters in regional areas, our bosses, spoke louder than any hashtag or pat on the back motion ever could. These voters used their actions to be loud and clear at the recent state election about how they felt the former Marshall Liberal government represented and recognised regional voters. In Flinders, there was a 23.1 per cent swing against the Liberal Party.

**The Hon. J.E. Hanson:** How much?

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE:** It was 23.1 per cent—amazing. In Frome, there was a 10 per cent swing to the Labor Party. In Hammond, there was an 11.7 per cent swing to the Labor Party. In Finnis, there was a 13.7 per cent swing against the Liberal Party—a 13.7 per cent swing against the Liberal Party in Finnis. The reason I want to repeat that statistic is that is where the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development's seat is.

**The Hon. C.M. Scriven:** Former minister.

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE:** Former, I should highlight, thank you. Finnis is now one of the state's most marginal seats at just 0.7 per cent. This former minister now sits on the backbench but only just. He only just clawed his way back into the parliament and sits there on just 0.7 per cent. I could not think of a clearer indication of disappointment, anger and frustration felt by regional voters towards a former government, that being the former Marshall Liberal government. The results were loud and clear in Finnis, but there was more. In Stuart, the former Deputy Premier of the former Marshall Liberal government, Dan van Holst Pellekaan, not only lost his position as Deputy Premier but his place in this parliament.

**The Hon. D.G.E. Hood:** That hurts.

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE:** It hurts a lot, does it not. I do not know much about statistics, but in this place they speak very, very loudly. Voters in our regions spoke very, very loudly all the way from Port Pirie to Victor Harbor to Port Lincoln to Kapunda to Murray Bridge. They spoke loudly about how disappointed they were in the former Marshall Liberal government.

I agree with the Hon. Nicola Centofanti that members of communities around regional South Australia are not just hard workers but very smart, smart enough to know when they are being sold a dud deal and smart enough to use their power, their vote to help change their communities for the better, not just for the next election cycle but for the next generation.

During the last few years, the Malinauskas Labor team made it our priority to focus on what matters most. We hosted Labor listening tours, country cabinets and street corner meetings to ensure that our regional communities were given a voice, and we listened. We often heard from those opposite—and we have been hearing it recently—that they did not need to hold country cabinets because they have local members in the regions. Yes, they are 100 per cent correct. We have two Labor members in our regions across all the state—

*The Hon. C.M. Scriven interjecting:*

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE:** Yes; in the lower house—sorry, Clare—we have two of the seats across the whole state. We heard again and again the importance of investing in our regions, investing in housing, health and education, but obviously the regional local members for the Liberal Party must have been hearing over and over again from their regional members how much they

really wanted a city stadium. That must have been what they were hearing, because that is what they were given from the former Marshall Liberal government.

On the ground I am sure they would have been hearing, 'We have problems in health, we have problems in education,' but what they got from their local representatives was a city basketball stadium, a \$662 million basketball stadium. Perhaps if the Liberal Party had held a country cabinet they would have heard that is not what they wanted. Rather than just focus on hashtags or words like GlobeLink, or 'globlink', perhaps those opposite would have heard that they did not want a \$662 million basketball stadium, they wanted investment in health—and that is what Labor did.

Importantly, we will not be investing in a \$662 million basketball stadium. We will be investing that money back into our health system, and \$100 million of that will be going into country health. We will also be investing in a green hydrogen industry in our regions, which the Hon. Dennis Hood has just outlined, that will unlock billions of dollars of renewable energy in projects across our state and will also set up our state for future generations and enable us to have secure jobs in our regions.

We will be following the recommendations of the 2019 Murray-Darling royal commission. We will be building two technical colleges in regional South Australia, because every young person, regardless of their postcode, has the right to be equipped with the skills for further study and employment. We have reversed the former Marshall Liberal government's decision to axe public government notices in our country press, because we understand the value and importance of our regional media. We will be creating 150 additional social housing homes in regional towns, because everyone deserves a roof over their head.

Growing up in a small regional community is a privilege. Being able to represent that community in parliament is an even greater privilege. The recent state election results show what happens when you take that privilege for granted.

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

### **NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (17:19):** I move:

That this council—

1. Notes that National Volunteer Week 2022 is being held from 16 to 22 May;
2. Recognises the valuable contribution that volunteers make to the economic and social wellbeing of local communities;
3. Commends the Marshall Liberal government for abolishing the screening fee for volunteers wishing to work with children and vulnerable people which has helped more than 135,000 volunteers; and
4. Commends the Marshall Liberal government for the release of the 2021-2027 Volunteering Strategy for South Australia to increase participation of young people, build the capacity of organisations to upskill, retain volunteers and help more people enjoy the rewarding experience of giving their time.

It is a great honour to rise today to move this motion to acknowledge the importance of National Volunteer Week 2022 and to recognise the significant contributions made by our wonderful volunteers in South Australia.

Yesterday marked Wear Orange Wednesday, or WOW Day, which is a national day of recognition to say thankyou to all SES volunteers across Australia. The State Emergency Service is a volunteer organisation with more than 1,600 volunteers across 67 units in South Australia. It was great to observe many honourable members wore an orange ribbon or a tie around Parliament House yesterday to express our thanks to the many SES volunteers for their courage and for providing response to day-to-day incidents such as vehicle crashes, searches, rescues, and crucial storm and flood responses.

As the shadow minister for communities and multicultural South Australia, I am passionate about supporting the hard work and dedication of our amazing volunteer and not-for-profit sector. I wish to put on the public record the Liberal Party's commitment to support volunteers and volunteering organisations throughout South Australia.

National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering and is an opportunity for us all to celebrate and recognise the vital work of volunteers and thank them for their contributions to our community. From Monday 16 May to Sunday 22 May 2022, Australians from all walks of life come together on National Volunteer Week to say thankyou to millions of Australians across the country who work compassionately to give their time, skills and experience to help others.

Pioneer organisation the SA Volunteer Centre, later to be known as Volunteering SA, opened in Adelaide on 23 August 1982. The centre was the brainchild of two dynamic women, Mavis Reynolds and the late Joy Noble, and was initially staffed by volunteers. Over time, with support from the SA Council of Social Service (SACOSS), funds were made available through the then Department of Community Welfare and the Co-op Building Society, which saw a part-time coordinator employed.

Careful placement of volunteers and adopting follow-up procedures, along with the skills of the staff in the organisations which took on volunteers, paved the way of success for the centre. From the very beginning the SA Volunteer Centre cast a wide net in its search for people with multiple skills who might become volunteers for various registered organisations, not only from the not-for-profit welfare sector but also those involved in sport, schools, museums, galleries and libraries.

In 1994, the SA Volunteer Centre was incorporated as Volunteering SA Inc. and in 2007 expanded and changed its name to Volunteering SA&NT Inc. As the peak body representing the interests of volunteers and the volunteering sector in South Australia and the Northern Territory, its mission is to promote volunteering and play a key leadership role in advocating and advancing volunteering by providing an extensive range of services, support and resources for almost one million volunteers and for all volunteer organisations.

On Monday 16 May, Volunteering SA&NT launched National Volunteer Week in South Australia. It was the only volunteer parade and celebration held in Australia this year. In its 10<sup>th</sup> year the parade involved hundreds of participants, including volunteers, volunteer managers and anyone working in the volunteering sector.

In South Australia almost one million volunteers provide invaluable support to all organisations which are operated by the sheer efforts of volunteers. Whether in aged care, the arts, community welfare, disability, education, emergency services, health, recreation and sport, or multicultural organisations, volunteers are the backbones of these organisations, and they must be recognised, valued and well supported.

Throughout my time in parliament and as a community leader in my various capacities before entering parliament, I have volunteered my time all my life, and I continue to be inspired by the compassion and commitment of so many South Australians who give up their time, who lend a hand and who share their skills, knowledge and network to help those in need.

Volunteers provide much-needed care, support and services to our community, and in South Australia their contributions are valued at around \$5 billion annually. This year the theme of National Volunteer Week is 'Better together', recognising that volunteering brings people together, builds communities, and creates a better society for everyone. The enormous and selfless effort of volunteers helps to make our community welcoming, safe and inclusive and supports our community spirit and wellbeing in challenging times like the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 2010, due to a number of factors, including an ageing population, the increased challenges of work-life balance, and working people being very time-poor, there has been a decline in the rate of formal volunteering participation across Australia. During the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteer organisations have faced additional challenges, with reports that two-thirds of volunteers stopped working during the pandemic. These additional challenges highlight the importance of the former Marshall Liberal government's support for the volunteering sector throughout our term of government.

It is a common courtesy to give credit where credit is due. This motion seeks to commend the Marshall Liberal government for abolishing the screening fee for volunteers wishing to work with children and vulnerable people. It was under the Marshall Liberal government that we provided free volunteer screening checks, making it easier for people in South Australia to volunteer as the cost of screenings was no longer a barrier to participation.

As of June 2021, more than 135,000 volunteers applied for free volunteer screening checks, and South Australian volunteers and organisations have saved \$8 million. These savings were injected back into the sector. This has assisted volunteer organisations like sports clubs, community service organisations, emergency services, multicultural organisations and charities to recruit and retain volunteers who deliver vital services for the community. I would particularly like to commend my colleague the Hon. Michelle Lensink for driving these policy settings when she was the Minister for Human Services. I would like to thank her for her ongoing commitment to supporting the South Australian volunteering sector.

The global coronavirus pandemic has impacted our lives and changed the way we go about volunteering. Therefore, it is vital that I also take this opportunity to commend the Marshall Liberal government for the release of the 2021-2027 Volunteering Strategy for South Australia. This strategy aims to increase participation of young people, build the capacity of organisations to upskill, retain volunteers, and help more people enjoy the rewarding experience of giving their time.

I have the honour of working with and meeting with many volunteers every single day in my working life and community life. Just about every single time I have asked them why they want to be involved as volunteers, their answers have been consistently clear: because these individuals or groups found volunteering work to be rewarding and they feel that they are the lucky ones who have the privilege and the opportunity to help others, and they want to give back to the community and make a difference.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the outstanding work of the former minister the Hon. Michelle Lensink and the former Liberal government's important work in releasing the 2021-2027 Volunteering Strategy for South Australia a year ago during National Volunteer Week. The volunteering strategy was developed in consultation with more than 600 people from across local and state government, business and not-for-profit sectors. The strategy brings together a shared vision for volunteering in South Australia with a focus on cross-sector partnerships to ensure that volunteering remains at the heart of the community. The strategy outlines a road map consisting of four focus areas to ensure we maintain the status and profile of volunteers in South Australia. The strategy aims to:

1. Build the capacity of volunteer-involving organisations to engage, train, support and retain volunteers, including young volunteers;
2. Promote the benefits of volunteering to encourage greater participation;
3. Support organisations to support effective practices, structure, governance and training opportunities for volunteers; and
4. Foster continuous improvement through partnerships and collaborations between sectors to sustain volunteering.

It is vital that this strategy continue to be implemented. The Liberal Party calls on the Malinauskas Labor government to support the 2021-2027 volunteering strategy. It is critical that we continue to find ways to increase flexibility for volunteers and organisations, and that we continue to encourage young people to participate as volunteers.

We have seen time and time again that volunteering not only benefits our community, it helps individuals reconnect with one another, foster better mental health wellbeing and even creates potential pathways to employment. Coming out from the global pandemic there is much work to do to help our community recover. It is through helping others in our community in difficult times or giving our time to support a good cause that we value, we are much better and much stronger as a community.

Once again, I wish to sincerely thank Volunteering SA&NT and all the wonderful volunteers and organisations in our community who give their time, skills, efforts and compassion to help others. We are truly better together and I look forward to working with everyone towards a more inclusive and stronger South Australia. A very happy National Volunteer Week, honourable members.

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

## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (17:31):** I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises National Volunteer Week from 16 May 2022 to 22 May 2022;
2. Notes the theme for 2022 is 'Better Together';
3. Celebrates the essential work of volunteers, from education and care to emergency services and disaster recovery; and
4. Thanks the nearly one million volunteers across South Australia who give their time, skills and commitment for no reward but to make a better community.

I rise to speak on the motion that this council recognises National Volunteer Week and by doing so celebrates in this chamber the amazing and essential work of South Australian volunteers. National Volunteer Week this year began on Monday 16 May and runs until Sunday 22 May.

The launch of the celebrations began with a parade along King William Street, ending with a concert and lunch in Victoria Square. I participated in the parade, along with the Hon. Russell Wortley and the Hon. Laura Curran from this house. It was great to see so many organisations and such overwhelming support for South Australia's volunteers. I hope the celebration inspires more people to help their communities.

National Volunteer Week is a time to reflect on the dedication and commitment of South Australia's almost one million volunteers, aged between 15 and 84 years. It is estimated that this number equates to 1.73 million volunteer hours each week, with an estimated dollar value of \$5 billion. However, the support volunteers provide to our communities is priceless. Without volunteers many South Australian organisations would struggle to deliver critical services to our communities. The wide-reaching and varied work they do keeps so many of our organisations running.

The theme for this year's volunteer week is 'Better Together'. Human beings are innately social beings. Whatever we do, it can be done better when we collaborate and share our skills, traditions and ideas. I am sure everyone in this chamber will agree that the work of volunteers absolutely enriches the lives of everyone. From the people and communities who may not have otherwise gotten the service or help they need without them, to the individual volunteers themselves who do what they do selflessly, making our world richer, better and kinder.

Our volunteers' generosity of spirit, their personal stories and cultures, their skills and expertise provide all sectors of our community with an enormous range of services and support. I want to recognise all those people who put their own lives on hold to offer help to others during a bushfire or flood; people, young and old, who put aside their own safety to help secure the safety of others on the frontlines of a natural disaster.

Whether you volunteer formally or informally, regularly or spontaneously, you are the people who keep communities together, help others in vulnerable positions and give far more than you get. Even a global pandemic did not stop our volunteers. Many continued to help hold people and communities together by continuing their work as we navigated through the many challenges to our lifestyles brought about by COVID.

However, based on research undertaken by the ANU, approximately 65 per cent of volunteers stopped volunteering between February and April 2020. Unfortunately, and not just because of the impacts of COVID, volunteer numbers are reducing. As society continues to change and as technology continues to impact how we work, live and communicate, more and more people have less time to volunteer. People today are also spending more of their free time engaging with technology in its varied forms, whereas past generations engaged in more hands-on activity, including volunteering.

When it comes to hands-on activity, I am reminded of the hundreds of volunteers who helped out in the recent state election and are now doing the same during the current federal election campaign, giving up their weekends and evenings to letterbox, distributing information so

communities are informed about local issues, community forums and the election commitments of all political parties.

One of the most amazing and inspiring things about my political party, the Australian Labor Party, is its army of volunteers. They are steadfast and dedicated soldiers of voluntary hands-on activity, which never ceases to astound me. We are so lucky to have you, and on behalf of the Australian Labor Party I want to say that every one of you is an integral member of our team, especially during the state and federal campaigns. It is not simply a case of better together. The fact is we would be lost without you. I am sure all honourable members in this chamber, from all political parties, will share the same sentiment.

This week, we celebrate volunteers in all areas of society, people finding time in their busy, often frantic, lives to make a commitment to voluntary service. We have volunteers in education, health, state emergency services, our many cultural institutions and community organisations, and our local sporting and recreation clubs. Thank you for the diverse skill sets, knowledge and perspectives that you offer up to the community and ask for nothing in return. Whether you are a volunteer at a local sports club, at an op shop or aged-care facility, or on the frontline of a natural disaster, you are immensely valuable to this state.

Another valuable contribution of volunteers is the sharing of culturally diverse traditions and personal stories, which are often inspiring, heartbreaking, humbling or life changing for the recipients. It is this that makes Australia so rich, a wealth created by our volunteers, people from all walks of life and from all parts of the world who are creating a better place for all South Australians.

In closing, I also want to recognise the many volunteers whose work goes unnoticed, often because it happens behind closed doors in the homes of so many families: children taking care of their sick or elderly parents, older siblings giving up their free time to support their own families by looking after younger siblings, as well as all the mothers, fathers, guardians and grandparents who selflessly care for others, including members of their immediate and extended families.

The often-used expression 'it takes a village' captures the true spirit of what better together means for all of society. It is our volunteers who demonstrate that people can do amazing things when we pull together and work as a team. Without the distractions of personal ambitions and self-serving agendas, we can work better together.

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

#### *Bills*

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC HEALTH (COVID-19) AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Final Stages*

The House of Assembly agreed to the amendments made by the Legislative Council without any amendment.

At 17:40 the council adjourned until Tuesday 31 May 2022 at 14:15.