

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 8 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.

Question Time

RIVER MURRAY FLOOD

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:22): I seek leave to provide a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development a question regarding flooding on farmland.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: According to the *Stock Journal* last week, farmers left inundated by River Murray flooding after government levees breached are feeling, and I quote:

...unsupported by [the] government and the "silence is deafening" as they face significant financial and emotional turmoil in the months and years ahead.

Much of the families' frustration stems from no fortifications happening on the government-owned Long Flat levee prior to the breach and a total lack of communication since. They are calling for a commitment from the government that these levees will be repaired and flood plains pumped out to return land to agricultural use. My question to the minister is: as Minister for Primary Industries, will she commit to these farmers that those levees will be repaired and flood plains pumped out in a timely manner?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:23): I thank the honourable member for her question. Progressively, as it is safe to do so, state government officers are attending different farming properties to assess the levees and to discuss the next steps with stakeholders. There has been a large amount of community engagement to date.

Many engagements have occurred with Irrigation Trust members, agricultural industry groups and individual producers. The effort will be expanded with Alex Zimmermann, the state's recovery coordinator, along with senior officials from both the Department for Environment and Water and the Department of Primary Industries and Regions, and they are continuing to visit and speak with producers from impacted farms or sector groups and that will continue in the coming weeks. That engagement is really to ensure that impacted farms and farmers do have a ready contact within the state government. PIRSA will continue to lead on industry engagement and planning.

I am advised that government-owned levees in the Lower Murray were primarily the ones built to reclaim land for agricultural production at normal river conditions and were not designed to provide protection from major flooding—so it's an important differentiation when people are talking about levees.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I think the Leader of the Opposition might like to look at what an agricultural levee is compared to a flood levee. In the lead-up to the 2022 River Murray flood peak, the Department for Environment and Water inspected all the government-owned levees and identified any remedial works required to ensure that they meet their intended design specification. Overtopping was anticipated and most privately owned agricultural levees, I am advised, were also overtopped in this flood event.

Once the water recedes and the extent of the flood damage is known, the state government will work with primary producers, including SA Dairyfarmers' Association and Livestock SA, to establish the best way to support affected farmers into the future. Of course, in the meantime, both the state and federal governments have announced a range of grants and other support for flood-affected primary producers, which can be accessed by calling 1800 931 314.

RIVER MURRAY FLOOD

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:25): Supplementary: why, if there has been what the minister has quoted as 'excessive consultation to date', do these farmers feel unsupported by the government, and has she personally reached out to these particular farmers and their families?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:26): The honourable member hasn't named the particular farmers to whom she is referring.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! I am trying to listen.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I don't have a copy of the *Stock Journal* on me at the moment, but if the member would like to provide those names—obviously, she must have them here with her—because I certainly have spoken with a number of producers directly.

WINE INDUSTRY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:26): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development on the wine industry.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Wine Australia's latest report shows that the red wine glut continues, with production estimated to have exceeded sales for the second year in a row. Crisis meetings are being held across the Riverland after growers in Australia's largest wine region, accounting for 32 per cent of the annual crush, were told earlier this year by multinational Accolade Wines that it would compensate growers to mothball red grapevines or switch to white varieties.

It is reported that up to 40 per cent of the Riverland's cab sav and shiraz grown this year has nowhere to go, with last year's excess red wine still sitting in tanks that are yet to be cleared for the upcoming 2023 vintage. My questions to the minister are:

1. Has the minister received a briefing about the latest estimates in the crisis facing South Australian grapegrowers?
2. What new programs has the Labor government announced and commenced or not yet commenced since March 2022 to support grapegrowers and wine producers?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:27): I thank the honourable Leader of the Opposition for her question. I have had a number of briefings in regard to the oversupply of red wine grapes and the impact it is having on our South Australian producers, particularly those in the Riverland. I conducted a round table with producers in the Riverland late last year, at which were representatives of my department and also the Department for Trade and Investment. Unfortunately, the Minister for Trade and Investment was ill that day and couldn't attend, although he had planned to do so.

In terms of ongoing programs, there are a number, but I also bring the honourable member's attention to a recent announcement that I made about two or three weeks ago that PIRSA has partnered with Riverland Wine to develop the Riverland wine industry blueprint. This is a strategic road map to supply the recovery and development of this region over the next 10 years. That came about because of that round table and the feedback that we received.

A number of producers there were talking about the fact that there are statewide and federal programs, both of which are useful and have some very good applications, but what they were looking for was a more strategic approach for the whole Riverland region.

I am very pleased to have been able to provide funding for the development of such a plan, and that will help to ensure that approaches and changes in behaviour from growers and so on are made with the full knowledge of what the overall strategy is for the Riverland. Obviously, producers and businesses make their own individual decisions, but if they have a strategy for their area, that will assist them to do so.

In addition to that, the state government has a formal partnership with the South Australian Wine Industry Association, which is supported by a \$1 million commitment over the next four years from PIRSA. That project continues to support initiatives at a state or regional level that can improve the capability and capacity of the wine industry across a range of areas, and that includes from viticulture right through to customer service.

A number of other programs are available through the department of industry and trade, and I think I have answered questions previously on that or had the answers taken on notice, and the answers were provided back from the Minister for Trade and Investment.

WINE INDUSTRY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:30): Supplementary: why is the minister talking recovery when this is a crisis that is occurring now, and why is the wine industry not receiving the same level of government support or financial relief as the rock lobster industry, given they, too, have been subjected to global market disruptions?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:30): There are a number of programs that are assisting winegrowers, particularly in terms of diversification of markets: assistance through PIRSA, in terms of—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —consideration of diversification of varieties, as well as ongoing technical information and support from PIRSA for those growers who are interested in doing that. The Malinauskas Labor government has continued to support those and also create new opportunities, which is an important part of supporting our wine industry going forward.

WINE INDUSTRY

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:31): Supplementary: is the funding that the minister mentioned new lots of money or is it from the current budget? Which budget exactly is it from? Is it from PIRSA or is it from Trade and Investment?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:31): That money is from PIRSA, and it is part of the Thriving Regions Fund.

WINE INDUSTRY

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (14:31): Supplementary: you mentioned the recovery and strategic planning being \$150,000. Is that \$150,000 over 10 years, and does that equate to \$15,000 per year? Are you able to actually verify how much specifically is going to individual businesses during this challenging time?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:32): I think the honourable member has either misheard or misunderstood. The figure is \$100,000, which is going to fund the creation—

The Hon. H.M. Girolamo: Over how long?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: If the member would like to listen to the answer, I am sure all her questions will be answered. The figure is \$100,000 to create—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —a blueprint, which is being done in conjunction with the wine association as I mentioned. So that is potentially to fund staff or a consultant to actually develop such a blueprint—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —to be liaising and consulting with those affected growers and it is an important part of developing that strategic blueprint, which will provide guidance for all of those producers. It is important to look at these things in a strategic way rather than a kneejerk reaction, which is what the opposition appear to be suggesting. This is what the producers have asked for.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: This is what the producers have asked for. Those across the aisle here want to keep bleating and complaining.

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: This is something that the industry in the Riverland asked for.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister, sit down. I need to be able to hear the minister's answer. Listen in silence.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Those opposite obviously think that the producers who have called for this somehow are not well equipped to know what they want. They called for this blueprint. We have provided for it, and that is what we have provided. Perhaps if those opposite would like to be more involved in some of those discussions, they are welcome to. I noted the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition suggesting that I should spend more time in the Riverland.

The PRESIDENT: Interjections are out of order and so are songs.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Indeed. Interjections are out of order; however, I would point out how many times not only myself has been in the Riverland but—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —the entire Malinauskas Labor government. We have spent a great deal of time in the Riverland and have been very pleased to do so. Obviously, that is partly because of the issues around the floods but also to have the sorts of discussions that we have had around things like the glut of red wines. It does bring to mind my first visit to the Riverland, which was soon after the election, when I met with one of the local stakeholders in the Riverland—I won't name them or indicate which one it was—and they said, 'It is so good to see a minister'—

An honourable member: A member of the Labor Party?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: No, they certainly were not Labor Party supporters, I can tell you that. They said that the former Minister for Environment, the now opposition leader, had gone there once—once—and had met with them once in that entire time, in four years. So the current Leader of the Opposition in the other place was so interested in the Riverland—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr Hanson, you are not helping.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —that in four years of government he met with this particular stakeholder once.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Once. That shows the true understanding—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Girolamo!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —of those opposite.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister, please conclude your remarks so we can move on.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Okay. I believe I have said all that needs to be said.

FIRST NATIONS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:35): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Leader of the Government regarding the proposed Voice bill in South Australia.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Your proposal for a Voice in South Australia seeks to elect First Nations people for a local and state Voice to parliament. According to the legislation a person will be taken to be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent if the person is biologically descended from the persons who inhabited Australia or the Torres Strait Islands, as the case requires, before European settlement. My questions to the leader are:

1. How will you verify the descent of a person voting in and being elected to a local or state Voice? Will they need to prove their Aboriginal heritage?

2. What will the ramifications be for providing false or misleading information?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:36): I thank the member for her question. The bill will be formally tabled tomorrow and we will have, as I think I have indicated, all of the next sitting week, for as long as it takes for second readings and the committee stage to fully examine the bill.

I don't have a copy of it in front of me but, from memory, set down is the test that stems from the High Court in the Mabo case and was, I think, a similar test that has been used for many government departments in terms of Aboriginality. To be able to vote there will be a declaration required under how the scheme is intended to work, and there will be penalties that apply, the same as false and misleading information on a statutory declaration.

CROSS BORDER COMMISSIONER

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (14:37): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister please update the chamber about the government's commitment to establishing a Cross Border Commissioner?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:37): I thank the honourable member for his question and his ongoing interest in regional affairs and regional communities. An election commitment was made by this government to establish a Cross Border Commissioner, and the Cross Border Commissioner Bill passed through parliament on 8 July and was assented to by Her Excellency the Governor in Executive Council on 14 July 2022.

The need for such a role had been apparent for some time. However, the COVID-19 border closures and restrictions made the difficulties for people living in these border regions even more significantly evident. The establishment of the commissioner fulfils a key Malinauskas government election commitment to assist residents, businesses and community organisations in our border communities.

In December, I announced that Ms Liz McKinnon had been selected to be the inaugural commissioner. Based in Mount Gambier, Ms McKinnon will work with other jurisdictions, in particular the Victorian and New South Wales cross-border commissioners, to enhance cooperation between state and territory governments. She will travel and visit border communities to assist, identify opportunities and facilitate collaboration with their cross-border counterparts to enhance regional and economic development.

As a cross-border resident, Ms McKinnon has a strong understanding of the current issues facing the region and will bring two decades of combined experience in government and media relations to the role. The voices of our cross-border communities will be significantly strengthened with the establishment of the Cross Border Commissioner, and I am glad that our government has delivered on another important election commitment.

CROSS BORDER COMMISSIONER

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:39): Supplementary: what meetings has the Cross Border Commissioner had with the Far West Coast and the APY lands communities?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:39): I thank the honourable member for her question and her interest. Certainly, we have spoken before about the fact that cross-border communities are not only those between South Australia and Victoria but of course all of the borders. The role has not commenced yet. I made the announcement before Christmas, and Ms McKinnon is finalising her current employment position and finishing up in that role prior to actually commencing in the role.

FIRST NATIONS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

The Hon. S.L. GAME (14:39): 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: The advance copy of the First Nations Voice Bill 2023, which was sent to my office yesterday but is yet to be publicly released, states that a person will be taken to be a First Nations person if the person is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. They must also 'regard themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander' and be 'accepted as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person by the relevant Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community'. The bill furthermore states that 'a person will be taken to be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent if the person is biologically descended from the persons who inhabited Australia' before European settlement.

Concerns from Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people have been raised with me about how far in one's ancestry a person can go back before claiming to be an Aboriginal person and how this could be evidenced. For example, somebody who is only able to trace Aboriginality to their great-grandmother, representing approximately 12.5 per cent Aboriginality or seven-eighths non-Indigenous lineage, could be considered an Aboriginal person for the purposes of the bill, despite not necessarily having a confirmed connection to Aboriginal culture or country. An obliging Aboriginal community organisation that is willing to provide 'proof' or 'confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait heritage' would appear sufficient.

The First Nations Voice commissioner's first engagement report highlighted a range of concerns about requirements to demonstrate First Nations identity and that it would need to be carefully considered and managed sensitively and inclusively. It states that many people raised significant challenges finding organisations willing to issue proof or confirmation of First Nations heritage and some community members suggested that any government-led process to decide a person's First Nations identity is inappropriate.

The second engagement report heeds these concerns and the requirement for voters to submit proof of Aboriginality has now been dropped under the current model. My questions to the Aboriginal affairs minister are:

1. Is the minister concerned about a potential increase in racism and racial resentment due to there being no requirement for voters to submit proof of Aboriginality?
2. Is the minister comfortable with the scrutiny of First Nations Voice members that might follow from a requirement to prove Aboriginality?
3. Has the government considered an alternative approach that considers needs-based support for disadvantaged South Australians, rather than support based on race or the place of origin of one's descendants?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:42): I thank the honourable member for her question and for her interest in this area. Certainly, they are questions that have been grappled with in the past. As I think I answered the honourable Leader of the Opposition's question, the tripartite test that is involved in the final version of the bill was one which was suggested by a number of organisations who submitted during the consultation phase from the original draft of the bill.

It's one that has been considered by the High Court in the past and it's one that is probably the most commonly used definition we have that governments right across Australia use. We think after consultations that it's the most appropriate one that ought to be used.

FIRST NATIONS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

The Hon. S.L. GAME (14:43): Supplementary question: I'm wondering if the Attorney-General can answer the question of whether he is comfortable about the focus on race and the focus on the requirement—

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: Point of order, Mr President: supplementary questions must arise from the answer given.

The PRESIDENT: I understand your point of order, but I am actually going to listen to the supplementary question before I can rule on it. Can you just ask your supplementary question? There is no explanation that goes with that, and I will listen and then rule accordingly.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: I guess I may need some guidance about how I can ask the Attorney-General to answer the question that was asked.

The PRESIDENT: The Attorney-General has provided his answer in the way that he saw fit. It doesn't necessarily mean that he has to answer in a way that you agree with. Unless there is something else, there is no supplementary question, the Hon. Ms Game.

SAM SMITH CONCERT

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:44): My question is to the Leader of the Government about government accountability. Can the Leader of the Government inform the council whether he was invited to the taxpayer-funded Sam Smith concert held on 11 January and, if not, why doesn't the Premier consider the Leader of the Government in this very important place an influencer of this state?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:45): I note the honourable member's question: no, I wasn't invited. I think I am a bit like the Premier, I had to have my kids explain to me who Sam Smith was after I heard about the concert. Again, my kids don't even consider me an influencer at home, so I don't think many others do.

RIVERLAND COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:45): My question is to the Attorney-General. Will he inform the council about the additional funds that were provided for legal services as part of the support for residents affected by flooding in the Riverland region?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:45): I thank the honourable member for his question and note the very keen interest the honourable member has had in areas of the Riverland and the very close association he has had with the Riverland over many years.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: I can't hear the Attorney.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: I fondly remember times at community functions, events and at pubs in the Riverland with the Hon. Russell Wortley, who travels extensively throughout the state—probably not as much as did our former colleague the Hon. David Ridgway (nor has he had as many lunches), but still quite extensively throughout South Australia.

South Australia is lucky to have some truly fantastic community legal services available for South Australians in need of legal assistance, often during some of the most difficult periods in their lives. Community Legal Centres (SA) provides membership to many of those services, including the Women's Legal Service, JusticeNet SA, Uniting Communities Law Centre, Community Justice Services SA, Northern Community Services, Working Women's Centre and the Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation, to name a few.

Across these services and more that sit within the membership of Community Legal Centres (SA), over 15,000 people access free legal advice each year at centres located across both metropolitan and rural South Australia. On top of the significant legal advice work, Community Legal Centres (SA) has now also produced and distributed legal information brochures and flyers, which detail specific legal advice and services that are available in 20 different languages.

Over 4,000 of these flyers have been distributed directly to people and households at risk, or who have been impacted by floods. The information on these brochures has been kept clear and simple, including an outline of what important documents are in the case of having to leave one's home in an emergency situation, such as a flood.

Information on the flier also detailed key flood-related insurance information, with insurance assessment tips and frequently asked insurance questions. Many of these information flyers were distributed in the presence of Community Legal Centre (SA) staff and volunteers at the various emergency response centres that were established for flood-affected communities in the Riverland region.

This legal service representation to emergency response centres was also made up of membership of groups, such as Uniting Communities, Community Justice Services and Women's Legal Service SA, to provide much-needed information and support, often when people haven't even had a chance to begin to think about the legal implications of the floods, given the nature of evacuations that needed to occur and other matters of trying to protect property and lives.

I was also pleased to learn at a recent meeting with Community Legal Centres (SA) that they have recently been awarded a \$90,000 grant from SAFECOM to develop video resources to be used on social media and education activities for natural disaster preparation and response, which again is available in many different languages. The grant will also provide for the centre to manufacture additional grab-and-go bags, which were initially designed and created for South Australia's bushfire season, providing a heat and waterproof satchel that is labelled 'Important documents', should someone need to leave their home at very quick notice.

This initiative from the centre received some very positive feedback as a safe, simple and effective way for people clearly to store their essential documents. I want to congratulate all those and pay tribute to those who have provided many, many hours in their own time to provide legal services and legal assistance to their fellow South Australians.

RIVERLAND COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:49): Supplementary: how many applications have been processed under the flood recovery grant, and what is the total monetary spend to date?

The PRESIDENT: Attorney, you can answer that as best you can.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:50): I appreciate the honourable member's question. It could be out of order, not relating to anything in the actual answer, however it is not an area that I am responsible for in my portfolios. I will be more than happy—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: —to take that on notice and bring back an answer for the honourable member. Should she be visiting the Riverland, she can provide those answers to her constituents.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: When you two have finished, we will have the Hon. Mr Pangallo.

GENERAL PRACTITIONER INCENTIVES

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (14:50): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Minister for Health in another place, a question about incentive payments for GPs.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: At a recent select committee hearing chaired by my excellent colleague the Hon. Connie Bonaros, the SA Chair of the Royal Australian College of GPs, Dr Goodson, proposed that young hospital doctors should be offered a \$30,000 incentive to train as general practitioners to make up for their pay cut when they left the public health system.

Dr Goodson said such a scheme would not only tackle the state's GP crisis but, importantly, stop the brain drain to Victoria, which is proposing a similar scheme but valued at \$40,000. While the proposal has widespread support among GPs, according to doctors we have spoken to, the state government has no such plans. My questions to the minister are:

1. Why won't the government introduce such an incentive scheme for young GPs?
2. What is the government doing to address the statewide shortage of GPs?
3. Is it concerned that South Australian trained GPs will now leave the state in droves for financial incentives and security in other states?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:52): I thank the honourable member for his very important questions and his interest in the health system in South Australia. I will pass those questions on to the health minister in another place and bring back the reply for the Hon. Frank Pangallo.

SAM SMITH CONCERT

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:52): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, representing the Minister for Tourism, a question about South Australian Tourism Commission policies.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: In regard to the exclusive invite-only Sam Smith concert, I will quote one of the attendees. On their TikTok, they said the following:

we were invited to a Sam Smith concert

At the Sofitel, it was very private

Everyone else had alcoholic beverages, and we were trying to find them, but we couldn't—

Further on, when this person was at the venue, it continues as follows:

there was free alcohol here; so you've gotta believe we got a little messed up, but it was worth it, like, the vibes here were immaculate. I think there was only 300 people here, it was pretty intimate.

Further on, they say:

I tried to vape; found out I don't like vapes.

I still genuinely don't understand how we can get invited to these things, like, I just feel so lucky I don't know, it's just a dream

It's like a dream come true, I don't know, it's just incredible...Like a private concert as well.

My questions for the minister are:

1. Was a business case undertaken by the SATC prior to the exclusive Sam Smith soiree, and what metrics were used?
2. Did all the attendees and invitees comply with SATC policies by the government listed for influencers?
3. Will the government list in full what expenses were covered for the invitees, including whether it included all alcohol, all food, flights into Adelaide and out of Adelaide, hotel accommodation, transfers to and from the airport and any other expenses and, if not, why not?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:54): I am happy to take that question on notice, refer it to the relevant minister in the other place and bring back a reply.

BIOSECURITY

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (14:55): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister please inform the chamber how the government is managing biosecurity and emergency animal disease preparedness?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:55): I thank the honourable member for her question, because it is indeed imperative that Australia has a strong and resilient biosecurity system to effectively prevent, prepare for and respond to these threats. We know that the impact of an emergency animal disease such as foot-and-mouth disease would have a devastating impact on the state's economy, including predicted job losses of over 8,000 workers in the primary production sector and processing sector, and billions of dollars lost.

In recent years, there has been a heightened risk of emergency animal diseases, and that is why we have been working closely with industry to announce a package that will ensure South Australia is well placed to respond if ever required. Complex and interconnected international trade routes with increasing volumes of international trade, shifting climate and environmental conditions are all factors in the increasing biosecurity threats faced by Australia.

Therefore, I was delighted to have the opportunity late last year to stand with Livestock SA and the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association to announce that the Malinauskas Labor government will invest \$6.8 million over four years to help South Australia combat the increased risk of emergency animal diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever and lumpy skin disease, among others. I am proud that this government is taking biosecurity seriously and providing significant investment in our primary production industry.

The funds will ensure South Australia is prepared for and able to respond to any incursions. It will include EAD preparedness for the development and testing of procedures for large-scale response activities, such as disposal and decontamination; the purchase of three emergency response trailers for rapid deployment, including equipment, to immediately quarantine affected properties and undertake sampling and decontamination; training, including of participating and supporting agencies and industry representatives, to effectively participate in response activities; engagement with the private veterinary network to develop a workforce plan, particularly including regional components; and managing and delivering scenario exercises to ensure EAD preparedness and emergency arrangements remain current.

It will also provide funding for epidemiology and risk assessment, specifically additional primary technical expertise to analyse disease data and direct response activities; prediction of disease spread and devising of effective control measures; and provision of technical analysis in a timely manner to inform decision-making.

It will also provide diagnostic capacity: the procurement of mobile laboratory facilities for rapid diagnostic services, including the purchase of point-of-care testing machines for use in rural areas; the upgrading of digital connectivity between the Australian Centre for Disease Control and state laboratory services VetLab at Glenside; a developing capability for rapid escalation of disease testing and proof of freedom surveillance testing; and the management and delivery of scenario exercises to ensure EAD preparedness for laboratory testing logistics and new testing methodologies are operationally ready for use in the event of outbreaks.

It will also provide disease surveillance, increasing veterinary and animal health capacity for early detection, including training and engagement of livestock producers, vets and other supply chain stakeholders. Emergency response capability and capacity will be increased, including expertise to undertake training needs analysis and deliver training in the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System to PIRSA and other staff across government, participating organisations and private vets, and additional capacity to provide expertise that can be drawn upon in the event of a future response.

EAD prevention and early detection are core priorities for PIRSA, in addition to being prepared to respond to these diseases should they be detected in Australia. The state government is working closely with the commonwealth, state and territory departments, Animal Health Australia, and state and national peak industry bodies to continually improve Australia's biosecurity systems to address these evolving threats.

BIOSECURITY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:59): Supplementary: what investment will the Malinauskas government commit to the Labor federal government's mandatory rollout of sheep and goat ERD in South Australia to improve traceability for biosecurity purposes?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Would it be okay if I call the minister?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister, I will give you the opportunity to answer the question.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! You've asked a supplementary question, leader.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister, please.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:00): Thank you, Mr President. I thought the Leader of the Opposition wanted to answer her own question.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! I would like to listen to the answer, please.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I have indeed, I believe, answered a very similar question before. The electronic ID is something that was committed to at the agricultural ministers' meetings last year. We have engaged with Livestock SA to produce the plans going forward—

The Hon. N.J. Centofanti interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —which need to be industry led. They need to be appropriate for industry. This is industry that is leading this project in terms of presenting to the state government how it will best be implemented. If those opposite don't think that electronic IDs are suitable, and they don't think that biosecurity is such an important matter that this should be supported, then perhaps they should be saying so. Perhaps they should come out and say that their policy is to oppose the electronic identification of sheep and goats. If that's their policy, then they should be saying so. This is something that is important for biosecurity and something that is being progressed.

NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:01): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question on the topic of the National Redress Scheme for people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse to the minister representing the Minister for Child Protection.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: A constituent has contacted my office and spoken of their experience of trying to receive a direct personal response in the form of a public apology from the South Australian government as part of the National Redress Scheme for people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse. The abuse that this person has suffered is not at all in question. In fact, the abuse that they suffered whilst under the so-called care of the South Australian government from the 1960s is well established. Their story, in fact, was one that compelled the South Australian government to undertake the Mullighan inquiry into the sexual abuse of South Australian children in state care.

The National Redress Scheme that followed sought to support those who had experienced institutional child sexual abuse. The South Australian government committed to being part of this scheme in January 2019. The scheme provides support for those impacted by institutional child sexual abuse. This support has a couple of forms, one of which is 'a direct personal response'. This response takes the form of an apology. How this apology is received is up to the person who has suffered the abuse. The documentation from the Redress Scheme makes it clear to those applying that, 'You can choose to have a senior person from the institution...make a public announcement.'

The constituent I have been speaking with is well known to the minister through our correspondence, but they are yet to receive any apology—written, verbal or public. They have been waiting years for an apology. This constituent has been told that they will not be receiving the public apology they have requested, and the reason they were given is that a 2008 speech given by a former Premier will have to do.

That speech was not for any one individual, it was a speech for all of those who were abused in state care. People who have suffered sexual abuse as children are not monoliths. They have individual experiences which have profound direct effects on their lives. To reject this person's reasonable request is yet another failing of the South Australian government that they can add to the list.

Redress is important. Apologies matter. Each individual experience matters and that is why the National Redress Scheme sought to give victims the powers to say how they wanted to receive their apology. It's important to empower victims in this process. My question to the minister representing the Minister for Child Protection is: when is the government going to adhere to this parliament's commitment to the National Redress Scheme and provide public apologies, when requested, to the very people who suffered abuse while in the care—the so-called care—of our state?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:04): I am happy to answer the question for the honourable member. I think the area of apologies that I understand are given as part of the Redress Scheme does, as the honourable member correctly indicates, fall under the Department for Child Protection.

The administration of the scheme generally, through money that comes from the Victims of Crime Fund, sits under my department, the Attorney-General's Department. I might even talk to the

honourable member afterwards about the individual's name and I am happy to take that up myself with my colleague.

NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:05): Supplementary: my office wrote to the Attorney-General's office and the Minister for Child Protection and were referred to the Minister for Child Protection. This person has been waiting a long time for their apology. We cannot wait for this government to get their administration right.

The PRESIDENT: I don't really think that's a question; that's more of a statement, so we will move on.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:05): My question is to the Attorney-General as the Leader of Government in the Legislative Council. Do you think it is appropriate or acceptable conduct for a government-appointed Chairperson to storm out of a committee meeting and to prevent democratic debate from occurring?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:06): I thank the honourable member for her question, but I have no idea what she is talking about.

The PRESIDENT: You do need to be careful that you are not disclosing the deliberations of a committee within the Legislative Council.

The Hon. K.J. Maher: She could be thrown out for that, couldn't she?

The PRESIDENT: No, she won't be thrown out for that. It's part of the education process and the other thing is—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! I will be interested to listen to your supplementary question, given the answer that was given.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:06): What is the standard that the Leader of the Government sets for his colleagues?

The PRESIDENT: You don't choose to answer? I understand.

AMICA ONE

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:07): My question is to the Attorney-General. Will the minister inform the council about the recent launch of Amica One?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:07): I thank the honourable member for his important question in relation to the recent launch of Amica One. Amica is a secure digital service developed by National Legal Aid and legal aid commissions, including very significant development from the Legal Services Commission of South Australia, with funding also from the commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

Amica is a mobile-first tool to help guide separating couples through parenting arrangements and property settlement. It empowers those who use it to resolve their own disputes and seek information, education and assistance where needed, and utilises artificial intelligence to provide suggested resolutions. Amica can then generate documentation to record the agreed decisions. It can be a way to initiate difficult conversations and resolve difficult disputes that often seem intractable at the outset.

Client feedback and recent research indicated that there was a growing need to use a single-sided version of Amica. The behaviour of Amica users suggested that an increasing number of people who were considering separating were keen to try Amica but were initially apprehensive about

inviting their former partner to use it without having first trialled it themselves. Particularly, people who have experienced family violence also provided feedback that a one-sided interface would help empower them with their information education about their rights and what a division of assets might look like, or what a parenting plan agreement might look like.

After an extensive program of works, a single-sided version of Amica, called Amica One, was developed. Amica One generates a proposed division of finances and property based on a user's financials and estimate of a former partner's financials. I am pleased to say that Amica One launched only a couple of weeks ago. It is completely free to use and anonymous, and aims to assist to:

- increase access to justice and the provision of legal information;
- empower individuals to take the next steps towards settlements of property and parenting arrangements;
- simplify the process for separating couples;
- drive traffic to Amica by providing Amica One users with an opportunity essentially to try before they use the two-sided interface; and
- increase the rate of sign-up to Amica by both parties.

I am pleased to be able to report that since its launch only on 25 July last year, Amica One has already received 30,000 page views, with over 500 suggested divisions calculated. The expectation is that many of those users who try Amica One will go on to create an account with Amica when they are ready to do so.

Since the national launch of Amica on 30 June 2020, usage has steadily increased to date. Approximately 7,000 matters have registered in Amica, 1,400 couples have received suggested asset division, 400 couples have finalised parenting plan arrangements, and 300 couples have finalised consent orders. The key indicators of Amica's success is the social benefit being delivered to Australians who have empowered themselves with information, demonstrated through over 800,000 website views, and the value to those who have gone through to receive suggested divisions.

Noting that the average cost of legal advice in such matters is more than \$10,000 a person, users have saved more than \$18 million using Amica. Equitable access to justice is a mainstay for the Legal Services Commission. I am very pleased with the South Australian Legal Services Commission's involvement in this project, and I was pleased to have received briefings about this while in opposition. To see it working and come to fruition as well in South Australia and across Australia is a good thing.

REGIONAL BANK CLOSURES

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:11): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question without notice to the Minister for Regional Development on the topic of bank closures in the region.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: Last week, *The Advertiser* reported that Westpac is closing their bank branch in Coober Pedy later this month, leaving the town without any bank. Over the last seven years, at least 50 regional bank branches have closed in South Australia. At least 22 towns have been left without a bank branch at all, including places such as Angaston, Burra, Kapunda, Mannum, Roxby Downs, Strathalbyn, Tailem Bend and Willunga.

Last week, the ATM at Coober Pedy ran out of cash. As a result, residents could only withdraw cash from the post office during business hours or by driving 500 kilometres to Port Augusta. My question to the Minister for Regional Development is: what action has the minister taken to date to ensure that banks in regional towns and communities stay open?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:12): I thank the honourable member for his question. Certainly, the decisions taken by banks, which don't appear anymore to have a sense of social responsibility,

are very disappointing. The member refers to the number of banks that have closed across regional areas, and I know in terms of the closure at Coober Pedy, I think both the member for Giles and the member for Stuart have had conversations with me about this.

It is most unfortunate when these large corporations don't take any responsibility for providing services to regional communities. It is something that is regrettable, unfortunately part of the society within which we operate, which has private companies making these decisions. It means that it is not something that we have a direct opportunity to impact, but I am certainly willing to talk with my colleagues in the other place who have a more direct responsibility in terms of business and so on and come back if there is any additional information that I can provide.

REGIONAL BANK CLOSURES

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:13): Supplementary: has the minister put her concerns to Westpac and asked them to reconsider their decision?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:14): I have not done so, and I will certainly check whether any of my colleagues have done so, which is quite possible.

REGIONAL BANK CLOSURES

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:14): Supplementary: given the minister's concerns, and the potential implications for regional development, why hasn't she raised these with Westpac?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:14): I thank the honourable member for his supplementary question. It comes down to those areas which I think is about, really, consumer pressure on those banks. We need to have more of an opportunity to influence. I mean, a private corporation will make its own decisions, which is unfortunate. I will certainly see which of my colleagues have taken other actions as well, because of course this portfolio, regional development, is very broad. But I will see what my colleagues in the other place have done.

REGIONAL BANK CLOSURES

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (15:15): Supplementary: does the minister consider that part of her role is to represent consumers in country and regional SA?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:15): I've had a lot of very positive feedback about my engagement in regional areas on very many and varied topics.

The Hon. K.J. Maher: Where have you been?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Where have I been?

The PRESIDENT: No—

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I have been almost everywhere, my colleague. Almost everywhere, Attorney, Mr President.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! No.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: It has been in stark contrast to the behaviour of the former government. I know that last week when I was in the outback, I was in Andamooka, Roxby Downs, William Creek, among others, and the feedback there—and I've got to say, those areas are not necessarily areas that one would think are particularly Labor leaning areas, yet the response from so many people I spoke to there was, 'We are so glad to see government ministers.'

In fact, I was joined by the Hon. Kristy McBain, federal minister, as well as the Minister for Regional Roads and Local Government, the member for Stuart in the other place, and we were told that this is the first time that a federal minister had visited that area in more than a decade—the first time there had ever been a federal minister in a decade or more.

I think that really is illustrative of the type of interest we have from those opposite despite their constant bleating about how they are in touch with the regions. They like to talk the talk, but they don't like to walk the walk, if walking means getting out of Adelaide.

The PRESIDENT: Minister, bring it back.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: When it comes down to the—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Bring it back.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: When it comes down to the other times that we do hear about those opposite and their colleagues actually getting out to the regions, what do we hear? We hear that the Leader of the Opposition in the other place, he was just too good to eat the chicken in the Mount Gambier venue. He was too chicken to eat the chicken in the Mount Gambier venue. In fact, he got up and stormed out. How is this—

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: Point of order: this is completely irrelevant to the question that was asked about banks and quite frankly it's quite embarrassing for people living in regional communities. I asked a serious question about people's access to money and what we've got is a lot of irrelevant nonsense.

The PRESIDENT: Minister, I have been generous, giving you a broad range, but this needs to come to a conclusion. Finish your answer, and then we can move on, please.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Certainly, and if the supplementary question from the Hon. Ms Lensink was irrelevant nonsense, I guess that's not my fault.

VICTIMS OF CRIME FUND

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:18): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General regarding the Victims of Crime Fund.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: It was recently reported that the Victims of Crime Fund surplus totalled some \$194 million last financial year, and just over half of the \$50 million accrued in that financial year was directed to victims and relevant services—just under half. The Attorney-General has been called upon by victims of crime to rectify the situation so that the unspent funds can go towards their intended purpose.

Indeed, the Law Society has spoken out in support of these victims, stating that the legislation capping compensation is, in their view, 'without justification'. They have suggested various amendments to the Victims of Crime Act 2001. My question to the Attorney-General is:

1. What is the Attorney-General's response to the Law Society's proposed amendments to the Victims of Crime Act 2001?
2. Has the Attorney-General commenced consultation in relation to potential changes to the act, or is a bill being drafted currently?
3. If the Attorney-General is amenable to implementing changes to the act, when can state parliament expect to see a bill?

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 important question and his interest in law and order matters and in supporting victims of crime. The Victims of Crime Fund, as the honourable member mentioned, is a levy on a number of offences and expiation notices that goes into a fund to provide payments to people who have been victims of certain crimes but also to provide specialist service and for victims of crime programs.

If my memory serves me correctly, I think when the Hon. John Rau was Attorney-General was the last time there was a significant increase in the maximum amount payable. I will double-check to make sure that is right, but I think the maximum amount payable went up almost a decade ago from \$50,000 to \$100,000. It was a doubling that occurred under Attorney-General John Rau.

I know there was a significant increase under the last government of the levy that is payable—about a 50 per cent increase—without commensurate further increase in the amount payable, which I guess could be argued was a catch-up for the doubling that was available previously.

There is also an allocation to support areas that provide services for victims of crime. Out of the Victims of Crime Fund we have allocated extra payments for victims. We have allocated an extra \$2 million—\$500,000 each year over four years—to improve supports for victims, including an allocation of funding for the Victim Support Service, for example.

The Victim Support Service will use this increase in funding to deliver the two programs: the court companions program that will provide support to victims, witnesses and their families in criminal courts across South Australia; and the Safer Spaces Program to provide information and referrals to help victims of crime navigate the justice system and access appropriate support.

This is a restoration of services the Victim Support Service had provided in the past that were cut under the course of the former government. The Victim Support Service was founded in 1979 and was the first of its kind in Australia and only the fourth of its type in the world. For over four decades, it helped families such as those families of murder victims, sexual abuse survivors and victims of violence.

The services included court preparation, companion programs (as I mentioned) that we have reinstated funding for, peer support groups, and education and training for professionals who work with victims. The previous funding cuts under the term of the last government did have a very significant and rather devastating impact on the Victim Support Service, including the closure of seven offices in regional towns.

South Australian victims of crime and abuse, regardless of where they live, need that support, particularly when they are navigating what is often a very distressing time in their life. Last year, it was a great privilege to meet with some of the volunteers who operate in, particularly, the court companion service in Mount Gambier that we are providing extra funding to from the Victims of Crime Fund.

We have announced other initiatives that we are providing for victims of crime over and above what has been provided in the past. These include helping those who experience family violence navigate their way through the court process. We are always keen to see how we can best support victims and will continue to do so.

Ministerial Statement

TURKIYE-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:23): I table a ministerial statement the Premier made during our question time on the earthquake in Turkiye and Syria.

Matters of Interest

RIVER MURRAY FLOOD

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:23): I rise today to speak about the recent flooding events and the resilience of my community and other communities along the River Murray.

The River Murray is a mighty beast. It is Australia's longest river, measuring 2,508 kilometres in length. Its tributaries include five of the next six longest rivers of Australia: the Murrumbidgee, Darling, Lachlan, Warrego and Paroo rivers. Together with that of the Murray the catchments of these rivers form the Murray-Darling Basin, which covers about one-seventh the area of Australia and is widely considered Australia's most important irrigated region.

Over the Christmas and New Year period, the Riverland and the Murraylands experienced the largest flood seen since the 1956 flood. The impacts to local businesses, farmers and residents are varying, and for many will be long lasting. In the short-term it has meant loss of trade, higher input costs, dislocations and damage to infrastructure. In the medium to long-term many of these disruptions are likely to continue as waters recede and the recovery efforts begin.

One thing is for sure: our regional communities are resilient, always have been and always will be. We are like family. We look after each other and help one another when the chips are down, and then we get back up together, stronger and with a renewed sense of purpose, because that is how our regions survive. We cannot do it without each other and it is driven by community leaders and by volunteers.

I want to sincerely thank the SES workers and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to keeping our river communities safe. The selflessness of these individuals to put the regions' interests at heart, before their own, must be commended. Day after day they were there when we needed them most, and we will be eternally grateful.

I also take this opportunity to thank the mayors, councillors, CEOs, local government staff and state government agencies for their tremendous efforts during this time. For many of the mayors elected at the recent local government elections, this was a difficult and challenging introduction to the job. However, they should all hold their heads high, be proud of their achievements and be congratulated for the roles they all played to protect townships, lives and livelihoods.

I personally thank Mayor Winnall, Mayor Hunter and Mayor Norton from the Berri Barmera, Renmark Paringa and Loxton Waikerie councils and their respective CEOs—Dylan Shaw, Tony Siviour and David Beaton—from the Riverland for their leadership during this time. I also thank Mid Murray Mayor Simone Bailey and CEO Ben Scales, as well as Murray Bridge Mayor Wayne Thorley and CEO Michael Sedgman for their leadership in the Murraylands.

We welcomed the state government's flood disaster package, but from the outset stressed the importance of accessibility for these communities, and I make no apologies for this. It is easy to announce a million dollar package that makes North Terrace feel warm and fuzzy, but if those grants cannot be accessed by locals in a timely manner then in my view it fails. River communities cannot afford to fall through the cracks. Time and again our regions punch well above their weight when it comes to economic contribution and support to this state.

Occasionally, there are times when our regions require support in return—a hand up, not a hand out—and we must be there for them. The recent period has also highlighted the importance of coordination between community, local government and state and federal agencies, having a plan and being prepared. Communication is the key and local knowledge is priceless. It is important that we learn from our experiences, that we celebrate our successes and look towards the future.

River communities are some of our best regions for tourism: we have great food, great wine and premium accommodation. It is critical that this is promoted and supported by this government and by this state as these communities recover from this event. We need to get behind our river communities to ensure that they not only survive but flourish and thrive going forward.

PAY OUR RESPECTS VIGIL

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (15:28): On Saturday, I attended a vigil organised by Pay Our Respects to mourn the loss of 60 Australian women murdered in 2022 as a result of domestic or family violence. This is the fifth consecutive year in which the community has gathered on the steps of Parliament House for an event organised by Gillian Lewis and Stacey Nelan, the co-founders of Pay Our Respects, to hear the tragic stories of women whose dreams, aspirations and lives were cut short by violence.

People involved in the prevention of domestic violence, families of lost loved ones and others who share their own experiences of violence stood together to honour those lives. This is a familiar story in Australia. Last year, I attended the same event. Last year, I rose in this chamber to speak about the critical need for housing, economic and justice programs to eliminate violence against women. We are well aware of its reach and impact, so much so that these stories have a tendency to become little more than cautionary tales, treated as an unfortunate fact of society.

The Pay Our Respects event shows the harrowing reality that domestic violence is more than just a headline or a statistic. Looking into the sea of women on those steps, it is clear that even one woman killed is too many. The fact is that a woman should not have to die in order for us to take notice. Violence against women and children manifests in everyday life. It is deeply entrenched and widespread in our society. It is easy to become desensitised and turn a blind eye.

The impact of this violence cannot only be seen in 60 lives lost, it is also a leading cause of homelessness, as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found that more than 72,900 people sought specialist homelessness services in 2021-22 due to domestic violence. It also haunts our children, as AIHW reports that one in six women experience physical or sexual abuse before the age of 15. If not the target, then children become witnesses to this violence under the care of more than 400,000 women who experience violence from a previous partner, as reported by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2017.

These rates of violence are even higher for marginalised groups such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. We are failing to protect women in our communities. Misogyny, harassment, stereotypes and toxic culture in schools, workplaces and homes only serve in some instances to perpetuate this violence. We must tackle violence against women on personal, societal and systemic levels in order to work towards eradication of this blight on our society. Action has slowly but surely been undertaken by both the federal and state government in addressing these unacceptable rates of violence.

The national plan, focused on prevention, early intervention, response and final recovery and healing, provides a hopeful outlook for the future. The introduction of 15 days of paid domestic violence leave for both the public and private sector provides women the chance to seek support without sacrificing their income. These are important steps, but let me be clear in saying that this alone is not enough. Without the proper administration, intersectional policies and allocation of resources, these promises will become nothing more than words.

Domestic violence is undoubtedly a significant barrier to the welfare of society and especially for women. Every woman has the right to protection against exploitation, violence and abuse. As a government, it is our responsibility to uphold this right. Schemes targeting violence against women therefore must be all inclusive, backed by strong policies and implemented in an efficient manner.

VIETNAM WAR ANNIVERSARY

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:33): I rise to speak today about the 50-year anniversary of Australia's withdrawal from the Vietnam War. At a recent event I attended, Mr Bill Denny AM, South Australia's RSL Ambassador, spoke about Australia's withdrawal from the Vietnam War.

To begin, I want to briefly outline why Australia participated in this war. Prior to World War II, the Australian government still looked to London for diplomatic guidance. However, this reliance was undermined by the events of World War II, and Australia's confidence was rattled by three events that all occurred in February 1942: (1) the surrender of the British base in Singapore; (2) the Japanese invasion of New Guinea; and (3) the bombing of Darwin by Japanese planes.

In 1951, Australia, New Zealand and America signed the ANZUS Treaty, developed largely in response to Cold War threats such as the rise of communist China. The terms of the treaty stipulated that if one of the three signatories was attacked, the others were required to assist. Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War was largely driven by a fear of communism expanding in Asia, as well as Australia's desire to align itself with the United States.

From 1962 to 1973, more than 60,000 Australians served in the Vietnam War as part of an allied force led by the US. They fought alongside South Vietnamese government troops against the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam, also known as the Viet Cong, which is a communist-led insurgent force.

When the US committed combat troops in March 1965, Australia followed at the request of the US, and when the US boosted troop numbers in 1966 so did Australia. After the US began to withdraw troops, Australia also followed. Australia's withdrawal from Vietnam was proclaimed by the Governor-General on 11 January 1973. The Vietnamese people fought on bravely for a further two years without help while the Viet Cong was gaining support from China and Russia.

To mark Australia's 50-year anniversary of our withdrawal from Vietnam, Mr Bill Denny spoke at that event and he said:

With this anniversary we may see many Australians talking of reconciliation and the forging of a closer relationship with our former enemy. Some may even seek to cast the war as a mistake and look to embrace the People's Republic of Vietnam as a friend...political considerations might mean a closer relationship is beneficial, but

we must never forget that the People's Republic of Vietnam is a communist country and that the people of Vietnam do not enjoy the same freedoms we enjoy in Australia.

For the 50-year anniversary of Australia's withdrawal from Vietnam, I would like to put on record that we must make sure our Vietnam veterans' service and sacrifices are recognised. The Vietnam War was the cause of great social and political dissent in Australia. It raised extraordinary passions amongst Australians. Despite these tensions, all our Vietnam veterans served their country with courage, carrying out the job they were given with a deep sense of duty and professionalism. Our veterans need our encouragement to do all they can to ensure the truth of the past continues to be told.

POKER MACHINES

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:37): I rise today to speak about the profound harm caused by poker machine gambling. Australia has 76 per cent of the world's non-casino poker machines. Each year, Australians lose over \$25 billion on a range of gambling products, and at least half of these losses are through poker machines. In South Australia, a record-breaking \$831 million was lost on poker machines in hotels and clubs in the 2021-22 financial year.

Of course, poker machines, have changed quite significantly in recent decades. Today's digital poker machines have greater addictive potential and are designed to maximise both the amount of time users spend on those machines and the revenue gained from the player through their losses. This has led to severe harm to some users of poker machines.

Gambling disorder is a serious addiction and mental health condition which has major impacts, not just on the person gambling but on the people around them. These harms range through psychological distress, financial losses, bankruptcy, losing their job, homelessness, breakdown of personal relationships, crime, drug and, of course, alcohol abuse, and even self-harm. The scale of the problem is huge.

The Alliance for Gambling Reform has said that around 1.1 million Australians experience or are at significant risk of experiencing gambling-related problems, and for each person directly harmed, another five to 10 around them are also affected. The Australian Gambling Research Centre has found that harm is intensified in disadvantaged areas where many residents already experience social and economic stress and have less capacity to cope with gambling losses. People who already experience other problems such as mental illness are also at higher risk of becoming addicted to poker machine use, further compounding those health and social harms.

Not only do poker machines contribute to problem gambling, they are also closely linked to criminal behaviour. The New South Wales Crime Commission has recently examined money laundering via poker machines in hotels and clubs in that state. It found that, while criminals are funnelling billions of dirty cash through poker machines in pubs and clubs every year in New South Wales, there are no effective controls or data collection to identify or prosecute those involved. Government inquiries, advocacy organisations and academic studies have all consistently advised that a mandatory, registered cashless gambling card system has significant potential to address gambling harm and criminal activity through poker machines.

The harm minimisation benefits from mandatory cashless gambling cards are many. They include the ability to implement precommitment systems where gamblers are required to set a binding limit on the amount of money they wish to spend before a gambling session starts. They also allow for criminal behaviour connected to poker machines to be identified and prevented. As far back as 2010, the Productivity Commission actively recommended the adoption of full precommitment systems for poker machine gambling right across Australia.

Recent royal commissions into Crown Perth and Crown Melbourne casinos, as well as the external review into Star casinos in Queensland, have also recommended mandatory full precommitment systems for poker machines. The Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Commission reported in June 2022 on its investigation into the use of both facial recognition technology and cashless gambling cards as a tool for harm minimisation. The Tasmanian government is now working towards implementing the cashless gambling card by December 2024.

The New South Wales Crime Commission inquiry into money laundering has also recommended the introduction of a mandatory cashless gambling card and enhanced data collection methods to minimise criminal activity through poker machines. In response, the New South Wales government has announced a plan to make every poker machine cashless by the end of 2028, and this month the Alliance for Gambling Reform urged all state and territory governments to commit immediately to a mandatory registered gambling card system for poker machines. The alliance noted that doing so has the potential to positively impact the lives of millions of Australian families, both now and in the future.

The momentum and public support for this reform cannot be ignored. The South Australian government must listen and take urgent action to implement mandatory cashless gambling cards here to address the harm that poker machines are causing right now to so many people across our state. This is urgent and the Malinauskas government must act.

FIRST NATIONS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

The Hon. S.L. GAME (15:42): I rise to speak on the Voice to Parliament. A level of personal responsibility and moving forward is part of what is required from anybody who has experienced trauma. I want to see the lives of those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in despairing conditions improved, as I do any Australian living in substandard conditions. Ultimately, to prosper and close the gap, adaption and participation is required in Australian society, and the right thing to do is to be honest that simply maintaining culture and living in remote locations will never close the gap.

I have greatly enjoyed the journey of meeting different Aboriginal people from Narungga up to Barngarla Country and in between. I have found the Aboriginal people I have met to have a genuine desire for inclusion and participation. They feel let down by the stop-start nature of programs and the focus on box-ticking rather than real tangible solutions. Government must provide support based on needs, not race, and I, along with the constituents I have consulted, find a focus on race to be a major step backwards for our society.

The state Labor government's First Nations Voice Bill 2022 is divisive and plays on the compassion of the South Australian people. One Nation supports all Australians having a voice and an equal right to be heard. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders already have a strong voice at our highest level of government. Currently, there are 11 federal parliamentarians identifying as Indigenous, representing 4.85 per cent of all seats, more than a full percentage point higher than that of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, as per the 2021 census data.

The overwhelming feedback I have received from my community interactions is either shock, disappointment or confusion at this legislative proposal by the South Australian Labor government, especially as it is occurring prior to the upcoming referendum, which is intended to listen to and gauge the Australian public's opinion.

This is evidenced by recent reporting in national newspapers that many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living remotely have not even heard of the Voice and instead would prefer more tangible support for bush communities to keep children in school and provide sustainable employment opportunities—witness the crisis occurring in Alice Springs.

I commend the Attorney-General on his genuine passion for improving the lives of Aboriginal people, but in this place we need to be committed to improving the lives of everyone in South Australia. Statistics on the most disadvantaged in our society show that some 70 per cent of those living in poverty and 76 per cent of those who are homeless are not in fact Indigenous.

I remember being at an event recently regarding disengaged school students. They all had trauma backgrounds and came from intergenerational disadvantage. They had dropped out of school and ceased to engage completely, suffering depression and mental health disorders. The program had been successful in bringing these kids back from the brink to participate in society again. None of this group were Aboriginal. I found it offensive when a Labor member decided to greet them with an Acknowledgement of Country, informing them that they were on stolen lands.

Aboriginal people I have met during my consultations are justifiably over government box-ticking. Strangely, none of my meetings or consultations with the Aboriginal community was started

with a Welcome to Country. None of the Aboriginal people I met were interested in that. They wanted to talk about education, employment, health and security in their community.

Many here will be all too familiar with the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a wide range of statistics, including health, life expectancy, suicide, education, children in care, incarceration, crime, domestic and sexual violence, and substance misuse. What these statistics do not reveal is the fact that most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have overcome many of these burdens and are now thriving and contributing. Those left behind are predominantly Aboriginals who remain living in rural and remote Australia.

For the most disadvantaged cohort of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, it is an obvious solution that moving out of their remote locations and more deeply integrating with the general Australian population will provide the greatest benefit. This has been the achievement of the 80 per cent or so of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population who are not burdened by being tied to their remote cultural homelands and who have found their home among fellow Australians.

My visit to Point Pearce showed a community that had insight into their own problems. They need to be listened to, like any other struggling community. While they told me they had a visit from the Commissioner for First Nations Voice to Parliament, they felt they still did not understand the Voice. By drawing on the experience of the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who have more deeply integrated with broader society and have essentially closed the gap, we will be in a better position to assist the minority who are most in need.

FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:47): My son and my stepson come to me most mornings with an idea about a new job that they think they would be good at. One just turned nine and the other one is about to. Some mornings, it is a fireman. Other mornings, it is a bodybuilder. I think most recently, one of them wanted to open a business selling all forms of meat and call it a 'meatzeria'.

At nine, they are already thinking about what they want to be and they are doing it daily. This year, for the first time in a long time, owing in large part to some pretty difficult circumstances over the past few years, there are more people than ever thinking exactly the same thing. Our state has record numbers of people signing up to commence TAFE courses in something they have never done before.

South Australia has started the year with the best business confidence rating in the nation—the best in the nation. Our state's businesses are the most confident in the nation and that matters because that is our businesses looking to grow, to invest and build upon what they are already doing. They are looking for people too. Whether it is for the first time, the second time or maybe to start all over again, in 2023 more people than ever before in this state are looking at what they are going to do with their lives.

The task before us is to help them—not just to make a living but also to make a difference. We are still in our first year of government. I know it seems like it has been a lot longer than that. We have done quite a few things. We have made 110 TAFE courses completely free—that is right: free—with five sites for new technical colleges. We have provided funding for access to autism inclusion teachers in every public primary school. We have put 60 more ambulances on our roads and opened hundreds of hospital beds.

We have opened up scholarships for up to 3,000 health workers to upskill in aged, mental, emergency, palliative and renal care. We have doubled nursing graduate places from 600 to 1,200. We are going to put \$10 million to support live music. We have made public transport free for seniors. We have declared a climate emergency. We have legislated shop trading hours reform, brought back Brand SA, and also brought back the Adelaide 500.

'For the future' was a bit of a catchy phrase you might have heard at the last election. Well, there it is in practice. It was not a slogan; it was a statement of intent. All these things needed to happen, not just to make money, although there is nothing wrong with that, and not just to create jobs, although no-one is going to complain about that either, it is fantastic, but because right now we need our state, our people, more than ever, and we need them equipped to confront the challenges

that our neighbourhoods, our state and indeed our nation faces—the challenges of today and those on the horizon.

Delightfully, last month, South Australia had the honour of not just having one of our own named as Australian of the Year but also a South Australian named as Young Australian of the Year. And that is great, I really could not be more proud, until I read something that Awer Mabil, our Young Australian of the Year, said upon receiving the award.

A refugee from South Sudan who arrived in Australia at 10 years old, a professional football player now who grew up making his footballs out of rolled up socks and plastic bags, who knew grinding poverty—nothing like what I could possibly ever imagine—upon receiving possibly the biggest award of his life the first thing he said was, 'For me, the most important thing is to help the next generation.'

There it is. That is it. That is the attitude we need. Awer Mabil is someone who is putting his aspirations to confront the challenges of the future in practice. He is helping the next generation to build their dreams and aspirations of their own. That is the kind of South Australian we should all aspire to be, that we should all want to be.

So as people across our state walk into their first class, their new business, their first job, or indeed as they walk into parliament in 2023, we all need to remember what is most important if we want a better future for all South Australians. Do not just aspire to make a living. Aspire to make a difference. Our state leads the nation, and we will find our way to leading the world if we can remember that very important thing.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:52): It is with great pleasure that I rise today to speak about community education, more specifically I would like to highlight a fantastic initiative by this parliament to support community education about our important democratic system.

Today, I want to give a big shout-out to acknowledge our Community Education Office right here in Parliament House. Natalie and Edgar are doing such amazing work providing resources, designing education programs and hosting special events to help members of parliament to engage with students and members of the public about how our parliamentary system works and how decisions made in this place impact on the lives of everyday South Australians.

I was delighted to learn that in 2022, the Community Education Office reached almost 13,500 people across South Australia. These numbers include 8,218 students; 1,006 teachers; 833 adult learners, including TAFE English programs; and 3,424 members of the general public who were engaged through public tours, tours with MPs and the Parliament House open day. Many staff were also educated and received training.

I want to acknowledge the Community Education Office for focusing on important areas to drive its engagement with students and community members. In 2022, the Community Education Office hosted a range of special events, including the inaugural National Schools Civics and Citizenship Convention for years 9 and 10 students, an event for student ambassadors to learn about what it means to advocate for others, and a trial program about student voice and participation.

It is also wonderful to know that regional areas have been included. Thank you, Natalie and Edgar, for getting out to visit Mount Gambier and the South-East, the Mid North, Port Lincoln and other regional areas throughout 2022 to successfully deliver regional education programs in schools. Using large floor mats that replicate the two houses, students get a feel of being inside the chambers of parliament. The interactive programs help students pass bills and learn about making amendments in the Legislative Council.

I understand that free video link incursions have also been trialled to help reach more regional schools, with Natalie and Edgar running mock debate programs with students via video link. This is an exciting program, which is now up and running for all schools outside of public transport access to the CBD, that will greatly increase accessibility to these great education programs. The Community Education Office also provides specialised training and professional learning

opportunities for primary, secondary and university teachers, covering curriculum and civics skills suitable for each age group.

As the shadow minister for multicultural South Australia and the longest serving member of parliament in multicultural affairs, I am particularly happy to learn that the SA parliament's Community Education Office has now made education resources available in nine languages to support our diverse community to learn about parliament.

The introductory fact sheet includes information about the three levels of government in Australia, the separation of powers, the make-up and functions of South Australia's parliament, the differences between federal and state parliament, and how constituents can get involved in our democratic processes. The translated fact sheets are currently available in Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Pashto, Punjabi, Tagalog/Filipino and Vietnamese, with Pitjantjatjara soon to be finalised as well, which will be a great addition.

As we live in a multicultural and multilingual society, it is important that linguistically diverse residents and citizens are able to access information in their own language. These tools are very useful for many new migrants and refugees who are unfamiliar with our democratic processes and the parliamentary system.

Since I was elected to the Legislative Council in 2010, I have been honoured to host over 80 tours of Parliament House with many multicultural organisations throughout the state. It is always a great honour and joy to host these Parliament House tours. I want to thank Natalie and Edgar in the Community Education Office of Parliament House for all the wonderful work they do to support the work that we do.

Parliamentary Committees

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AND ACTIVE TRANSPORT

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:57): I move:

That the report of the select committee be noted.

I want to speak briefly on this report and firstly begin by thanking the members of the committee for the valuable role they have played. The members of this select committee were the Hon. Justin Hanson; the Hon. Dennis Hood, who was later replaced by the Hon. Nicola Centofanti; the Hon. Frank Pangallo; and the Hon. Tung Ngo. I also want to thank the secretariat for the committee, Ms Emma Johnston and Dr Merry Brown, for all of their work in ensuring the committee ran smoothly.

We had over 100 submissions from a broad cross-section of the community and we heard from 50 witnesses. One thing that struck me, as Chair of the committee, was the consistency in the themes that came through, not only in the submissions that were received but also in the verbal evidence—and we had a number of groups that came to speak to us.

One thing that was really clear is that there has not been an appropriate investment in public transport infrastructure over many years, particularly in the regions. There was a broad consensus from community groups that that needed to be remedied but also that there has not been enough of a focus on active transport.

We have seen successive governments focus almost exclusively on the car and that has been a big part of government messaging from both sides of politics, but there has not been enough of a focus on trying to encourage people to cycle, to walk and the like. In that regard, the committee made a number of recommendations. I will not go through them all—there were 13 recommendations—but I will, in speaking to the report, just highlight a few of the key recommendations.

Not surprisingly to anybody who has taken a bus in South Australia, one of the key recommendations from the committee was that we need to increase the frequency of buses in metropolitan Adelaide and in regional centres. We also need to look at better bus connectivity between metropolitan suburbs, looking at integrating different forms of transport and also ensure that there is some fairness and equity in fares and, in particular, we need to review concessions to streamline the process.

The committee also recommended that the state government as a high priority conduct a trial of passenger train services from Mount Barker to Adelaide. It is clear that there is significant community support for getting rail moving to the Adelaide Hills but also the committee suggested the government should consider similar trials looking at areas like Roseworthy to Gawler, Aldinga to Seaford and Adelaide to Port Augusta.

In terms of rail, the committee has advocated for the reactivation of regional rail for freight and for passenger services and looking at wanting to get the rail service moving between Adelaide and Melbourne, and also servicing regional towns like the Barossa. The committee has also advocated for targets around increasing the patronage of active travel, looking at things like trials of separated bike infrastructure and traffic calming measures like speed limit reductions. A number of other states are doing that at the moment and the committee was of the view that that should be done here in South Australia as well as, of course, finally developing a statewide integrated separating cycling network.

Of particular interest to members of this place may be the committee's recommendations relating to e-scooters. We heard significant evidence around e-scooters. The committee was of the view that we should allow for privately owned e-scooters and other personal mobility devices in public spaces in line with other jurisdictions. Members may be aware that at the moment you can purchase an e-scooter or a private mobility device, but you are not able to use it on public space and that is an inconsistency.

We are advocating for the government to address that but there are, of course, some important issues that need to be considered in that regard. The committee heard significant evidence around concerns for the safety of pedestrians on footpaths but also some of the issues—and this was a matter of particular concern to the Hon. Tung Ngo—relating to insurance and the protections that are afforded to the users of these devices. These are issues the committee has advocated that the government should consider.

I understand there is a bill that has been introduced into the other place and so I am sure the committee's findings will be useful in that regard. The committee advocated for a removal of messaging that promotes cars over other forms of travel and also for there to be better transparency in consultation when the government is dealing with major road projects.

Finally, one of the key themes that came through from a number of the groups that gave evidence to the committee was the need for an overarching plan for transport in South Australia that looked at active travel, that looked at public transport and tied all of these things together. It would seem that that has been a long-term gap.

In closing, my thanks to everybody who was involved with the committee: all the members of the committee, the secretariat and members of the community who engaged with us. I hope that the government considers the recommendations, and I look forward to their response.

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

Motions

ASH WEDNESDAY BUSHFIRES

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (16:05): I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises that 16 February 2023 will mark 40 years since the devastating Ash Wednesday bushfires;
2. Reflects and remembers the 75 people that died, 3,700 buildings that were destroyed, 2,545 families that lost their homes and the innumerable number of plant and animal species destroyed; and
3. Acknowledges the resilience of South Australian communities in overcoming natural disasters.

Next week, on 16 February, we will mark 40 years since the day that is remembered around Australia as the Ash Wednesday bushfires. The tragedy is sometimes referred to in South Australia as Ash Wednesday the second, due to an earlier fire event in 1980 first attracting the moniker. Both events

occurred on a day of the Christian calendar bearing that name, but they differed greatly in severity. There is no mistaking the Ash Wednesday of 16 February 1983.

That summer our nation was in the midst of a devastating 10-month drought. In the days leading up to the fires weather conditions were intensely dry, with record-breaking heat. On the day of the fires, being very hot and very windy, a red alert warning was in effect, with a total fire ban in place. Nevertheless, the first fire of the day was reported mid-morning.

By midday, with a strong northerly wind blowing, fires raged out of control in the Adelaide Hills, Clare Valley and in the South-East. By 3pm the severity of both the weather conditions and the fires was extreme. Changing winds of 90 to 100 km/h aggravated the intensity of the fires.

A state of disaster was declared for the first time in South Australia's history. The extraordinary conditions meant that helicopters were grounded for hours and that the available firefighting equipment, some of which was in poor repair, was disastrously inadequate. Contemporary accounts from survivors are distressing to read. The fire front moved so quickly that for many the warnings came only minutes before the flames did. People looked on helplessly as they watched their homes burn, having rescued what few possessions they could.

Families were separated amid the confusion of smoke, ash, wind and choking heat, some of them never to be reunited. By day's end, 28 South Australians had lost their lives, three of whom were CFS volunteers, along with hundreds of thousands of livestock and uncountable numbers of native animals. A further 47 lives were lost in Victoria. Thousands more people were injured, and across both states well over 2,000 homes were destroyed and more than 400,000 hectares were burnt.

A cooler change and light rain came across parts of the state that night, and most of the fires were contained by Thursday morning, but flare-ups and spot fires continued to challenge exhausted firefighters in the days and even weeks to follow. Financial damages across the state were devastating. Businesses, homes and lives in the affected areas took many years to rebuild, and the South-East pastoral district struggled for years to recover productivity.

The impact of the financial loss was tremendous, but it cannot be compared to the emotional and psychological impact of the day's events. South Australia mourned the tragic loss of human lives and the loss of animals. Many members of our community lost everything they owned. In addition to mourning losses of life and property, in a broader sense many people across our state mourned the loss of a sense of safety.

The events of Ash Wednesday 1983 were extremely traumatic, and that trauma has left a lasting mark on our community. We have never forgotten—and I am sure we will never forget—that on a day of catastrophic fire danger everything can change in an instant. Lessons learnt on the ground that day had an immediate influence in shaping our bushfire management practices, which today are significantly more sophisticated than they were in 1983.

Technology in particular continues to enable meaningful advances, and hard lessons learned have helped us to employ evolving technologies to create the greatest possible advantage in managing risk, responding to emergencies and keeping our community safe. Drone monitoring, methods of communication to residents in the threatened areas and firefighting equipment are all areas where technology continues to improve our ability to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies.

The Malinauskas Labor government recognises the need for government to enable cross-agency bushfire risk management measures and to support our community to prepare for and stay safe in bushfire emergencies. Demonstrating leadership in addressing climate change is one high-level piece of the puzzle, but the inevitable challenges of bushfire seasons will still come year on year. We take very seriously our obligation to support our agencies and our communities.

New laws now enable South Australia Police to seek a court order to monitor the movements of convicted bushfire offenders during the fire danger season. Ahead of summer, our government honoured an election promise by reinstating the farm firefighting units grant program. Our \$2 million commitment in the state budget is supporting 276 farmers across 45 council areas to purchase essential firefighting equipment that will help protect lives, livestock and property.

Our government is working with and will continue to work with our agencies—the SES, the CFS, the MFS, SAPOL and others—to manage the risk and respond to crises. There will always be challenges, but through appropriate prevention and readiness measures, we can do our best to ensure we will not see another event as devastating as the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires. The resilience of our community in the weeks, months and years after those fires was remarkable, and I believe it helped to shape our present because we still embody that spirit of resilience today. Every time we endure a tragedy in South Australia, be it fire or flood, we rebound, rebuild and recover.

Recently, our affected communities have shown tremendous strength during the Kangaroo Island fires of 2020 and the ongoing flooding in the Riverland. Our broader community has responded with empathy and support. I hope this remarkable resilience will continue to see us through the future challenges we face together, and I hope that future governments will continue to heed the lessons each new challenge brings us.

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

Parliamentary Committees

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:13): I move:

That it be an instruction to the Select Committee on Health Services in South Australia to amend its terms of reference to enable the transcripts of evidence given in camera to the Select Committee on Health Services in South Australia of the Fifty-Fourth Parliament to be referred to the Select Committee on Health Services in South Australia of the Fifty-Fifth Parliament.

This is a very straightforward motion. It simply seeks to ensure that new members of the health committee are privy to evidence that was provided to the previous committee in camera, which they otherwise cannot be privy to without such a motion. We are simply seeking to amend the terms of reference to enable those transcripts of evidence given in camera to be available to the Fifty-Fifth Parliament. I am hoping that we can get this done very swiftly so that members can get on with the task of examining that evidence for the purposes of further committee hearings.

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

Bills

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (CIGARETTE BUTT WASTE) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (16:14): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Environment Protection Act 1993. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (16:15): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I rise to speak on the Environment Protection (Cigarette Butt Waste) Amendment Bill of 2023. It is good to be back, Mr President. This bill seeks to reduce the amount of cigarette butt waste that is littered in South Australia. Cigarette butts are consistently the most littered item found in our state.

Of the 17.75 billion cigarettes—17.75 billion cigarettes—consumed in Australia each year, up to 8.9 billion end up as litter. That is litter on our streets, on our beaches, on our public spaces. They comprise 20 per cent of total waste items found during Clean Up Australia Day and 34 per cent of total litter counted by KESAB in its 2016-17 Litter Index.

Littered butts pose a range of hazards and problems in natural environments. Discarded butts are made of cellulose acetate, a synthetic material that is made up of cellulose, acetic acid and plasticisers, and that is photodegradable but has a low degradation rate. Exposure to sun will eventually break the filter down, taking up to 15 years for it to decompose, but the source material remains diluted when it is exposed to water or soil. In salt water, it can take up to 400 years for a cigarette butt to degrade—400 years.

Once littered, butts accumulate on soil or in the marine environment and they leach out toxic materials. A single cigarette butt can pollute 40 litres of groundwater. While toxicity is highest immediately after smoking, recent research has revealed a second toxicity peak at two to five years underlying the long-term hazards of cigarette butts disposed of in our environment. The cigarette filter leaches may affect drinking water quality and result in bioaccumulation in the food chain that could pose a threat to human health. There is also emerging evidence that nanoplastics are absorbed and dispersed by cigarette butts.

As the cigarette butts break up slowly, they shed microfibrils and leach over 7,000 chemicals, including toxins and carcinogens. Many of these chemicals are acutely or chronically toxic to aquatic species. Just one cigarette butt per litre of water is highly toxic to fish. Cigarette butts have been found in the stomachs of birds, turtles, whales and fish, where they affect digestion and lead to poisoning or starvation.

While the total number of chemicals in these littered cigarette butts is unknown, remaining tobacco in discarded filters contains a range of dangerous materials. Arsenic, cadmium and lead are on the World Health Organization's list of 10 chemicals of major public health concern. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons—do not say that in a hurry—are carcinogenic, and the US Environment Protection Agency has designated sixteen as priority pollutants, all of which are found in cigarette butts.

Further environmental devastation is caused by the fires attributed to cigarettes each year. More than 4,500 fires across Australia are caused by cigarettes, and at least 77 people lost their lives in fires that were started by cigarettes between 2000 and 2005. As well as diminishing the enjoyment and value of our natural landscape, substantial financial costs are incurred in managing cigarette butt pollution. The cost of tobacco-related litter removal has been estimated to be about \$73 million per year to the Australian taxpayer. This cost is met primarily by state, territory and local governments, which manage litter prevention and removal at a local level.

Ultimately, it is taxpayers who foot the bill for managing tobacco product waste. The shifting of the financial accountability towards producers that this bill seeks to achieve is long overdue. This year, Spain introduced regulations to require tobacco companies to pay for the clean-up of cigarettes. It is expected the cost will then be passed on to consumers that could create a disincentive to smoking.

Additionally, it would be in the best interests of these companies to educate consumers to effectively dispose of their waste and to reduce clean-up costs. This bill is modelled on a scheme that will be familiar to South Australians, that is, the container deposit scheme that has been in place here since 1977. The container deposit scheme was one of the first pieces of product stewardship legislation in which industry is obliged to take greater responsibility for its packaging after it has been sold.

In the case of the container deposit scheme, beverage suppliers must ensure that a system is in place for the recovery and recycling of their empty beverage containers. As a litter control measure, the container deposit scheme has been highly successful. South Australia indeed leads the nation in recovery, recycling and litter reduction of beverage containers with a current overall return of 76 per cent, and beverage containers now make up just 2.8 per cent of litter in our state.

Fortunately, cigarette butts can now also be recycled. I was really surprised to discover when researching this bill the myriad uses for cigarette butts. Indeed, they can be used in a diverse range of products including bricks, benches and home insulation. Businesses such as TerraCycle in Canada are collecting cigarette waste, cleaning it and separating it by material types. The materials are then recycled into raw formats that manufacturers can use to make new products. The ash and tobacco are separated out and composted in a specialised process.

With momentum of stewardship programs being implemented around the world, it is time for cigarette deposit schemes to be established in South Australia to ensure that tobacco companies are minimising the harm their products have on our environment. It is not acceptable for big tobacco companies to wash their hands of the obligation they owe to South Australians to clean up their waste. It is not acceptable for cigarette butts to litter our public space and for these companies to be able to sell these products without taking any responsibility for the waste they produce.

Under this bill, cigarette manufacturers will be required to put deposit schemes in place for cigarette butts, with the product then disposed of thoughtfully and ideally recycled, as is the case in Canada. Under this bill, the cigarette manufacturers will be able to apply to the Environment Protection Authority for the approval of a collection scheme, and the bill would allow the government to prescribe the requirements of the scheme under regulations.

Retailers would then be required to ensure information about the deposit scheme is made available to their consumers. Under mutual obligation requirements, the bill would only apply to cigarettes sold in South Australia; however, I would argue that if the government were to put in place such a scheme as this, it could be an area in which South Australia could lead the nation and, indeed, the bill could have more widespread application.

I note that the Hon. Mr Frank Pangallo is present in the chamber. He and I have discussed this matter before and I know it is an issue that he is interested in. I note also the Hon. Heidi Girolamo and her interest in matters relating to waste reduction, so hopefully this is an issue where we can work together in the parliament.

Our natural environment is essential to the existence of life on earth. As members of parliament, it is our duty to ensure we defend our planet from the threats posed by excessive pollution, including cigarette butt wastage, and embrace the solutions that can resolve current challenges. It is in that spirit that this bill is being advanced today.

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

Motions

BRUMFITT, MS T.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (16:24): I move:

That this council—

1. Congratulates Taryn Brumfitt, body image activist, director, writer and speaker on her 2023 Australian of the Year award;
2. Highlights the outstanding contribution Taryn has made to educating young people and their parents around the world to foster body positivity; and
3. Recognises the impact that body image has and how it can influence how we engage with our world.

From Adelaide to the world, Taryn Brumfitt's mission to create meaningful, long-lasting change has seen her spread her message of body positivity through the power of speeches, books and films. But at home in Adelaide, Taryn is a mum of four whose mission is to unlearn the behaviour of people hating their bodies. Her life's work is to end the body hate epidemic and inspire people to embrace their bodies. Through the Body Image Movement she does just that, by teaching people to appreciate their bodies.

An Unley High School alumni, she has been taking on speaking engagements, collecting awards and accolades around the world from Adelaide as she inspires people through her books and films to join her movement, inspiring others to embrace themselves. Her 2016 documentary, *Embrace*, tackled the serious issue of women's body loathing and her own path to body acceptance. The documentary, available on Netflix, has been seen by millions across the world. Her recent documentary, *Embrace Kids*, aims to teach young people to move, nourish and respect their bodies.

Along with Dr Zali Yager, Taryn has also co-founded the Embrace Hub, which is filled with free evidence-based body image resources for kids, parents and teachers, recognising that parents and teachers have a great influence and can be a positive influence on the lives of young people, sometimes before these issues arise. Our body image is formed by the thoughts, feelings, attitudes and beliefs we have about our bodies and the way we look. Simply put, this is how we see the world around us.

Everybody is affected by body image and how it evolves in a lifetime. Body image is constantly acknowledged by Mission Australia's survey of young people as a top three issue of personal concern. The Butterfly Foundation found that 30 per cent of young people say that they are

extremely or very concerned about their body image. The Butterfly Foundation is a national charity for all Australians impacted by eating disorders and body image issues and supports their families, friends and communities. According to the Butterfly Foundation, more than one million Australians are living with eating disorders and less than a quarter of those receive any treatment or support.

We live in a world that can often be obsessed with unrealistic standards of beauty and an unhealthy obsession over diet culture. Some of the modern-day extremes on social media only serve to exacerbate this. This can lead to a harmful effect on how a person engages with their world, as it influences how they see themselves. Negative body image can also lead to many other disorders. My hope is that, while Taryn is Australian of the Year for 2023, even more people will listen to her message and embrace their bodies. As Taryn says:

We know that kids in adolescence who appreciate their bodies are more likely to look after themselves. We've got to get this right for our kids.

This winner of Australian of the Year 2023 continues the extraordinary achievements of South Australians on the national stage. Since 2019, there have been three winners of Australian of the Year from South Australia. In 2019, Dr Richard Harris shared it with Craig Challen from WA for their extraordinary efforts in the Thai cave rescue. Dr James Muecke, an eye surgeon and founder of Sight for All, who now serves as South Australia's Lieutenant-Governor, won in 2020. Taryn joins the esteemed company of those great South Australians to win Australian of the Year and I wish her all the best for her continued mission. I commend my motion.

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

MABIL, MR A.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (16:28): I move:

That this council—

1. Congratulates Awer Mabil, professional soccer player and co-founder of not-for-profit organisation Barefoot to Boots on his 2023 Young Australian of the Year award;
2. Highlights the outstanding contribution he makes to ensure refugees in-country, living in camps and their neighbouring host communities, are supported; and
3. Recognises the positive contribution that refugees make to Australia.

Awer Mabil's story is an extraordinary one, but like a lot of young people his story is still being written. Born to South Sudanese parents in a north-western Kenyan refugee camp, which housed over 190,000 refugees, Awer grew up in the refugee camp until the age of 10 when he, along with his family, settled in Australia, in Adelaide.

It was in the northern suburbs of Adelaide that Awer started playing for St Augustine's, Playford City and Salisbury East Soccer Clubs, where he was scouted to join Campbelltown City Soccer Club. Making his debut for Campbelltown City's Red Devils in 2012, his speed and skills were evident and he ended up being picked up by Adelaide United, where his soccer career flourished. It was in the lead-up to the World Cup last year that Awer found even more fans, scoring a penalty to secure a place in the Qatar World Cup in November 2022.

But it is for his work off the field that he has been recognised, founding Barefoot to Boots with fellow refugee Awer Bul, and lobbyist and philanthropist Ian Smith. Awer and Ian Smith met while Awer was playing as a teenager for Adelaide United, of which Smith was a board member. Barefoot to Boots is a charity very close to Awer's heart. It supports refugees living in camps and their neighbouring host communities. Founded in 2015, the charity strives to ensure the refugee environment is more sustainable, more stimulating and accommodating for its residents, and to enlighten refugees' lives where they need it most.

According to its website, Barefoot to Boots returns to Kakuma at least once a year and has, since its beginning, visited camps in Uganda, Turkiye and Lebanon. There is a huge need for equipment that this charity delivers, and it is very much appreciated. Barefoot to Boots has donated more than 2,000 kilograms of football boots and uniforms. Seeing footage of soccer matches played in these camps, it is also not uncommon to see many players sporting Australian football shirts.

But more than football, the camp, and surrounding host neighbourhoods, have also benefited from incubators, ultrasounds, laptops—through a partnership with my former employer Deloitte—and books. It is also involved in improving the lives of women in the camps, providing sanitary products to young girls and continuing their education and participation in sport.

The success of Awer, a refugee settling in Adelaide, Australia, and giving back to his community halfway around the world whilst having a successful football career that is only growing, is but one example of the positive contribution refugees make to this great country. The waves of migration during and following world wars, the Vietnamese coming through, Italians and other groups of migrants, whether they be escaping wars, famine or political instability in their home country, are all part of what makes Australia such a successful multicultural country.

Australia is richer for Awer Mabil, and I am proud that South Australia—after welcoming him at the age of 10—can now claim him as the Young Australian of the Year for 2023. For Awer, this is only the start. I look forward to seeing all the things he will achieve in football but, most importantly, as a role model for refugees settling in Australia and around the world. I commend the motion.

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

TRANSCRANIAL MAGNETIC STIMULATION

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (16:32): I move:

That this council—

1. Notes that—
 - (a) transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) is an effective treatment option for some people with major depression;
 - (b) in 2018, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists recommended that 'TMS should be accessible in private and public mental health services and made available in addition to the current spectrum of treatment options';
 - (c) in 2022, the Prescribed Psychiatric Treatment Panel, a part of the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist of SA Health, recommended that TMS be introduced into public mental health services as a first-line treatment ahead of the significantly more disruptive electroconvulsive therapy;
 - (d) the inclusion of TMS in the range of options available under the public health system would ensure that people have access to suitable treatments that allow them to continue living their lives.
2. Calls on the health minister to ensure that TMS is made available to South Australians by including it in our public health system.

I rise to speak on the issue of the availability in this state of repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation in our public health system. Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) is a treatment for people suffering from a large range of mental health issues, but predominantly it is used in the treatment of major depression.

TMS is an option for people who have found that other treatments have not been effective. It is an option that does not require people to be admitted into hospital. It is a treatment that allows people to keep functioning in their everyday lives.

TMS is a form of neurostimulation, which unlike other forms does not require that person undergoing treatment to be put under general anaesthesia or to be an inpatient throughout their treatment. TMS can be done with minimal disruptions to the patient, yet for many suffering major depression it can be effective.

Someone undergoing TMS would visit a treatment facility, be awake and sitting in a chair for around 40 minutes while they receive that treatment. That person would then be able to get up and leave and continue with their day, whether it is work, uni, family commitments or whatever, but currently TMS is not offered in the public health system in South Australia. For people with private health insurance who are able to afford the out-of-pocket costs, the treatment is available, yet for those who cannot afford this option that lack of availability is a real challenge.

Within our public health system people have the option of the significantly more disruptive electroconvulsive therapy, or ECT. This is more intensive neurostimulation and requires the patient or the consumer to be in a hospital and to go under general anaesthetic. Indeed, it is disruptive, it is distressing and it is invasive. It is a choice of suspending their life while they have the life-saving option presented to them. While TMS offers a less disruptive, less distressing and less invasive option—and indeed the studies have shown that it helps around 50 per cent of patients who experience treatment resistant depression—it is not accessible, even if you can afford it.

What is quite concerning is that, as of November 2021, TMS therapy was listed on the Medicare Benefits Schedule and there are industry calls to introduce it into our public health system as an alternative non-invasive low-risk option for those experiencing major depression, but these have yet to be acted on. Back as long ago as 2018, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists recommended that TMS:

...should be accessible in public and private mental health services and made available in addition to the current spectrum of treatment options. It should be affordable and, where appropriate, offered as a therapeutic option for the treatment of major depression.

Last year in South Australia, the Prescribed Psychiatric Treatment Panel, in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist of our state within SA Health, also recommended that TMS be introduced into our public health system, into our services as a first-line treatment ahead of the significantly more disruptive ECT option.

Accessible, affordable treatments for mental health are vital. They save lives. They help people live lives better. TMS presents an opportunity to help people who otherwise may enter the hospital system and undergo a more disruptive and invasive treatment when TMS would have helped them and potentially prevented them from needing further treatment. We must provide a spectrum of treatment options which allow people to get the mental health treatment they find most effective for them—that works the best for them and allows them to live their lives.

I was not familiar with this treatment, and certainly I think most of this place would be unfamiliar with ECT. I thank in particular an advocate who came and met with me, Mr Sam Diprose, for raising this issue with me. He has benefited from being able to access this treatment. He is able to live a good life because of this treatment, and he has now made it his life's mission to see South Australia ensure that others' lives are saved in the same way that he believes his has been.

I have written to the member for Elder in her role as Premier's Advocate for Suicide Prevention, and I have also written to the Minister for Health, but I raise this motion here with all members of this parliament in time for budget discussions. This is a life-saving measure. It is a measure that a person living interstate would be more readily able to access. While I was on holiday in New South Wales I googled 'TMS near me', and I was able to find a range of options that simply are not present currently in South Australia.

During the past election, the Premier made health a major election issue. That was because the people of South Australia demanded that health be a major election issue. The Premier was fond of saying—and I note that I put it on the *Hansard* first—that if COVID was the earthquake, mental health is the tsunami. Well, the tsunami is coming, and we do need accessible, available TMS to ensure we are preparing South Australians and supporting South Australians to build back better, to recover and to live their lives well beyond COVID or beyond what other traumas or other issues they have that have given them the unfortunate experience of either major depression or other associated conditions.

This is a very simple motion. It takes the experts' words and calls and it puts them before this council. I hope that it will put pressure on the Malinauskas government to act and to ensure that we have these options for South Australians announced in the coming budget.

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

ASSANGE, MR J.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:40): I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises Julian Assange is an Australian citizen and a journalist with WikiLeaks who aided in exposing possible war crimes and civilian casualties in the release of documents which included Afghanistan War logs in 2010 and Guantanamo Bay files in 2011, supplied to WikiLeaks by Chelsea Manning, a former US Army intelligence analyst.
2. Acknowledges Mr Assange genuinely believed his actions were for the purpose of:
 - (a) government accountability, transparency and integrity; and
 - (b) the broader public interest and for the interest of justice.
3. Notes that since the publication of those documents, Mr Assange has been forced into isolation or imprisoned over the course of 10 years, resulting in the serious deterioration of his health and mental wellbeing.
4. Recognises Mr Assange's impending prosecution by the United States of America constitutes a serious attack on the fundamental democratic freedoms of the press.
5. Questions the legitimacy of prosecuting Mr Assange in the United States through that country's Espionage Act of 1917, carrying a penalty of up to 175 years' imprisonment; and whether the act should be applied to non-US citizens either living and/or working in other countries, at the time of any alleged offending.
6. Acknowledges that in May 2022, on World Press Freedom Day, President of the United States of America, Joe Biden, announced a series of initiatives committing the US to greater protections for at-risk reporters to provide greater expansion for fact-based reporting to hold to account those that seek to silence voices essential to transparent, trustworthy, and responsive governance.
7. Recognises that on 29 November 2022 *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Le Monde*, *Der Spiegel*, and *El País* dispatched an open letter to US Attorney General Merrick Garland denouncing the prosecution of Julian Assange.
8. Recognises that on 30 November 2022 Prime Minister Anthony Albanese confirmed in a public address that the Australian government is conducting diplomatic negotiations with the US government on Assange's behalf.
9. Recognises that on 30 November 2022 during the House of Representative's question time the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, acknowledged that Mr Assange's case was of great interest to many Australians and as a result had recently lobbied for Mr Assange's release stating that he raised this personally with representatives of the United States government stating, 'enough is enough' and it is time the matter be brought to a conclusion.
10. Calls on the President of the Legislative Council to write to—
 - (a) the President of the United States, Joe Biden, expressing the Legislative Council's desire that he show clemency by intervening in the extradition and prosecution of Mr Assange, and instruct the US Attorney General and US Department of Justice to withdraw all charges on medical and humanitarian grounds; and
 - (b) the Prime Minister of Australia, the Rt Hon. Anthony Albanese, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Senator Penny Wong, requesting they write to the President of the United States and the US Ambassador to Australia, Ms Caroline Kennedy, to express the concerns of the Legislative Council regarding Mr Assange.
11. Notes that on 15 December 2022 the European Parliament authored and co-signed with Mr Assange's wife Stella Assange, the International Federation of Journalists, European Federation of Journalists, and other independent NGOs a letter to the President of the United States of America calling on him to pardon Julian Assange.

I rise to speak on my motion regarding the persecution and prosecution of Australian investigative journalist and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. This motion follows the one I introduced last year and which, disappointingly, failed to receive the support of both Labor and the opposition.

I will explain shortly why I have brought it back, and I hope this time it will garner the support of Labor in particular. I thank my crossbench colleagues, the Greens, for supporting it and for their ongoing support to have Mr Assange freed from his prison hell in Britain's HM Prison Belmarsh, awaiting the outcome of an appeal to prevent his extradition to the United States under its own Espionage Act, a repugnant law that can have anyone outside the West who is not even a citizen charged and extradited. There is no other law like it in any other district, and it goes against the fundamental rights of the rule of law.

If convicted, Mr Assange faces up to 175 years in prison. I spoke about Mr Assange's predicament at length on the last occasion, so members here should be fully conversant with his case. His WikiLeaks site exposed war crimes committed by the United States and Afghanistan and atrocities in Guantanamo Bay in leaked military documents supplied by Chelsea Manning, a former US Army intelligence analyst.

Washington was embarrassed by the disclosures, which also included negative and derisive comments by US diplomats about governments and officials where they were posted. Manning was later prosecuted, convicted but ended up being pardoned after serving seven years. But Mr Assange has been relentlessly pursued since 2012 for publishing the truth. The messenger became the target of a vengeful United States.

As a journalist myself, I stand by Mr Assange and his courageous actions because we as journalists in a free and democratic world must uphold the fundamental principles of freedom of the press and freedom of speech in order to expose the wrongs of corrupt governments and ensure integrity, transparency and accountability. War crimes are abhorrent.

Mr Assange has suffered for doing what he believed was in the public interest. His years in the Ecuadorian embassy to escape trumped up sexual assault charges on the pretext to seize him for releasing those damning documents—charges which were later dropped—and the protracted extradition matters in Britain following his surrender on bail breaches, have taken their toll on his mental and physical wellbeing.

There really seems little point in continuing to pursue him except that the US needs its scapegoat, its pound of flesh, to make an example of him even though he committed no crime in their country nor elsewhere. There is now widespread international support for Mr Assange and it continues to grow. His father and brother travel regularly overseas lobbying governments and media organisations.

A *Sydney Morning Herald* article published on 5 January 2022 showed that 71 per cent of respondents support the call for Julian Assange to be brought back to Australia. Sixteen per cent voted no and 13 per cent were unsure.

Five leading media outlets—*The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Le Monde*, *Der Spiegel* and *El Pais*—all bastions of freedom of the press and expression, accountability, integrity and transparency, sent an open letter under the title, 'Publishing is Not a Crime', denouncing the US prosecution against Mr Assange.

They said the indictment sets a dangerous precedent and threatens to undermine America's first amendment and the freedom of the press. The editors said that holding governments accountable is part of the core mission of a free press in a democracy. Those publications all published excerpts of those elite documents, yet the Americans have not attempted to prosecute them under their outrageous universal law.

However, I remain frustrated and mystified by my colleagues in Australia, who have remained muted and are not as proactive as their international counterparts in ongoing protests against Mr Assange's detention and to uphold free speech laws. I am not hearing as much noise from the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA) or our major news outlets, including our national masthead, *The Australian*. I will urge them to be heard loudly because investigative journalism is not a crime.

The International Federation of Journalists and European Federation of Journalists have co-signed an open letter to US President Joe Biden asking him to pardon Julian. The IFJ has backed the global mobilisation and called on all journalist unions, press freedom organisations and journalists to mobilise and express their solidarity in securing Julian's release. The IFJ said:

Irrespective of personal views, his extradition will have a chilling effect, with all journalists and media workers at risk. The case sets a dangerous precedent that members of the media, in any country, can now be targeted by governments anywhere in the world to answer for publishing information in the public interest.

Last month, the Belmarsh Tribunal, an ad hoc gathering of legal experts and supporters, named after the British prison where Julian is being held, met in Washington, where it applied pressure to President Biden to drop charges. The tribunal's co-chairperson, Srécko Horvat, founder of the

Democracy in Europe Movement, quoted Biden's 2020 presidential address, calling for the release of imprisoned journalists across the world. Horvat quoted the late president Thomas Jefferson's dictum that 'our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost'.

Jeffrey Sterling, a lawyer and former CIA employee who went to jail for revealing defence secrets, told the tribunal that Assange has next to no chance of getting a fair trial in the US. Sterling said that truth was no defence under the Espionage Act—it is prohibited.

Furthermore, Assange would not have access to any evidence used against him. He said that the Espionage Act is being used as weapon against whistleblowers to keep the public ignorant of government wrongdoings and illegalities to maintain its hold on authority in the name of national security.

Britain's former Labour leader, Jeremy Corbin, told the tribunal that the prosecution of Assange would deter journalists from breaking stories using leaked documents that embarrass the conduct of governments or expose injustices and human rights. Hypocrisy in politics is rife. Only last month, the federal Labor government Attorney-General, Mark Dreyfus KC, announced he was calling together media organisations to discuss improving press freedoms. Let me quote him:

The Albanese Government believes a strong and independent media is vital to democracy and holding governments to account.

Journalists should never face the prospect of being charged or even jailed just for doing their jobs.

Let me repeat that:

The Albanese Government believes a strong and independent media is vital to democracy and holding governments to account.

Journalists should never face the prospect of being charged or even jailed just for doing their jobs.

Saying the right things might sound okay, but actioning them is another thing. Was Julian Assange not doing his job? Last December, in response to a question from the Independent member for Kooyong, Monique Ryan, the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, repeated his words when in opposition and said it was time the matter was concluded. While he did not express personal sympathy for Mr Assange, the Prime Minister said the issue had gone on too long, and he pointed out that the leaker of the information, Chelsea Manning, was now a free person. This is a telling quote from the Prime Minister:

The government will continue to act in a diplomatic way, but can I assure the member for Kooyong that I have raised this personally with representatives of the United States government. My position is clear and has been made clear to the US administration that it is time that this matter be brought to a close.

It seemed for a minute there was a ray of hope for Julian, his family and his growing band of supporters here and overseas, but these were weasel words. Mr Albanese has been left red-faced after a freedom of information request to see if any documents existed that corroborated what the Prime Minister claimed. The FOI turned up a blank, nothing to even remotely show that he had contacted the Biden administration as he had claimed, nor for that matter had the foreign minister, Penny Wong, and Attorney-General, Mark Dreyfus, that champion of press freedom for journalists.

Ms Ryan said if the Albanese government was serious about securing an end to the prosecution and seeking Julian's release then Mr Albanese and his ministers would have raised it formally in writing with their counterparts at the top levels of the US government. Ms Ryan said, 'It is now confirmed that they have not done so via any formal means.'

This motion calls on Mr Albanese and Ms Wong to be true to their own statements and act. I would hope that this time Labor do not recoil from internal party pressure, as they did just before the previous motion went to a vote, and support what their federal leader and their Attorney-General have said they have done and want to do. It would be hypocritical to oppose it. I intend bringing this motion to a vote on 8 March. I commend the motion to the chamber.

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

*Parliamentary Committees***SELECT COMMITTEE ON DOLPHINS IN ADELAIDE DOLPHIN SANCTUARY AND PORT RIVER**

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. T.A. Franks:

That the interim report of the select committee be noted.

(Continued from 30 November 2022.)

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (16:54): I rise to conclude my comments on the recommendations from the report of the Select Committee on Dolphins in Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary and Port River. I again thank all members from the Legislative Council who assisted with the conduct of this select committee: the Hon. Sarah Game, the Hon. Michelle Lensink and the Hon. Reggie Martin.

Through public submissions, the people of South Australia identified concerns both within the sanctuary and with the implementation of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005, which from here on I will refer to as the ADS Act. The committee identified several potential threats to the dolphin sanctuary ecosystem, including a lack of clarity over the authority and responsibility for the dolphin sanctuary, dredging, certain fishing practices, industry and wastewater discharges, the speed of boats and other on-water vehicles, the lack of visible enforcement, and the loss of mangroves and other vegetation.

To put it simply, the objects of the ADS Act are not being met. While there is not a single cause for the declining health of the dolphins, the Minister for Environment and Water needs to continue to support research into the sanctuary ecosystem and the dolphin population structure. The committee has made 14 recommendations aimed at addressing the broad areas of concern that were raised with our committee.

Firstly, the committee found that the sanctuary dolphins are being negatively impacted by fishing gear, contrary to the objects under the ADS Act. Due to the heightened public awareness of the individual dolphins residing in the Port River, there has been broad community concern about the lack of signage and educative materials at the sanctuary, particularly related to fishing line or gear and the potential for the dolphins to become entangled.

Secondly, penalties for the pollution of the sanctuary are inadequate and need stronger reinforcement. There is a lack of education and research into toxicants lying in the sediment in the sanctuary, in particular the PFAS and microplastics, and while the cause of the declining health and mortalities of the sanctuary dolphins is unknown, these toxicants are likely to be implicated.

Additionally, the community has aired their expectations that monitoring of the water quality in the sanctuary be targeted and conducted more regularly, to allow the timely detection of threats and threat management. The committee found that the installation of shellfish reefs in the sanctuary would help improve water quality.

The committee found that investigations into the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron marina stormwater outlet were halted, without the cause of water flowing from the outlet on non-rainy days being discovered, particularly as this was deemed to have an impact on the sanctuary. There is insufficient, and there remains insufficient, clarity on who is responsible for leading the investigation, and a lack of leadership in working with the yacht squadron and the relevant local and state government agencies to undertake further investigations to protect the sanctuary. I note that since the committee reported, I have attended a meeting at the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron with Renewal SA, but it seems to simply be more murky rather than clearer when it comes to that particular stormwater outlet.

Thirdly, the committee established that slowing down boats and other vessels in the sanctuary is likely to reduce the risk of injuries to dolphins caused by propeller or hull strikes. Additionally, the committee found that the objects of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act are not being met. This impacts on the health, and most likely has caused the death, of resident dolphins in the sanctuary. It requires urgent action.

There is an obvious disconnect between identifying potential impacts to the sanctuary and undertaking proactive and/or reactive measures to mitigate those impacts. While government agencies are meant to be working together to implement these objects, there is a lack of central coordination for adaptive management, which has helped contribute to the decline in health and the deaths and disappearances of resident dolphins.

As such, a lack of understanding of the biological or ecological reasons for the recent deaths of resident dolphins should not be used as an excuse for not immediately actioning management responses to the identified impacts to the sanctuary. There needs to be an increase to the number of marine safety officers and park rangers to provide high visibility and be available to respond to threats within the sanctuary.

The committee also determined that there needs to be an appropriate mechanism that allows the community or volunteer rescue organisations to collaborate with park rangers and other stakeholders to undertake animal rescues in a safe, transparent and accountable manner.

Finally, the committee determined that the sectoral approach to environmental regulation is confusing within the community about procedures for compensation and rehabilitation as a result of the impacts to the mangroves caused by the spillage of brine. This committee listened carefully to the evidence provided and has formed the following recommendations:

1. That PIRSA should lead a review of recreational fishing within the sanctuary that prioritises the protection of dolphins from entanglement and meets the objects of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act, acknowledging that there is a high level of community investment in individual dolphins residing within the sanctuary. Additionally, the Department of Primary Industries should lead a collaborative review of recreational fishing that identifies and analyses different fishing practices and gear in the sanctuary and develops appropriate management options for recreational fishing.

2. The Minister for Environment and Water should consider conducting a review into the level of enforcement and penalties for polluting into the sanctuary, undertake a toxicant audit of the sanctuary, and that be undertaken as soon as possible and the results publicly published. The Minister for Environment and Water should also develop a baseline of acceptable levels of toxicants in the water and sediment, taking into account the potential for bioaccumulation of some toxicants and reviewing the global best practice approaches to rehabilitation of legacy toxicants in rivers, while also developing an action plan and securing the funding to clean up the toxicants in the water and sediment if levels are unacceptably high, and continuously monitor that water quality within the sanctuary for timely threat management.

3. The Minister for Environment and Water should consider governance mechanisms to coordinate and action investigations along with reporting and management responses to ensure issues within the sanctuary are comprehensively followed up and resolved.

4. The Department for Infrastructure and Transport review the speed limit at the North Arm with a view that the speed should be limited to seven knots at all times when there are no spotters present and, in consultation with stakeholders, lower the speed limits in the sanctuary from unlimited to nine knots to allow for vessels to turn safely.

5. The Department for Environment and Water develop a new framework to ensure that the objects of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act are being met, bringing clarity and accessibility to the community. The community needs to be clear on who is making the decisions about the management of the sanctuary and who is responsible for mitigating actions on threats to the ecosystem and dolphin health and welfare.

6. The Minister for Environment and Water appoint an appropriately qualified body or person to advocate for the ecosystem health of the sanctuary and advise the minister on appropriate actions to meet the objects of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act, advise on the research and monitoring of estuarine and coastal ecosystem health and management, advise on water and/or sediment quality monitoring and on all dredging and energy and mining applications within the sanctuary that may, whether directly or indirectly, impact the ecosystem health.

7. The Minister for Environment and Water undertake a review of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act and ensure that the minister has the appropriate authority to address threats to the sanctuary.

8. The Minister for Environment and Water secure sustainable funding for the sanctuary to allow for the development of a management plan, fund management of ecosystem health and maintain regulatory presence, and support researchers to undertake further investigations into ecosystem health and dolphin population dynamics.

9. The Department for Environment and Water work collaboratively with state and local agencies and other stakeholders to support efforts to trial shellfish reefs within the sanctuary.

10. The Minister for Environment and Water consider supporting further research into toxicants and other pollutants to identify impact levels and undertake appropriate rehabilitation and management of the sanctuary, allowing the EPA to undertake targeted water quality and sediment testing with appropriate resources.

11. The Minister for Environment and Water should collaborate with the Minister for Energy and Mining, local councils and stakeholders on developing a framework of governance for the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary that will provide clarity over responsibilities for adaptive and/or rehabilitative management and compensation from industrial mining activities.

I hope these recommendations assist the Malinauskas government in ensuring the necessary measures are taken for the long-lasting future and wellbeing of these much-loved dolphins in this sanctuary.

In closing, I would like to send my sincere thanks to all those who made submissions and the over 30 witnesses that we have heard from so far in this committee. For far too long, these issues have remained unaddressed and without appropriate lines of responsibility. It is time for immediate action, ongoing action and, indeed, this committee will continue into the future, beyond this interim report, to ensure that that happens. With that, I commend the report to the council.

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

Motions

STUDY OF LAW, POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Orders of the Day, Private Business, No. 16: Hon. R.A. Simms to move:

That this council—

1. Notes that the study of law, politics and government plays an integral role in building community understanding and appreciation of democracy.
2. Acknowledges that senior research and teaching staff in university departments are vital to ensure sufficient capacity to:
 - (a) supervise PhD students;
 - (b) undertake valuable research; and
 - (c) maintain expertise in the relevant field.
3. Notes that Flinders University currently has a business case proposal to restructure teaching and research staff within the government discipline.
4. Recognises that the proposed restructure:
 - (a) reduces the number of staff able to supervise PhD students; and
 - (b) increases the number of junior teaching specialist academics.
5. Calls on Flinders University to reconsider proposed changes to teaching and research staff within the College of Business, Government and Law to ensure no decrease in the capacity, capability and expertise.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:05): I move:

That this order of the day be discharged.

Motion carried; order of the day discharged.

CHILD PROTECTION

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (17:05): I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises that the child protection system in South Australia is overwhelmed;
2. Recognises that South Australia spends less than the national average on services to prevent children from entering care; and
3. Calls on the Malinauskas government to provide earlier, more intensive intervention for at-risk families before they fall into crisis.

The spending in the child protection system reflects a serious imbalance. The Productivity Commission report from 2022 showed that 78 per cent of child protection spending is spent on out-of-home care, which shows the lack of spending on preventative measures. Of the total child protection spending, 12.1 per cent is on protective intervention, which is 30.2 per cent lower than the national average.

Protective intervention includes receiving and assessing child abuse and neglect allegations and referring families to support services to prevent their children from being taken into care. Six per cent is spent on family support services, which is 21.9 per cent lower than the national average. Family support services aim to prevent family separations and to reunite children with their biological parents where separation has occurred.

For intensive family support, only 3.7 per cent of the child protection budget was spent, which is 29.8 per cent lower than the national average. The spending on early intervention and intensive family support is the lowest in Australia. This imbalance in spending is perplexing given the evidence is clear that investing in quality early intervention and family preservation measures reduces the number of children who end up in the care system.

In terms of Aboriginal families, the Alexander report that was published at the end of last year on a review of child protection in South Australia highlighted that, in addition to a need for increased spending on early intervention measures, there needs to be a deliberate and vastly increased investment in early intervention and family preservation services for Aboriginal families. The report notes that the spending on Aboriginal children and services should be proportionate to their representation in the system—not the population.

As reported, South Australia currently spends 3.4 per cent of the child protection budget on Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, which is lower than most other Australian states and territories. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2020-21 report on child protection in Australia states that there are 18,187 Aboriginal children in South Australia, who make up 4.9 per cent of the 369,658 total South Australian children.

Nationally, Aboriginal children make up 6 per cent of the total number of children. Although Aboriginal children make up 4.9 per cent of the total number of children in South Australia, they make up 34.5 per cent of children who received child protection services in 2020-21, yet only 3.4 per cent of the child protection budget is spent on Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.

The Alexander report notes that different agencies as varied as the Ombudsman, the Commissioner for Children and Young People, the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People and the Guardian agreed that more money is needed to be spent on early intervention, prevention and family support services.

The point is not that South Australia should suddenly be reducing its spending on children in care but that the imbalance needs to be addressed with a concentrated and deliberate effort, which will entail more spending and focused effort at the front end of the system—perhaps a little less money on social media influencers attending an exclusive Sam Smith concert and a little bit more money on the issues that should be a priority, like keeping South Australian children safe.

Reports of child neglect and abuse are spiralling in South Australia. The child protection system is overwhelmed. In South Australia, at least one notification of abuse and neglect occurs in

one in four children by the time a child turns 10. In 2019-20, there were over 75,000 notifications regarding 39,000 children and over 20,000 families. Of these, some 70 per cent were already known to the Department for Child Protection.

The sheer number of notifications of abuse or neglect in South Australia means that the Department for Child Protection staff are overwhelmed. There is a need to dramatically slow the influx of notifications, and this can be done by offering more intensive intervention services at a much earlier stage to support families that need help.

Families in which abuse and neglect are reported tend to require support from a variety of government departments due to domestic and family violence, substance abuse, poor mental health, and insecure housing. Preventative support services that address these situations are what families who need them should be getting before the abuse and neglect of children occurs.

Currently, child protection interventions are primarily for families where abuse and neglect are established in order to prevent the removals and for placement of children in care. However, change at this late stage is much more difficult compared to early interventions. Screening to identify families in need of support much earlier requires a deliberate integration of services in order that they work together to identify families so that they will be able to identify more risk factors.

This motion calls on the Malinauskas government to ensure that young South Australians are given the protection they need and deserve.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. J.E. Hanson.

STRANGERS GALLERY RENAMING

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (17:12): I move:

That the Strangers Gallery be renamed as the 'Public Gallery'.

I am very excited to do so. Often, we think of strangers and one line pops to mind, and that is 'stranger danger'. It is a line most parents have parroted to their children, as I have, and it is a line used across our community. In fact, when you Google the term 'stranger danger', the first thing that pops up in my search anyway is: Stranger Danger Tips—Safety 4 Kids:

1. Never answer the door alone—even when your parents are home.
2. Don't invite strangers into your home.

I will repeat that because it is quite significant: do not invite strangers into your home. This house we stand in belongs to the good people of South Australia. It is their home of democracy, but in this house the very people this home represents—the house that the people call on to represent them, or even the people who are elected in this chamber because of South Australians—are referred to as strangers. They are strangers in their own home, and for good reason many therefore feel they should never be invited into this home. After all, rule No. 2 on Google says: do not invite strangers into your home.

Parliament has many weird and wonderful traditions, from dragging the new Speaker to the chair in the other house, to the blood line on the floor in the other house. Some of these traditions date back over many centuries and provide important reminders of sacrifice, challenges, and changes made to our parliament. Some of these historic changes are remembered through tapestries, paintings and stories lining the walls of our parliament.

However, there is a physical plaque in this house that captures a tradition that dates back probably centuries as well, a tradition that does not sit well with many who walk through the doors of this parliament. That of course is the hanging of the sign above our gallery just behind me, the Strangers Gallery.

The Strangers Gallery plaque was certainly noticed by a group of year 6 Prospect Primary School students and sparked a campaign for change. Students set about writing letters to the President, the Speaker, the Governor and MPs to ask why this outdated and negative term was still being used when referring to the public in parliament. They felt the term was not welcoming, despite this being the people's house. They felt this term was out of step with community expectations.

Many people have mentioned to me, 'Should kids be able to change the parliament?' The Prospect Primary School students are not suggesting we throw centuries of tradition in the bin out of malice. Age should not deter us from changing. We have seen year 6 students in this very parliament before change it for the better, with the addition of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag in the other place.

They are not suggesting we should do something other parliaments have not done before. In fact, I wish we could say that we would be leading the way, but we will not be. We will be following. We will be following the mother parliament and many others. I believe in 2004 a motion was approved implementing the recommendation that the term 'stranger' no longer be used and be replaced with 'member of the public' or 'public' in the UK parliament.

The mother parliament is not the only parliament to modernise and move away from the term 'strangers' when referring to the public, the people who put us here. I am aware that other common-law jurisdictions have also taken steps to remove references to strangers in their parliaments, including New South Wales, Northern Territory and, of course, the Australian commonwealth parliament. In fact, the Australian commonwealth parliament has replaced any reference to 'strangers' with 'public'.

Our colleagues in the other place have also modernised the House of Assembly chamber by removing the term 'strangers' on the gallery door and replacing it with 'public'. This followed the member for Adelaide, Lucy Hood, taking the calls of Prospect Primary School students to the floor of the other place, where students sat in the Strangers Gallery to watch the debate for change take place. It was the last week that chamber was called the Strangers Gallery.

There was a debate on that floor. Sometimes change is hard, and people will find all sorts of reasons to challenge change—and that is not a bad thing. Just like that, a challenge was put forward. It was put forward by the member for Hartley, Vincent Tarzia. He used his time not to congratulate a group of year 6 students for wanting to engage in democracy, for wanting to show an interest in what happens in the people's place, for seeking to make this place a welcoming place, he instead used his debate for politics, suggesting the government's priorities were all wrong and that taking this debate to the floor of the parliament was not a priority.

Giving 20 minutes to a debate brought about by public feedback should be a focus of all governments. After all, we are not here to debate our personal opinions; we are here to debate on behalf of South Australians. We must always remember that if we want a strong parliament we need the next generation to be inspired to be a part of this place. We need to build trust that this parliament is not exclusive, which is what the term 'stranger' presents to people. We need to find new ways to put the welcome mat out in this place, and a good start would be to remove a sign that calls the public 'strangers'.

This motion is not taking steps to change the standing orders. This motion is simply seeking to update the gallery viewing area sign. We are taking down a sign and putting up a new sign. The door that is the entry point to this chamber, the door that should welcome voters into the chamber, should not suggest that they are strangers in this house, the house that we represent them in.

Today, the Hon. Jing Lee mentioned the importance of the education programs within this parliament, and I could not agree more: it is a fantastic program. Getting kids involved in civics is never an easy task, and when we can find new ways to get students involved and see how this place works is an incredible outcome for anyone.

To have an opportunity for some year 6 students to come to the parliament, see how change could be made, go away and put those practices in place by writing to their local MPs, by lobbying, by running a campaign and then being able to come into this place and see that that change was put into place in the House of Assembly is an incredible civics learning lesson and one that I know will inspire those kids to be more involved in what they do in their community.

I really do want to thank the Prospect Primary School students for making the lower house change possible, and I hope that we can do it in the upper house. I know at times this house makes a point of not following the other house—which I would more often than not agree with—but on this occasion I ask the members of this chamber, on behalf of the Prospect Primary School students, the

many students who have come before them and the many who will come after, that we do make a change from calling the public 'strangers' when they come to view us from the gallery. I hope to be bringing this to a vote in the next week of sitting, and I look forward to having discussions on the floor with members.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. L.A. Henderson.

Parliamentary Committees

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (17:21): I move:

That the time for bringing up the committee's report be extended until Wednesday 28 June 2023.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE RETURN TO WORK SA SCHEME

The Hon. C. BONAROS (17:22): I move:

That the time for bringing up the committee's report be extended until Wednesday 28 June 2023.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Hon. C. BONAROS (17:22): I move:

That the time for bringing up the committee's report be extended until Wednesday 28 June 2023.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AND ACTIVE TRANSPORT

Orders of the Day, Private Business, No. 32: Hon. R.A. Simms to move:

That the report of the select committee be brought up.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:22): I move:

That this order of the day be discharged.

Motion carried; order of the day discharged.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON DOLPHINS IN ADELAIDE DOLPHIN SANCTUARY AND PORT RIVER

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:23): On behalf of the Hon. T.A. Franks, I move:

That the time for bringing up the committee's report be extended until Wednesday 28 June 2023.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PROHIBITION OF NEO-NAZI SYMBOLS

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:23): I move:

That the time for bringing up the committee's report be extended until Wednesday 28 June 2023.

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (17:24): I move:

That the time for bringing up the committee's report be extended until Wednesday 28 June 2023.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON DAMAGE, HARM OR ADVERSE OUTCOMES RESULTING FROM ICAC INVESTIGATIONS

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:24): On behalf of the Hon. T.A. Franks, I move:

That the time for bringing up the committee's report be extended until Wednesday 28 June 2023.

Motion carried.

Motions

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. J.S. Lee:

That this council—

1. Notes that 5 December is International Volunteer Day;
2. Recognises the tireless work of volunteers across South Australia; and
3. Encourages all South Australians to thank our volunteers and show their appreciation for the contributions volunteers make to our state.

(Continued from 30 November 2022.)

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (17:26): I rise today to retrospectively celebrate International Volunteer Day, which was 5 December 2022. This day represents a special opportunity for us to reflect on the impact of the work of volunteers and recognise the tremendous contributions volunteers make to our communities.

In South Australia, volunteering is a critical part of our social fabric and an integral part of our daily lives. Volunteers play a crucial role in helping us address many of the challenges facing our communities, from social issues such as domestic violence, mental health issues, homelessness, poverty and inequality, to environmental problems such as water and land pollution and natural disasters. Volunteers also help run sporting clubs and programs, community-based centres that provide cooking classes or language lessons, and programs that reach out and connect people with their community through community gardens and libraries.

There are thousands of volunteers right here in South Australia. There are volunteer-based cultural community groups that celebrate their culture and ensure that the rich multicultural fabric of our community thrives. There are thousands of programs and volunteers across this amazing state. The one thing they all have in common is that they are all driven to make a positive contribution to their community.

Volunteers bring a wealth of skills, knowledge and experience to their work, and their contributions are invaluable. If we were to measure their financial contribution, we would be astounded at the economic value of their service. It is not something that we as a parliament could even aspire to fund. We need volunteers to work hand in hand with government-funded programs to provide support and in some cases provide the only avenue to reach out to those who are in need, providing support to those who are struggling and bringing hope to those who are feeling hopeless.

Volunteers are often those who inspire the next generation of athletes, create greener spaces and teach us how to value, respect and preserve our natural resources. Volunteers patrol our beaches in summers and provide first aid. They teach us the importance of history and respecting our veterans. Volunteers are the heroes of our community. What they are doing saves lives and puts a smile on people's faces. What volunteers do really does matter.

Volunteers work tirelessly, often in the face of great adversity, to make a real difference in people's lives. Whilst volunteers do not do what they do out of self-interest, volunteering has a positive impact on the volunteers themselves. It helps individuals to build new skills, expand their horizons and make meaningful connections with others. It provides an opportunity to give back to the community, to make a difference, to feel valued and to be appreciated.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of our communities. They bring people together, create new connections and foster a sense of belonging. They help us to build a more resilient, compassionate and sustainable future. It is my honour to stand in this chamber and sincerely thank all the volunteers in South Australia for their hard work and dedication. Their contributions are truly making a difference in our communities, and we are very grateful for all that they do. International Volunteer Day gives us the opportunity to celebrate those efforts and recognise the importance of

volunteers working and creating a better world for us all. If it were up to me, I would make every day International Volunteer Day.

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

WORLD DROWNING PREVENTION DAY

Orders of the Day, Private Business, No. 133: Hon. R.P. Wortley to move:

That this council—

1. Notes that 25 July is World Drowning Prevention Day, which serves as an opportunity to highlight the tragic and profound impact of drowning on families and communities;
2. Expresses its profound condolences to the families and friends of those who have lost loved ones to drowning;
3. Recognises the important role that teaching children to swim, education on pool and beach safety and legislative mechanisms such as pool fencing have on reducing the tragic occurrence of drowning in our community;
4. Acknowledges the important role surf lifesaving clubs and all other related organisations play in South Australia in keeping many of the state's popular beaches safe; and
5. Acknowledges the important role that emergency services personnel play responding to instances of drowning or near drowning.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (17:31): I move:

That this order of the day be discharged.

Motion carried; order of the day discharged.

SURF LIFESAVING CLUBS

Orders of the Day, Private Business, No. 134: Hon. R.P. Wortley to move:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges the important role the surf lifesaving clubs in South Australia perform in keeping many of the state's popular beaches safe, particularly during summer months;
2. Recognises the many volunteers who dedicate their time to surf lifesaving patrols each weekend and on public holidays;
3. Recognises the important role of surf lifesaving support operations, such as volunteer radio room operators, to keeping beachgoers safe;
4. Recognises the important role that first aid officers and training officers perform to ensure club patrolling members are proficient each season;
5. Recognises the volunteer junior committees and age-group managers that run junior nipper programs teaching the next generation how to be beach safe; and
6. Notes the funding support provided to Surf Life Saving South Australia from the emergency services levy via the Community Emergency Services Fund.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (17:31): I move:

That this order of the day be discharged.

Motion carried; order of the day discharged.

Bills

NATIONAL ELECTRICITY (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) (MINISTERIAL RELIABILITY INSTRUMENT) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

**GENE TECHNOLOGY (ADOPTION OF COMMONWEALTH AMENDMENTS) AMENDMENT
BILL**

Introduction and First Reading

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

At 17:34 the council adjourned until Thursday 9 February 2023 at 11:00.