

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**Tuesday, 7 February 2023**

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.

*Bills***HEALTH CARE (ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY) AMENDMENT BILL***Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (USE OF DEVICES IN VEHICLES) BILL*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (STEALTHING AND CONSENT) BILL*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

MAGISTRATES COURT (NUNGA COURT) AMENDMENT BILL*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (PUBLIC ACCESS) BILL*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (MONITORING ORDERS) AMENDMENT BILL*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO) (NO 3) BILL*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

SUMMARY OFFENCES (DOG THEFT) AMENDMENT BILL*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

LIVESTOCK (EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE) AMENDMENT BILL*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

*Parliamentary Procedure***ANSWERS TABLED**

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

*Parliamentary Committees***SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AND ACTIVE TRANSPORT**

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:20): I bring up the report of the select committee, together with the minutes of proceedings and evidence.

Report received and ordered to be published.

*Parliamentary Procedure***PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (Hon. K.J. Maher)—

Regulations under Acts—

Controlled Substances Act 1984—Poisons—Miscellaneous—No 2

Health Practitioner Regulations National Law (South Australia) Act 2010—

Amendment of Law

Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 6 of 2022—Auditor-General, Electoral

Commissioner and Health and Community Services

Complaints Commissioner

Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 6 of 2022—Auditor-General, Electoral

Commissioner and Health and Community Services

Complaints Commissioner

Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 7 of 2022—

Members of the Judiciary, Presidential Members of the SAET, Presidential

Members of the SACAT, the State Coroner, and Commissioners of the

Environment, Resources and Development Court

Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 7 of 2022—

Members of the Judiciary, Presidential Members of the SAET, Presidential

Members of the SACAT, the State Coroner, and

Commissioners of the Environment, Resources and Development Court

Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 8 of 2022—Accommodation and Meal

Allowances Judges, Court Officers and Statutory Officers

Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 8 of 2022—Accommodation and Meal

Allowances—Judges, Court Officers and Statutory Officers.

Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 9 of 2022—Conveyance Allowances—

Judges, Court Officer and Statutory Officers.

Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 9 of 2022—Conveyance Allowances—Judges,

Court Officer and Statutory Officers

Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 10 of 2022—Salary Sacrifice

Arrangements for Judges, Court Officers and Statutory Officers

Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 10 of 2022—Salary Sacrifice Arrangements for

Judges, Court Officers and Statutory Officers

Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 11 of 2022—Berri Country Magistrate Housing

Allowance

Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 12 of 2022—Application for Overseas

Accommodation and Daily Allowance—

2023 Supreme and Federal Court Judge's conference in Christchurch

Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 12 of 2022—Application for Overseas

Accommodation and Daily Allowance—2023 Supreme and Federal Court

- Judge's conference in Christchurch
- Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 13 of 2022—Application for supply of a Four-Wheel Drive Vehicle to the Resident Magistrate, Berri, at a cost equal to the Conveyance Allowance provided by Determination 14 of 2021
- Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 14 of 2022—Allowances for Members of the Parole Board of South Australia
- Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 14 of 2022—2022 Review of Allowances for Members of the Parole Board of South Australia
- Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 15 of 2022—Common Allowance for Members of the Parliament of South Australia
- Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 15 of 2022—2022 Review of Common Allowance for Members of the Parliament of South Australia
- Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 16 of 2022—Accommodation and Meal Allowances for Ministers of the Crown and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition
- Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 16 of 2022—2022 Review of Accommodation and Meal Allowances for Ministers of the Crown and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition
- Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 17 of 2022—Electorate Allowances for Members of the Parliament of South Australia
- Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 17 of 2022—2022 Review of Electorate Allowances for Members of the Parliament of South Australia
- Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 18 of 2022—Accommodation Expense Reimbursement and Allowances for Country Members of Parliament
- Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 18 of 2022—2022 Review of Accommodation Expense Reimbursement and Allowances for Country Members of Parliament
- Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 19 of 2022—2022 Review of Reimbursement of Expenses Applicable to the Electorate of Mawson—Travel to and from Kangaroo Island by Ferry and Aircraft

By the Attorney-General (Hon. K.J. Maher)—

- Regulations under Acts—
- Bail Act 1985—Forms No 2
 - Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935—General—
 - Human Remains Reporting
 - Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012—Inspector
 - Legislation Interpretation Act 2021—Council Meetings
- Rules of Court—
- District Court—District Court Act 1991—
 - Joint Criminal (No 1)
 - Uniform Civil (No 8)
 - Environment, Resources and Development Court—Environment, Resources and Development Court Act 1993—
 - Joint Criminal (No 1)
 - Magistrates Act 1983—
 - Joint Criminal (No 1)
 - Magistrates Court—Magistrates Court Act 1991—
 - Joint Criminal (No 1)
 - Uniform Civil (No 8)
 - Supreme Court—Supreme Court Act 1935—
 - Joint Criminal (No 1)
 - Uniform Civil (No 8)
 - Youth Court—Youth Court Act 1993—
 - Joint Criminal (No 1)

Report of a review of the operations of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption to the Office for Public Integrity 2021-22

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

Reports, 2021-22—

Leases granted for properties held by the Commissioner of Highways—

Annual report for 2021-2022 pursuant to section 20(4)

Highways Act 1926

Outback Communities Authority

Stony Point Environmental Consultative Group (SPECG)

Fees Notices under Acts—

Real Property Act 1886

Valuation of Land Act 1971

Regulations under Acts—

Linear Parks Act 2006—General

Motor Vehicles Act 1959—Ultra High Powered Vehicle Driver Licensing

Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016—

Urgent Temporary Accommodation

Report on the early commencement of the Glandore character area protection code amendment by the City of West Torrens

Parliamentary Tabling Report—Inquest into the Death of John James Bentley

Response to the Public Works Committee Recommendations on the Final Report:

Intersection Works and Compulsory Acquisition

Response to the Public Works Committee Recommendations on the Final Report: North-South Corridor—River Torrens to Darlington Tunnels

Ministerial Statement

HYDE REVIEW SAFETY CHECKS FOR CHILDREN

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:27): I table a ministerial statement from the Minister for Child Protection in the other place.

Personal Explanation

HENDERSON, HON. L.A.

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (14:50): I wish to inform the chamber that I recently have taken my husband's surname. At the end of November last year, I married Cameron Henderson, who I first met at the Liberal Club tent when he was the then president of the UniSA Law School.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON: I will say I was not a member of the Liberal Party at that time. I went to seek guidance on the university timetable so that I could organise my travel arrangements and visa arrangements to go home to visit my family in Saudi Arabia. I think it is fair to say that since that time both the Liberal Party and Cameron have been a constant in my life.

Cameron has been an anchor by my side no matter what life has thrown at us, particularly throughout the election and more recently as I have assumed my new role as a member of the Legislative Council. Changing my name is not something that I have done lightly. I have been advised that I am the first member of the Legislative Council and the second South Australian parliamentarian to change their name to their married name whilst a serving member of parliament.

As I am sure members of this place will appreciate, we work hard to represent our communities, but with the nature of our roles also comes the reality that campaigns are run on the recognition of our names. For me, I was a Curran in the 2018 election when I ran for the seat of

Reynell, in 2019 when I ran for the federal electorate of Kingston and, more recently, in the 2022 election when I was privileged to be elected to the Legislative Council.

I am proud to be a Curran and I am proud that I was elected and sworn in as a Curran. It is an acknowledgement of the hard work, support and sacrifice of my parents and my grandparents for me to be able to stand here in this place, for which I am eternally grateful. But, as we together, as a couple and a team, embark on the exciting next chapter of our lives, I have chosen to take Cameron's surname.

Question Time

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:52): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Leader of the Government regarding safety in South Australia.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Before the election, the Leader of the Government promised the people of South Australia that Labor would, and I quote, 'fix ramping'. Nearly a year on, ramping is worse than ever before. Latest SA Health data revealed on 4 February shows ramping has nearly doubled when compared to the former Liberal government's last full month in office. My question to the Leader of the Government in this chamber is: did he mislead the people of this state by promising to fix ramping?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:53): I don't think there was any misleading, but if the honourable member has a question in my portfolio areas I will of course be happy to answer it. If the honourable member—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Have you finished your answer?

The Hon. K.J. Maher: Yes, finished, sir.

The PRESIDENT: Okay. Next question, the honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable Leader of the Opposition, your second question.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:53): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Leader of the Government regarding safety in South Australia.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: During the election campaign, the advertisement authorised by the ALP said, 'Vote Labor like your life depends on it,' and yet, now the election is over, ramping has never been worse and the sense of urgency has seemingly evaporated. My question to the Leader of the Government is: is it still the government's top priority to fix ramping?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:54): It is an extraordinarily important priority of the government.

FRUIT FLY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:54): I seek leave to provide a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development a question regarding fruit fly resilience.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Attorney-General, we don't need you to add anything at this point.

The Hon. H.M. Girolamo interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Girolamo, we don't need a verbal commentary from you.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: On 14 December 2021, the then minister for agriculture, Northern Australia, the Hon. David Littleproud, and senator for South Australia, Senator the Hon. Anne Ruston, announced a \$30m million funding boost from the Australian government to further build resilience in Australia's fruit fly management, with the majority being earmarked for South Australia. Since then, not a single dime has been delivered, despite industry repeatedly calling for a post-harvest treatment facility in South Australia to protect our fruit and to open up markets for growers. My question to the minister is: when will she deliver on this critical piece of infrastructure to protect South Australia from fruit fly now and into the future?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:56): I thank the honourable member for her question. The commonwealth did indeed previously announce \$30 million to be made available over three years to build national resilience to manage fruit fly. As part of that, \$20 million was allocated to South Australia.

An amount of \$10.2 million will be spent on a range of measures, including expanding the Port Augusta Qfly SIT fly facility and the establishment also of a Medfly facility. That leaves \$9.8 million. I understand that a funding schedule is currently being drafted by the commonwealth to allow funds to be made available to South Australia to undertake what is critically important work.

Following advice from the commonwealth on the management of these funds, a short consultation process has commenced in South Australia to confirm our post-harvest needs. Any interested party is able to participate in that process and will be considered to ensure that they are consistent with the objectives of the package and support the national interest. This will be an important step in terms of protecting our very important industry here in South Australia.

FRUIT FLY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:57): Supplementary: when will the results of the application process be known?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:57): That should be quite soon.

MUKAPAANTHI MONUMENT

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (14:57): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Will the minister inform the council about the Mukapaanthi monument that he recently opened at the intersection of Goodwood/Springbank/Daws roads?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:57): I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in this area and his almost spot-on pronunciation of the Kurna word. In December, I had the opportunity to officially open the Mukapaanthi monument in Panorama as part of works to upgrade the intersection of Goodwood/Springbank/Daws roads. Mukapaanthi is the Kurna word for 'remember', and the monument itself recognises the contribution of Aboriginal veterans.

As I have mentioned in this place before, Aboriginal people have served in every conflict that Australia has participated in, laying down their lives for their country. More than 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people served in World War I and more than 4,000 in World War II, but too often their contributions have been downplayed and overlooked, both in the past and continuing to this day.

I am pleased that the South Australian government, through the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, is doing practical work to recognise the contribution of Aboriginal

veterans and to build a lasting monument to their service and sacrifice. Importantly, this is a highly visible monument at a busy intersection in Adelaide.

The monument comprises a ceremonial flame and three figures: a traditional Kaurna warrior, a soldier representing those who have served in the first and second world wars, and a modern-day soldier. The word 'Mukapaanthi' is displayed in front of the artwork and behind it are both the Australian and Aboriginal flags. Surrounding the artwork are native plantings and landscapings in the shape of the Kaurna shield, and many parts of that landscaping come from Kaurna country.

The Kaurna community was closely involved in the design of this monument, particularly artist Tania Taylor. The Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation and Aboriginal Veterans SA were both involved in work on this project, alongside the Department for Infrastructure and Transport and the local council, the City of Mitcham.

It was particularly significant that personnel from the Australian Defence Force were present on the day for the unveiling of the monument and, as I mentioned earlier, it was a fitting recognition of the service and sacrifice that Aboriginal people paid during times of war. It is pleasing to see a changing recognition within the Defence Force as well as in the wider community for this sacrifice.

I would like to acknowledge the Mayor of the Mitcham council, Heather Holmes-Ross, who was there on the day, and also the federal member for Boothby, Louise Miller-Frost. I know the member for Boothby is a staunch advocate for her community and Aboriginal affairs and reconciliation generally. I should also mention the member for Elder in the other place in this parliament, Nadia Clancy, who has a long association with advocating for the upgrade of the intersection and the local area generally, as well as a longstanding interest in recognising and respecting Aboriginal people's contribution.

I hope when people are driving past, as I often do a number of times a week, that intersection on Goodwood Road, that they look at the striking piece of artwork, take the opportunity to reflect on the contributions of Aboriginal veterans, in another way doing the practical work of reconciliation in people's everyday lives.

FIRST NATIONS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

The Hon. S.L. GAME (15:01): I seek leave to make a brief explanation prior to addressing a question to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on the First Nations Voice to Parliament.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: According to the government's draft First Nations Voice Bill 2022, there appears to be no requirement for the state First Nations Voice to address parliament, nor are they required to produce an annual report. As outlined in this proposal, the government intends to establish a secretariat for the local and state First Nations Voices, with provision for an unknown amount of resourcing in order to carry out its functions.

The draft bill makes pains to stipulate that neither the local or state First Nations Voices are agencies or instrumentalities of the Crown and, as such, will not be considered public sector agencies under the Public Sector Act 2009. That act requires each public sector agency to present a report on the agency's operations to the agency's minister annually. An annual report must be, and I quote:

...accurate, comprehensive, deals with all significant issues affecting the agency and is written and presented in a manner that aids ready comprehension.

My questions to the Aboriginal affairs minister are:

1. Why has the government chosen to exempt local and First Nations Voices from the requirement under the Public Sector Act?
2. Why is the government not imposing a requirement on the state First Nations Voice to either deliver an annual report or to address the parliament?
3. If a state First Nations Voice determines not to provide an annual report or address parliament, how will the Voice be accountable to parliament and the people for appropriating taxpayers' money to carry out its functions?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:02): I thank the honourable member for her question. I am pleased to let the honourable member know that—I think the honourable member is referring to a draft bill—in fact, the final bill is now public. The final bill will be introduced here on Thursday, and I am sure when the honourable member reads the final bill she will have all her questions answered.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (15:03): I seek leave to give a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General a question about the South Australian Employment Tribunal.

Leave granted.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: In December last year, it was reported that the Hon. Justice Steven Dolphin wrote to the Attorney-General highlighting his concerns with medical delays due to a lack of specialists to give advice to the South Australian Employment Tribunal. Justice Dolphin feared that delays at the court could blow out to 12 months or more, reporting, and I quote:

It has been my observations over recent times, throughout hundreds of proceedings that I case manage, that waiting times for a medical assessment is at a minimum of three months or so, more likely 3 to 5 months, and only recently becoming more than six months. The suggested waiting time in the present case of in excess of 8 months represents a very worrying trend.

Justice Dolphin went on to say that the problem was caused by a shortage of specialists on an approved list that included only four urologists. My questions to the Attorney-General are:

1. What steps has the Attorney-General taken to ensure that justice is not delayed in the courts?
2. When will the list of specialists be expanded to assist in providing experts in the court?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:04): I thank the honourable member for her question. I am aware of the Cavuoto decision. A copy of that decision was sent to my office directly by Justice Dolphin's chambers on 23 December last year. I understand a copy of the decision was also sent to stakeholders in the workers' compensation scheme, including Business SA, SA Unions and ReturnToWorkSA.

It is not usual practice, in my experience, for a judge of chambers to directly send decisions to stakeholders. It was also unusual that *The Advertiser* reported that the judge's chambers directly sent a decision to *The Advertiser* newspaper. As members of this council will be aware, from time to time members of the judiciary will in their decisions identify a policy issue for consideration of the government of the day.

A judge or a magistrate may draw attention to a drafting error or legislative provision that gives rise to a particularly vexing interpretative difficulty and note that it is a matter that parliament may wish to consider. When this occurs it is typically done tactfully—and bearing in mind the critical distinction between the role of the legislature which creates law and the judiciary which interprets and applies it—and it is not unusual, when those sorts of difficulties or vexing interpretative issues arise, for a judicial officer to step out of their neutral decision-making shoes and point out that particular vexing difficulty.

In that context, the language of this decision is unusual. It is unusual to describe as indulgent elements of the impairment assessment guidelines which give workers the substantive right to select a doctor of their own choosing and to conduct a medical assessment or to note that perceived critics of the tribunal have failed to raise concerns directly with the judge concerned before making complaints about the tribunal's practice and procedures. It is an unusual intervention into the debate.

The tribunal and its officers do good and important work. The tribunal oversees a very significant case load of specialised and often highly complex legal disputes. It does so in time frames significantly faster than comparative civil jurisdictions. The tribunal's internal dispute resolution processes and the works of its commissioners are the envy of many other courts and tribunals across Australia.

Of course, those achievements do not mean that the tribunal is immune from inquiry. The tribunal is a creature of statute, which now has been in operation for almost eight years, and it is appropriate to take stock and consider whether there are any improvements which could help better meet its needs and objectives, particularly in terms of governing legislation. That is why the practice and jurisdiction of the tribunal is currently being reviewed by the Attorney-General's Department. That review is consistent with the government's election commitment, which we will of course keep.

It would be unfortunate if comments in this decision were seen to dissuade or discourage stakeholders, particularly legal practitioners with hands-on experience representing both employers in the workers tribunal and workers in the tribunal, from sharing their experience and contributing to the SAET review. With respect to the specific concerns raised—

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: Point of order: I question the relevance because he is not actually answering the questions that have been asked—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: —rather reading from the quotes that were given to *The Advertiser*.

The PRESIDENT: I am sure the Attorney is going to get to the point sooner rather than later, so we can move on.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: With the very specific concerns raised in the decision to which the honourable member refers regarding the impairment assessments, it is important to understand this is not merely a technical or procedural issue; it is a significant policy matter, which affects the substantive rights of injured workers. Workers' autonomy in the selection of their assessor is an important feature of the scheme, where the one assessment rule prioritises finality in the assessment of the impairment.

In my view, it is likely that a worker's involvement in that process generates a level of confidence in assessment outcomes and reduces the overall level of disputation in the workers' compensation system. I can appreciate the views of legal practitioners who have expressed concerns that the tribunal has chosen to publicly weigh in on a very finely balanced policy issue.

The process for selecting an assessor is governed by the impairment assessment guidelines, not the Return to Work Act or regulations. Those guidelines are currently being reviewed through a co-design process intended to finalise a third edition. That co-design process is being led by a stakeholder representative consultation group, which includes representatives of ReturnToWorkSA, the medical profession, the Law Society and workers' representatives.

I provided a copy of this decision to that reference group and requested that the issues raised by Justice Dolphin be taken into consideration during the co-design process. I have also made it clear that if changes to the current selection process are contemplated by the reference group it is important those changes are the subject of significant consultation with a diverse range of stakeholders and, as far as practicable, reflect a consensus among the workers compensation community.

The reference group to whom this has been referred has a significant breadth of expertise and experience and is well placed to consider the issues raised by the decision in the context of the holistic functioning of the permanent assessment guidelines system and the Return to Work scheme as a whole.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:10): Supplementary: will the Attorney bring forward the advice from the reference group looking into the operations of the SAET, which is due in July 2023?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:10): Once the reference group has concluded its work its advice will be self-evident by the third edition of the Impairment Assessment Guidelines.

AGRIFUTURES RURAL WOMEN'S AWARD

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (15:11): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister please inform the chamber about SA's 2023 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award finalists?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:11): I thank the honourable member for her question. The AgriFutures Rural Women's Award is Australia's leading award that acknowledges the vital role women play across our regional communities, industries and businesses. The winner in each state receives a \$15,000 grant which goes towards supporting a project, business or program, as well as receiving professional development opportunities and access to incredible experiences through the awards alumni networks.

State winners go on to the national competitions where all state and territory winners participate in selection panel interviews. The winner and runner-up will receive additional grant funds from Westpac to go towards their project. These projects can be commercial or non-commercial but must align with AgriFutures' strategic priorities.

It is clearly an amazing opportunity to highlight, celebrate and further the work of some incredible women who are changing our regions for the better. I have been fortunate to cross paths on a number of occasions with last year's winner, Robyn Verrall, and I note the great work she has continued to do since winning the award in 2022.

The AgriFutures Rural Women's Award finalists for 2023 have been announced, and I take this opportunity to highlight the incredible women that have been selected this year. I congratulate Ali Paulett of Clare, managing director at Paulett Wines; Bridget Johns of Alford, founder of Be Simply Free; Emily Riggs of Burra, who launched fashion brand Iris and Wool; Kerri Cliff of Kimba, co-founder of Eyre Business; and Lindsey Jackson of Moonta, CEO and co-founder of agtech business Platfarm.

Each of the finalists is achieving incredible things. Their areas of interest and businesses span across creating a unique sensory garden with a focus on Indigenous Australian native produce; helping rural women to prioritise, organise, communicate and delegate to reduce their mental load; promoting the use of Australian produce and products; creating improved employment opportunities for rural women; and developing agtech that will inspire future generations to be more involved in our ag industries.

I am incredibly pleased for each of the finalists in achieving recognition for their work. I believe that each of them would make very worthy winners. They will be able to represent South Australia just as Robyn Verrall has done over the past year. I truly look forward to being involved in the announcement of the winner in May this year.

POKER MACHINES

The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:14): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney, representing the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs in another place, a question about poker machine reforms.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: Other state governments across the country are showing leadership and courage in introducing reforms to combat the damage poker machines are having in their jurisdictions. The latest is the New South Wales Liberal government, which yesterday announced plans to have every poker machine in New South Wales cashless within five years under an ambitious plan to overhaul their gambling industry.

In announcing those reforms, the New South Wales Premier said they were about looking after the vulnerable and stopping money laundering. This follows Australian-first reforms introduced by the Tasmanian government late last year, where gamblers in the state will be prevented from spending more than \$5,000 a year on poker machines unless they apply to increase that limit.

The Labor oppositions in both states have also flagged major poker machine reforms should they form government. To be clear, in both of those jurisdictions there are clear agendas to reduce problem gambling in their respective states despite the impact in tax revenue. My questions to the minister are:

1. Does the state government have any plans to show the same sort of intestinal fortitude, not before time, similar to the New South Wales and Tasmanian governments and introduce meaningful bona fide reforms aimed at tackling the scourge of poker machine gambling?
2. Does the government acknowledge that here in South Australia poker machine revenue is actually getting worse to the tune of \$2.2 million a day, especially given the revelation of losses of \$831 million in 2021-22 alone?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:16): I thank the honourable member for her question and her very longstanding and her party's longstanding interest, as other members of this place also have a very longstanding interest in the issues to do with poker machines and gambling. I will refer them to the minister responsible in the other place and bring back a reply for the honourable member.

The PRESIDENT: It is terrific for me to be able to call the Hon. Mr Hood. It is great to see you, the Hon. Mr Hood, and on behalf of all members I am sure we wish you well.

VIOLENT OFFENDER SENTENCING

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:16): It is very good to be here, I assure you. Thank you. I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General regarding sentencing in our courts.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: On 7 September 2001, Mr Raymond Page—who was under the influence of drugs and alcohol—inflicted an unprovoked attack on an elderly man, a grandfather, Mr Francesco Candido, which led to Mr Candido's death around a fortnight later. Mr Page, a repeat offender with an extremely violent and extensive history, pleaded guilty to the charge of manslaughter and was yesterday sentenced to jail for six years, nine months and two weeks, with a non-parole period of five years, five months and six days.

Given the sentence was backdated to the time of the offence, Mr Page is expected to be released in about four years' time. In reference to Mr Page's penalty, Mr Candido's son has stated publicly that it constituted, in his own words, 'no justice at all'. My question to the Attorney-General is:

1. What powers does the Attorney-General have to inquire of and intervene now that a sentence has been handed down by the courts?
2. Is the Attorney-General satisfied that justice has been done in this extraordinary case?
3. Will the Attorney-General undertake an urgent review into sentencing guidelines for violent repeat offenders who instigate fatal and unprovoked attacks on our citizens?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:18): I thank the honourable member for his question and would like to join you in saying how good it is to have his smiling face back in this chamber. In relation to the matter that the honourable member raises, I don't have a briefing on the particular sentencing outcome that he refers to.

I have every confidence that, when sentences are handed down, the officers from the DPP look at those sentences and if there is an error of law in the verdict or something inadequate in the terms of the sentence that is handed down, it is not uncommon for the DPP to take an appeal on that sentence. I am sure that if it falls well outside the range that would usually be contemplated for such an offence they will do that here.

The courts impose sentences taking into account a wide range of factors under the Sentencing Act. A lot of the factors that the courts take into account and the envelope of sentencing is set down by us as a parliament. I will ask for some advice in relation to this particular matter but, as I say, I have every confidence that, if there has been an error in the sentence that has been applied and the ranges that are usually applied for these sorts of crimes, the DPP will have a look at it.

CEDUNA COMMUNITY HUB

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (15:19): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Will the minister inform the council about the good work of the Ceduna Red Cross community hub?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:19): I thank the honourable member for his question, and I am most happy to do so. In early December, I visited Ceduna for a number of visits, including to visit the Red Cross community hub. I was impressed with the hard work and dedication of the staff who were there that day and the many volunteers at the community hub.

The Red Cross community hub is a focal point for service delivery in Ceduna, where essential supports can be provided to some of the most vulnerable members of the community. Aboriginal community members residing in Ceduna and surrounding communities regularly use the hub. On my visit, I was struck by the breadth of programs and activities that are conducted at the hub, particularly the women's wellbeing safety days that are conducted at the Red Cross community hub in partnership with Centacare. At the time of my visit, plans were well underway for future such programs.

The Red Cross also advocates through stakeholder engagement, supporting the families of offenders in a more holistic way in particular while a family member is remanded or completing a sentence of imprisonment. The Red Cross works with the Far West Community Partnerships to improve outcomes and develop solutions for Aboriginal community members residing in Ceduna and the surrounding communities.

There are a number of other programs that the community hub provides, including hosting men's cooking and yarning days as well as walks and yarn days every Tuesday. I was informed that I had just missed out. I think I was there on a Wednesday, coinciding my visit with a community day that had recently passed with wood oven pizzas, which they cook out in the backyard at the community hub.

What was apparent to me from my visit was that the local community see that hub as an integral part of their life in Ceduna. Likewise, everyone at the community hub seemed plugged into local community and attentive to the needs of people in the area. The steady stream of Ceduna residents and those visiting, who stopped by during my visit to have a cup of tea and a biscuit or a chat with one of the service providers, was a testament to that.

The work of the Red Cross in this part of the world is now as important as it ever was as the community and those who serve the community continue to negotiate the great challenges imposed during the pandemic. The community hub is a testament to the power of community when it listens to the needs of Aboriginal people and the impact that can occur when the community comes together. I commend the good work that has been done and look forward to visiting in the future and their future endeavours.

CUSTODY NOTIFICATION SERVICE

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:22): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General on the topic of the custody notification service.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: A custody notification service (CNS) is designed to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are taken into custody with two things: a welfare check and legal support. Both of these measures were deemed effective in reducing harm and deaths in custody. A CNS was an important recommendation of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. A CNS was in fact recommendation 224 of that royal commission, which said

that 'appropriate steps be taken to make it mandatory for Aboriginal Legal Services to be notified upon the arrest or detention of any Aboriginal person'.

SAPOL and the ALRM, previous to 2021, had informal arrangements that had been found to be inconsistently applied at times. Those informal failings made public led to a flurry of legislation. The then shadow attorney-general—yourself, now Attorney-General—and myself as Greens police spokesperson put forward legislation to address formalising a CNS.

The currently operating CNS was formally established in South Australia in October 2021 by the former Attorney-General, doing so not through legislation but through regulations rather than putting a bill through parliament. Despite these best endeavours, it appears that, in its current form, that custody notification service is now not working as the royal commission, the Greens or, I assume, the Labor Party and probably the previous Liberal government intended.

A lack of clarity in the wording of the regulations has resulted in an unfortunate loophole where the obligation to notify the ALRM being held by the 'responsible officer', not for example the 'arresting officer', has meant significant delay in the ALRM being contacted when a relevant person is detained or arrested.

What this means in a practical sense is that in our state an Aboriginal person can be arrested, transported and interviewed by police before the CNS even kicks in. This can be hours without the required life-saving welfare check and without appropriate access to the legal services anticipated. This is not what the royal commission called for, it's not what Labor or the Greens campaigned for and it's not what the parliament was led to believe would be effected and I trust that that was not what was intended by the previous government.

My question to the Attorney-General is: how will the Malinauskas government urgently ensure that the CNS will ensure that the ALRM is notified at the earliest point of detention or arrest, not at the much later point in the process, which has now become the case, to ensure that this recommendation of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody is fully and properly implemented?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:25): I thank the honourable member for her question and her advocacy and interest in this area as evidenced by a number of things, including the private member's bill that the honourable member brought to this chamber in the last parliament.

As the honourable member points out, the establishment of a custody notification scheme in all Australian jurisdictions was in fact a recommendation of the 1987 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and, as the honourable member has pointed out, commencing on 1 October 2021 the former government commenced the Summary Offences (Custody Notification Service) Variation Regulations 2020 to establish a mandatory custody notification service in South Australia.

In recent times, I have had meetings and correspondence with both the South Australian police service and the ALRM about how the scheme is operating under the current regulations and, as the member points out, the wording and intent of the current regulations. I think my most recent discussion with the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement was late last year in December. I'm happy to inform the honourable member and the chamber that we are looking at whether there needs to be wording changes or a change in the application of how the CNS works in South Australia.

We are particularly having a look at how similar CNSs work in other states, particularly states like New South Wales and Western Australia, so it is something that we are alive to. We will continue to have discussions with the ALRM and SAPOL to make sure that the CNS best meets the needs of Aboriginal people first and foremost who are taken into custody and about how the ALRM works and how SAPOL operate.

CUSTODY NOTIFICATION SERVICE

The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:27): Supplementary question: how much of those discussions have focused on funding disputes with the federal government over the CNS?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:27): I thank the honourable member for her supplementary. Those discussions to date have not focused—I'm pretty sure, but I may have a different recollection when I check notes—at all on the funding. I can't remember exactly when it is, but there was funding that was provided by the federal government for a period of time for the implementation not just in South Australia but in other states that didn't have an operating CNS. A feature of the discussions has not been about the quantum of funding that has been provided. They have focused upon how the regulations are worded and, importantly, how they are being interpreted in operation.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:28): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development a question regarding cost recovery and the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON: The government has indicated that it plans on undertaking an independent review of cost recovery in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. To conduct the review, the government has appointed a cost recovery review panel. My questions to the Minister for Primary Industries are:

1. When will the review be completed?
2. Following the review's completion, how long will it be until the minister makes a decision on the review's findings?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:29): I thank the honourable member for her question. Certainly, it was an election commitment of the Labor Party when we were in opposition to do an independent review of the cost-recovery processes. Since coming to government, we have had a number of discussions around that with our interested parties.

PIRSA has been operating a cost-recovery policy for approximately 20 years and operates on the premise that South Australia's aquatic resources are owned by the state and managed by PIRSA on behalf of the South Australian community. Cost associated with government services that arise as a result of commercial access to the resources are recovered from commercial licence holders through regulated licence fees.

An independent cost-recovery review panel has been established, and the panel is comprised of members with expertise in fisheries economics, management and commercial business practices. The panel will consider alternative cost-recovery approaches that are fair and equitable and assess these against the current arrangements.

In undertaking the review, submissions will be invited from the commercial fishing and aquaculture sectors, other interested stakeholders, PIRSA and other relevant government agencies. It's proposed that a report will be available with recommendations later this year. I would point out that the recommendations from the independent cost-recovery review panel will not be available for the 2023-24 cost-recovery cycle—that's important to note.

Throughout the years there have been various fee relief arrangements to ensure the commercial viability and resilience of South Australia's commercial fishing sectors. The most recent of those of course have been the northern zone and southern zone rock lobster fee relief of 50 per cent to licence fees. This fee relief was enacted by our government to assist with the financial hardship resulting from reduced global market access.

As part of the marine scale fishery reform, temporary fee relief has been in place since 2019. More recently, \$2.4 million has been made available in commercial sector fee relief for impacted snapper quota holders in the marine scale fishery as well as charter boat licence holders in the form of 50 per cent annual fee relief applied to their base licence fee. Making sure that cost-recovery processes and formulas are appropriate is an important part of supporting our commercial industries

going forward but remembering always that sustainability of our shared resources must always be our number one priority.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:31): Supplementary: will the government commit to releasing this review publicly?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:32): I have mentioned that the report is expected to be completed later this year. The government will then consider the recommendations and make the appropriate announcements at that time.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:32): Further supplementary question: does the government believe in accountability, and will the government be releasing the review?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:32): I have just answered that question.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW

The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:32): Supplementary: are there any plans to further extend the fee relief that has already been provided to those sectors?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:32): Fee relief that has been determined has all been announced at this stage.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW

The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:32): Just for the record, are there any plans to further extend fee relief for those sectors that the minister has outlined?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:32): We have announced all the fee relief that has been contemplated at this stage, so I think that's fairly clear.

NATIVE SEAWEED HARVEST

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:33): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister inform the chamber about the first harvest of seaweed from the Dinko Tuna-SARDI collaboration in Port Lincoln?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:33): I thank the honourable member for this question, which I am delighted to answer. I was very pleased to head to Port Lincoln in the week before Christmas last year and to get out on the water for Dinko Tuna's first native seaweed harvest. It was a fantastic opportunity to catch up again with Lukina Lukin, owner and Managing Director of Dinko Tuna Farmers, and great to meet with new Port Lincoln Mayor, Diana Mislov, to be part of this exciting event.

The project has been a strong collaboration between Dinko Tuna and SARDI, funded by the Marine Bioproducts Cooperative Research Centre (MBCRC). I attended the opening of their headquarters at Tonsley late last year. With a huge amount of work going into the development and potential benefits of cultivating native seaweed next to tuna aquaculture farms, the benefits and uses of the seaweed extend both in the water and outside of it.

The naturally-settling native seaweed, currently grown on more than 7.5 kilometres of lines (which members might be interested to know actually closely resemble large ropes), use nutrients in the water, such as carbon, nitrogen and phosphorous, which improves water quality. It also enables use of the tuna aquaculture site year round, creating more jobs and filling the void that would otherwise be there after the tuna harvest finishes in winter.

Once the seaweed is harvested, a range of exciting products can be created, and that includes fertilisers, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, biofuels, bioplastics, feed ingredients and even construction materials. With demand around the world for seaweed and fish-based fertiliser products expected to double by 2031, there are huge economic opportunities being presented, particularly for people such as Ms Lukin and Dinko Tuna Farmers, who are leading the way in trailblazing new paths and new ways of thinking about the possibilities that exist within the aquaculture sector.

The products under development from cultivated native seaweeds include liquid fertiliser, sustainably made from 100 per cent locally sourced ingredients. The zero waste process will see development of a poultry feed ingredient and soil improvement products from the leftover residue. Excitingly, Dinko Tuna and SARDI have also secured funding from AgriFutures Australia to develop the sought after and potentially lucrative food colouring pigment, phycoerythrin, from red seaweed as a natural alternate colorant that can be applied to a wide range of foods and beverages.

I would like to thank Ms Lukin once again for inviting me to attend this special event. I first had the pleasure of meeting Ms Lukin, I think at the very first event I attended as minister last year, when she was a finalist at the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award, to which I referred earlier today. I am certainly in awe of her drive and determination to create jobs and new pathways within aquaculture, while already producing quality, world-renowned South Australian bluefin tuna. I look forward to getting back to Port Lincoln and seeing how these products and research develop over the next few years.

FIRST NATIONS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

The Hon. S.L. GAME (15:37): I would like to raise a point of order. The Attorney-General in answering my question earlier on why the elected First Nations Voice will not be producing annual reports or address parliament (or are not required to) stated that I was working off a draft bill and that the final bill is now public. My staff have rechecked the Attorney's website and the YourSAy website and it is only the draft legislation that is available. I would just like to clarify where it is public, because I am concerned we have been misled.

The PRESIDENT: Have you finished? I don't necessarily think it's a point of order. However, Attorney, it could give you the opportunity to give some clarity.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:37): Yes, I am happy to provide the honourable member an answer. I suspect the answer to the Hon. Sarah Game is: in your inbox, after your staff requested it earlier today.

SAPOL BARRACKS

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:38): I seek leave to ask the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, representing the Minister for Police in another place, a question about the demolition of the SAPOL barracks at Thebarton.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Late last year, an extraordinary chapter in SAPOL's history closed with the passing of trailblazing policewoman Joyce Richardson OAM. The 101 year old's distinguished career was honoured at a ceremony held at the SAPOL barracks at Thebarton. Joyce joined SAPOL in 1944 and retired in 1979, after a decorated career spanning 35 years, along the way becoming the first female police officer in South Australia to be appointed a sergeant in 1974. She earned a long service and good conduct medal, as well as the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal.

In 1990, Joyce was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition of her service to the welfare of the aged. One of the final honours at the ceremony that day was where her close friend and former colleague retired chief inspector Kathryn Finnigan fulfilled Joyce's final wish that her ashes be scattered in the rose garden. My question to the minister is:

1. What will happen to Joyce's ashes, given the police barracks are to make way for the new RAH?
2. Are there plans to relocate the rose garden to another site?

3. Does he know how many other police officers' ashes have been scattered in the rose garden over the years?

4. Has the minister appointed officers or others to conduct a survey of the site to establish whether First Nations' remains are buried there, and will he report any findings and the strategy for their removal and reinterment to parliament?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:40): I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in this matter. I will refer the question to the Minister for Police in the other place and bring back a response.

EYRE PENINSULA WEATHER FORECASTING

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (15:40): I seek leave to provide a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development a question regarding Eyre Peninsula.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: The Western Australian and New South Wales governments have contributed in the order of \$25 million each to support the Bureau of Meteorology in building Doppler radars to help remove forecasting black spots within their states. My questions for the minister are:

1. Is her government committed to contributing to the cost of a Doppler radar on Eyre Peninsula to address weather forecasting black spots on Eyre Peninsula?

2. What communications has the minister had with any of her federal colleagues seeking financial support for a Doppler radar on Eyre Peninsula?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:41): I thank the honourable member for her question. The Bureau of Meteorology uses a number of different mechanisms in terms of providing appropriate information, which includes information that enables landowners and grain growers, etc., to have information for their processes and carrying out their activities.

A Doppler radar is one of the types of equipment that can be made available, but I am advised that the bureau indicates there is not a large problem in terms of black spots, or dead spots, in terms of that. I know that there has been feedback from some farmers on Eyre Peninsula advocating for that particular mechanism. I am happy to seek further information about the various options that are available, but would emphasise that a Doppler radar is simply one among a suite of possible options that can be used.

EYRE PENINSULA WEATHER FORECASTING

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (15:42): Supplementary: has the minister received any communications about this matter at all?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:42): I seem to recall that I have received communications from the local member, but I will check to see whether there are any other additional communications that I have received.

EYRE PENINSULA WEATHER FORECASTING

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:42): Supplementary: can the minister then bring that back to the chamber?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:43): I will happily bring back my answer to the chamber.

PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISE AGREEMENTS

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (15:43): My question is to the Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector. Will the minister please update the council on the government's progress in resolving public sector enterprise agreements?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:43): I thank the honourable member for his question and, yes, I will. I note the honourable member is a former very proud trade unionist, having worked for I think South Australia's biggest union early in his career, and what an admirable vocation that is: advocating on behalf of workers in this state, which stands in stark contrast to the former government's industrial relations minister, who would demonise people who work on behalf of the workers of this state using pejorative terms such as 'union bosses'.

That's not our view here and that's what I suspect is one of the reasons we have had such success where the former government was such an abject failure. When the change of government occurred, we were faced with a raft of outstanding public sector enterprise bargaining negotiations, which the previous Liberal government had failed to resolve. We had firefighters who had not received a pay rise since January 2020, a period of more than two shameful years. When we came to government, we had paramedics on the frontline of COVID who had not received a single pay rise since 2017. Paramedics saving people's lives who had not received a single pay rise since 2017. A shameful period—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: —of more than four years. A disgraceful period of more than four years without a pay rise for a hardworking paramedic. These are the frontline emergency services workers who kept us safe, kept us safe during the pandemic and continue to keep us safe.

Rather than negotiate with hardworking public sector workers such as these, the former Liberal government, led by the Minister for Industrial Relations, the Hon. Rob Lucas, the government that was led by the Hon. Rob Lucas, they attacked, they belittled workers, we frequently saw for ourselves in this parliament. They attacked, belittled and conducted their bargaining through statements to the media and in parliament—no genuineness, no bona fide negotiations with public sector workers at all. I am pleased to say that has not been the approach of this government.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: That has not been the approach of this government. And we can hear the opposition interjecting because they don't like public sector workers to get a fair deal. They don't like genuine negotiations, bona fide discussions with public sector workers.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Interjections are out of order.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: They hate that.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: Point of order: retract that, saying that we don't like public servants. We are public servants, for goodness sakes. That is ridiculous. Retract it. That is inappropriate.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! You might want to retract it.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: I retract any suggestion that any individual member of the current Liberal parliamentary party hates public sector workers, but what they do collectively—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: Point of order: the Leader of the Government needs to withdraw that. That is just offensive.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Just withdraw it and finish off, please, minister.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: I withdraw.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you. Are you going to finish?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: No, I am not finished. I've got a little more to say. The Hon. Rob Lucas certainly had a great disdain for public sector workers. That was evidenced by every statement that was made, every statement that he made in this chamber.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: What we have done in a very different approach—a very, very different approach—is enter good faith negotiations and discussions with public sector unions who represent hardworking workers in the public sector. It hasn't been rocket science but it certainly has been something that the former government wasn't able to do under the leadership of the Rob Lucas Liberal government for the last four years.

Of course, the government of the day and public sector unions will not always agree on everything and there will be on occasions robust discussions in such negotiations, but that is to be expected. What is not to be expected is negotiations in bad faith and the vitriol we saw from the previous government. In last July, we—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister, please conclude your remarks. I am watching the clock.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: I am very pleased to remind the chamber that in last July we finalised an agreement with our Ambulance Service employees. In November last year, we finalised an agreement with our extremely hardworking nurses and midwives—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: —and in December, after much negotiation, we reached an agreement with the metropolitan firefighters with their first wage rise in over two years. What a difference it makes when a government pays respect to people.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Ms Franks has a supplementary.

EMERGENCY SERVICES WORKERS

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:49): How many workers left the MFS, the Ambulance Service and the public sector nursing and midwifery workforce in the last five years over and above those who retired?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:49): I will be very happy to take that on notice and bring back a reply for the honourable member because I am sure there was some effect when you had the Hon. Rob Lucas and the Liberal Party talking about the secret camera footage that was taken of workers and a whole range of other things that made it exceptionally difficult in the toxic environment that the former Liberal government created. That was undoubtedly one of the reasons South Australians voted so overwhelmingly against the former Liberal Party—the lack of respect and decency that they showed public sector workers.

STATE MAJOR BANK LEVY

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:50): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question without notice to the Attorney-General representing the Treasurer on the topic of interest rate rises and the big banks.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: At 2pm today, the Reserve Bank of Australia announced it is lifting the cash rate by 0.25 per cent to 3.35 per cent. This rate rise is the ninth interest rate increase in a

row. Over the last 12 months, we have seen the RBA increase the cash rate target by 3 per cent, increasing the cost-of-living pressures faced by South Australian families.

Late last year, the *Australian Financial Review* claimed that the big banks would play down the extent to which rising interest rates are boosting profits when they record bumper full year earnings. The same article stated that the big banks have passed RBA increases on to their customers while also increasing their profit margins.

SA Labor first proposed a levy on major banks back in 2017 when the then Treasurer, the Hon. Tom Koutsantonis MP, told SBS News that, and I quote from his media statements:

...these banks are making super profits yet every year they close more branches, they charge us more fees and they make more profits.

At that time, a bank tax was estimated to raise \$340 million over four years. A free school breakfast and lunch program in South Australia would cost just \$128 million a year and provide relief to many families who are struggling to put food on the table. Public schools provide free lunches in Japan, Norway, France and some parts of the United States. My question to the Attorney-General therefore is: will the government commit to bringing back a big bank levy to pay for programs that would support families in need, such as programs for free school breakfasts and lunches?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:52): I thank the honourable member for his very important question and his timely contribution in updating the chamber about Reserve Bank decisions that have happened this afternoon. I certainly will pass those questions on to the Treasurer in another place in relation to the ideas that I know the Hon. Robert Simms has put forward. I have read them in the media and we always welcome—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Sorry, I can't—sorry, I'm being interrupted.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Members interjecting:

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Oh dear. I will pass that on to the Treasurer and I will certainly bring back a reply.

Parliamentary Procedure

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:52): I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move motions without notice concerning the appointment of a member to the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee and the Select Committee on Health Services in South Australia.

An honourable member: Seconded.

The PRESIDENT: That is seconded. I will put the question. I note the absolute majority.

Motion carried.

Parliamentary Committees

ABORIGINAL LANDS PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:53): I move:

That pursuant to section 10 of the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee Act 2003 the Hon. L.A. Henderson be appointed to the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee in place of the Hon. S.G. Wade (resigned).

Motion carried.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:53): I move:

That the Hon. L.A. Henderson be appointed to the Budget and Finance Committee in place of the Hon. S.G. Wade (resigned).

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:53): I move:

That the Hon. L.A. Henderson be appointed to the Select Committee on Health Services in South Australia in place of the Hon. S.G. Wade (resigned).

Motion carried.

*Bills***MOTOR VEHICLES (ELECTRIC VEHICLE LEVY) AMENDMENT REPEAL BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 1 December 2022.)

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (15:54): In November 2021, the former Liberal government passed its Motor Vehicles (Electric Vehicle Levy) Amendment Bill 2021. The act introduced a levy on electric vehicles and a requirement for the Legislative Council to appoint a select committee into electric vehicles.

The levy is a distanced-based charge for electric vehicles as an addition to the registration of an electric vehicle. The levy was to commence on the earlier of 1 July 2027 or when battery electric vehicle sales reached 30 per cent of total new motor vehicle sales in South Australia.

From the levy's commencement, electric vehicle owners would have been charged 2¢ per kilometre travelled in a plug-like hybrid vehicle or 2.5 per cent per kilometre for any other electric vehicle. This levy would have been calculated by distance travelled each year and billed as part of the vehicle registration process.

The former Liberal government estimated that this new tax would raise \$1 million each year. It is unclear how this was calculated and falls well short of reasonable estimates that consider current uptake trends of electric vehicles. The former Liberal government advertised this state tax as a substitute for fuel excise, which is a federal tax. It is not a like-for-like tax; it is a new tax.

Fuel excise will come under pressure as more electric fuels come onto our roads. However, addressing this should be led by the commonwealth government. The former state Liberal government saw the failure of their Coalition counterparts to put together any policy to address this emerging issue as an opportunity to implement their own tax.

The tax would see raised funds spent in any manner that the Liberal government pleased. The former Liberal government did not consider how implementing a new tax bypassing the commonwealth government would affect the state's collection of GST funds.

In regard to the select committee, schedule 2 of the amendment act required the Legislative Council to appoint a select committee as soon as possible one year after the schedule commenced on 4 November 2022. The committee was to consider longer term issues relating to the use of electric vehicles and recommend a strategy to address these issues.

The repeal bill removes the requirement for this select committee. The Malinauskas government will contribute to Australia's first National Electric Vehicle Strategy, led by federal Minister Bowen. South Australia's levy repeal bill will repeal both the electric vehicle levy and the

requirement for a select committee. Abolishing the levy will deliver on a government election commitment.

A survey taken by the Australia Institute in 2021 showed that seven in 10 South Australians would be less likely to purchase an electric vehicle if a new road user charge were to be introduced. The levy introduced by the previous government would have been a major disincentive to purchase an electric vehicle. While the road user charge would not commence for some time, passing this repeal bill as soon as possible will provide certainty for those looking to purchase an electric vehicle.

There are average annual savings estimated for electric vehicle adopters for fuel costs and maintenance costs. UBS Global estimates that consumers will save \$1,700 per annum by 2030 on the total cost of ownership of electric vehicles over internal combustion engines. The bill will support the uptake of electric vehicles by preserving these financial benefits.

Electrifying our transport fleet is a vital part of the overall transition from carbon-emitting technologies to a greener, cleaner future that accords with state parliament's recent declaration of climate emergency. Passenger cars make up almost 10 per cent of Australia's CO₂ emissions. Supporting the uptake of electric vehicles will contribute to South Australia's ability to achieve net zero emissions.

During the 2022 federal election campaign, the federal ALP released its Driving the Nation plan, which is in the Driving the Nation policies, Australian Labor Party, alp.org.au. It will establish a truly national electric vehicle charging network with charging stations at an average interval of 150 kilometres on major roads, create a national hydrogen highways refuelling network and set a low-emission vehicle target for the commonwealth fleet of 75 per cent of new leases and purchases by 2025.

With thousands of vehicles in the commonwealth fleet, it is big enough to encourage more electric vehicle model introductions to Australia and to expand a resale market. Commonwealth Labor has also made electric vehicles cheaper through the removal of fringe benefits tax and the 5 per cent import tariff for eligible electric vehicles. The fringe benefits tax changes mean a \$50,000 electric vehicle can be up to \$4,700 cheaper each year for someone using a salary sacrifice arrangement. An employer can save \$9,000 a year, an incentive that is critical for fleet buyers and, in turn, the second-hand market.

During the National EV Summit in August, the commonwealth government announced its commitment to develop Australia's first National Electric Vehicle Strategy. The South Australian government has been invited to be part of the development process and is strongly supportive of a federally led approach in addition to our state-based support and initiatives. The EV strategy will be a road map to achieve the following goals: it will make EVs more affordable, drive more choice in the market, drive EV uptake, reduce emissions, save us money on fuel and ensure we are taking advantage of local manufacturing opportunities.

Consultation for the EV strategy will include exploring options for the introduction of fuel efficiency standards. The lack of such standards in Australia is cited as one of the factors impacting the supply and cost of electric vehicles. This is because manufacturers prioritise markets that show leadership. While Australia does not show leadership, consumers are not getting the choice available internationally. We are at risk of becoming a dumping ground for older technology that cannot be sold in other markets.

A low number of EVs are available on the market. This is part of the slow electric vehicle uptake. There are higher up-front purchase prices. Consumers in the United Kingdom can choose from 26 low-emission vehicles under \$60,000: the number is only eight in Australia. There is anxiety about electric vehicles' range, performance and limited charging infrastructure.

The current South Australian government support and initiatives include 7,000 electric vehicle purchase subsidies of \$3,000 and three-year registration fee exemption, supporting the RAA to construct the state's first ever electric vehicle charging network of over 500 charging stations at 140 sites in 52 locations throughout South Australia and progressing nine electric vehicle smart-charging trials to demonstrate how EV charging can be integrated into the grid to realise electricity cost savings for all South Australians.

As we continue to grow the number of electric vehicle drivers, they will undoubtedly demand charging systems and infrastructure that help allay road trip anxiety and deliver charging at the lowest possible cost. The South Australian government awarded a grant of almost \$12.4 million to the RAA to construct and operate Australia's first statewide electric vehicle rapid-charging network. The network will comprise 536 fast and rapid chargers across 140 electric charging stations in 52 rural, regional and metropolitan locations.

While the exact locations are yet to be finalised, there are plans for 26 sites in Adelaide, including 10 in the CBD. The current planned locations will remove range anxiety and provide certainty for people travelling between Adelaide and Renmark, Mount Gambier, the state borders and more.

The RAA will start the design and construction of EV charging networks in supermarkets, car parks, town centres, council-owned sites, hotels and motels throughout South Australia. It is anticipated that the network will be finalised by the end of 2023. The EV charging network map shows the towns where you will be able to find the charging stations. The exact locations will be confirmed soon.

As part of the government-supported electric vehicle smart-charging trials, smart-charging stations will be installed across metropolitan and regional areas, including shopping centres, off-street parking, hotels, motels and holiday parks. The smart-charging trials will demonstrate ways electric vehicle drivers can be incentivised to charge during periods of high renewable electricity generation or low grid demand. This will support the grid and reduce electricity costs for all consumers. Some trials involve vehicles providing electricity back to the grid, acting as batteries on wheels.

New business models are also being trialled that will improve charging service availability and improve financial sustainability for operators. This will include tapping into new revenue streams, such as frequency services in the National Electricity Market, which will reduce operator reliance on charging service fees for financial viability.

In total, there are nine recipients of the \$3,200,000 grant funding. In December 2021, the former state government announced the following successful grant recipients: AGL with Wilson Parking, Chargefox, JET Charge with the NRMA, Jolt Charge, and the City of Adelaide with UPark. On 25 June 2022, the state government announced additional successful recipients of EV smart-charging trials. A media stand-up was held at the Foodland at Pasadena. The successful recipients were ENGIE with Flinders University, JET Charge, JET Charge with Rocland, and Plant Ark Power with Foodland Pasadena.

The trials will deliver a total of 142 fast electric charging bays for South Australian motorists. The trial attracts around \$4.8 million of private investment in development and construction. The South Australian government will not generate an income from these trials. The trials will provide information on how smart chargers are used and inform future direction and infrastructure investment as the charging network expands and develops. The trials will lead to 12 months of data collection and knowledge sharing for innovative smart-charging infrastructure systems.

For AGL with Wilson Parking, the location will be Wilson Parking Adelaide CBD car parks and businesses and private locations for the City of Marion, Uniting Communities and Centacare. AGL will trial a one-stop shop for EV fleet transition by bundling the supply of an electric vehicle and smart-charging solutions on a simple subscription.

The trial seeks to overcome key barriers to EV fleet uptake, including overnight smart-charging at employees' homes and smart fleet charging in public car parks. Adelaide CBD businesses will benefit from convenient electric vehicle charging in Wilson car parks. AGL's metropolitan partners, Centacare, Uniting Communities and the City of Marion, will trial a variety of EV models with smart workplace and home charging.

For Chargefox, the location will be at Port Adelaide Plaza. In a globally significant trial, Chargefox will introduce a time-of-use pricing model on a metropolitan DC rapid charger, which will tap into consumers' fuel cycle mindset and encourage electric vehicle drivers to charge during periods of high renewable energy generation. Moving away from conventional fixed price charging

models, the trial will test how drivers respond to different time-of-use charging prices to see if EVs can be harnessed to soak up surplus renewable energy generation.

For JET Charge with the NRMA, the location will be the NRMA Victor Harbor Beachfront Holiday Park. The NRMA and JET Charge EV Smart Holiday Parks Trial will demonstrate an electric vehicle charging service model for holiday parks that will enable guests to park, plug and holiday. The integration of electric vehicle charging into holiday parks means there will be more time for relaxation, rather than lost time from recharging at highway stations. Guests will be incentivised to charge during periods of high renewal or energy generation or low demand, which will reduce the costs for EV travellers and holiday park owners.

Jolt Charge location: there will be four metropolitan public charging locations in the Charles Sturt, Port Adelaide Enfield and Marion local government areas. Jolt's trial will tap into drivers' instincts to seek a bargain at the bottom of the fuel cycle. Using roadside LCD advertising displays and in-app notifications, Jolt will provide low-cost surge pricing to activate consumer behaviour to turn in and save during incentivised times. The key objective of this trial will be to quantify the impact of charging incentives on consumer behaviour and to demonstrate the role that EVs can play to balance electricity supply and demand loads during the day.

City of Adelaide UPark locations at UPark Topham Mall and UPark Wyatt Street in the Adelaide CBD: the UPark electric vehicle fleet smart-charging trial will provide uncomplicated and commercially attractive EV charging to UPark's fleet customers for a fixed, all-inclusive price. Using smart technologies and real-time price signals from the wholesale electricity market, the trial will optimise self-consumption of onsite solar, PV and contracted renewable energy to demonstrate how CBD-based electric vehicle fleets could be orchestrated to strengthen South Australia's electricity system.

ENGIE with Flinders University at the Flinders University car parks 2, 3 and 9: in one of Australia's largest vehicle to grid trials, ENGIE will integrate 22 managed smart-charging stations into a campus-level virtual battery to demonstrate how EVs could be harnessed to support South Australia's electricity system during peak demand periods. The trial will demonstrate the alignment of electric vehicle charging and discharging to periods of renewable generation or grid demand through participation in ENGIE's South Australian virtual power plant.

JET Charge: location will be at the Adelaide CBD or the metropolitan commercial car parks. The trial will demonstrate how fleets located at commercial building car parks can move to a low-emission transport future by adopting a third-party service model approach to EV smart-charging. It will also demonstrate how EV smart-charging can be provided as a service in commercial buildings using a world-class modular electric vehicle smart-charging system that can be expanded as EV fleets grow. Through a third-party ownership model, the trial seeks to overcome costs and ownership barriers to fleet uptake of EVs as building owners and their tenants are not required to outlay the up-front cost of deploying EV charging equipment.

JET Charge with Rocland: location will be at Rocland Estate Wines. JET Charge and Rocland Wines, at the Sturt Highway service station in Nuriootpa, will demonstrate how rapid electric vehicle charging using time-of-use tariffs and surge pricing or dynamic power delivery can support and positively influence regional EV charging behaviours. The trial will demonstrate how essential highway electric vehicle smart-charging can contribute to overall electricity system strength without adversely impacting upon electric vehicle driver perceptions or user experience.

Planet Ark Power with Foodland Pasadena located at the Foodland Pasadena shopping centre: the trial includes the installation of 14 fast and rapid charging bays and a battery energy storage system that will store as much renewable electricity as 125 home batteries. The trial at Pasadena will incentivise EV drivers to enter the shopping centre to boost their charge, which could be through pricing, length of charge or validation of charging reward.

The trial will measure benefits including renewable energy use, customer satisfaction, return visits and the economic value to shopping centres of EV charging services. The smart chargers will fully charge an electric vehicle in 15 to 45 minutes as a customer enters the shopping centre and activates the EV boost. Once completed, the battery storage system will be the first of its kind built at a South Australian shopping centre.

I would like to talk about electrifying our government fleet. There are over 6,500 vehicles in the South Australian government fleet. In total, these vehicles travel around 110 million kilometres, equating to over 21,000 tonnes of CO₂. There is a requirement for South Australian government agencies to transition to plug-in electric vehicles if they are cost effective on a total cost of ownership basis, or if the additional cost can be managed by improving fleet utilisation.

The benefits of the orderly transition of our government fleet to electric vehicles will be twofold. It will meaningfully contribute to lowering our state's carbon footprint and help us achieve net zero emissions. It will help saturate the second-hand market with electric vehicles, reducing the lack of availability and reducing the up-front costs for people looking to purchase an electric vehicle. Friday 9 September is International Electric Vehicles Day, so I urge all members of this chamber to support the bill.

The Hon. T.T. NGO (16:15): I rise to support the Motor Vehicles (Electric Vehicle Levy) Amendment Repeal Bill 2022. This bill will abolish the new tax that the previous Liberal government introduced. In November 2021, the former Liberal government passed its Motor Vehicles (Electric Vehicles Levy) Amendment Act 2021. The act introduced a levy on electric vehicles and a requirement for the Legislative Council to appoint a select committee into electric vehicles.

Labor went to the 2022 election promising to scrap this tax because we want to promote, not discourage, the use of vehicles that have a lower impact on our environment. We want to give South Australians a sense of certainty about purchasing an electric vehicle; revoking this levy will help to do that.

The former Liberal government showed a lack of regard for the people in the community who want to have a green vehicle option. The former Liberal government's levy was discouraging environmentally friendly transport options. We must send the right signals to our younger generations, who are the future drivers. The Labor Malinauskas government knows our younger generations understand the importance of acting on climate change. We are listening to their voices as we develop policies and programs that impact on our environment. Those environmental impacts must be positive.

The Malinauskas Labor government acted immediately to increase the uptake of owning an electrical vehicle by reducing the cost of owning and driving one. The former Liberal government's plan was to commence the levy on whichever came first—1 July 2027 or when battery electric vehicle sales reached 30 per cent of the total of new motor vehicle sales in South Australia.

Its implementation meant electric vehicle owners would have been charged 2¢ for every kilometre travelled in a plug-in hybrid vehicle, or 2.5¢ for every kilometre for any other electric vehicle. The levy would have been calculated by the distance travelled each year and billed as part of the vehicle registration process. The EV levy not only penalised those wanting to purchase an electric vehicle, it also made our state vulnerable to a reduction in GST.

The former Liberal government did not factor in that this levy would affect South Australia's allocation of GST funds. We know that GST allocations to states and territories are balanced against their own revenue-raising capacity in the population that they serve. It is also great news that the Albanese federal Labor government removed the fringe benefits tax (FBT) and the 5 per cent import tariff for eligible electric vehicles. This makes EVs much more appealing; for example, it means that an employer who purchases an electric vehicle for a cost of, say, \$50,000 will save around \$4,700 a year due to the removal of FBT.

The South Australian Labor government will be contributing to the Albanese government's EV strategy, which is essentially an option plan to achieve some very positive outcomes for electric vehicles, such as a reduction of emissions, savings on fuel costs, ensuring we take advantage of local manufacturing opportunities, making electric vehicles more affordable, creating opportunities for more choice in the market, and encouraging people to invest in an electric vehicle. There will be many South Australians who will say that the cost of a new electrical vehicle is beyond their budget; however, the more EVs South Australians own, the more affordable they will become.

Members will remember that it was Labor that electrified our train lines to the south when we were last in government. We also initiated the electrification of the northern line to Gawler before this

was completed by the former Liberal government. We know the benefits of electric vehicles and we know that we need to invest and install the necessary infrastructure to support them. This Labor government is supporting the RAA to construct the state's first electric vehicle charging network of 500 charging stations at 140 sites in 52 locations across South Australia. This is supported by the state government with a grant of almost \$12.4 million.

Access to charging stations will drive the uptake of electric vehicles. Locally, the Malinauskas government is supporting 7,000 electric vehicle purchases with subsidies of \$3,000 and a three-year registration fee exemption. The momentum to encourage EV ownership is so important. Incentives are needed to inspire interest in driving an electric vehicle. This is why the Liberals' tax on EVs must be scrapped. Unlike the former Liberal government, this Labor government is demonstrating that this state has a government that is listening and developing policies that are committed to sustainable developments. I am proud to support this bill.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (16:22): It has been a bit of a flat debate, very unfortunately, much like the former government's approach to electric vehicles generally. Obviously, I am here to rise in support of the Motor Vehicles (Electric Vehicle Levy) Amendment Repeal Bill 2022. That actually has some pretty big significance to it because, critical to this bill of course, is repealing something. What are we repealing? Let's get into that. We are repealing a tax.

How galling it must be for members on the opposition bench now that they had to come into a government promising everything that they believe in, which I honestly do think they believe in, which is less tax. The Liberal Party love telling you this. They love telling you, 'We will come in and we will cut taxes. We will make things more efficient.' What did they do? They said, 'We do not like electric vehicles, so we are going to tax them.' It was not any old tax; it was a brand-new tax.

The Hon. N.J. Centofanti: The rest of the nation is doing it.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: The fact is, as the Hon. Ms Centofanti has just said, the rest of the nation is doing it. So now Liberal Party policy would be that we should just do what the rest of the nation is doing. I look forward to your debate on other issues this week. In doing so, in supporting this bill, I cement—which is really actually quite a bad word to use, I think, in context to this debate. I think a better one would be I look to charge up, perhaps I look to plug in, I look to accelerate the support that the Labor Party has long shown towards not just electric vehicles but vehicle manufacture in this nation. Let us remember this is the party that not only said we are going to bring in a brand-new tax to stop vehicles coming into place but they are also the party that said we are going to tell manufacturing of cars in this nation that they should leave.

The Hon. R.A. Simms: Don't forget Tony Abbott.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: That is right; Tony Abbott, exactly. Thank you, the Hon. Mr Simms. None of us will forget that day when the Liberal federal government stood up and said, 'Car manufacturing does not belong in this nation. You should leave.' Was that not devastating for South Australia? You bet it was, and we will never let you forget that, but that is not all. Let us also remember at the last election the Liberal Party could not quite make up its mind on whether it liked electric vehicles or if it preferred cars.

We used to have a pretty big car race—that is right, we still do have a pretty big car race that this government brought back, and we brought it back because it was overwhelmingly supported by this state and visitors to this state. I remember there was a little yellow leaflet that got put out by the Liberal Party in and around Adelaide where they said, 'Don't bring back the car race.' There was an exhaust pipe and there were fumes coming out of it, and they said, 'Oh, this is going to be terrible.' Think of all the fumes that will be coming out and filling the lungs of those eastern suburbs residents that they love protecting so much—it did not do too well in the Bragg by-election, by the way—but the reality is they could not quite make up their mind.

Do they want to tax electric vehicles, or do they want to knock off car races? I think sometimes they get ideologically confused about these things. It is galling to be standing here and having to lecture the Liberal Party on the market, having to lecture the Liberal Party on choice. These are things that are meant to be fundamental. This is meant to sit right next to the valve in your heart in the Liberal Party and—

The Hon. R.A. Simms: The valve?

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: I know. Thank you, the Hon. Mr Simms. It is nice to know people listen.

The Hon. R.A. Simms: Put the brake on the puns.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: We are here to repeal. We are here to junk the Motor Vehicles (Electric Vehicle Levy) Amendment Act brought in by the former Liberal government, which would have taxed electric vehicle users on a distance-based charge of 2¢ per kilometre for hybrid vehicles and 2.5¢ a kilometre for all other electric vehicles. Sorry to have to pick up my notes and read that out because this can sound a little complex, but it is actually really simple.

Let us be clear. This was not a substitute for paying the fuel excise, which is a federal tax: it was a 100 per cent shiny, new, straight out of the car lot, brand-new tax, and the Liberal Party brought it to you—how galling. I can see right now that they cannot even look up at me on the opposition benches, and I do not blame them.

The Hon. N.J. Centofanti: Sorry we are not hanging off your every word.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: I am sorry you are not hanging off my every word, too, because that is why you are over there and I am over here.

An honourable member: The arrogance.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: Labor opposed this tax. It is not arrogance, it is reality; I am here, you are there. Labor opposed this tax, and it is really one of those things where you are happy to achieve things when you get into government. You said it in opposition and then you do it in government. That is the kind of thing that people want to see in modern politics. To take the cut and thrust of this place out of it, it is true. When you go out in normal society and you talk to people—for instance, where I live people talk about electric vehicles. They talk about the repeal of this bill and they talk about it in a way that changed their vote.

They used to vote Liberal, and they decided to change their vote on the strength of this. We are now fulfilling our election promise to repeal it. We are fulfilling our promise to those people. Labor will not stand by as the rest of the world enjoys more affordable, more accessible electric vehicles and as Australia lags behind with high-polluting cars. Australia is miles behind other economically advanced countries, and this is something that the state and federal Labor governments are very keen to resolve not just for the social or environmental consequences that are very close to the Hon. Mr Simms' heart, I am sure, but the economic ones, too.

The Australia Institute surveyed South Australians in 2021, and it found that seven in 10 would be less likely to purchase an electric vehicle if a new road user charge were to be introduced—seven in 10, 70 per cent. I mean, imagine that. Imagine actually standing against that.

The Hon. F. Pangallo: Because nobody wants to pay tax—that's why.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: Nobody wants to pay tax, the Hon. Mr Pangallo says, and there is probably some truth to that, but people do not just want to avoid tax. I have never found that to be the case. What I have found to be the case, the Hon. Mr Pangallo, is they do not want to pay a tax that they see no point in there being in place. They did not see a point in the electric vehicle tax because they think that it is against the market. They think it is against what the market wants.

I look overseas. I see people buying more and more and more electric vehicles. I look here, where we used to make cars in this nation. We used to make cars in this state. We used to employ hundreds of people doing that. We could make them for an overseas market. We could make them for a domestic market, but we are only going to achieve that if we do not pay needless taxes we do not have to pay. That is where society is at. That is what they want. Indeed, that is what they voted for at the last election—again, why I am here and the opposition is over there.

As our state has declared a climate emergency—and passenger cars make up almost 10 per cent of Australia's carbon emissions—this is not the time that we should be putting a handbrake on sustainable investment. UBS Global has estimated that consumers will save

approximately \$1,700 by 2030 on the cost of owning and operating electric vehicles over petrol combustion engines.

When we are talking about a cost-of-living crisis in this nation—and we do have one: for a long time, unfortunately, the industrial relations policies of the Liberal Party have delivered lower wages and now we live in this lower wage world where people are struggling to own houses and struggling to own cars—\$1,700 by 2030 on the cost of owning and operating electric vehicles over petrol combustion engines is big bickies. That could make the real difference between getting your kids to school or going on that holiday you might like to go on in regional South Australia.

The Liberals' tax was a backwards approach. It was one that was looking backwards, where we cannot reside any more. We have to be looking forwards. It is an approach that disadvantaged South Australians and disadvantaged them so greatly that they saw no point in having it and they changed government.

By repealing this levy within our first year of government—and again I go back to: it is our first year of government. I know it feels like it has been a long time. It does. We have done so much. Wait until my matter of interest this week, Mr Simms, it is going to be fabulous. We are providing certainty for prospective buyers in our community and reducing the cost of purchasing and operating electric vehicles. That is bringing down that cost of living, which is very much front of mind for so many South Australians.

The SA government is also providing 7,000 subsidies of \$3,000 and three years' registration fee exemptions to provide further incentives for consumers. We are also supporting the RAA's construction of the state's first electric vehicle charging network, with over 5,000 charging stations across the metropolitan and regional areas.

I know that is something that is very close to a lot of people who have spoken to me about this issue. They have said, 'Look, I'm a bit worried about getting an electric vehicle because I'm not certain I will be able to charge it everywhere I go.' Well, 5,000 charging stations across the metropolitan and regional areas.

I think other members have already gone to it, but I just want to underline the point. The state government is—I think it would have to be—the largest employer in this state. There are 6,500 vehicles, probably a few more than that, in the SA government fleet, travelling about 110 million kilometres annually. Thank you to my staff for that statistic; I am not sure where they got it from but, gee, that is a good one. It is 110 million kilometres annually. This equates to 21,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions, and the state government is requiring agencies to transition to electric vehicles if, indeed, it is cost-effective for them to do so.

That will also significantly lower our state's carbon footprint and will also provide a second-hand electric vehicle market in the very long-term. I know that before I came to this place, I loved buying ex-government vehicles. You would duck down to the car auctions and get yourself a car down there. You can get a real bargain, for anyone who is an avid reader of *Hansard*; I know there are so many. They will be fleeing down there this week to go and see if they can get themselves an electric vehicle, but they might have to wait a while thanks to the Liberal Party.

As I mentioned, the federal Albanese Labor government is also doing its part and is going to encourage the ownership of electric vehicles, too. It has committed to establishing a national EV charging network. It is aimed at having 75 per cent of the commonwealth fleet being EVs by 2025—which is not that long away—and removing the fringe benefits tax for electric vehicles. These are great steps forward. Again, here we are lecturing the Liberal Party on how the market actually works and how choice actually works.

This would mean if you had a \$50,000 EV—it would be a bit hard to find at the moment, but if you had a \$50,000 EV it would make the maths pretty easy—it would be up to \$4,700 cheaper each year and employers could save up to \$9,000 a year. Together, the Malinauskas and Albanese Labor governments are fixing this mess that is currently the market created by our former state and federal Liberal governments.

The Hon. D.G.E. Hood: You are intervening in the market all the time, which is making a mess of it.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: Thank you, the Hon. Mr Hood. I was actually hoping for that interjection. By providing incentives to the market, that is regarded as intervention. What this is doing is adjusting the fleet to reduce emissions. That would be actually adapting yourself to a market, something which we should all do.

The Hon. N.J. Centofanti: 'Adapting' is a new word.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: It is adapting, the Hon. Ms Centofanti, and also by saying we are going to look at cutting fringe benefits tax. I do not know too many Liberal voters who have ever come to me and said, 'You know what I love paying at the end of the year? I love paying fringe benefits tax.'

The Hon. D.G.E. Hood: Any subsidies for those charging stations?

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: I do not know, the Hon. Mr Hood, but maybe I could take that on notice and bring that back as a matter of interest. I know you would love to hear it when I do. The non-existence of investment by the federal Coalition government has left Australia with just eight low-emission vehicle options. I go back to struggling to find that \$50,000 EV.

We have only eight low-emission vehicle options under \$60,000. I know when I talk to people about EVs, the cost of EVs is really a key factor. This is going to adjust that. If you want to look overseas at how that could be so easily adjusted in comparison, consumers in the United Kingdom, for instance, have 26 vehicle options under that financial threshold—26 versus our eight.

As you can see over time, if you remove these barriers, the market develops. If you have 26 options, that means 26 varieties need to be created. That is going to drive more jobs. If we start to bring those jobs back to Australia or indeed South Australia, hopefully, to start making those options, to start creating them, that is going to drive more jobs in manufacturing in this state.

I know that is something the Hon. Mr Hood and I have spoken about many times. I know it is something he would like to see. He has a family history of that. I think, were he in that federal government back in the day, things might have been very different. The Malinauskas Labor government encourages investment in modern technology. It encourages manufacturing. It encourages innovation and sustainable practices and, to do so, this is a great step forward.

This is repealing the Liberals' tax—their brand-new shiny tax on electric vehicles—and, in doing that, I think we deliver on that promise that we made at the last election. To do things in government within the first year that you promised to do in opposition I think is commendable, and I proudly support this bill.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (16:38): It is hard to follow that amazing enthusiasm by the honourable member, but I do rise to speak in support of the Motor Vehicle (Electric Vehicle Levy) Amendment Repeal Bill. This bill repeals legislation introduced by the former Marshall Liberal government which imposed a levy on electric vehicles. It delivers on the election commitment made by the Malinauskas Labor government. The levy would have seen electric vehicle owners charged 2¢ for every kilometre they travelled in a plug-in hybrid vehicle—I think the Hon. Justin Hanson figured out how many kilometres that worked out to be—or 2.5¢ for every kilometre they travelled in any other electric vehicle from 2027.

The former Marshall Liberal government estimated that the levy would raise \$1 million, though it is not clear how that was calculated or what effect the levy would have had on GST allocation. The Malinauskas Labor government has always been clear that it does not support a new tax on South Australians who are making an environmentally conscious choice to purchase an electric vehicle or the deterrent effect that this tax would have had on South Australians who were considering purchasing an electric vehicle. It just does not make sense at an economic level or an environmental level.

Part of the incentive for electric vehicle ownership is the financial savings. It is estimated that by 2030, electric vehicle owners will save \$1,700 per year compared to owners of internal combustion engine vehicles due to the lower maintenance and fuel costs. Research undertaken by the Australia Institute indicates that 70 per cent of South Australians would be less likely to purchase an electric vehicle if a new levy were introduced—that is 70 per cent fewer people.

We recently declared a climate emergency in South Australia. We know there is a need to take steps to reduce our climate emissions. Currently, internal combustion engine passenger vehicles contribute almost 10 per cent of all CO₂ emissions in Australia. An uptake in electric vehicles will have a direct impact, reducing our carbon emissions. Now is the time to be encouraging the purchase of electric vehicles, not discouraging it. South Australians looking to buy a new car need certainty, and we should be supporting industries that are pouring money and research into cleaner and greener transport options.

To that end, our federal counterparts in the Albanese Labor government released the Driving the Nation plan, which, I am advised, includes several important electric vehicle policies. They will establish a national EV charging network on our major roads across the country. I have also been advised they will create a national hydrogen highways refuelling network. They have set a low-emissions vehicle target for the commonwealth car fleet of 75 per cent by 2025, and they have recently released a discussion paper for the purpose of developing strategies to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles.

Federal Labor has also already introduced a range of other incentives. It has removed the fringe benefits tax and import tariff for eligible electric vehicles, saving both the employees and employers thousands of dollars, a saving that is critical for fleet buyers and that will also increase the second-hand market. It has also announced Australia's first National Electric Vehicle Strategy, which has the following goals: make electric vehicles more affordable, increase choice in the market, increase uptake of electric vehicles, reduce emissions, reduce cost-of-living pressures by reducing expenditure on fuel, make the most of local manufacturing opportunities and potentially introduce fuel efficiency standards.

The South Australian government has been invited to be involved in developing the strategy. We strongly support a federally led approach to complement the state-based initiatives. We need to show leadership in this space because if we do not we will lag behind internationally. We do not want to get stuck with the old technology and no resale value, which is of no benefit to our local economy.

It is clear that the tides are turning in favour of electric vehicles, and it is past time for South Australia to get on board. *The Advertiser* recently called the growing popularity of electric vehicles 'a shift in focus' in our car industry, while the Chief Executive of the Electric Vehicle Council said the shift to EV is obvious. This comes as three out of eight finalist cars in News Corp's 25th annual Car of the Year Awards are electric: the Tesla Model Y, the Kia EV6 and the BYD Atto 3. Another is a hybrid, the Toyota Corolla Cross—for all you car fans out there. That is why we have a range of initiatives to support the uptake of electric vehicles in South Australia.

There are initiatives in many countries across the globe to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles including Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg—I could keep naming the many that are here—United Kingdom, United States, Spain and many, many more. They have all introduced incentives and they have proved successful at increasing the uptake of electric vehicles.

These initiatives include tax reductions and exemptions and subsidies. These initiatives make sense because we know that the current barriers to electric vehicle ownership in South Australia are the low number of electric vehicles available on the market—if you look on carsales, you will see only 50 used electric cars for sale out of the total of 10,026 used car sales in South Australia, but I am guessing it was last year when this speech was written—higher upfront purchase costs—for example, in the UK there are 26 low emission vehicles under \$60,000 and in Australia there are only eight—and consumer uncertainty about range, performance and access to charging infrastructure, which obviously rates highly.

With that in mind, the Malinauskas government has committed to funding 7,000 subsidies for electric vehicles purchases, worth \$3,000 each. I am also advised that we are doing a three-year registration fee exemption for electric vehicles, supporting the RAA to construct the state's first ever electric charging network, which will include over 140 charging sites with over 500 charging stations throughout South Australia, and conducting electric vehicle smart-charging trials to progress the integration of electric vehicles into the grid. I am most excited about the rollout of the electric vehicle

charging network, which will respond to increased demand as more people start driving electric vehicles.

The South Australian government has awarded a grant of almost \$12.4 million to the RAA to construct this statewide network, which will see charging stations in metropolitan, regional and rural locations throughout the state, in particular to ensure that travellers heading to towns like Renmark, Ceduna, Coober Pedy, Kingscote or Mount Gambier and across our state's borders in electric vehicles have peace of mind.

It is important that people can access infrastructure for affordable charging at a range of locations across South Australia and we are not wasting any time. The network is expected to be in place by the end of 2023. In the meantime, we are also getting on with the smart-charging trials, which will see smart-charging stations established across frequently visited sites, such as supermarkets, shopping centres, hotels, motels, off-street car parks and holiday parks throughout South Australia.

The state government has committed \$3.2 million in grant funding, which will fund 142 new rapid charging bays for South Australian motorists and has attracted \$4.8 million of private investment for development and construction. This will also provide an opportunity for data collection on when and how often people use the chargers to inform our state's future investment and planning.

These new rapid charge bays will be located in areas such as the CBD at Wilson car parks, the UPark Topham Mall, Port Adelaide Plaza, public areas in the City of Charles Sturt and the City of Port Adelaide Enfield, some businesses and public areas in the City of Marion, on certain Uniting Communities sites within their facilities, the NRMA Victor Harbor Beachfront Holiday Park, in 22 car parks at Flinders University and at Foodland Pasadena.

We have also committed as a state government to electrifying our vehicle fleet. There are 6,500 vehicles, which travel a total of around 110 million kilometres. This equates to emissions of 21,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide. State government agencies are required to transition to plug-in electric vehicles if they are cost effective on a total cost of ownership basis or if the additional costs can be managed by improving fleet utilisation.

The orderly transition of our government fleet to electric vehicles will mean that we are contributing to lowering our state's emissions and increasing the number of vehicles in the second-hand market, which will reduce the upfront cost for purchasers. This government is taking decisive and ambitious actions on climate industry, jobs and cost-of-living pressures, not just through incentivising the uptake of electric vehicles but through other measures.

The centrepiece of this agenda is of course our Hydrogen Jobs Plan, which will see the construction of a world-leading hydrogen power station, electrolyzers and a storage facility. I support this bill as an important component of the government's climate industry and cost-of-living policies, and I look forward to seeing more electric vehicles on our roads.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (16:50): I thank all members who have made contributions. The abolition of the controversial EV levy was a key election commitment of the then Malinauskas Labor opposition. It is important that we remove barriers to the adoption of electric vehicles, not impose new taxes that serve to disincentivise EV adoption.

Energy efficiency is crucial to improving productivity across the economy, which in turn underpins wage growth and improvements in the way we live. Burning fossil fuels to run inefficient vehicles, which could instead be powered, for example, by energy from a consumer's solar panels at home, is not the best use of these scarce resources. This is an economic consideration, which adds to the considerable environmental advantages of EVs.

The greater energy efficiency of an electric vehicle underpins their simpler construction. There is no need for radiators and cooling systems, exhausts and so on. An electric vehicle has literally thousands fewer parts than an internal combustion engine vehicle. In turn, this means that an EV requires less maintenance, far less maintenance, which is a key reason why the operating costs of running an EV are far lower than a petrol or diesel car. It is not just that electricity, especially

from a consumer's own solar power, is far cheaper per kilometre, it is also about lower maintenance costs.

Of course we all know that at the moment economies of scale for EVs are not as significant as they are for petrol vehicles, which means that there are higher up-front initial costs, but the lifetime costs are lower. That is why EVs are increasingly becoming the preferred choice for businesses running fleets, in addition to the benefits of a business being in sync with a community demand for more action on climate change.

The EV levy is a particularly nasty impost on consumers. A family sitting around their kitchen table considering their next vehicle will look at both the initial capital cost but also the ongoing operating costs. The lower operating cost should be a factor that acts as a positive, but instead the Liberals wanted to put lead in the saddlebags, dissuading consumers from making an investment choice that would actually be better for them overall. It was an awful decision.

The levy is a blunt instrument. It gives no avenue for a more sophisticated approach to how motorists should pay for road usage. The Australian Automobile Association (AAA), the umbrella body for state-based organisations, including our RAA, put out a discussion paper on the need for a replacement for fuel excise. The AAA said that reform should be initiated by the commonwealth, not the states, and they said it should be sophisticated, taking into consideration issues such as congestion and differences between city and regional road use. The Liberal Party's new tax did none of that. It failed on so many fronts.

In the Labor Party, we do not put roadblocks in the way of the public when they want to make investment choices. That is why it was so important to immediately act to repeal this and to scrap the levy. I commend the bill to the chamber.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clause 1.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Minister, what will be Labor's alternative sustainable long-term road funding model that will replace the one established under the EV levy act?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Firstly, I think it is important to point out that fuel excise is a commonwealth government charge. As this is a national matter, the commonwealth government should determine how to mitigate the impact of the reduction of the fuel excise. Also, a preferred approach has been to have a nationally-consistent approach for taxation. The South Australian government is open to participating in a conversation led by the commonwealth government.

It is also worth noting that, regardless of the adoption of electric vehicles, fuel excise will reduce with more fuel-efficient vehicles. The proposed tax that the Liberals introduced did nothing to recover higher fuel excise from higher fuel-efficient vehicles. The South Australian government receives road funding from the commonwealth government, and the Malinauskas Labor government will continue to advocate for our fair share going forward. It really does come back to the role being that of the commonwealth government, and the states of course, particularly ours, will be advocating accordingly.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Is the minister suggesting that there will be a commonwealth levy in the future for EVs?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: To answer the question, I bring to the attention of the chamber that a commonwealth strategy is being developed and the states are participating and South Australia will certainly be a very active participant in the discussions around that strategy. I have not heard anything to suggest that the commonwealth plans to introduce a charge, but of course that is within the scope of the commonwealth government and is not something we can particularly have reference to here.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: So can the minister rule out a commonwealth levy on EVs in the future?

The Hon. I.K. Hunter interjecting:

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: I am just asking.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I think the commonwealth government would be best placed to answer such a question.

The Hon. I.K. Hunter: It's the stupidest question in the world. She's a state minister. She can't rule out anything by the federal government.

The CHAIR: The Hon. Mr Hunter, would you like to get on your feet if you are going to make a comment.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Can the minister rule out that there will not be a tax imposed on electric—

The Hon. C.M. Scriven: You have a double-negative there. It is just a little bit confusing.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: A double-negative. We are talking about electric vehicles, so negative ions and stuff like that. Can the Malinauskas government rule out introducing a form of tax on electric vehicles in this term of government and perhaps even the next term of government, if it is elected? Can you guarantee that there will not be a fuel tax imposed, either through this term of government, even though you are repealing this tax, or any following terms, should you be elected?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I thank the honourable member for his question. Whilst in opposition the then Malinauskas Labor opposition committed to no new taxes in this term. We stand by that commitment. I think the fact that we are repealing this legislation, this tax, speaks volumes for what our intentions are, which is to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles and to encourage that both on environmental and economic grounds.

The Hon. N.J. Centofanti: It doesn't matter who introduces a tax—a tax is a tax.

The CHAIR: Order!

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Can the minister—

The Hon. N.J. Centofanti interjecting:

The CHAIR: Order!

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Can the minister tell me which countries do have a tax on electric vehicles and those that do not?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: That information is not available here, but we can take that on notice.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Will the government make any representations to the federal government in relation to current fuel standards being changed, which, apparently, according to the motor industry and experts who know, is also proving to be a setback for having more EV models in Australia?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I am advised that is being considered by the National EV Strategy and those looking at that.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: What will the Treasurer do to fill the void that is likely to be created when other states also adopt a tax? What are the Treasurer's plans to fill the void of not getting funding for the maintenance of roads in South Australia when there is no tax on battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and PHEVs?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I am advised that there was no revenue in the forward estimates from this tax because the implementation date was due to be from 2027. We do get revenue from registrations of electric vehicles.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: How will the government's decision to repeal this levy impact the future distribution of fuel excise from the Australian government to South Australia?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I am advised that fuel excise is a commonwealth excise. It is not directly hypothecated to the states and therefore the decisions that it makes are entirely within the remit of the commonwealth government.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: How will future state governments maintain safe roads without the cost falling on those who cannot afford electric vehicles?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Where we currently maintain roads, we do not charge on electric vehicles at present. I think that is kind of self-explanatory.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: What other incentives does the Malinauskas government plan to bring in to encourage a higher uptake of BEVs and PHEVs?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Currently, as was mentioned through some of the second reading contributions, there is a \$3,000 subsidy and a three-year registration exemption for eligible new battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. Whilst it is not obviously within the scope of the state, it is worth mentioning the commonwealth announcement of a fringe benefits tax exemption. The state government is also helping to remove other barriers to take up electric vehicles, including lessening range anxiety through the provision of charging infrastructure with a \$12.4 million grant to the RAA to construct and operate the state's first electric vehicle charging network.

The South Australian government is also investing \$3.2 million in EV smart-charging trials that bring forward public demonstrations of consumer-focused smart-charging solutions. These are trials that I think were mentioned by my colleague the Hon. Ms Bourke, occurring at sites such as Pasadena shopping centre, Victor Harbor Beachfront Holiday Park and Flinders University.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: I just want to make it clear that I am not an opponent of electric vehicles. In fact, I would be a strong supporter of them, but why is the government on the wrong route when it comes to—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: We are getting a lot of ideological wheel spin here because it seems to be opposed to what is happening in a Labor-dominated Victorian state. Why is the South Australian government taking a different route in relation to road user charges for EVs compared with many European countries, Scandinavian countries, the UK, New Zealand, Singapore, Canada, and I believe about 18 states in the United States now? Why is South Australia going against the direction that other countries are taking, realising that a road user charge is going to be necessary as more of these vehicles are on the roads?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: It is important that we look at different alternatives and options. It is also worth reflecting on some comments I made in my contribution. The Australian Automobile Association said reform should be initiated by the commonwealth and not by the states and also that it should be sophisticated, should take into considerations issues such as congestion and differences between city and regional road use, for example.

The tax that the Liberal Party introduced through this levy did none of that. It was a very blunt instrument. It has not been appropriate. It is not going to actually solve any of the issues that are being raised as potential problems or concerns, so it is appropriate to repeal the act and remove this Liberal Party tax.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Can I ask this question of the minister: which vehicle does she think would cause more damage to a road surface, a Tesla S3 or a Hyundai Elantra? Which vehicle does she think could cause more damage to a road surface?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I am advised that road damage is normally most affected by the weight of a vehicle, but what I think in terms of different vehicles is not perhaps particularly relevant to the debate at hand, which is about whether we repeal this tax or not.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: As the minister raised the issue of weight, does she know what the weight of a Tesla S3 is compared with a Hyundai Elantra, what the difference is? Does she know what the difference in the weight is?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: No.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: The Tesla weighs almost a tonne more than the Hyundai, so it is more likely to probably cause more damage on the road surface. In saying that, again, as I said, it is not that I am an opponent of EVs, but where is the money going to come from when you have so many cars on the road and the people still driving petrol engines are still paying the fuel excise tax? Most of those people will be those in places where they would not be able to afford to buy an electric vehicle.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I thank the honourable member for his question. First of all, in regard to the first questions or comments that were made, we need to be looking at the fact that vehicles are changing over time. If we had been having a discussion about vehicles 10 years ago or 20 years ago, it would have been very different to the discussions we are having today. So I think it is just worth making sure that the decisions we are making are not bogged down in what we envisage here and now as the only options.

Secondly, fuel excise will continue to decrease as we have more fuel-efficient vehicles. As I made the point earlier, this tax, which is the subject of this bill—its removal—did nothing to address that as an issue. Thirdly, the commonwealth strategy will be encompassing many of these queries and questions. As I have mentioned before, there is certainly strong merit to there being a commonwealth-led initiative in terms of these sorts of reforms rather than individual states.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Is the minister aware of whether the commonwealth government is considering a national road user levy for EVs as part of this commonwealth strategy?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: That is a question best directed to the commonwealth government.

Clause passed.

Remaining clause (2) and titled passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (17:11): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Personal Explanation

FIRST NATIONS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

The Hon. S.L. GAME (17:12): I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: At 3.01 pm today in question time, I asked the Attorney-General a question about the accountability of the elected First Nations Voice, because I was concerned that according to the draft bill the elected First Nations Voice was not required to make representations to parliament or annual reports. I note that, through re-looking at the video footage, at 3.03pm the Attorney-General replied that I was not looking at the most recent bill and that in fact an advance bill was now public. The Attorney-General later stated that I should in fact check my inbox when I queried where it was public.

I can confirm that I have checked my inbox and that at 3.20pm, about 17 minutes after the Attorney-General informed the chamber that the bill was public, one of my staffers did in fact receive the advance bill, although I will note that the YourSAy website and the Attorney-General website were not updated with the advance bill, and I do not consider my staff's email as public.

*Bills***STATUTES AMENDMENT (ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO AND OTHER JUSTICE MEASURES) BILL***Final Stages*

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

STATUTES AMENDMENT (ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO) (NO 2) BILL*Final Stages*

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

*Ministerial Statement***WHITE, MR P.**

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (17:14): I table a ministerial statement that I understand was made after the conclusion of question time in another place by the Hon. Andrea Michaels MP.

At 17:15 the council adjourned until Wednesday 8 February 2023 at 14:15.

*Answers to Questions***OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PREMIER RESOURCES**

120 **The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition)** (8 September 2022). Can the Premier advise—

1. Have any FTE been allocated to the Office of the Assistant Minister to the Premier?
2. How many FTE have been allocated to the Office of the Assistant Minister to the Premier?
3. Does the Assistant Minister to the Premier have an office space in the State Administration Building?
4. Is there a budget allocation to the Office of the Assistant Minister to the Premier?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Premier has advised:

I am advised that similar to the arrangements for the previous Assistant Minister to the Premier, staff, budget and office space allocations are provided for the assistant minister as a portion of the staffing and other budget allocations to the Premier.

ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PREMIER

121 **The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition)** (8 September 2022). Can the Premier advise—

1. What are the roles and responsibilities of the Assistant Minister to the Premier?
2. What responsibilities has the Premier asked the assistant minister to undertake since her appointment as the Assistant Minister to the Premier?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Premier has advised:

I am advised that the roles and responsibilities of the Assistant Minister to the Premier have been detailed to the Legislative Council on the 3 May, 17 May, 14 June, 5 July and 6 July, and I direct the honourable member to *Hansard* for further detail.

AUTISM EDUCATION ADVISORY GROUP

138 **The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition)** (28 September 2022).

1. Who has been appointed to the Autism Education Advisory Group?
2. What are the terms of reference for the Autism Education Advisory Group?
3. Will the terms of reference be made public?
4. Who does the Autism Education Advisory Group report to?
5. How often does the Autism Education Advisory Group meet?
6. Do members of the Autism Education Advisory Group receive any remuneration? If yes, how much?
7. When is the Autism Education Advisory Group expected to report to the government?
8. Will all reports and recommendations prepared by the Autism Education Advisory Group be made public?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Education, Training and Skills has advised:

The purpose of the Autism Education Advisory Group is to involve and collaborate with people with lived experienced, parents and carers of autistic children and young people, experts on autism, advocates, and community organisations. The advisory group brings together key stakeholders to test ideas, seek views and contribute local knowledge.

The Autism Education Advisory Group is currently made up of Hon. Emily Bourke MLC, Ksharmra Brandon, Suzanne Carrington, Matthew Cherry, Angela Falkenburg, Emma Goodall, Helen Graham, Amy Hart, Vicki Hodgson, Shekinah Horsburgh, Nicole Hurley, Rhoni McFarlane, Julie McMillan, David Miltz, Daniel Munter, Kate Ryan, Tracey Wallace and Chris Champion.

The Autism Education Advisory Group meets periodically and provides feedback to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills, the Assistant Minister for Autism and the Department for Education on work that supports implementation of the government's plan for autism.

SPECIALISED HEALTH SCREENING RATES

163 The Hon. S.L. GAME (19 October 2022). Can the Minister for Health and Wellbeing advise, in relation to specialised health checks concerning the South Australian population—

1. What was the annual mammogram screening rate prior to COVID-19?
2. What was the mammogram screening rate during the period of peak pandemic regulations?
3. What is the current mammogram screening rate?
4. What was the annual prostate screening rate prior to COVID-19?
5. What was the prostate screening rate during the period of peak pandemic regulations?
6. What is the current prostate screening rate?
7. What was the annual cervical screening rate prior to COVID-19?
8. What was the cervical screening rate during the period of peak pandemic regulations?
9. What is the current cervical screening rate?
10. What was the annual heart health check rate prior to COVID-19?
11. What was the heart health check rate during the period of peak pandemic regulations?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has advised:

1. 95,308 screening mammograms were performed in the 2018/2019 financial year. The BreastScreen SA participation rate, as defined by BreastScreen Australia, represent the number of women aged 50 to 74 years, screened within a 24-month period expressed as a percentage of the Australian Bureau of Statistics estimated resident population. For the 24-month period ending 30 June 2019, BreastScreen SA's age standardised participation rate was 58.4 per cent, significantly higher than the national rate of 54.2 per cent.

2. For the 2019/2020 financial year, BreastScreen SA performed 74,381 mammograms. The age standardised participation rate for the 24-month period ending 30 June 2020 was 51.4 per cent, which was above the national participation rate of 49.4 per cent.

For the 2020/2021 financial year, BreastScreen SA performed 89,847 mammograms. The preliminary participation rate for the 24-month period ending 30 June 2021 was 51.1 per cent, which was above the preliminary national participation rate of 47.1 per cent.

Reduced screening volumes and participation rates seen during the 2019/2020 and the 2020/2021 financial years reflected the temporary closure of the program from 27 March to 30 April 2020, 19 to 21 November 2020 and 21 to 27 July 2021, implementation of social distancing, additional cleaning, and infection control measures, together with the phased introduction of new mammography equipment which also impacted screening volumes.

3. For the 2021/2022 financial year, BreastScreen SA performed 92,631 mammograms. The preliminary participation rate for the 24-month period ending 30 June 2022 was 54.0 per cent.

BreastScreen SA continues to be best placed to maximise the early detection of breast cancer. BreastScreen SA anticipates a progressive improvement in participation rates arising from an increase in demand post COVID-19, concurrent with the provision of additional screening capacity within both regional and metropolitan South Australia.

4. Prostate screening (PSA) is used to monitor men with known cancer and for screening purposes. In 2019 (pre-COVID-19), SA Pathology performed 43,707 PSA tests with no prostate cancer history, equalling an average of 3,642 tests per month.

5. In 2020, SA Pathology performed 42,378 PSA tests with no history of cancer, equalling an average of 3,532 tests per month. A significant dip in PSA test numbers occurred in April 2020 with Easter and the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions (to 2,428 tests per month), consistent with an overall reduction in non-COVID-19 testing for this period. In December 2020, PSA test numbers decreased again, consistent with the three-day lockdown and standard public holiday closures.

6. In 2021, SA Pathology performed 45,751 PSA tests with no history of cancer, equalling an average of 3,813 tests per month. A testing decrease in December is attributable to standard public holiday closures.

SA Pathology notes a trend for increased PSA testing for both monitoring of cancer and screening purposes.

7. SA Pathology performed 39,648 cervical screening tests in 2018 and 33,681 cervical screening tests in 2019.

8. SA Pathology performed 19,506 cervical screening tests in 2020 and 16,228 cervical screening tests in 2021.

9. The number of cervical screening tests performed in 2020, 2021 and 2022 was expected to be lower than the number performed in 2018 and 2019, irrespective of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions.

This is largely due to the program changing from two-yearly Pap tests to five-yearly cervical screening tests from December 2017.

Most people who had screened under the previous program were due for their first HPV test two years after their last Pap test (during the years 2018 and 2019).

Screening tests in 2020, 2021 and 2022 are mainly comprised of people overdue for their first HPV test, as well as people who are newly eligible for cervical screening—mostly due to them turning 25.

The South Australian government also launched a campaign through Wellbeing SA to promote the uptake of cervical screening.

Regarding questions 10 and 11, if these questions are referring to the Medicare Benefits Scheme funded heart health check, this is commonwealth data, of which South Australia does not have access.

JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS VACCINE

166 The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (21 October 2022).

1. What is the total funding provided by the commonwealth to SA Health for the purchase of Japanese encephalitis vaccines for human mitigation purposes since 1 January 2022?

2. What is the total value of Japanese encephalitis vaccines purchased by SA Health for human mitigation purposes since 1 January 2022?

3. Is SA Health administering a Japanese encephalitis vaccine program through its local health networks or has a third party/parties been engaged to administer the vaccine program?

4. How many Japanese encephalitis vaccines have been administered in South Australia since 1 January 2022?

5. How many Japanese encephalitis vaccines are estimated to be administered in the financial year 2022-23?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has advised:

The total funding provided by the commonwealth to SA Health for the purchase of Japanese encephalitis vaccines for human mitigation purposes since 1 January 2022 is \$5.1 million (including GST).

The total value of Japanese encephalitis vaccines purchased by SA Health for human mitigation purposes since 1 January 2022 is \$1.5 million (including GST).

SA Health is administering the Japanese encephalitis vaccination program through its Local Health Networks, participating GPs and pharmacies in the eligible zones. The engagement of third parties will be used if additional staffing and clinics are required due to vaccine demand.

Since 1 January 2022, approximately 21,250 Japanese encephalitis vaccines have been administered in South Australia.

Currently, up to 24,000 Japanese encephalitis vaccines have been made available for the program and the aim is to administer most of these within the 2022-23 financial year.

CHILDREN IN STATE CARE

172 The Hon. L.A. CURRAN (3 November 2022). How many children under the care of the Minister for Child Protection have been reunified with parents in the last six months against the wishes of their interim carers?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): The Minister for Child Protection has advised:

Data is not collected in a manner which allows the Department for Child Protection (DCP) to report on this.

The department is committed to a safe and planned approach to family reunification and undertakes thorough assessments to determine reunification viability. These assessments also take into account the best interests of the child. DCP case plans set out agreed goals for families, including the areas of parental change required for reunification to safely proceed.

During the periods where children and young people are in care, foster and kinship carers often form close bonds with the children and young people for whom they are caring, which can sometimes make reunification difficult. Complex issues that families grapple with can also make reunification difficult.

SUPER SA

175 The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (16 November 2022). Can the Treasurer advise—

1. Is the 'choice of fund' still on track to be delivered by Super SA in November 2022?
2. Are there delays to this project?
3. If so, what are they?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Treasurer has advised:

1. Yes—I am advised that the fund selection project is on track for 'go-live' on 30 November 2022. System and application testing has been completed and there are no issues preventing commencement of go-live activities on 30 November 2022. As well as the necessary changes to the ICT platform, all relevant member facing artifacts have been updated and approved, and substantial effort has been spent in training both internal and external staff (e.g., Shared Services and HR staff of employing agencies) to make sure there is a smooth transition to business-as-usual post 30 November.
2. No.
3. Not applicable.

HOMESTART

177 The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (16 November 2022). Can the Treasurer advise—

1. What policies and procedures does HomeStart have to detect, and prevent money laundering?
2. What policies and procedures does HomeStart have to detect and adhere to its counterterrorism funding obligations?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Treasurer has advised:

To answer both questions, HomeStart has a documented Anti Money Laundering Program and Compliance Plan, which is supported by operational and assurance procedures and a training program for all employees.

Operational and assurance processes identify and verify customers, which includes the identification, risk assessment and monitoring of high-risk customers, conduct transaction monitoring and record and report suspicious matters to the regulator.

HOMESTART

178 The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (16 November 2022). Can the Treasurer advise—

1. Why has HomeStart's comprehensive income increased from \$3m to \$24m?
2. Why has HomeStart's loans and advances decreased from \$2,250 million to \$2,096 million?
3. What are the reasons behind HomeStart's profits increasing from \$52m to \$74m? (November 16)

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Treasurer has advised:

1. HomeStart's other comprehensive income relates to fair value movements on the financial instruments it uses for hedging its interest rate risks. The reported fair value of the hedges is impacted by changes in market interest rates, as required by accounting standards.

The value of HomeStart's interest rate hedges increased by \$3m in 2020-21 and by \$24m in 2021-22, principally due to increases in market interest rates.

2. HomeStart's loan portfolio increases as new loans are granted and decreases as repayments are made or loans are discharged through refinance or sale.

The high level of competition in the home loan market during 2021-22 and rises in property values creating equity for HomeStart's customers, resulted in a high level of customer discharges, principally refinancing to mainstream lenders. While the high level of refinancing reduces HomeStart's portfolio balance, it is positive in relation to HomeStart's purpose, as those borrowers are now able to secure financing through a mainstream lender.

3. The figures referred to in the question relate to HomeStart's net payments to government, rather than HomeStart's profit.

HomeStart makes payments to the government for income tax equivalents and dividends on its annual profit, as well as government guarantee fees on its borrowings. HomeStart also receives community service obligation funding from the government related to certain products and activities.

Payments to government increased from \$52m in 2020-21 to \$74m in 2021-22. This increase included a dividend of \$9.7m which related to profit in 2020-21 but was paid by HomeStart in 2021-22.

HomeStart's profit before tax rose from \$49.6m in 2020-21 to \$55.7m in 2021-22. The improved result relates principally to gains in the value of HomeStart's Breakthrough and Shared Equity Option products due to increases in Adelaide house prices. This was partly offset with lower interest income due to a reduction in the value of HomeStart's loan portfolio.

SUPER SA

179 The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (16 November 2022). Can the Treasurer advise—

1. What policies and procedures does Super SA have to detect, and prevent money laundering?
2. What policies and procedures does Super SA have to detect and adhere to its counterterrorism funding obligations?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Treasurer has advised:

In respect of policies and procedures that Super SA has in place to detect and prevent both money laundering (ML) and terrorism financing (TF), please note that Super SA is required to be registered with, and provide information to, AUSTRAC as it provides superannuation related designated services consistent with the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML CTF) Act and rules.

These rules require Super SA to maintain a board approved AML CTF program which documents their approach to the management of money laundering and terrorism financing risk. This program includes:

- a risk-based assessment of the likelihood of ML and TF
- procedures that will identify potential at risk transactions which are then subject to detailed review
- procedures to ensure that appropriate staff screening and monitoring are applied including a three-yearly criminal history check
- ongoing staff training to ensure all staff are fully aware of their obligations under the AML CTF Act, rules, and the board approved program
- a comprehensive know your customer process
- ongoing monitoring of members against AML CTF databases to identify any known suspicious customers and to highlight members who may be at greater risk of committing either money laundering or terrorism financing offences
- The program itself is subject to internal review annually and independent review every two years. Each time changes are made to the program, these are endorsed by the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee and then approved by the board.

SUPER SA

180 The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (16 November 2022). Can the Treasurer advise—

1. What portion of superannuation liability as administered by Super SA is unfunded?
2. What is the total amount unfunded but on track to be covered by 2034?
3. What measures have Super SA put in place to resolve this? (November 16)

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Treasurer has advised:

1. 47.5 per cent of the total defined benefit superannuation liability is unfunded as at 30 June 2022.
2. The total unfunded liability to be fully funded by 2034 is \$7.06 billion as at 30 June 2022. The government superannuation liabilities and assets are determined under the accounting standard AASB 119 and are included in the consolidated financial report. The amount reported each year depends mainly on current interest rates and investment returns in addition to the experience of contributors and pensioners. The unfunded liability relates only to the defined benefit superannuation schemes which are mainly closed to new entrants. The majority of the unfunded liability relate to two schemes, \$5.82 billion for SA Superannuation Scheme and \$1.21 billion for the Police Superannuation Scheme.
3. To fully fund the government's superannuation liability by 2034, the government has a program of past service payments which are paid monthly in addition to normal employer contributions required to meet employer obligations for current employees. These past service payments increase with salary inflation each year but are also reassessed as the unfunded liability changes. The assets held in respect of defined benefit schemes are invested with

Funds SA and are mainly invested in a high growth investment option with asset allocations and investment objectives specially designed for fully funding these defined benefit schemes.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT

181 The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (16 November 2022). Can the Treasurer advise—

1. What was the FTE of the Department for Trade and Investment as at 1 November 2022?
2. What was the headcount of the Department for Trade and Investment as at 1 November 2022?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Treasurer has advised:

The Department for Trade and Investment FTE as at 1 November 2022 was 326.5.

The Department for Trade and Investment headcount as at 1 November 2022 was 339.

INVEST SA

182 The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (16 November 2022). Can the Treasurer advise—

1. What was the FTE of the agency Invest SA as at 1 November 2022?
2. What was the headcount of the agency Invest SA as at 1 November 2022? (November 16)

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Treasurer has advised:

1. The Invest SA FTE as at 1 November 2022 was 37.4.

2. The Invest SA headcount as at 1 November 2022 was 39.

OFFICE OF THE AGENT-GENERAL

184 The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (16 November 2022). Can the Treasurer advise—

1. What was the FTE of the Office of the Agent-General as at 1 July 2022?
2. What was the FTE of the Office of the Agent-General as at 1 September 2022?
3. What was the FTE of the Office of the Agent-General as at 1 November 2022?
4. What was the headcount of the Office of the Agent-General as at 1 July 2022?
5. What was the headcount of the Office of the Agent-General as at 1 September 2022?
6. What was the headcount of the Office of the Agent-General as at 1 November 2022?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Treasurer has advised:

1. The Office of the Agent-General FTE as at 1 July 2022 was 5.6, including the Agent-General.

2. The Office of the Agent-General FTE as at 1 September 2022 was 5.6, including the Agent-General.

3. The Office of the Agent-General FTE as at 1 November 2022 was 6.6, including the Agent-General.

4. The Office of the Agent-General headcount as at 1 July 2022 was six, including the Agent-General.

5. The Office of the Agent-General headcount as at 1 September 2022 was six, including the Agent-General.

6. The Office of the Agent-General headcount as at 1 November 2022 was seven, including the Agent-General.

PORT AUGUSTA COMMUNITY OUTREACH

187 The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (29 November 2022). Can the Minister for Human Services advise—

How do the services to be delivered as part of the \$1.2 million Port Augusta safe outreach program compare to the services that were delivered in the final years of the Port Augusta City Safe program?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): The Minister for Human Services has advised:

The former Port Augusta City Safe program was contracted and funded by the Port Augusta City Council until its funding ceased in September 2020. The program, focusing on antisocial behaviour and vandalism, included a team of security officers who patrolled the area and were sometimes accompanied by dogs.

The Port Augusta Community Outreach response is funded by the South Australian government and overseen by the multi-agency Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce, led by the Department of Human Services. The program seeks to ensure the safety and wellbeing of remote Aboriginal visitors, youth, and residents impacted by antisocial behaviour.

The new response was co-designed with Aboriginal leaders and local community organisations to deliver culturally safe assertive outreach and, where appropriate, return people to Country. Its work assists people to access support and also helps young people in Port Augusta via increasing recreational and diversionary activities.

The assertive outreach service includes daily and nightly outreach seven days a week in known hotspots including the foreshore, sandhills, Gladstone Square, and in identified tenancies with remote Aboriginal visitors and community members.

CHILD PROTECTION

188 The Hon. S.L. GAME (30 November 2022).

1. Does the minister consider the recent case of three young Aboriginal children (mentioned on page 13 of the *Sunday Mail*, 13 November 2022) to be state sanctioned parental alienation?
2. Has the government considered the impact upon the mental health of children and young people when told they will not be reunited with their biological parents for extended periods of time as this case above?
3. Has the minister (in his role as Attorney-General) referred parental alienating behaviours as a matter to the South Australian Law Reform Institute as per discussion in September?
4. With whom has the minister (in his role as Attorney-General) raise the issue of parental alienating behaviours as agreed?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Child Protection has advised in regard to questions 1 and 2:

If a child or young person enters care to ensure their safety, the Department for Child Protection will assess if their needs for safety, wellbeing and permanency of care are best met through reunification with their family or through a long term placement in care. Under the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017, which is currently under review, the department must make timely decisions about the care arrangements of children and young people, in order to promote permanency and stability.

Regarding questions 3 and 4, the member seems to have a different recollection of what was discussed at a brief private discussion on this matter.

The government is considering the matter.

ELECTRICITY NETWORK STABILITY

189 The Hon. S.L. GAME (30 November 2022).

1. How many major intersections affected by the power outages caused by the recent storm were appropriately manned by SAPOL or emergency service workers, and how many affected were unmanned?
2. What plan does the government have to ensure outages of this magnitude that saw thousands of homes without power for days do not happen again?
3. What actions has the government taken in response to the power outages that included an aged care home in the Adelaide Hills being without mains power supply for at least five days after the storm?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, and the Minister for Energy and Mining advise:

1. The Traffic Management Centre (TMC) within the Department for Infrastructure advised SAPOL as at 10.18am on 13 November 2022 that there were 41 sets of traffic lights and 30 pedestrian crossings blacked out across Adelaide.

SAPOL South Australian Computer Aided Dispatch (SACAD) records indicate 57 taskings were generated in relation to traffic light malfunctions at the time of the storm event (12 November 2022). Patrols were deployed to 11 major intersections

2. On Saturday 12 November 2022, more than 423,000 lightning strikes and wind gusts of more than 100km/h were recorded in South Australia.

The storm felled trees and branches, causing widespread damage to the electricity infrastructure in the state, with about 500 wires being down in the distribution network managed by SA Power Networks. A transmission tower near Tailern Bend toppled over.

While an individual weather event cannot be solely attributed to climate change, the scientific community expects climate change to cause more intense weather events more frequently.

The South Australian government is working to ensure that this sub-national jurisdiction is a global leader in the worldwide effort that is required to ameliorate the effects of climate change.

Unfortunately, there are elements in the Australian political landscape—such as the One Nation party nationally, which deny the overwhelming scientific evidence and regularly do whatever they can to stop Australia playing its role in the worldwide effort.

Members of parties such as One Nation who do have a scientific understanding would be well advised to work within their party to help their colleagues understand the severe harm being caused to Australia by denial of climate change and the thwarting of action to mitigate against the risks.

In terms of hardening South Australia's electricity infrastructure, capital investment plans by SA Power Networks and by transmission company ElectraNet are regulated by the Australian Energy Regulator.

Undergrounding power infrastructure would cost many billions of dollars.

Capital costs are ultimately borne by consumers and the AER assesses the balance between the gains to be made by capital investment versus the cost to consumers.

3. Repairs to power supply to an aged-care home in the Adelaide Hills following the storm were complex and time-consuming because both high and low voltage connections were damaged.

Nonetheless, the home's operator were reported as confirming that back-up generators were used during the outage and residents retained access to hot water, hot meals, supplementary oxygen, electric bed adjustments, mobile phone charging and other services.

It should be noted that electricity consumers can register that they are dependent on power supply for critical, life-supporting equipment. Consumers should contact their retailer, which will notify SA Power Networks about the consumer's situation.

MINISTERIAL TRAVEL

190 The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (30 November 2022). Can the minister advise: What are the 'more than 30 regional trips' that the minister has been on, including dates, as referred to in parliament on 16 November 2022?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

The Hon. Nicola Centofanti MLC has been provided a copy of the Ministerial Diary throughout this period following freedom of information requests. The honourable member will be able to discern the regional travel I have undertaken from these records.

ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION

193 The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (30 November 2022). Can the minister advise:

1. What is the expected timeframe for producers to completely transfer to the electronic identification system for sheep and goats?

2. Will government assistance be available to assist producers transition to electronic identification?

3. Will penalties apply if producers fail to complete the transition within the required timeframe?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

1. All state and territory agriculture ministers have supported the implementation of mandatory sheep and goat eID and will continue to work towards the 1 January 2025 implementation date.

Consultation with South Australian industry stakeholders regarding the implementation of eID for sheep and goats is continuing via the Livestock SA Sheep and Goat Traceability Project funded by PIRSA and the Sheep Industry Fund.

Following the stakeholder consultation, the South Australian implementation plan, detailing the timeframes, is expected to be delivered in early 2023 and this will contribute toward the national implementation process.

2. The recent 2022 federal budget allocated \$20.1 million for co-investment with state and territories to progress sheep and goat eID implementation. The national Sheep and Goat Traceability Task Force (SGTTF) has been tasked with progressing the national implementation of sheep and goat eID, including the establishment of equitable funding arrangements between the commonwealth and state jurisdictions.

Details of how implementation will roll out in SA, including specific producer and industry support, will be guided by state-based stakeholder consultation, and will carefully consider the needs of all sectors along the sheep and goat supply chain.

3. The national implementation of sheep and goat eID will include harmonising NLIS sheep and goat standards with state and territory legislation and regulations. PIRSA's compliance activities in the early stages of implementation will involve both education and support to assist producers transition to the eID system.

Specific details surrounding state government compliance activities, including timeframes and penalties, will be reflective of industry expectations and aim to support industry in meeting implementation outcomes.

BIOSECURITY

194 The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (30 November 2022). Can the minister advise:

1. How has PIRSA reprioritised staff resources to focus on emergency animal disease preparedness activities?
2. What is the total FTE reprioritised to focus on emergency animal disease preparedness activities?
3. What is the level and title of the reprioritised staff?
4. What is the length of term of the reallocation of these resources?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries):

1. Biosecurity threats are ever present and PIRSA is routinely involved in ongoing activities to support EAD preparedness.

In response to the most recent EAD threats, PIRSA has refocused 'business-as-usual' activities to prioritise emergency animal disease preparedness for these diseases. All government funded animal health programs (e.g. disease surveillance, epidemiology and risk, market access and field operations) have a priority focus on EAD preparedness.

2. All government funded animal health programs, including a total of 30 animal health staff to date, have a heightened focus on EAD preparedness and awareness.

3. Animal health staff are employed at all levels of the professional officer stream (PO1—PO5) through to the Chief Veterinary Officer.

4. As above, work on preparing for emergency animal disease threats is business-as-usual activity for animal health. The focus on the most recent EAD threats will continue while it remains a priority.

An additional \$6.8 million in funding was announced by the government to assist PIRSA capacity to prepare for and respond to possible future emergency animal disease incursions.

SEROLOGY CAPACITY

195 The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (30 November 2022). Can the minister advise:

1. Is local testing capability for lumpy skin disease available? If not, when is it expected to be available?
2. Does South Australia have the serology capacity to screen for multiple emergency animal diseases including foot-and-mouth disease?
3. What capacity does South Australia have to undertake surveillance testing in the event of a detection?
4. Is local foot-and-mouth disease PCR capability available? If not, when is it expected to be available?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

1. All lumpy skin disease (LSD) testing for SA is performed at the Australian Centre of Disease Preparedness (ACDP) in Geelong, Vic.

Molecular (PCR) and serological tests for lumpy skin disease will be implemented at Gribbles VETLAB, PIRSA Glenside once the tests become available through the national Laboratories for Emergency Animal Disease Diagnosis and Response (LEADDR) network proficiency testing (PT) program.

PIRSA expects to have the LSD PCR test available and validated for diagnostic screening of cases in the second half of 2023.

Lumpy skin disease serology test development by ACDP for the LEADDR network is on track to be completed by mid-2024.

2. SA has serological testing capability for the following emergency animal diseases: foot-and-mouth disease, Influenza A (avian, equine, swine), classical swine fever and African swine fever.

3. Gribbles VETLAB can perform up to 300 PCR and 300 serology (ELISA) tests per shift. During periods of demand such as an emergency response extra shifts can be initiated in consultation with the contracted provider of veterinary diagnostic services for Biosecurity SA at (current contractor: Gribbles Veterinary Pathology/Australian Clinical Labs, operating from VETLAB, PIRSA Glenside).

SA may request assistance from other jurisdictional laboratories in the national LEADDR network for additional testing capacity.

4. Foot-and-mouth disease PCR testing is available at Gribbles VETLAB, PIRSA Glenside to screen suspected cases.

All cases screened for FMD by PCR in SA are also sent to ACDP for confirmatory FMD PCR testing.

FERAL ANIMAL CONTROL

196 The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (30 November 2022). Can the minister advise: What (if any) assistance is being provided to livestock producers to develop a wild and feral animal control program?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised: that in 2021-22 almost \$18 million was spent by the state government to support pest animal control programs, with \$11.6 million of this investment coming from the regional landscape boards.

Hundreds of livestock producers are assisted each year by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA), the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), and the regional landscape boards in the control of wild and feral animals.

Supporting livestock producers and other landholders to conduct activities on their land is integral to the success of wild and feral animal control programs. In 2021-22, a total of 32 community engagement events, such as masterclasses and farm visits, were delivered by staff from the Department of Primary Industries and Regions. Many more were delivered by staff from regional landscape boards. The 32 events run by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions upskilled over 500 land and natural resource managers in the use of tools and integrated management practices for the control of rabbits, foxes, feral deer, and kangaroos.

Staff from the Department of Primary Industries and Regions and landscape boards delivered another nine dedicated workshops involving hands-on training in wild dog behaviour and trapping and monitoring techniques to land managers experiencing impacts.

Since the 2019-20 bushfires, state government funded programs have removed a total of 871 feral pigs from Kangaroo Island, fewer than 30 feral pigs remain and their eradication from the island is expected by June 2023. This outcome is one of the few silver linings to emerge from the horrific bushfires.

The state government continues to support hundreds of livestock producers and other landholders with their feral deer control programs. Over 5,500 feral deer have now been removed in aerial control operations conducted by PIRSA, the Limestone Coast Landscape Board and the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board. These programs have engaged more than 70 landholders and covered over 194,000 hectares of private property and public lands.

For 30 years the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, through their Bounceback initiative, has delivered annual aerial baiting programs targeting foxes. Since 2021 the Department of Primary Industries and Regions has undertaken four aerial baiting operations for the control of wild dogs, distributing 68,000 poison baits to inaccessible areas; on-ground programs have laid a further 90,000 wild dog baits.

As part of the state wild dog trapper program, the equivalent of three full-time wild dog trappers removed 36 wild dogs in 2021-22, with 726 removed in total since 2018-19. Bounty programs have paid \$64,970 for foxes (\$10 per fox) and \$91,320 for wild dogs (\$120 per wild dog since 2019-20) to livestock producers and other landholders.

Government has also supported landholders in pastoral areas to manage feral goats by reviewing policies to allow for the establishment of depots for short-term holding of goats on their properties. Baiting standards for wild dogs were also established in 2021-22.

SNAPPER STOCK

201 The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (1 December 2022).

1. What does research from SARDI show about the state of snapper stocks from the Far West Coast?
2. Will the minister publish data from SARDI and PIRSA relating to snapper stocks from the Far West Coast?

Coast?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I am advised:

Snapper populations from the West Coast of Eyre Peninsula and Spencer Gulf are considered part of the same stock—the Spencer Gulf/West Coast Stock. SARDI has determined, in their latest snapper assessment report released in November, that this stock is depleted. The data used to inform the status of South Australia's snapper stocks is published in the stock assessment report, which is publicly available on the PIRSA website.

AUTISM SA GRANTS

202 The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (1 December 2022). Can the Minister for Education, Training and Skills advise:

1. What grants have been provided by the Department for Education to Autism SA, and for what purpose, in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022?

2. Will funding be maintained for Autism SA in future years, and will the expectations of Autism SA be consistent with previous years or is the model of support changing?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Education, Training and Skills has advised:

The Department for Education has an agreement with Autism SA to assist the department to deliver the early intervention program and school support program in government and non-government schools and preschools.

The table below shows grant payments made by the Department for Education to Autism SA for the calendar years 2018 to 2022.

Grant Period	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Funding paid (GST Exc)	\$2,841,767.00	\$3,216,129.00	\$7,082,358.00	\$2,204,500.00	\$4,064,125.00

The current grant agreement between the Department for Education and Autism SA commenced in January 2022 and expires in December 2024. The department does not intend to change the current funding and service model within the term of the current agreement.

DANCE HUB SA

206 The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (1 December 2022). Can the Minister for Arts advise:

Why has funding to Dance Hub SA been cut, and will the government reconsider this decision and reinstate the funding?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Arts has advised:

Dance Hub SA applied for multi-year funding of \$200,298 per annum through Arts South Australia's Arts Organisations Program for the period 2023 to 2026. The Arts Organisations Program supports a diverse portfolio of small-to-medium organisations that contribute to a thriving arts and culture sector in South Australia.

A panel of peers from the South Australian arts and cultural sector evaluated the 35 applications to the program for 2023 to 2026 funding based on predetermined, published criteria. Peer assessment against these criteria forms the basis of recommendations for the delivery of Arts South Australia grants across the arts sector. The peer panel determined that Dance Hub SA did not sufficiently meet the program's purpose, goals, and assessment criteria and, consequently, four-year funding was not recommended by the panel.

Arts South Australia is working with Dance Hub SA to negotiate a funding package to assist its transition out of the Arts Organisation Program.

Additionally, Arts South Australia will continue to work with the South Australian dance sector to explore and identify a new dance initiative. The government's efforts to support the sector will include proposed access to the studio space at the Lion Arts Centre.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

207 The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (1 December 2022). Can the Minister for Education, Training and Skills advise:

Which programs within the education department and public schools have been cut or cancelled in order to fund the government's election commitments?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Education, Training and Skills has advised:

The delivery of election commitments is a priority for the Malinauskas Labor government.

We continue to deliver key initiatives introduced by the former government, while also introducing new initiatives our government promised at the March 2022 election.

ACUTE BEHAVIOURAL ASSESSMENT UNITS

In reply to **the Hon. S.L. GAME** (8 September 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has advised:

The South Australian Mental Health Services Plan 2020-25 considers the idea of acute behavioural assessment units (ABAU) and this is being explored in more detail.

Our government is investing \$24.2 million to meet growing demand for extra rehabilitation and detox beds across the state, with a clear focus on boosting services in our regions. This investment includes:

- 20 additional community drug and alcohol rehabilitation beds across the state
- 12 extra rehabilitation beds in metropolitan Adelaide
- four extra rehabilitation beds in Port Augusta
- four extra rehabilitation beds in Mount Gambier
- Two dedicated drug and alcohol detox beds at Mount Gambier Hospital. Specifically for medically managed treatment of inpatient withdrawal.
- We also know how important early intervention and prevention is in breaking the cycle, which is why we're expanding vital services like Family Drug Support to help users before they require more acute care.

The issue of stigma for people with mental illness and substance abuse requires a combination of education, clinical guidelines, multidisciplinary teams, and emergency department spaces that support privacy and reduced waiting times. This work is supported with the Drug and Alcohol Services SA (DASSA) working in partnership across the LHN's.

DASSA work jointly with general psychiatry providing education sessions in both Adelaide University and Flinders University. This work focuses on alcohol and other drug treatment approaches with the students attending these sessions.

Clinical liaison services operate across the three tertiary hospitals providing clinical input across inpatients services and the emergency departments for people with substance use issues.

Co-morbidity clinicians with both substance use and mental health skills have been employed in SALHN, NALHN and CALHN and provide support between hospital and community services.

We commit to an ongoing partnership between state government drug and alcohol services, the non-government sector, and Federal Government services to address key issues of demand management, shared care, and developing meaningful ways to measure service outcomes.

ABORIGINAL SMOKING RATES

In reply to **the Hon. S.L. GAME** (27 September 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has advised:

We are concerned that tobacco smoking is the most preventable cause of illness and early death in Aboriginal communities, being responsible for 23 per cent of the gap in disease burden between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians.

While significant gains have been achieved in reducing smoking prevalence among Aboriginal people in South Australia, smoking rates remain much higher in Aboriginal communities. For example, 40.4 per cent of Aboriginal people reported being smokers in the latest survey results and 42.2 per cent of Aboriginal pregnant women reported smoking during pregnancy. This is approximately four times the prevalence in the broader South Australian population.

South Australia's Department for Health and Wellbeing funded 'Give Up Smokes'—an Aboriginal-focused, smoking cessation campaign.

Advertising mediums included radio, social media and in shopping centres and bus stops. The campaign targeted Aboriginal smokers in the Adelaide metropolitan area and was developed in partnership with members of

Adelaide's Aboriginal communities to ensure imagery and messaging was culturally appropriate and resonated with the target audience.

Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA) is working closely with the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN), utilising Aboriginal community advice to further develop targeted smoking cessation services, including within NALHN Aboriginal health services. DASSA is also working closely with the SA Health Aboriginal Health Investment team to deliver Closing the Gap projects including screening tools for alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and specialised support for pregnant Aboriginal women who smoke. These projects aim to enable timely access to culturally safe health education, cessation support and harm reduction.

DASSA also funds the South Australian Quitline, which includes a dedicated Aboriginal Quitline team. Quitline counsellors can offer information and support to help people quit smoking, including developing the best quitting strategy for the individual smoker. They can also provide information on quitting products such as nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) and quitting medications.

We have provided \$440,000 funding to the Cancer Council SA, over five years to 30 June 2026, to facilitate the Tackling Tobacco program. This program aims to reduce smoking-related harm amongst priority populations that experience high levels of social and economic disadvantage. Through the Tackling Tobacco program, Cancer Council SA will aim to help organisations to address smoking and support people who access their services to quit.

In addition to state government funding, we are also aware of the commonwealth's announcement in January 2022 of an additional \$187.8 million investment over the next four years into the national Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) program. This is designed to reduce smoking in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia. TIS teams work on the ground with communities to support quitting, create smoke-free areas, improve Quitline use and provide worker training in quit support skills.

There is insufficient evidence regarding the safety and long-term health risks of vaping to recommend e-cigarettes as a harm and cost reduction strategy for tobacco smokers. E-liquids currently available on the Australian market are inconsistently labelled and contain harmful compounds that may be toxic if vaped repeatedly and have the potential to cause irreversible lung damage. There is also emerging evidence indicating that vaping by non-smokers can increase the likelihood of becoming a smoker of tobacco products.

The provision of licensed nicotine replacement therapies of demonstrated quality, safety and efficacy, such as mouth sprays, patches, lozenges, gum and inhalers is preferred. Nicotine replacement therapy is most effective when accompanied by culturally safe one-on-one counselling.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

In reply to **the Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition)** (18 October 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has advised:

Our government inherited a health system that has been under significant pressure, driven by a lack of investment in beds, staff and services under the former Liberal government.

Reducing ramping remains our number one priority and we are delivering a generational investment to rebuild the health system and reverse the years of neglect under the previous government.

We know the cause of ramping is bed block and hospital overcrowding. This is why we have committed a record \$2.4 billion to open more than 550 additional beds, recruit more doctors and nurses and ambos and build and upgrade key infrastructure across the state to provide the capacity our healthcare system needs.

There is no immediate fix to ramping and investments will take time to deliver, but we are working now to meet this challenge head on. We have opened every bed possible to take pressure off our hospitals, we are increasing initiatives like the Virtual Care Service to reduce bed block and improve patient flow, and we are working directly with our doctors and nurses to develop clinically led solutions to tackle the ramping crisis.

DISTRICT COURT

In reply to **the Hon. S.G. WADE** (19 October 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): I have been advised:

A total of four additional associates have been appointed. Three additional associates were employed during September 2022 and a fourth commenced on 31 October 2022.

The additional funding was provided to the CAA to manage and accommodate multidefendant trials, such as supporting the efficient case management and trials for Operation Ironside, which are likely to involve an unprecedented volume of evidence management and specialised security requirements.

JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS

In reply to **the Hon. T.A. FRANKS** (1 November 2022).

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has been advised:

A commonsense approach should be taken to the interpretation of what is considered 'outdoors', noting that the purposes of the Japanese encephalitis vaccination program is to target Japanese encephalitis vaccination to those who are at most risk of being bitten by mosquitoes that may carry the Japanese encephalitis virus.

If a workplace is unable to exclude mosquitoes, then people working in that premises would be considered at equivalent risk to people working or spending time outdoors. Scenarios that could be envisaged where this would apply could include plant nurseries, warehouses or other large-scale workplaces where the doors are constantly open or where there is constant flow of unfiltered/screened air between the outdoors and the indoor spaces. Workers at these types of facilities located in the defined zone would be eligible for the Japanese encephalitis vaccine.

Employers should also take measures to minimise mosquitoes in their workplaces, such as ensuring they cover or remove any sources of standing water.

For more information on mosquito bite prevention, employers and workers are encouraged to visit the Fight The Bite website.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

In reply to **the Hon. S.L. GAME** (1 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Education, Training and Skills has advised:

It is my expectation that our schools are inclusive of all South Australians, regardless of their background.

The Department for Education consults various local, national and international best practices, and stakeholders when developing policy.

Educators actively look to engage with parents and children to seek agreement on the best way to support any child at school. All site leaders are highly experienced educators who work to create inclusive and safe learning environments for all students.

A child or young person's physical and psychological safety are carefully considered when making any decision. As with all students, if a child is showing mental health concerns, discussion will take place with the parent/guardian, and advice given to seek appropriate mental health support.

Reasons for making decisions are documented and are always guided by the best interest of the child or young person at school. At all times parent/guardians are informed about the decisions made.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY APPRENTICESHIPS

In reply to **the Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO** (1 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Education, Training and Skills has advised:

Many apprenticeships in construction such as the Certificate III in Civil Construction are subsidised by government's annual investment of around \$300 million in training to ensure there is a pipeline of skilled workers.

The Malinauskas Labor government is also backing industry programs that work. We have committed \$1 million over four years to the Master Builders SA Born to Build outreach program. It focuses on promoting apprenticeships in the building industry, including a focus on women and Aboriginal people.

In support of employment outcomes and pastoral care, group training organisations receive funding through the \$5 million South Australian Group Training Program in place until 2025.

To support students overcome barriers to learning and employment, free access to learner support services are available and the travel and accommodation allowance provides around \$2 million annually to support rural and regional apprentices – opening up trade pathways to all South Australians.

We are also looking to the future and supporting pathways to skilled trades through a \$208.8 million investment in five new technical colleges.

The decision to offer an apprenticeship is ultimately a decision by individual employers.

The Malinauskas Labor government is committed to continuing to support learners access training, including through apprenticeships. Improving completions across the vocational system is of the highest priority for our government.

VAPING

In reply to **the Hon. S.L. GAME** (2 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has advised:

South Australia has made significant progress in reducing smoking prevalence over many years. For example, daily smoking prevalence has decreased significantly from 21.4 per cent in 1998 to 9.8 per cent in 2021.

The increasing use of e-cigarettes (also known as 'vapes') nationally and internationally, particularly by children and young people, threatens to undo this success. It is important to note that the sale of these devices and liquids to minors in South Australia is prohibited under the Tobacco and E-cigarettes Products Act 1997.

International approaches to e-cigarette regulation vary and jurisdictions with fewer controls on these products have seen significant increases in their use by minors. For example, research indicates that approximately one-quarter of teenagers regularly use e-cigarettes in the United States and New Zealand, and while recent evidence indicates that Australia is experiencing increasing use of these products by minors, our regulations are in place based on the precautionary public health approach endorsed by all Australian jurisdictions.

E-cigarettes can be purchased by an adult in South Australia without a prescription.

However, if the e-cigarette contains nicotine, a medical prescription is required. This is a national decision that was made by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, commencing 1 October 2021.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has stated that this arrangement aims to 'balance the need to prevent adolescents and young adults from taking-up nicotine vaping (and potentially smoking), while enabling current smokers to access these products for smoking cessation with appropriate medical advice.'

It is important to note that nicotine is a poisonous substance. Given its toxicity and potential for serious harms to human health, including death if ingested, nicotine vaping products are subject to medical controls.

Additionally, the long-term health risks of using nicotine vaping products are still unclear and evidence of their potential effectiveness for aiding quitting is currently mixed. To date, there have been no nicotine vaping products approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for sale in Australia.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has advised that nicotine vaping products are not first line treatment for quitting, and that there are a range of other quitting medications and nicotine replacement therapies which have had significantly more testing for safety, quality and efficacy.

This is a key reason why the South Australian government is not encouraging smokers to switch to vaping.

However, for a person who has tried to quit with these other aids but failed, a medical practitioner might recommend this option to a patient.

NURSING WORKFORCE STRATEGY

In reply to **the Hon. T.A. FRANKS** (3 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has advised:

Nurses and midwives are the backbone of our public health system; therefore, it is vital that we do everything we can to provide opportunities to equip them with the right skills, knowledge, and values they need to practise confidently and safely in their profession. This includes ensuring that nurses and midwives meet the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's (NMBA) registration standard for recency of practice. This registration standard requires that nurses and midwives maintain an adequate connection with, and recent practice in the profession since qualifying for, or obtaining registration.

To demonstrate recency of practice, nurses and midwives must provide evidence to the NMBA that they have practised for a period equivalent to a minimum of 450 hours, within the past five years. Former nurses or midwives seeking to return to the workforce will be expected to take steps to ensure they are educated, trained, competent and confident to practice in their profession. This may include undertaking an NMBA-approved clinical re-entry to practice program or a period of supervised practice to demonstrate competence in their profession.

The government is also implementing workforce strategies to attract and retain nurses to work in the public health system. SA Health offers a broad range of nursing and midwifery scholarships that are targeted to support frontline nurses and midwives, currently working in the public health system, to advance their clinical skills and knowledge in much-needed clinical specialty areas, such as rural nursing, mental health, intensive care, emergency care, renal care, aged care and midwifery.

These targeted education programs and associated training scholarships, demonstrate our government's commitment to increasing our workforce capability and capacity within the public health system across the metropolitan, and more importantly, regional health services.

The government is also working to keep our nursing and midwifery graduates in our state. We have over 2,000 nursing and midwifery students completing their undergraduate studies across our three South Australian universities at the end of 2022, who will be ready for employment once they have gained their registration with the NMBA.

In 2023, we will double our employment intakes to keep these newly graduated registered nurses and midwives in our state. The government has committed \$25 million to support an additional 600 new graduate nurses and midwives to undertake a new graduate program, and to strengthen the on-ground support, facilitation, and clinical mentorship model. This strategy will help the state to build a sustainable workforce.

The government has completed a ballot process for a new Nursing and Midwifery (South Australian Public Sector) Enterprise Agreement 2022. The ballot closed on 18 November 2022 and received a 78 per cent majority 'Yes' vote of eligible employees who voted. Subject to approval by the South Australian Employment Tribunal, the new agreement will take effect from 1 October 2022 with a nominal expiry of 31 July 2025. It will include remuneration and incentives to attract and retain nurses and midwives working in our public hospitals. These incentives include annual increases in wages and allowances effective from 1 January 2023, 2024, and 2025; two one-off payments to be paid retrospectively from 1 October 2022 and on 1 October 2023; and fortnightly carparking cap to reward and recognise those staff already working in the system. The new agreement will also demonstrate our commitment to implement strategies for improving safe staffing levels, and a 10-point plan for addressing workplace violence across all public health sites.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

In reply to **the Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition)** (3 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Energy and Mining has advised:

1. On 7 February 2022 *The Advertiser* reported that the UComms poll conducted by the SA Forestry Products Association indicated that the Hon. Geoff Brock MP was heading towards a decisive loss against the former Deputy Premier, Dan van Holst Pellekaan, in the electorate of Stuart.

In fact, the poll had Mr van Holst Pellekaan ahead 60 per cent to Labor's 40 per cent on a two-party preferred support.

Given the final outcome, I advise the member not to pay too much credence to opinion polls.

South Australia has been involved in mining radioactive ores since the 1800s and today is the only jurisdiction in Australia which mines and exports uranium. Therefore, it is understandable that an industry operating safely in the nuclear cycle over many decades in this state will deliver a positive opinion poll.

However, it is conjecture whether, as the member asserts, that this makes clear that the majority of South Australians support the serious consideration of nuclear power.

2. No.

3. The Weatherill government established the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission in March 2015 and it reported to the Governor in May 2016. The commission received more than 250 submissions, held public sessions, heard from 132 witnesses from Australia and around the world, commissioned detailed assessments over 37 sitting days and undertook fact-finding missions. The commission concluded long lead times meant it would be impossible to develop an industry before 2030.

Further, it concluded 'it would not be commercially viable to develop a nuclear power plant in South Australia beyond 2030 under current market rules'. For Australia more broadly, the commission said that beyond 2030 'nuclear power might play a useful role' if the nation has only made modest reductions in emissions and is required to eliminate carbon emissions from electricity generation by 2050. The then opposition did not offer bipartisan to the commission's findings. The state government remains agnostic about nuclear energy.

The member may be interested in the views of Dr Ziggy Switkowski, who led the 2006 Uranium Mining, Processing and Nuclear Energy Review established by then prime minister John Howard. The Switkowski review found that nuclear power was 'a practical option for part of Australia's electricity production'.

However, the Howard government did not make legislative reforms to advance nuclear energy. Neither did the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government which spent nearly a decade without a coherent energy policy. In 2019, Dr Switkowski gave evidence to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy Inquiry into the Prerequisites for Nuclear Energy in Australia. He said one of the key questions about the issue was whether the opportunity to deploy nuclear reactors in Australia had passed because of the effect on public opinion of the Fukushima disaster and the competitive development of wind, solar and storage. He said nuclear costs were high, political risks substantial, the time lag was long at a minimum 15 years and that to his knowledge 'No coherent business case to finance an Australian nuclear industry has ever been presented'. Dr Switkowski said there 'should' be an opportunity for small modular reactors but their attributes would remain unknown until the late 2020s.

REGIONAL ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

In reply to **the Hon. R.A. SIMMS** (15 November 2022).

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): The Minister for Energy and Mining has advised:

1. SA Power Networks advises that it spend approximately \$300 million per annum in capital and operating costs on maintaining and upgrading the electricity network across all of SA—much of this expenditure is made in regional and remote areas of South Australia.

The Australian Energy Regulator (AER) determines both the operational expenditure and capital expenditure allowances for SA Power Networks for each five year regulatory period. The AER's expenditure assessment criteria require that SA Power Networks is awarded efficient levels of expenditure to maintain ongoing levels of safety and reliability of the electricity network.

Maintenance and operational costs can be higher per customer in rural and regional areas when compared to those in the metropolitan area however customers in these regional areas are protected by a 'postage stamp' approach to the network portion of their electricity bill.

The power outages following the recent storm were widely caused by falling trees, tree limbs and lightning strikes to powerlines and stobie poles, many startling images of this damage have been circulated in the media.

2. The Australian Labor Party opposed the privatisation of ETSA and during its periods in government has had to fix the mess that privatisation caused.

Privatisation did not only affect regional residents of South Australia. All residents and businesses are paying the price of that foolhardy decision.

VICTIMS OF CRIME FUND

In reply to **the Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK** (15 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): I have been advised:

The increase of \$1 million can be attributed to the migration of old, previously unreported Victims of Crime debts (subject to historic judgement) into the Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit's debt recovery management system.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **the Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK** (15 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): I have been advised:

The \$22.1 million can be broken down as follows:

Amount	Charge
\$17.4 million	Rent (and related Department for Infrastructure and Transport charges)
\$1.5 million	Cleaning
\$1.1 million	Building Maintenance
\$1.0 million	Security
\$0.7 million	Utilities
\$0.4 million	Car Parking

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **the Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK** (15 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): I have been advised:

Whilst the audit found that individual conflict of interest forms for one procurement were not signed by the evaluation team members, both the approved simple acquisition plan and the approved simple purchase recommendation documented that the evaluation team expressed no conflict of interest. No subsequent conflict of interest was identified.

The value of the procurement was approximately \$1.1 million.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **the Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK** (15 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): I have been advised:

Between 22 March 2022 to 15 November 2022, there were nine ex gratia payments made, totalling \$309,080.

Details of these payments are as follows:

28 April	\$25,000
13 May	\$28,360
2 June	\$25,160
4 July	\$19,560
13 July	\$50,000
2 August	\$50,000
2 September	\$65,000
13 October	\$30,000
7 November	\$16,000

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **the Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK** (15 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): I have been advised:

The project to integrate ICT services has been deferred to enable the completion of the major projects that are underway to replace the Public Trustee's customer relationship management (CRM) system and its customer accounting system. These projects replace existing aged systems that are at end of life. The CRM replacement is now largely complete and has gone live. The procurement process for the financial system replacement has commenced and is expected to be complete in late 2024.

The Public Trustee and the Attorney-General's Department have strengthened the relationship between the ICT branches of each agency and they actively collaborate on issues such as network hardware replacement, corporate ICT services, cyber security and the procurement of goods and services. This collaboration will continue and is expected to increase, prior to reconsideration of the integration of the two networks after the completion of the financial system replacement.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **the Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK** (15 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): I have been advised:

The SA Computer Aided Dispatch (SACAD) system comprises a number of layers of protection in addition to general IT controls. These include network segmentation and isolation, stringent physical access controls and rigorous personnel vetting. This level of protection significantly reduces the likelihood of a cyber incident in the SACAD environment affecting system function or data.

The Attorney-General's Department is undertaking an external cyber-security review of SACAD. This review will inform the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Auditor-General's report.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **the Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK** (15 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): I have been advised:

Simple purchase recommendations have always required a recommendation by the business unit and separate approval from the procurement delegate. In some cases additional financial delegation was also required.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **the Hon. T.A. FRANKS** (15 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): I have been advised:

The South Australian Protective Security Framework (SAPSF) and the South Australian Cyber Security Framework (SACSF) state that government agencies must manage security risks to government information arising from external service suppliers by:

- Ensuring cybersecurity obligations addressing identified risks are included in all agreements with suppliers.
- Obtaining assurance from suppliers that they are meeting their cybersecurity obligations upon contract award and periodically thereafter.

Minimum requirements for the security of government data and compliance with these security frameworks are currently being incorporated into standard contract templates and clauses issued by the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Treasurer's Instruction 18 on procurement, and its supporting policies, are currently being updated to reflect the government's election commitments. As part of these changes, it will be made clear that chief executives are responsible for ensuring that internal agency processes meet whole-of-government policy requirements for procurement governance and contract management associated with cybersecurity.

There are varying resources and skills available across government to appropriately manage supplier cybersecurity risks in procurement and provide ongoing assurance of contractual requirements in accordance with policy. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet is developing a program to uplift supplier cyber security risk management across all levels of procurement in government. Additional resources will be aligned with existing processes, so that risk can be managed to a consistent standard.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **the Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK** (15 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs has advised:

The Bonds Management System is still managed by the Attorney-General's Department through Consumer and Business Services.

Six issues were identified on page 20. Three of these issues—inappropriate privileged user access, weaknesses in change management processes and weaknesses in password configuration settings—have been actioned and closed.

The remaining issues are currently being addressed as follows:

- Weaknesses in patch management
- Weaknesses in audit logging
- Weaknesses in disaster recovery processes.'

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS

In reply to **the Hon. R.A. SIMMS** (16 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): I have been advised:

The draft Equal Opportunity (Religious Bodies) Amendment Bill 2020 was an initiative of the former government. It was not introduced to parliament.

I have had representations from a number of stakeholders regarding possible amendments to the Equal Opportunity Act 1984. I am considering these proposals, as well as recent reforms in Victoria, and recently proposed or recommended reforms in Queensland, the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia.

CHILD PROTECTION

In reply to **the Hon. C. BONAROS** (16 November 2022).

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): The Ministers for Police, Emergency Services, and Correctional Services and Child Protection have advised:

1. Staff from South Australia Police (SAPOL), the Department for Child Protection (DCP) and the Department of Human Services (OHS) are working in partnership to coordinate the wellbeing checks underway in response to the Hyde Review.

There is a government and community expectation that the assessment of the potential risk to each child, including a physical sighting and assessment of their circumstances by a trained child protection professional, is undertaken as a matter of priority. SAPOL officers will assist DCP and OHS staff as required.

2. DCP and OHS have assigned internal resources to conduct the checks. An operational working group established with representatives from DCP, OHS and SAPOL ensures the sharing of operational information,

tracking of actions and the recording of outcomes necessary to ensure wellbeing checks are undertaken for each of the identified children. SAPOL play a coordinating role in this effort.

3. One in three children in South Australia are the subject of a child protection notification during their childhood. Families are facing increasing complex issues including intergenerational trauma, substance misuse, domestic violence, poverty and mental illness.

The state government continually reviews its resourcing of, and approach to the child protection system to enable it to respond to ongoing and emerging needs and begin to work to improve children's and family's lives.

In the 2022 budget the Malinauskas government committed a further \$128.9 million to child protection. This investment includes the appointment of 42 new full-time social workers and 10 Principal Aboriginal Consultants. Our government last month committed a further \$26.7 million to boost Child Protection Services in our response to recent reviews.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION

In reply to **the Hon. T.A. FRANKS** (16 November 2022).

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): The Minister for Human Services has advised:

Emergency planning was undertaken by estimating the number of impacted properties at flow rates of 120, 140, 160, 200 and 250 gegalitres per day noting the highest likelihood of flows between 160 and 200. Inundation maps for each of these flow rates is publicly available from the Department for Environment and Water website. Estimates of property impacts, and the potential need for emergency accommodation, were further refined from door-knocking and telephoning homes in areas that were expected to be inundated.

RIVERLAND FLOOD RESPONSE

In reply to **the Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition)** (16 November 2022).

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): The Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services has advised:

Sandbags used by South Australian emergency services for flood mitigation purposes are regularly manufactured in India and normally sourced through Australian importers.

All sandbags that are sourced from international markets are subject to standard decontamination processes for biosecurity purposes as determined by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). The South Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regions are working with DAFF to expedite this process to minimise the time required to deliver these sandbags to affected areas in the Riverland.

It is important to note, the use of sandbags to protect some pumping infrastructure is not appropriate. Clay bunding or relocation of assets for generation equipment may be more appropriate.

As the flood response lead agency, the South Australian State Emergency Service (SASES) has provided over 300,000 sandbags to the Riverland area in response to the current flooding event. These sandbags are available through six permanent sandbag stations which are supervised and open seven days a week.

SASES have sandbag supplies in state holdings, as well as five consignments ordered which will deliver over 1,500,000 sandbags throughout November, December, January, and February. The first two consignments will arrive during November and will deliver 374,000 sandbags.

Further to this, the government have also sourced almost eight kilometres of DefenCell to further bolster tools available for flood mitigation resources.

ADELAIDE BEACH MANAGEMENT REVIEW

In reply to **the Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition)** (17 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): I have been advised:

Details of the Adelaide Beach Management Review, including the terms of reference for the independent advisory panel and other governance arrangements, are available at: <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS, ABSENTEEISM

In reply to **the Hon. S.L. GAME** (16 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Education, Training and Skills has advised:

Student Support Services currently employs over 30 FTE truancy social workers and senior social workers distributed across local education offices to provide truancy services. These roles are in addition to a range of mental health and wellbeing roles across our schools—which the Malinauskas Labor government is expanding.

Truancy is something this government has been doing a great deal of work to address, including hiring extra truancy officers with a social work background, introducing a pilot program working with Aboriginal students, and focusing on education family conferences.

I am pleased that the attendance rate rebounded following a drop to 87 per cent in 2020 as COVID first impacted, sitting at 88.9 per cent in 2021.

POKER MACHINES

In reply to **the Hon. F. PANGALLO** (17 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs has advised:

The Malinauskas government is committed to reducing the prevalence and severity of potential harm caused by gambling.

The reforms introduced in South Australia in late 2019 have provided increased protections for South Australians affected by gambling harm.

While the decision to allow technologically advanced gaming machines with bank note acceptors to be introduced in South Australia received bipartisan support from Labor when it was in opposition, it was on a condition that amendments moved by Labor were passed by the parliament to ensure that players are not allowed to insert more than \$100 into a gaming machine at a time and are prohibited from using \$100 banknotes.

In comparison, older generation coin operated gaming machines in South Australia have typically allowed up to \$2,000 to be inserted at a time, while in New South Wales for example, the use of \$100 notes is permitted and up to \$5,000 in banknotes (down from \$7,500) can be inserted at a time.

In addition, the reforms resulted in a number of further regulatory based harm minimisation measures (some of which are unique to South Australia and now being replicated in other jurisdictions) to mitigate the potential harm from playing gaming machines, including:

- Allowing persons at risk of harm, or at risk of causing harm to a family member, because of gambling, to be barred for any period or an indefinite period (including from the premises of a single gambling provider or from the premises of multiple gambling providers)
- Greater deterrent measures in support of exclusion programs in response to people who may have difficulties resisting the urge to return to venues after being excluded
- Statewide automated risk monitoring of each session of play on a gaming machine, enabling gaming staff to be alerted if potential harmful behaviour is detected
- In an Australian-first, mandating the operation of facial recognition technology to enable gaming staff to identify persons who have undertaken to be self-banned from the gaming area of licensed premises
- Complementing the transaction restrictions when using ATMs, limiting access to cash from EFTPOS on licensed premises with gaming machines to a maximum of \$250 per card over a 24-hour period
- Extending the prohibition on television gambling advertising to 6am to 8.30am and 4pm to 7.30pm on any day, and
- Prohibition of gambling advertising at cinemas when films rated G, PG, M or MA (15+) are showing.

Additionally, the Gambling Regulation Strategic Plan, recently released by the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner, details a clear path towards ensuring measures are in place to minimise the harmful impact of gambling in South Australia over the next three years, while maintaining a gambling industry that is able to continue to operate in a responsible manner.

The Gamblers Rehabilitation Fund (GRF), which is funded from voluntary and prescribed contributions from government and industry and administered by the Office for Problem Gambling through the Department of Human Services (DHS), also remains a core feature of the government's gambling harm prevention strategy.

The DHS has also prepared a Gambling Harm Minimisation Investment Plan 2021 to 2026, which describes clear goals for future investment, prioritises strategic areas of focus, and identifies evidence-based, practice informed opportunities to minimise gambling harm.

The increase in gambling revenue is not unique to South Australia, but is in fact a trend that has been seen nationwide.

ANIMAL WELFARE

In reply to **the Hon. T.A. FRANKS** (17 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water has advised:

Reports of cruelty received by my office are referred to the Department for Environment and Water and forwarded to the RSPCA, as the relevant authority for investigation, if required.

Given legal privilege and ensuring current investigations are not compromised, I can say these reports have been taken seriously and can provide the following information.

An investigation has been triggered by the RSPCA resulting in a warrant being obtained and the property being inspected by RSPCA inspectors. As a result of the inspection, a number of orders were placed on the owners of the animals found at the property. The RSPCA will continue to monitor the condition of animals on the property in accordance with recent supervision orders imposed by the court.

In addition to these direct actions, I have asked the department to review both the Dog and Cat Management Act and the Animal Welfare Act and have also sought advice from the RSPCA to highlight any gaps in the law which make it difficult to ensure the welfare of animals in this situation.

AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

In reply to **the Hon. R.A. SIMMS** (17 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Human Services has advised:

The Department of Human Services continues to implement a range of measures to improve outcomes for children and young people at Kurlana Tapa. Some of these measures include:

- Improving feedback and complaints processes to increase children and young people's access to mechanisms to raise complaints and to improve resolution of complaints.
- Rolling out staff body-worn video cameras to improve child safety and staff transparency and accountability.
- Improving the collection, analysis, sharing and reporting of data and information about children and young people in custody.
- Delivering a capital works program that includes a 12-bed accommodation unit to better support children with complex needs, expanding the education and visitor centre spaces and an eight-bed police custody unit.
- Introducing the Enhanced Support Team, a team of allied health professionals who support Kurlana Tapa youth workers to therapeutically respond to children and young people displaying complex behaviours.
- Implementing the Child Diversion Program to divert Aboriginal children and young people from entering custodial youth justice.

PILL TESTING

In reply to **the Hon. R.A. SIMMS** (29 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has advised:

Our government released and is now implementing a comprehensive policy regarding illicit drugs that involves more rehabilitation beds and more support to families of drug users.

Our government has been consistent before the election in not supporting pill testing as part of our policy.

PUBLIC HOSPITAL DOCTORS

In reply to **the Hon. C. BONAROS** (29 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has advised:

The chief executive officer advised the minister informally of her decision to issue the direction immediately prior to it being issued. The minister did not have input into the drafting of the direction or direct the chief executive officer to issue it.

The direction is aimed at alleviating hospital inpatient access block, the problem of which compounds over weekends and is often critical on Monday mornings. CALHN data from the last few years shows it has been discharging the majority of patients from mid-afternoon to early evening. Discharging patients earlier in the day will create capacity, which in turn allows patients to be admitted more quickly to an inpatient bed from the emergency department (ED) to help reduce ambulance ramping

The government is supportive of measures that will help address bed block and reduce wait times on the ramp and encourage hospital administrators to work with our doctors and other clinical staff to implement any solutions.

SOUTHERN INTERMEDIATE CARE CENTRE

In reply to **the Hon. S.L. GAME** (29 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has advised:

The Marshall government closed the Southern Intermediate Care Centre in January 2022.

In the 10 months since we have been in office I have been pushing for the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network to use this facility to provide care to patients rather than having it sit there empty as it has since the Marshall government closed it.

I am pleased that we are now using the building temporarily to provide transitional care for people waiting for NDIS placements.

This will help to free up additional much-needed beds to ease the bed-block which causes ramping.

At the same time, SALHN will be reviewing and updating the model of care to consider the longer term use of the building for care in the southern suburbs.

This will be done in partnership with clinicians—taking a co-designed approach with lived experience, the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist and SALHN—and is expected to take several months.

The Malinauskas government is also delivering a massive 48-bed increase to Noarlunga Hospital—doubling our original commitment, including a new 24-bed mental health rehabilitation ward. This is part of 120 extra mental health beds the government is building across the system.

In relation to Strathalbyn Emergency Department, the Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network (BHFLHN) has commenced working with the Strathalbyn community and key stakeholders through a formal working group to consider options for an urgent care model for the Strathalbyn and surrounding community. The working group includes BHFLHN representatives, community members and local GP's.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

In reply to **the Hon. F. PANGALLO** (29 November 2022).

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): The Minister for Local Government has advised:

1. Local Government elections in South Australia are wholly conducted by the independent Electoral Commissioner. I have been regularly briefed by the commissioner on the conduct of the recent elections and met with the commissioner on 12 December 2022.

The Local Government (Elections) Act 1999, enables unsuccessful candidates to request a recount within 72 hours of a provisional result declaration. A recount must be undertaken by the commissioner in accordance with the request unless the commissioner considers that there is no prospect that a recount would alter the result of the election. Additionally, the commissioner may conduct a recount on his own initiative during the 72 hours following the provisional declaration.

As decisions regarding recounts are the responsibility of the commissioner, any questions regarding these decisions should be directed to him.

2. I am confident in the ability of the commissioner to investigate any election irregularities thoroughly and provide information to me on any changes or improvements to the legislative framework for my consideration.

3. A review of the recent elections will be undertaken that will incorporate findings and recommendations from the commissioner and include feedback from the local government sector, particularly to maximise participation in elections by both nominees and voters. Following this review, policies for potential changes to any part of the legislative framework will be considered.

RIVERLAND FLOOD RESPONSE

In reply to **the Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (29 November 2022).

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): The Minister for Human Services has advised:

1. Claims for personal assistance are expected to total approximately 500 to 1,000 subject to the size and duration of flooding along with the different types of assistance that can be claimed.

2. The prediction is based on mapping of areas expected to be affected by floods along with information gathered by SAPOL during doorknocking of these areas.

3. Personal hardship grants are provided on the same day or next day via electronic funds transfer (EFT).

4. For those who can secure alternative rental accommodation, the state government is relaxing its rules on the private rental assistance program so homeowners can access support with bond and rent in advance. grants of up to \$5,000 are also available to assist with rental costs. \$1.2 million has been allocated to pre-book short-term emergency accommodation in safe locations and the government is securing accommodation from houses and cottages to hotel and motel rooms along with cabins in caravan parks in the Riverland and Mid Murray areas. The government has also taken a lease over a fully accessible facility that can provide medium-term accommodation for people with mobility issues and support needs. Further options including modular homes and pod accommodation have been scoped in the event these are needed as the emergency progresses.

ONE BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

In reply to **the Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition)** (29 November 2022).

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I thank the honourable member for her question and provide the following response:

1. There are currently 958 producers (PIC holders) registered with the One Biosecurity program.
2. There are currently 37 livestock agents registered with the One Biosecurity program.
3. 89 new producers have registered with the program since April 2022.

4. In response to the detection of FMD and LSD in Indonesia PIRSA has been working in collaboration with national and state industry and interstate governments to increase producer preparedness for EADs. This has been primarily to increase awareness of the clinical signs including the need for early reporting of EADs, reviewing biosecurity plans to ensure introduction and spread of disease is minimised and what is likely to occur should an EAD be detected in Australia. The One Biosecurity platform provides South Australian producers with a unique opportunity to undertake their biosecurity planning and risk mitigation in collaboration with the South Australian government. One Biosecurity is promoted as the preferred mechanism whenever awareness sessions are conducted. Our resources have been directed to reaching as many producers as possible through a range of communication methods.

ADELAIDE OVAL LIQUOR LICENCE

In reply to **the Hon. F. PANGALLO** (30 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services has advised:

I have reviewed the report by Professor Ann Roche and note its findings.

The Malinauskas Labor government condemns any form of violence and we will continue to relentlessly speak up and act to prevent and end domestic violence. Domestic, family and sexual violence has no place in our community.

Our government is committed to enacting a range of legislative change, preventative actions and policies, and options for recovery that help women stay safe. Prevention is at the core of our government's response to domestic, family and sexual violence. We have committed to providing \$1 million in funding over three years to establish two domestic violence early intervention and recovery hubs in the north and south of Adelaide to support and empower women, and raise community awareness.

The decision to permit cans at Adelaide Oval was taken independently by the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner, on terms as agreed between SAPOL and the Adelaide Oval Stadium Management Authority (AOSMA). These include making stadium announcements on the screens during events at Adelaide Oval, in relation to responsible consumption of alcohol.

UNION ADVERTISING

In reply to **the Hon. T.A. FRANKS** (30 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport has advised:

Advertising on trams that are operated by Torrens Connect are managed by a third-party supplier.

In accordance with content standards detailed in the advertising contract with the government, the supplier is obligated to ensure that all advertising installed must not depict political, religious or other subject matter which is considered to be contentious.

When the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) sought to advertise on South Australian government assets, unfortunately, contrary to longstanding and accepted protocols, the supplier failed to provide the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the department) with an opportunity to review the proposed advertising by the CFMEU prior to placement. If that approval had been sought it would not have been given.

The department has always taken a conservative view as to what is determined to be political, religious, or other subject matter which is considered to be contentious.

Any entity proposing to advertise on trams will be considered by the supplier on a case by case basis, in consultation with the department, where deemed necessary, in accordance with their contract. However, advocacy groups that have a lobbying function would not normally be permitted to advertise on government assets, noting that they have numerous other avenues to advertise if they so wish.

The department has met with the supplier and reiterated and reinforced required protocols to ensure that this situation does not occur again.

This approach has been a longstanding practice under both sides of government and unfortunately in this case, due to an error on behalf of the supplier, normal protocols were not followed.

UNION ADVERTISING

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This approach has been a longstanding practice under both sides of government.

VAPING ACTION PLAN

In reply to **the Hon. S.L. GAME** (30 November 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Education, Training and Skills has advised:

The Department for Education has an action plan to address vaping in its schools. It brings together a range of new and existing initiatives to support schools to address this issue.

Where initiatives already existed, the department has consolidated information and ensured clear communication to schools in the context of e-cigarettes, such as policy related to smoke-free areas, management of incidents, provision of supports to students and promotion of curriculum support resources, information for parents, referral pathways and webinars.

The government believes that it is entirely appropriate and important to introduce initiatives aimed at supporting schools, parents and students to understand the harms of vaping and avenues of support. This involves ensuring we have curriculum, training and resources available with the information young people need, as well as processes for supporting students and parents in navigating this issue.

Schools installing vaping detectors are required to understand the risks and are to undertake a documented security risk assessment that is to be assessed by the department's security and emergency management (SEM) team prior to implementation.

UNESCO CITY OF MUSIC

In reply to **the Hon. T.A. FRANKS** (1 December 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Arts has advised:

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network recognises cities that prioritise creativity, and place cultural industries at their heart. Adelaide has long been known for its arts and culture, and our designation as a UNESCO City of Music acknowledges this. This distinction is not based on infrastructure but rather on the breadth and depth of our current musical activities, as well as our rich cultural heritage and musical contributions.

Our designation from UNESCO recognises that governments past and present, both local and state, have combined to enable the development of our rich music culture. This culture spans across emerging hip-hop through life-changing programs at Northern Sound System, to our world-class Adelaide Symphony Orchestra; from our award-winning singer-songwriters to our outstanding music educators, and everything in between. Additionally, the designation recognises our outward-looking and internationally engaged musical activity, through entrepreneurial music exports, festivals, and collaborations.

Adelaide's music community continues to deliver outstanding music globally, across all genres and forms, and our designation as Australia's first and only UNESCO City of Music remains strong.

WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

In reply to **the Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition)** (1 December 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has advised:

The Women's and Children's Health Network was advised via letter from the College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand (the college) on 25 November 2022. The Minister for Health and Wellbeing's office received a copy of this letter on 28 November 2022.

The college's report points out that this in no way is a reflection on the dedication of the medical and nursing staff in the unit, nor is it a reflection on the level of care provided to patients.

The Women's and Children's Health Network is developing an action plan and is working closely with the college to identify a pathway back to training accreditation.

WORLD AIDS DAY

In reply to **the Hon. R.A. SIMMS** (1 December 2022).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has advised:

1. The South Australian public health response to HIV is guided by the National HIV Strategy, a framework for a coordinated national approach to this important public health issue building on decades of successful partnerships between government, community, clinicians and researchers.

The South Australian government remains firmly committed to achieving the goals and targets of the National HIV Strategy, including the elimination of HIV transmission in South Australia by 2030. Thanks to scientific advances and the tireless efforts of health workers and community organisations, this goal is now not only realistic but within reach.

In recent years, the rollout of HIV preventive medications (PrEP) has contributed significantly to reducing transmission. It is estimated that around 1,500 South Australians were prescribed HIV PrEP during 2022. Uptake continues to increase on the back of concerted efforts to expand our network of PrEP prescribing clinicians, and to educate the community on the importance of this and other HIV prevention strategies.

Secondly, reducing time to diagnosis and treatment initiation is also key to Australia's HIV elimination efforts. To this end, there has been continued innovation in diverse and accessible testing models. In South Australia, members of the community may access rapid and self-testing options, in addition to visiting their GP or sexual health clinic.

Finally, being on treatment enables people living with HIV to reduce their viral load to an undetectable level. This concept, known as 'U=U', not only enables people living with HIV to enjoy a long, healthy life, it also means they cannot transmit their infection to their sexual partners. Thanks to community mobilisation as well as investment in patient-centred models of care and support services, the majority of South Australians living with HIV are on treatment and 'undetectable'.

2. The Central Adelaide Local Health Network is currently considering new locations for the practice.

An O'Brien Street practice relocation planning group has been established to oversee the move to a new location. This group includes O'Brien Street patient representatives and the practice's senior medical practitioner, as well as representatives from other government and non-government service providers.