

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 22 March 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.

Parliamentary Committees

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (14:17): I bring up the 23rd report of the committee 2022-23. Report received.

Question Time

FIRST NATIONS VOICE, PARLIAMENTARY SITTING

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs regarding the special sitting of parliament on Sunday 26 March 2023.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Today, at approximately 11.15am, an official invitation was forwarded to members of parliament inviting them to view a special sitting of parliament. Apart from it being very odd that we view our own sitting, it is our understanding from the standing orders that this chamber decides when it sits, not the Premier, much less the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Standing order 58 quotes that this 'Council can only be adjourned by its own resolution', so my question to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs is: does the minister agree that this document is in contradiction to this chamber's standing orders to recall and to participate in the sitting of the Legislative Council?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:21): I thank the honourable member for her question. Of course, every chamber of every parliament is the master of its own destiny, so it will be up to this chamber to decide when it sits, to the extent that administrative processes are put in place to try to assist members to understand what may or may not occur.

I think that is a good thing, and I note members of the opposition have quite rightly asked for further details about what is being planned, and those are being provided. I think it is appropriate that as much as possible details are provided about what is intended, what is hoped for, and what is planned, but of course every chamber of every parliament in the Westminster system will decide their own destiny.

FIRST NATIONS VOICE, PARLIAMENTARY SITTING

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:21): Supplementary question: does the minister believe that it is disrespectful to some community organisations that have had long staged events planned for this weekend as significant events to not give members a particularly large amount of notice that sittings have changed?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:22): I will repeat what I said in relation to a response to a question yesterday. I think this is a very significant and historic day for South Australia, and for the nation: the passing of very significant legislation that is the first of its kind that we will see in this country, and I think it is absolutely worthy of acknowledgement and celebration.

The proclamation of the new King saw a similar event occur here in South Australia, and that was at rather short notice. I understand the members probably had similar concerns about the disrespect shown for community events when that was celebrated, and I will be sure that we pass along to community organisations that the honourable member obviously thought that as well.

FIRST NATIONS VOICE, PARLIAMENTARY SITTING

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:22): Further supplementary: notwithstanding that the Leader was putting words in my mouth and chooses to misrepresent my position.

The PRESIDENT: Ask your supplementary question.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Ms Lensink has a supplementary question. What is your supplementary question?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: When did the Leader of the Government know, first know, firstly, when this event was to take place, and, secondly, when did he decide was the earliest opportunity he could inform other members, so that we could prepare adequately?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:23): I honestly couldn't recall when this was first suggested, but I know it is some weeks, I think, since the Premier spoke to the opposition leader about the possibility to seek the opposition leader's views, and I think very graciously and generously the opposition leader in another place, the Hon. David Speirs, concurred—I think it was on radio maybe two weeks ago one morning—that the Liberal opposition would not object to this.

FIRST NATIONS VOICE, PARLIAMENTARY SITTING

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:24): Further supplementary: when was the leader first aware that we would be sitting at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:24): I don't have an exact time, and certainly that will be decided as the honourable leader said. We seem to have some contradictory positions here—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: —from the honourable leader and the honourable wannabe deputy leader in this chamber—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: —the honourable member who didn't make the cut to be deputy leader here in this chamber—about who decides this. The non-deputy leader, the Hon. Michelle Lensink, seems to think a decision has already been made, but as the Leader of the Opposition correctly points out it is up to each house to decide exactly what they do. As per usual, they are hopelessly divided.

FIRST NATIONS VOICE, PARLIAMENTARY SITTING

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:25): Further supplementary question arising from the original answer: how on earth can DPC have sent out an invite if we haven't already made a decision?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:25): I have already answered that about 19 different times.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

FIRST NATIONS VOICE, PARLIAMENTARY SITTING

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:25): Supplementary question: has the Department of the Premier and Cabinet sought advice from the Leader of the Government of this place before sending an invitation to members of the Legislative Council to view its own gallery's sitting?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:25): I don't understand what the question is. Is it about a gallery sitting? The honourable member asked about a gallery sitting and I'm just not sure what gallery sitting the honourable member means.

LIMESTONE COAST CANCER SERVICES

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:26): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Given that the minister is a local community member of the Limestone Coast, has she signed the petition for radiotherapy services in the Limestone Coast?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:26): I thank the honourable member for her question. This is an interesting question—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —because this relates to a decision that I'm advised was taken two years ago when we had both a federal Liberal government and a state Liberal government. My advice—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Order on both sides! Minister, please continue.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: My advice is that funds were made available for radiation therapy and Mount Gambier was among those locations that were identified as possibilities for such a service. I am advised that there was a tender put out and there was one applicant for that tender but that tender was unsuccessful.

Following that, the local health board—and health boards, let us remember, were established by the former state Liberal government to ensure that decision-making was made close to the regional areas. If those opposite don't want health boards to do what they were established to do, I wonder why they didn't say so when they were established under the former state Liberal government. However, as I'm advised, the health board negotiated to have that funding instead go towards upgrades to cancer care in the Limestone Coast, including upgrades or expansions to chemo.

My question would be: are those opposite—and indeed the member for Barker, who has since started this whole campaign—suggesting that we should have radiotherapy and not have expansion—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —to other cancer care, including chemo? So the question—

The Hon. N.J. Centofanti interjecting:

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: There is one pot of money.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister, sit down.

The Hon. R.P. Wortley: Their behaviour is outrageous.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Wortley, you are not helping. I can't hear the answer and this is obviously a very serious question and a very serious topic. I want to hear the minister's answer. Minister, please continue.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: The question needs to be asked: do those opposite not want the expansion of chemo? Do they not want the upgrade of other cancer care, because that is what the money is being used for, as negotiated by the health board and, as I understand it, the local health network.

The member for Barker had a forum in December about this matter. My advice is that at that forum Mr Grant King agreed that they would revisit the decision, remembering this is a decision that was made possibly up to two years earlier, and at that time those opposite or indeed the member for Barker didn't suddenly object to the way that the funds were being negotiated. They undertook to have a look again, if further information was provided by the body that was now proposing to provide such a service. So if those opposite want to advocate against the improvements to other cancer care, then perhaps they should say so.

LIMESTONE COAST CANCER SERVICES

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:30): Supplementary question: is the minister suggesting the Limestone Coast community, her community, does not want radiotherapy services?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:30): I think the Limestone Coast community will be keen to have an expansion of cancer services, an expansion of chemotherapy.

LIMESTONE COAST CANCER SERVICES

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:30): Further supplementary: so has the minister signed the petition?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:31): My advice is that there is information coming that will look at whether—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —there is indeed a business case that is suitable, whether indeed—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! I have absolutely no idea what the minister just said.

An honourable member: She's not answering it anyway.

The PRESIDENT: Order! How would I know? Could you please answer and then we will move on.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Thank you, Mr President. My understanding is that the undertaking was to look again to see if there was a business case that was appropriate and whether services could be delivered safely, whether the wraparound services for radiation therapy are in existence. I would ask again: do those opposite not want the expansion of cancer care services and chemo?

LIMESTONE COAST TIMBER INDUSTRY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:31): I seek leave to provide a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Forest Industries on timber processors in the South-East.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: The opposition has been approached by community members who have significant concerns that the company which bought the harvesting rights to the South Australian government plantations is now, in spite of terms of the lease agreement, planning to terminate supply agreements to two family-owned sawmilling businesses in the Mount Gambier region. The magnitude of the cutbacks is apparently such that these timber processors may be forced to close their doors, resulting in no employment for 130 personnel. As Minister for Forest Industries and as a constituent from the South-East:

1. Is she aware of these concerns?
2. What is she doing to ensure these family-owned sawmills are not forced to shut because they cannot access supply of timber?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:32): I acknowledge the member's question. Of course, I am familiar with these concerns, partly because these were concerns that were raised over previous years when those opposite were the party that was in government. It appears that none of that was addressed during that time. However, I do acknowledge it is a difficult issue to address, given that log contracts are between private parties and therefore there is limited ability for intervention from government.

One of the actions that I have taken since becoming minister was to write to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission in regard to what opportunities there are for parameters to be put in place that might enable local processors, who perhaps can't compete on the same basis as the larger processors, to be able to access timber.

I am glad that those opposite are finally taking an interest in the timber industry, because of course this is something that has been aerated for a number of years and yet this is the first level of interest that we have from those opposite. I met recently—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I met recently with the South Australian Timber Processors Association. We, of course, talk about these sorts of matters quite frequently. They were going to be having an online meeting with the ACCC, and I am hopeful that that might be one avenue that we can pursue in terms of assisting those processors.

LIMESTONE COAST TIMBER INDUSTRY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:34): Supplementary: given the minister spoke about government not having the ability to intervene, was the lease agreement not with the government?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Please repeat your supplementary question.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Is the lease agreement with the government?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:34): It's a bit difficult to understand what the member's question is. She might want to reword it because I don't think anyone here is clear as to what she is trying to get at.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Wortley, see what happens; you just don't help.

FIRE TOWERS

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (14:35): My question is to the Minister for Forest Industries. Will the minister update the chamber about the government's commitment to upgrade fire towers in the South-East?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:35): I thank the honourable member for his question. I am delighted to update the chamber on this very important news. Members on this side of the chamber keep their promises when they make an election commitment, and that is exactly what we are doing with the Green Triangle fire observation towers that are set to be upgraded in time for the next season's fire season.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! I am really struggling to hear the minister today. Minister, please continue.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Prior to the election the then Malinauskas Labor opposition made a commitment to the forest industry to upgrade the fire towers in the South-East with new technology. The Green Triangle Plantation Forest region is one of the powerhouses of the Australian forest industry, with the South Australian region contributing more than \$860 million to the state's gross state product annually, making it one of the state's most productive sectors. If I recall correctly, that is separate to associated values such as the transport industry and so on.

It is critical that we work with industry to protect the region's 130,000 hectares of plantation estate, along with other primary producers who live and work in this region and who contribute so much to the primary producer sector. That is why I was delighted to head out on what was, I must say, a somewhat windy Mount Burr day last week with the chair of the Green Triangle Fire Alliance, Mick Theobald, and local members of the CFS to formally announce that work was set to start shortly in upgrading fire towers with new technologies aimed at improving the ability to detect fires early.

The upgrade works will be overseen by the Green Triangle Fire Alliance, and all upgrade works will be completed in time for the 2023-24 fire season. The fire towers that we are looking at are Penola North—which, along with new technology, a whole new tower will be constructed at Penola North. The existing tower was built in 1934, so it is certainly due to be replaced. Other upgrades will be at Mount Burr, Mount Edward, Furner, The Bluff, Comaum and Mount Benson.

I would like to take this opportunity to put on the record my thanks and appreciation to the chair of the Green Triangle Fire Alliance, Mick Theobald, and all the members of the GTFA for their steadfast commitment to ensure that these upgrades are done in a safe and efficient manner. This is a great example to point to of state government and industry working together, step by step, to deliver better outcomes for the forest industry. I look forward to having the opportunity to go out and inspect some of these upgrades in the future as the work progresses between now and the start of the 2023-24 fire season.

The government's investment in landscape-level fire detection technologies will be critical in protecting the plantations but also the communities surrounding them, whose livelihoods depend on the land now and into the future, and I look forward to updating this place about the upgrades later this year.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:38): Supplementary: will the government keep its promise to fix ramping?

The PRESIDENT: Yes, it's a long bow.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Excuse me! The word 'promise' was used but there was nothing to do with ramping in the answer.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: I am not having a conversation with you guys—enough!

MENTAL HEALTH

The Hon. C. BONAROS (14:39): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney, representing the Minister for Health and Wellbeing in another place, a question about mental health.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: It is a well-known fact that psychosocial support services keep people out of hospital and their crammed emergency departments, with statistics revealing community-based psychosocial supports reduce hospitalisations and bed stays by 62 per cent. The Productivity Commission's report on its inquiry into mental health released in 2020 estimated that almost 11,000 South Australians do not qualify for the NDIS and are needing but not receiving psychosocial supports. The Minister for Health and Wellbeing is currently undertaking a specific study on the unmet needs for psychosocial supports in South Australia. My questions to the minister are:

1. Can he advise when the study will be finalised and the findings released publicly?
2. Does this government have any plans to increase funding to meet the needs of those 11,000 South Australians we already know about in 2020 and, if not, why not?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:40): I thank the honourable member for her question. I certainly will pass those on to my colleague in another place the Minister for Health and bring back a reply.

GLADSTONE GAOL

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.S. LEE: Residents in the Mid North are concerned that they will lose \$450,000 worth of funding for one of the region's biggest drawcards, namely the heritage-listed Gladstone Gaol. The project is earmarked for the federal government's Silver to Sea Way project. The community needs the funding towards repairing the tourist attraction, which has been closed now for the past nine months.

With work initially scheduled for completion by the end of 2022, the state government has blocked access to the site due to the gaol's poor condition. Gladstone Community Development and Tourism Association spokesperson, Steve Schultz, said that he was concerned that time was running out to ensure the future viability of Gladstone Gaol. Mr Schultz said:

We've been trying to get answers from the department and trying to advocate for the project...[but] the gaol is in a really bad state of disrepair, all we ask for is transparency and accountability.

Federal member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey, said that he had contacted the Premier's office about the issue, but our understanding is that no work has been done by the Malinauskas government and the community will miss a lifeline to bring the magnificent building back to life. My questions to the minister are:

1. Why has the state government blocked access to the site of Gladstone Gaol?
2. What actions has the minister undertaken to advocate for the regional community to ensure the repair work for the gaol can be completed?

3. When will the Premier respond to concerns raised regarding accountability and transparency about the project delay?

4. If Gladstone Gaol misses out on federal funding, will the state government commit to provide financial support to save the heritage tourist icon in the Mid North?

The Hon. I.K. Hunter interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Government Whip, just be careful in that mask with your breathing and everything—stay calm.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:43): I thank the honourable member for her question. In one of them it sounded as though she had answered it in her own brief explanation when I thought she said that access had been blocked due to safety reasons; however, this sounds like it would either be in the purview of the Minister for Tourism or, perhaps, depending on who owns the site, another minister.

In her quote, the honourable member talked about 'the department', but didn't outline which department she was referring to or indeed whether it was a federal department or a state department, so I'm happy to take the—

The Hon. J.S. Lee interjecting:

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Which one?

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: As I said, the honourable member hasn't outlined which department she was referring to, so I'm happy to take the question on notice and see if we can get some additional information from the honourable member and refer it to the appropriate minister.

GLADSTONE GAOL

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:44): Supplementary: as Minister for Regional Development, will she advocate for the repairs and reopening of Gladstone Gaol?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:44): As I said, I will take the question on notice and refer it to the appropriate minister for a response.

PREMIER'S EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (14:44): My question is to the Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector. Will the minister update the council on the Premier's Excellence Awards for the public sector in the category of 'Living the South Australian public sector purpose'?

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 her question and her interest in this area. It has been a great pleasure a couple of times to update the chamber about the outstanding work many members of the public sector have done, and as I have said in relation to many of the efforts of the public sector, particularly focused in recent times during the COVID-19 crisis, bushfires and the recent flooding events.

Alas, this is the last award I will be able to update the chamber on this year, but I can assure the chamber that I will update the chamber next year after the excellence in the public sector awards to again pay tribute to some of our fine members of the public sector. With this award, I am very pleased to update the chamber on the finalists and winners in the category 'Making a difference: living the SA public sector purpose'. This category recognises an individual or team who have exemplified the public sector purpose through their role and service to the community and by actions they have taken to make a positive difference in the lives of South Australians.

The category intends to recognise public sector workers who have determination, challenge the status quo to deliver better results, collaborate with the community to make a difference and

develop durable long-term value for the community. I am advised that the finalists in the individual category include Matthew Korcz from PIRSA, a biosecurity officer on Kangaroo Island, who is helping to coordinate the eradication of feral pigs to preserve KI's precious natural environment for future generations, something that I know is very close to the heart of my colleague the Minister for Primary Industries.

There is also Rebecca Hill from the Helen Mayo House Bridge Project, which uses telehealth to support new mothers with mental health conditions and which avoids hospital admissions and keeps mothers with their babies. The last finalist and winner in the individual category was Kathy Stanton from the Department for Education, who taught herself braille so she could create learning resources to assist students who are visually impaired. Those resources have gone on to be used in schools right across the state.

In the group category, finalists include the Centre for Clinical and Experimental Transplantation, from the Central Adelaide Local Health Network. It has completed a revolutionary world-first transplant of cells that moved them a step closer to finding a cure for type 1 diabetes. There is the Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin program from the Department for Environment and Water, a joint initiative with a range of groups to improve the long-term health of one of the state's most important ecological sites.

There is the Music Development Office for See It LIVE from the Department for Industry, Innovation and Science, helping performers, musicians and the hospitality industry get back on their feet following forced lockdowns during COVID-19. In the group area the final finalist and winner was On The Right Track, Department for Infrastructure and Transport, which has improved road safety and driver's licence services to remote Aboriginal communities.

I have regularly come across the crew from On the Right Track, I think most recently a couple of months ago in Ceduna as they were on their way to communities up north across the Maralinga Tjarutja lands and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands. I congratulate all the finalists in the individual and team categories, and I very much look forward to being able to update the chamber next year on some of the outstanding work of our diligent, hardworking members of the public sector.

REGIONAL RAIL

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:48): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question without notice to the Minister for Regional Development on regional rail.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: Today, the *Adelaide Advertiser* reported that planning minister Nick Champion has written to councils, many in the regions, asking for more development. This comes after the Minister for Planning announced a plan to rezone land in Murray Bridge to build a thousand new homes. Currently, the only way to get to Murray Bridge by train is on the *Overland*, which costs \$65 and only runs twice a week. Other regional areas, such as Port Augusta, have no access to rail at all.

Earlier this month, when asked if the Minister for Regional Development had considered the recommendations from the public and active transport committee to reactivate regional rail, the minister simply replied, 'I haven't read the report.' My question to the minister therefore is: given the government's intention to increase population in the regions, has the minister now read the report of the public and active transport committee, in particular the recommendations relating to reactivating regional rail, and what action has she taken?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:49): I thank the honourable member for his question. Certainly, in regard to the *Overland*, I am very pleased that that is continuing. Members might recall that under the former government, the former Liberal state government, they wanted to, in fact they did, cut the funding, modest though it was, to the *Overland*. It was a pre-election promise that the now Malinauskas Labor government made to reinstate that funding, which indeed we have done. Of course, it was only the Victorian Labor state government coming to the table with additional funding that allowed the *Overland* to continue.

In terms of a proposed trial of rail at Mount Barker, which I think is one of the things that the member is referring to, I have received a briefing about that. The purpose of the trial is to prove the viability of a passenger rail service from Mount Gambier to Adelaide Railway Station. My advice is that the proposal is from Talgo and is based on the use of a tilt train, which is also a gauge-convertible vehicle and could potentially operate on the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) standard gauge network, the Adelaide metropolitan broad gauge network and the current broad gauge connection to the Mount Barker station.

Talgo, I am advised, has not indicated if the proposed trial would demonstrate gauge conversion. Talgo needs to demonstrate to ARTC, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, and the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator the ability to provide a safe, reliable and effective public transport service that can be supported by a business case to inform further consideration. I am advised that the initial advice from Talgo is that the process to undertake modelling and secure necessary safety accreditation before undertaking the trial could take 12 to 18 months, and the trial will be undertaken on a no obligation basis to the South Australian government.

Discussions between the department, Talgo's local representative and the ARTC, I am advised, commenced in June 2022. Further to this, the chief executive of the department met with the President of Talgo, Mr Carlos Palacio Oriol, in September 2022 at the InnoTrans conference in Berlin to discuss the proposal to undertake the trial of the tilt train technology. I am advised that a draft non-refundable financing agreement was provided by the Secretary of State for Trade of the Spanish government. The Crown Solicitor's Office has reviewed the terms and more information, I am advised, is being provided.

The suitability of the trains for operation between Adelaide and Mount Barker, and over longer distances, was also recently discussed with Talgo at a meeting in Spain. The Chief Executive of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport facilitated a meeting with Talgo and ARTC executives on 27 February 2023 to gain an understanding of the current status of Talgo's access request to ARTC and seek to progress discussions.

I am further advised that the department has met with the Economic and Trade Commission of Spain to Australia, and she advised that an in principle agreement to enter into a formal deed with the South Australian government would be required before the application could be assessed. I am very happy to take any other questions on notice and provide an answer from the relevant minister in the other place.

REGIONAL RAIL

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:53): Supplementary: has the minister read the other recommendations in the report relating to reactivation of regional rail—not just in Mount Barker?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:53): There are a number of other regional rail issues which, whilst they are in the purview of the Minister for Transport in the other place, I have been able to be apprised of and have the following advice. One of those of course is in regard to the potential for commercial rail lines to operate successfully on Eyre Peninsula. Our government would be supportive of that, but of course it does need to be commercially viable. We are generally supportive of new rail infrastructure, but would need to look at this proposal and make an assessment on its merits, including the degree of private investment proposed.

To date, I am advised no detailed proposal has been presented to the South Australian government. The previous closure of Viterra's rail network has led both directly and indirectly, of course, to significant investment in port developments, but had other significant impacts as well, perhaps some of those not so positive. The government has spent significant funds improving the local road network to facilitate greater use for freight in response to Viterra's 2019 decision to cease its rail operations in the region. The government will continue to investigate options that can provide better services as we go forward.

REGIONAL RAIL

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:55): Supplementary: has the minister read the report herself or has she simply obtained a briefing?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:55): I did answer that in the beginning of my first answer to this question.

REGIONAL RAIL

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (14:55): Supplementary: when does the government intend entering into a deed with the Spanish government in relation to the trial of the train?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:55): I think I did cover that in the answer in terms of discussing what was required before that could take place.

COST OF LIVING CONCESSION

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (14:55): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General a question about cost of living.

Leave granted.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: The government has already ruled out again paying a doubling of the Cost of Living Concession allowance as it did in the first budget. What new measures will the government put in place to ease cost-of-living pressures today, which are even more exacerbated now compared with this time last year?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:56): I thank the honourable member for her question. There are a number of measures the government has put in place to ease the cost of living, most through Treasury. There are also cost-of-living areas in terms of public transport concessions for seniors that Department for Transport has provided. I am happy to take on notice a lot of that question to provide a run-down of some of the cost-of-living measures in which the government has provided relief.

This government has done a number of things: it has doubled the Cost of Living Concession to assist people on a lower fixed income. This election policy included an extra \$39.3 million to help 220,000 households across the state. The government also honoured, as I outlined, its commitment to make public transport free for all people with a Seniors Card. The government has made several announcements around housing that have been outlined by my colleagues in another place who are responsible for that area, and the government is acutely aware and will always consider measures to ease the cost of living for South Australians.

COST OF LIVING CONCESSION

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (14:57): Supplementary: what new measures will be put in place, and does the Attorney think that the measures currently in place are sufficient to support South Australians during these challenging times?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:57): The measures I have outlined, including making public transport free for all people with Seniors Cards, are in fact new measures. These are ones the former Liberal government didn't and wouldn't do, and we have done as a government.

COST OF LIVING CONCESSION

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (14:58): Supplementary: given that housing is one of the biggest cost-of-living burdens, what measures will be put in place to support home owners, and will there be any concessions around stamp duty or other elements to support people getting into a home?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:58): I am happy to refer the substance of that to the minister responsible in another place in this area. The member would no doubt have seen announcements that have been made over previous weeks that are aimed at increasing the supply of housing in South Australia as a direct measure to look at doing this.

MAITLAND RURAL SHOW

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (14:58): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister update the chamber about her visit to the Maitland show over the weekend and inform us about the importance of these rural shows to their local communities?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! I call the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:59): I thank the honourable member for his question. Rural shows are not just a day of fun for families, friends and visitors, though they certainly are fun. Rural shows, such as the one in Maitland over the weekend, have an important role in the social and economic fabric of the communities they are involved in and have a special role in bringing communities together. Indeed, on an economic basis, national figures show that agricultural shows across the country contribute more than \$1 billion to the economy annually. They attract more than six million patrons and are supported by more than 50,000 volunteers.

The 144th Maitland show was truly a testament to not only the community that it serves but also to the thousands of people over multiple generations who have exhibited, judged, participated or visited, in the process helping to keep the show and all those like it across regional areas relevant, exciting and a much anticipated event in the calendar each year.

When I mention the generations who have all contributed to the success of shows, such as the one in Maitland, I must say it is truly heartening to see younger generations of South Australians who are taking a keen interest in the progress of our regions, as the future custodians of our ever-evolving agricultural industries and regional communities.

The future of rural shows across the state appear to be in good hands if the young people who I have had the privilege to meet, through initiatives such as the Young Rural Ambassador and Rural Ambassador programs, are anything to go by. I had the great pleasure at the weekend of spending time at the show with people such as Nick Rodda, who is the Show Society president and is a former participant in the Rural Ambassador Program. Also, Michael Hollow, who participated in a Q&A with other rural ambassadors, such as Lisette and Henry and others, talking about how much they had benefited from the Rural Ambassador or Young Rural Ambassador programs.

This year's Maitland show was another fantastic event, with competitions spanning from floral art to home brewing and almost everything in between, and of course, as the Hon. Kyam Maher will be particularly interested to note, the sausage roll competition. He has a degree of expertise in this area, and I couldn't help thinking he perhaps would have been ideal as a judge of that particular competition.

The Hon. K.J. Maher: I have done that before; judge sausage rolls at shows.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Indeed, and I believe the Hon. Mr Maher has done the job before at other shows, and perhaps the question remains of why wasn't he there at Maitland with me? It would have been an excellent opportunity, and I will make sure that I invite him along next time. As an example of the breadth of involvement in the show, I had the great pleasure of talking to Margaret, who is a judge there. She is almost 90 years old, and she was very busy in terms of judging the cakes, particularly the genoa cake, as I was speaking with her. I would also like to say thank you to Margaret for all of the time that she has put in to supporting the local show.

Entertainment at the Maitland show was aplenty, with V8 utes, ute muster, horse rides, car clubs, animals of course, music, food and fireworks. There really was something for everyone, and it was great to see so many people enjoying the great weather and things to do and see. One thing that I think was particularly appreciated by the local community was how many of the events were actually free. Once they got inside the gates, there were many events there that were actually provided free of charge.

I also had a great privilege of assisting Nick Rodda, the show president, to judge the best pet category as well as the best business stand. I thank the Maitland Show Society and Nick for the invitation to open the show. I congratulate them on another successful event and wish them every success for the 145th show next year, and hopefully many more beyond that.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:03): Supplementary.

The Hon. J.E. Hanson: About sausage rolls?

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Not quite.

The PRESIDENT: The honourable Leader of the Opposition, ignore interjections.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: As Minister for Primary Industries, what is her state government doing to support the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:03): I thank the honourable member for her question. I will take that on notice in terms of specifics, but certainly when we had our cabinet meeting at the Royal Showgrounds last year, and with the guests also of various members and the chair of the show, we were most appreciative to be able to have an outline of the many wonderful initiatives that they were doing.

When we were in opposition we also had the opportunity to do something similar, and at that time the Show Society was outlining what were then their plans in regard to the caravan facilities and a number of other initiatives, so it is something that I think is great to see and very important to our state, and I look forward again to having some similar opportunities in September.

RIVER MURRAY FLOOD RESPONSE

The Hon. S.L. GAME (15:04): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries, representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, regarding the River Murray flooding response.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: I have made multiple trips to the Riverland during the flooding event and I spoke at length with tourism operators and associated local small businesses. It was brought to my attention that the government had, at taxpayer expense, booked out entire local hotels which were made largely empty for weeks on end. The purpose of this was to reserve rooms in case they were needed for temporary government workers and contractors to attend to flooding related issues.

My understanding is that these were, without exception, underutilised and remained in place long after the immediate danger receded. My questions to the minister, representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, are:

1. How much money was spent on accommodation for government services in relation to the River Murray flooding event?
2. Why were premium rooms requested on taxpayer dollars, when standard rooms would have sufficed for emergency work purposes?
3. Does the government admit it spent too much money on empty hotel rooms when that money could have been better spread across the region during the flooding event?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:05): I will refer the substance of the question to the minister in the other place. However, just in terms of some general comments that I might make: the Malinauskas Labor government has been very keen to support the Riverland and Murraylands communities who have been so badly affected by floods. Cabinet has been there as a group on occasion as well as individual ministers spending quite a lot of time throughout all of the flood affected communities.

I know that rooms were booked, as the honourable member refers to, for contractors but I also know that rooms were reserved for residents who might have been unable to remain in their homes. I think in terms of a general approach there were all of those reasons for booking out rooms, but also it was important to actually support those businesses.

We know that tourism, of course, has been significantly affected by the flooding events, with far fewer people travelling, either for safety reasons or concerns that they might get stranded or wherever it might be, so that was another aspect to the general approach. However, in terms of the specifics, I will refer it to the minister in the other place and bring back an answer to the chamber.

PORT AUGUSTA ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (15:06): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing a question to the Attorney-General, or the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, in relation to antisocial behaviour in Port Augusta.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: It's been reported that the Mayor of Port Augusta, Linley Shine, has raised the issue of alcohol restrictions—with Port Augusta being a dry zone—not being adequately policed and that it is needing to fall back to council to manage.

1. Can the minister advise when his last meeting was with the mayor or, indeed, anyone from the Port Augusta council?
2. Does he agree that Port Augusta needs more police to manage local issues?

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 her question. I have not had the pleasure of having a meeting with the Mayor of Port Augusta who was elected at the end of last year, but I certainly am looking forward to doing so.

Port Augusta is an exceptionally important city in South Australia and it stands at the crossroads in a number of ways for South Australia: the transport from north to south and east to west and plays a crucial role in the South Australian economy. We are seeing a renewed investment over a number of years in Port Augusta since the closure of the power station, particularly as a leader in that area in renewable energy.

Many members will be aware of the solar activities and the growing of vegetables hydroponically as a result of that solar power, so Port Augusta is an important part of our state and an important city. In relation to questions about alcohol, about dry zones or limits on alcohol, I am certainly keen to hear from the commissioner, Dini Soulio, about any views that the commissioner has that may be beneficial for the Port Augusta community. In my experience, the commissioner is very proactive and takes a very sensible stance in relation to alcohol restrictions.

We have seen those in areas like Coober Pedy and Ceduna and if there was some suggestion that there might be different or further alcohol restrictions in Port Augusta take place it is something I would be keen to discuss, but also in relation to the Davenport Aboriginal community. There has been a request for changes to dry zones in that area that span back quite a number of years.

I think there was work done at the end of the last time Labor was in government. I am not aware that any work was done over the four years of the Liberal government in relation to the Davenport community's request for a dry zone, but that is certainly something I have had a number of meetings about, and I will be following up to make sure that we can meet some of the requests of that community.

CLOSE THE GAP DAY

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:09): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Will the minister inform the council on Closing the Gap Day events held on 16 March?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:10): I thank the honourable member for his interest and for another important question in the Aboriginal affairs area.

Closing the Gap Day is a community event that raises awareness of existing inequalities in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's lives, communities and outcomes and builds a sense of shared accountability and purpose whilst also offering suggestions and beacons for change. This event has been occurring for more than a decade and generally falls on the third Thursday in every March. The event this year was held at the Adelaide Showground and was presented by Sonder and Nunkuwarrin Yunti in partnership with the Adelaide Primary Health Network and the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network.

As I said, this event has been going over many years and has been successful in engaging the community and bringing people together not only to become more knowledgeable of support services available to communities and individuals but also to highlight some of the barriers, issues, strengths and achievements of Closing the Gap.

I am informed that an estimated 1,500 people attended the event over the course of the day this year. Crowds that attended not only had access to the somewhere over 100 stallholders but were provided with performances from First Nations entertainers, including Katie Aspel, Nathan May, Nancy Bates and Eddie Peters.

The event was catered to suit all ages, including for children's activities, with raffle prizes, many free giveaways and a lunch. A Nunga marketplace for arts and crafts by Aboriginal traders to sell and promote their products and merchandise was also present at the event. I was pleased on the day to attend and to meet quite a number of stallholders in the arts and crafts that had a whole range of their wares on sale.

As I said, I am informed there were over 100 exhibitors across the health and wellbeing sector itself. Surprisingly and importantly, many of these exhibitors were non-government organisations, and certainly NGOs and Aboriginal community controlled organisations continue to play an exceptionally important role, as government does, in addressing Closing the Gap.

It was a pleasure to attend the event and engage with many of the individuals and many exhibitor stalls, including the Pika Wiya, Acktion and No Shame stalls, to name a few. It was pleasing to see such a spread of ages of people who attended the Closing the Gap day. Given the level of attendance and number of exhibitors at the event, it was evident to me that it was another successful event, so I'd like to congratulate all those who had a role in contributing to the success and the important role that all the organisations play in our joint endeavours in Closing the Gap.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The PRESIDENT: I acknowledge in the gallery former long-serving member, the Hon. Ian Gilfillan. Welcome, the Hon. Mr Gilfillan.

Question Time

SUBMARINE STEEL

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:13): I seek leave to ask a question of the Leader of the Government, representing the Premier, a question about defence procurement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: The Premier has just returned from a trip to the UK, where he visited British shipyards making submarines and, I would imagine, other vessels. BAE is currently in the process of building frigates at Osborne. As we know, building these complex vessels requires marine-grade steel. I have been recently informed that almost all the steel that has been used in building these frigates has had to be imported from the UK or overseas because BHP cannot manufacture that type of steel. My question to the Premier is:

1. Is it correct that no Australian-made steel will be used in the building of the Future Frigates program?
2. Is it correct that no Australian steel was used in other frigates built at Osborne?
3. Why isn't there a requirement for Australian steel on these projects?
4. Will there be a requirement for Australian steel to be used in the manufacture of nuclear submarines or will that gigantic spend go to the Americans?
5. Can he tell us the percentage of Australian-made content that will go into the submarines and the frigates project?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:15): I thank the honourable member for his questions and his interest in the South Australian economy and South Australian industry. I am happy to pass those questions on to the Premier in another place and bring back a reply to the extent that all the questions can be answered.

I am not sure, in terms of the specifications of what is used on defence projects, how much information the federal defence department can provide because, of course, I suspect that the Premier and the state government would have to ask defence a number of those questions. But to the extent that they can be answered, I am happy to see what we can provide for the honourable member.

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:15): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General a question regarding the Davenport community.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON: On 19 March, *The Advertiser* reported that community members in Davenport, a settlement on the northern fringe of Port Augusta, have criticised the state government's lack of support for young people in the community, who roam the streets in large gangs on any given night committing crimes. In Davenport the community centre lies derelict and vandalised after several break-ins and fires, with overgrown weeds and rubbish covering the playground. My questions to the minister are:

1. What steps has the government taken to address the concerns of community members in Davenport?
2. How does the government plan to address the issues of gangs of young people roaming the streets at night?
3. What resources have the government allocated to repair and restore the vandalised and neglected community centre in Davenport?
4. How does the government plan to work with local leaders and organisations to address the underlying social and economic issues that may be contributing to crime and violence in Davenport and other areas?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:17): I thank the honourable member for her question. There have been very similar questions asked this week, and in recent times, in this place about Port Augusta and the Davenport community in particular.

I know I have answered previously that there is a project underway that is led by the Department of Human Services as a coordinating agency looking at whole-of-government solutions to some of the issues that people face—not just in Davenport but Port Augusta more broadly—looking at services that are already provided to that community to look at how they can be integrated in the best way possible, and what other services may be needed.

In relation to the Davenport community specifically, and Davenport facilities, I note that there has been a manager appointed by the Aboriginal Lands Trust into the Davenport community, and I

will certainly refer those to the Aboriginal Lands Trust to see if there are further answers that can be provided about facilities actually on the community.

The Davenport community, like a number of other Aboriginal communities around South Australia that are often former mission sites—the Davenport community was the former site of the Umeewarra Mission on the outskirts of Port Augusta—are under the auspices of the Aboriginal Lands Trust. The Aboriginal Lands Trust was, I think, the first Aboriginal land rights legislation ever created in Australia in 1966, and part of the estate of the Aboriginal Lands Trust is the Davenport community. I will see if there are further answers that can be brought back about the specific infrastructure that the honourable member is referring to.

PIRSA, BIOSECURITY

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (15:18): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister update the chamber about the importance of the recent additions to the biosecurity division at PIRSA?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:19): I thank the honourable member for his question and his ongoing interest in this very important issue of biosecurity. Certainly on this side of the chamber, and hopefully across the entire chamber, we understand the importance of biosecurity and the need to deal with constant threats that are emerging of emergency animal diseases. I'm therefore delighted to update the council on the recent additions to the biosecurity division of PIRSA, increasing the technical expertise of the department to assist with managing the ongoing risk of emergency animal diseases.

PIRSA has just completed the recruitment of four new veterinarians, with more veterinarians and animal health officers currently being recruited to assist with the ongoing risk of emergency animal diseases. The first four new vets have joined the epidemiology and risk team and will work on preparedness activities relating to emerging animal diseases, along with supporting the development of overall epidemiological capacity and collaborating with industry and SA Health for the ongoing management of Japanese encephalitis.

I am advised that these new veterinarians are based in Adelaide, with the next stage of recruitment from the EAD funding to include two veterinarians and two animal health officers in our regions, where of course it is most likely that we would see an emergency animal disease outbreak occur.

As members would be aware, the large influx of additional biosecurity staff will be a result of the additional resourcing that I announced last year when I was joined by Livestock SA and the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association. The additional \$6.8 million over four years will ensure that South Australia is well prepared to combat the increased risk of emergency animal diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever and lumpy skin disease.

This additional funding to protect our state against emergency animal diseases does not just cover of course the cost of new veterinarians but also the purchase of mobile laboratory facilities for rural areas; training in response activities, such as disposal and decontamination; purchase of emergency response units, including equipment for quarantine, sampling and decontamination; and additional animal health staff for operational and laboratory preparedness.

This significant investment in preparedness and response capacity is crucial to protecting our primary producer industry, which contributes billions of dollars to the state's economy every year. We know that an EAD outbreak would take years to recover from and the impact on both trade markets and our regional communities would be significant. This government has responded to the increased threat of an emergency animal disease outbreak and acted accordingly. I look forward to continuing to update this place about the government's continued commitment to biosecurity.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The PRESIDENT: As I call the Hon. Mr Martin to lead us off, I acknowledge in the gallery the members of the Kensington Residents' Association.

*Matters of Interest***BORTHWICK PARK**

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (15:22): Borthwick Park, the green heart of Kensington, is situated between Thornton and Bridge Streets. Over the past 14 years, it has been impressively transformed through a mighty community revegetation effort driven by the dedicated members of the Kensington Residents' Association.

In 2009, this group of passionate local residents approached the Norwood Payneham & St Peters council to start the Borthwick Park Biodiversity Project. This project was designed to revegetate and restore the park from a largely grassed area, with the creek section also hosting a number of introduced and pest plant species, into a lush and varied pre-settlement landscape populated by native plants and trees.

The Kensington Residents' Association partnered with the council and the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board to achieve their ambitious aims. The community working bees have been held since 2009, with the first plantings commencing the following year. Through the dedicated and ongoing efforts of local volunteers led by the residents' association, the project has been a resounding success, but by no means have their efforts ceased. It is an ongoing project and their passion and commitment to the cause have remained strong over time.

Visiting Borthwick Park today, you would not imagine what it once looked like. It has been transformed into a beautiful, peaceful and strikingly verdant community green space that is greatly enjoyed by so many people. Borthwick Park now provides a habitat for a thriving array of native birdlife and hosts prolific pollinators. At least 11 native bird species are known to call the park home, with a further nine species having been observed to visit the space.

The park also offers ample opportunity for public enjoyment, having two small playgrounds, along with great spots for people to picnic, exercise or simply enjoy the ambience on a park bench. There is even a volunteer shed with tools and equipment, including a defibrillator, to ensure that volunteers in the park are safe and well supplied.

Borthwick Park's design is centred around a number of magnificent pre-settlement river red gums, some of which are dated to over 400 years old. They are a fitting centrepiece for the new landscape that seeks to restore elements of the native environment before Kensington was surveyed and settled in the earliest days of the colony. Choosing the right native plants for the area has always been at the centre of the project, and a great deal of time was put into an appropriate plan for the park.

Focus on increasing biodiversity, with low plants and ground covers to keep the weeds at bay, is a current priority as this will reduce the need for volunteers to be constantly weeding. Speaking of volunteers, in 2022 there were 20 working bees in the park, with over 600 plants put in the ground—a truly formidable effort.

On a recent tour of the park, hosted by the Kensington Residents' Association President, Mr Roger Bryson, and the person who initiated and led the biodiversity project, Mr John Legg, I was able to witness firsthand the amazing transformation that has taken place in this historic park. What a job they have done, so much so that John Legg and Andrew Dyson were awarded the 2023 Citizen and Active Citizen of the Year respectively by the Norwood Payneham & St Peters council at an Australia Day ceremony that I was fortunate to attend.

The residents' association recognises that not only is biodiversity important to the survival and wellbeing of plant and animal species native to the Adelaide Plains but it is a key priority for local residents as well, as has been identified through council surveys. The work of the residents' association has supported this priority admirably, inspiring and assisting members of the Kensington community to get involved in increasing local biodiversity not only by engaging them as volunteers in the park project but also by providing advice and assistance for local residents wishing to rehabilitate their own gardens to a more natural and native state.

This in turn supports the efforts of the community in creating and supporting biodiversity in Borthwick Park, offering more habitat space and more food for native birds, flying foxes, bees and plenty of other species within the local ecosystems. The association and their local volunteers continue to improve Borthwick Park. They also recognise and respect the important work that this park plays in the life of the community. I understand they are also organising a multicultural fair in the coming months, and they regularly seek to engage and involve local people in their activities.

I wholeheartedly commend all that the Kensington Residents' Association has done for Borthwick Park in the service of local improvements to biodiversity and to human wellbeing. It is inspiring to witness the benefits to their community and its natural environment that their passion has delivered.

RURAL AND REGIONAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Hon. S.L. GAME (15:27): Getting out of the city and this chamber to visit rural and regional South Australia is a great highlight of mine and something that I am committed to doing as regularly as I possibly can. I am fortunate to have visited much of South Australia in a short time, including the Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, Fleurieu Peninsula, Limestone Coast and the Murray River Lakes and Coorong region, and I have had multiple trips to the Yorke and Eyre peninsulas as well as the Riverland. Following this parliamentary break, I will be able to add Kangaroo Island and a third visit to Eyre Peninsula, too.

Rural and regional South Australia is home to many of our most important industries, including agriculture, fishing, mining, forestry and tourism. It was very pleasing to read the recent release of the Primary Industries Scorecard 2021-22 by PIRSA. This highlighted that despite a raft of significant challenges, including COVID, extreme weather, floods, bushfires, the Ukraine invasion and Chinese trade issues, our primary industries sector generated \$17.3 billion in revenue, up 12 per cent on the previous year.

While the sector is a significant employer, with roughly 71,000 jobs, sadly this is a decline of 4 per cent on previous levels, with PIRSA citing difficulties attracting and retaining the workforce required for the future. Indeed, this is a key issue I heard in almost every regional town I visited and stems from structural issues that must be addressed.

A lack of access to child care, an issue I have previously spoken here about, is just one of the underlying causes of our regional skilled worker shortage. Whether it is on Yorke Peninsula, where I was told by council that not one childcare facility exists, or in the Mid North, Port Lincoln or Kingston South East, this was one of the top concerns of parents, councils and employers. Without adequate access to child care, our regions suffer as a result of not being able to attract skilled workers and by restricting new mothers to stay at home when they would instead prefer to contribute to their local area.

Closely aligned to this and resulting in the same poor outcomes for our regions is a lack of housing. In Kimba, for example, which is a beautiful and friendly country town that was recently crowned the 2021 AgTown of the Year, not only have they built their own \$1 million medical facility to desperately attract a GP but they also face the struggle of housing them.

I heard of similar stories across many towns I visited, from people who are willing and able to invest in facilities to attract the right workers but are not successful due to a lack of incentives from government. Take Yorke Peninsula, for example, where I was told that as many as 50 per cent of homes there are currently empty.

Targeted incentives to encourage landlords to provide secure rentals would go a long way to making the area more attractive for skilled workers and young families. I have been told of a lack of targeted incentives from federal and state governments to attract GPs to regional areas. I heard of the government treating small towns like Kimba with the same incentive system as much larger towns like Port Lincoln. This is not sustainable and needs to be addressed.

With agricultural technologies evolving rapidly, opportunities for young people to move to and live in our regions are on the rise, along with the wages that go with these jobs. However, I have heard that there are too few opportunities to train up local people, and even if their TAFE or local

training centre is able to cater to their needs, there are often more attractive jobs on offer elsewhere, such as in the mining industry. Infrastructure concerns are also front of mind for many country people.

The declining state of our rural and regional road network is a blight on our beautiful country towns. This is not only dangerous and a deterrent to tourists, but they hamper productivity for our multibillion-dollar primary industries and agriculture sector, which rely on these important thoroughfares to feed us and the world. I thank Grain Producers SA for highlighting these significant concerns, and I note in the government response that the government is responsible for eight out of 10 of the worst roads named.

The final topic I wish to touch on is a bittersweet one, regarding the lack of mental health support in our regions. The silver lining to this is the strong community spirit that shines through. I have thoroughly enjoyed speaking with country people at many men's sheds around the state, meeting the Fat Farmers group, the West Coast Youth and Community Support group and the Mentally Fit Eyre Peninsula team.

These groups are heavily reliant on volunteers, on which regional communities depend so strongly. I passionately believe these early intervention and often informal support groups need more funding from all levels of government. Despite these challenges, a more laid-back lifestyle, strong community spirit and splendid natural landscapes are significant drawcards for those like myself who were brought up in the city.

ENDOMETRIOSIS

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:31): Endometriosis Awareness Month is observed every March to increase the knowledge and understanding of an often debilitating condition that affects one in nine, or 200 million, women and girls worldwide. It is a condition where the tissue that is similar to tissue that normally lines the uterus grows outside of it, commonly on the ovaries, fallopian tubes and tissue lining the pelvis.

Even though it is not in the uterus, the cells still respond to signals from the ovaries. The endometriosis tissue thickens every month and then sheds and bleeds when the woman has a period. Over time this process can lead to inflammation and scarring, which can cause adhesions in organs.

Endometriosis is a progressive chronic condition. It can be cripplingly painful, can affect fertility and can prevent women from participating fully in education, work or sporting activities. The quality of life and productivity of women with this condition can be severely affected, including having a higher risk of developing depression and anxiety. It can take an average of 6½ years for those living with endometriosis to be diagnosed and, in Australia, there are currently over 830,000 endometriosis patients.

The condition is frequently misdiagnosed or undiagnosed due to a lack of awareness and understanding of the symptoms. This is due to the similarity of some of the symptoms to menstrual symptoms or confusing endometriosis symptoms with menstrual symptoms. Common symptoms could include:

- abdominal or pelvic pain before or during a period, during or after sex or when going to the toilet;
- heavy periods or irregular bleeding;
- bleeding from the bladder or bowel, or changes in urination or bowel movements, such as needing to urinate more frequently;
- feeling bloated, with or without pain;
- feeling tired, especially around the time of a woman's period; and
- difficulty in getting pregnant.

It is important to note that not everyone with endometriosis will experience symptoms, with about 20 to 25 per cent of women with endometriosis without symptoms, which may contribute to the delay

in diagnosis and ultimately may lead to infertility. In fact, 40 per cent of women with endometriosis experience infertility, and undiagnosed endometriosis compromises fertility treatment.

Raising awareness of endometriosis is crucial to improve early detection, reduce the diagnostic delay and improve outcomes for those affected by it. Endometriosis can be treated with medication, surgery and complementary treatments, such as physiotherapy and clinical psychology, which can help manage chronic pain. Treatment will depend on the woman's symptoms and the severity of her endometriosis.

Endometriosis is only diagnosed through cervical intervention, which is a crucial fact for the discussion of any symptoms with a medical practitioner, as that is not merely enough. Some of the key challenges with diagnosis are:

- a lack of awareness;
- delayed diagnosis;
- the invasive nature of the diagnosis;
- a lack of access to care if you are in certain geographic locations, have limited financial resources or do not have access to medical care or specialists who are knowledgeable about endometriosis; and
- the stigma and dismissal of people who may think that these symptoms are normal or being exaggerated.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the Morrison Liberal government, particularly the former member for Boothby, Nicole Flint, for her work in this very important space. In 2018, the Morrison Liberal government launched the national action plan for endometriosis—Australia's first ever blueprint, seeking to improve the treatment, understanding and awareness of the disease. In 2020, the Morrison Liberal government provided a funding boost of \$9.5 million to endometriosis research.

In 2022, the Morrison Liberal government made a \$58 million budget commitment to help endometriosis. The four-year funding commitment for endometriosis, which included \$16.4 million to establish two clinics in each state and territory, \$5.1 million for early career research scholarships and \$25.2 million for access to Medicare-funded MRI scanning, is the largest ever investment in endometriosis treatment and research in Australia.

This Endometriosis Awareness Month my thoughts go to the women and girls, no matter what stage of their endometriosis journey they may be on, to highlight the need for greater awareness: awareness of the symptoms, awareness of the treatment and, even more importantly, awareness of the stories of resilience, of hope and of recovery.

RENAL DIALYSIS

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (15:36): I rise today to speak again on the topic of kidney dysfunction, dialysis and the disruption it creates in the lives of patients. The last time I addressed this topic I spoke of limited capacity of services when compared with the needs of patients. Today, and on subsequent occasions, I would like to share the story of different patients. Today's story is on Bob Veitch. I will continue to speak about different patients in terms of their needs of dialysis.

Bob and I share the experience of dialysis. He is 71 and, like me, he dialyses three times a week. In fact, the only reason Bob is not present in the public gallery here today is because he is dialysing right now. Bob's story is all too familiar to those who have struggled with kidney failure. Until he turned 32, Bob lived a normal healthy life. He was married with two kids, worked a physically demanding job and played football. He did not drink or smoke. This is not what people typically imagine when they think about kidney failure. Most people are unaware that significant renal failure can occur in younger people and that many of the patients dialysing are in their 20s or 30s.

Bob began dialysis in his late 30s when a biopsy revealed that his kidneys had only 15 per cent function left. He was lucky and, after six months of dialysis, he received a kidney transplant. He went back to work running his business as normal for 17 years, until his donor kidney failed and it was back to dialysis. Many would be aware that the drugs given to prevent the failure of

a donor organ suppress the immune system and make one vulnerable to a host of diseases, including cancer.

Skin cancer is common in those people I have seen in dialysis. This is one of the many ways in which health issues compound and create a flow-on effect. Bob's daughter, then in her 20s, made the decision to donate her kidney to her father. After six years this kidney also failed and he was again forced into dialysis, and he has been dialysing ever since.

Dialysis creates a massive restriction on the lives of patients. Bob has spent his life in and out of the dialysis clinics in South Australia. He has not been able to participate in family holidays or in visiting regional friends and family members if the journey is longer than a day.

Dialysis is not readily available everywhere, and in places where it is, it is not likely that they will have a chair available due to local use. For instance, while travelling regional Australia, Bob has only been given a few hours' notice that a dialysis chair was available for him. When Bob attempted to travel to Mount Gambier, the town only had six chairs available, despite being the second largest city in South Australia—all were being used. When he went to Berri, there was only one chair.

A patient experiencing renal dysfunction requires dialysis services to stay alive. This is not an optional treatment, it is a necessity. The restriction on mobility for patients is profound. For many, the financial and physical burdens of travel can be insurmountable.

Kidney Health Australia operates a service called the Big Red Kidney Bus, one of the only mobile dialysis services in Australia. This bus travels the coastal and regional destinations in New South Wales and Victoria and specifically sees to the medical needs of patients who wish to travel. They can book a holiday with their loved ones and a dialysis chair on the bus.

It is often not widely appreciated that people like Bob can be tethered to dialysis for years of their life. In this situation, the personal significance of something like going on a family holiday cannot be overstated. Bob's wish is that South Australia has a Big Red Kidney Bus.

Patients have differing needs, and we need to be able to accommodate them as much as possible. Dialysis creates extreme restrictions in the lives of patients and their lifestyles, and we should not further be restricting them.

YOUTH

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (15:41): My shadow portfolio responsibilities now include communities, disabilities and youth. This is a great privilege and I have enjoyed engaging with stakeholders, leaders and community members, and discussing key policy and focus areas. Today, I would like to focus on one area of my portfolio, being our youth: our future and an incredibly important focus area for us as legislators.

Over the past two months, I have met with multiple organisations and community groups relating to our youth. Today, I would like to highlight a few of these amazing organisations, including Youth Opportunities, Lighthouse Youth Projects, SA Youth Forum, and also meeting with the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Non-government organisations are vital to ensure service delivery and support for key areas continuing to support our young people. Youth Opportunities' vision is for a world where all young people have the opportunity to be their best. They create opportunities for young people to develop lifelong skills, habits and the confidence to thrive. These programs are invaluable and greatly benefit thousands of young people across the state. I have attended previous graduation events for Youth Opportunities and appreciated the opportunity to meet with their chief executive, Erin Faehrmann, and her team, along with John Gardner, shadow minister for education, and Josh Teague, shadow minister for child protection in the other place.

Youth Opportunities' programs are delivered in schools across our state. They support measurable outcomes and support young lives. Graduates of their programs in 2021 have since reported a 28 per cent reduction in the risk of psychological distress, 89 per cent have reported an increase in skills to look after their wellbeing and, importantly, 93 per cent of graduates report to be taking more responsibility for their lives. Early intervention programs and support are key for better

long-term outcomes, and I commend Youth Opportunities for their innovative service delivery and focus on ensuring better outcomes for our youth.

Recently, I attended the opening of Lighthouse Youth Projects' great facility at Port Adelaide. Lighthouse Youth Projects' guiding principle is mentoring through bikes. They strive to empower all young people, especially those who are vulnerable and at risk, to achieve their full potential through bike-based programs and workshops, encouraging confidence, self-worth and positivity, whilst learning amazing bike skills along the way. They believe that bicycles can change lives and be a springboard to a new, positive way of living, while simultaneously helping with the stresses of our lives.

Lighthouse was established by Jamie Moore and Ryan Lloyd following life-changing events that encouraged them to reassess their own paths and look to support others and project their love of bikes and helping the next generation. Bikes can be donated to Lighthouse Youth Projects at their facility in Port Adelaide where they can be repaired and resold to help with the cost of operations in the charity. It was great to meet Jamie, Ryan and the team at Lighthouse and I look forward to visiting again next week to learn more about their programs.

Our youth generation include many great leaders. I appreciated the SA Youth Forum taking the time to meet with me, including founder, Amber Brock-Fabel, Abbey Wilkinson and Tabitha Stephenson-Jones. The SA Youth Forum provides a platform created by young people for young people between the ages of 15 to 18 to engage, discuss and debate issues of relevance that directly affect them. Hearing the voices of young people is vital.

I also took the opportunity to meet with the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly, to discuss what she is hearing and the areas of reform she would like to see. It has been interesting how many common themes have been raised with me and the commissioner relating to what our young people are concerned with, including access to education and future employment opportunities; safety, both online and personal safety; climate change and environmental concerns; and housing affordability.

The bottom line is that, on all sides of the chamber, we want to see positive outcomes in our community across the youth sector and a strong future direction and path for our young. I look forward to continuing to engage with NGOs across our state and developing policies in these key areas.

AUKUS DEAL

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:46): I rise today to speak about the AUKUS deal or, indeed, what we know about the AUKUS deal. We do know that \$368 billion has been plunged into something that seems incredibly secretive.

There is no doubt that all of us in this place have heard of the AUKUS deal and are aware of the new tripartite deal between Australia, the UK and the United States for the acquisition of up to eight nuclear-powered submarines. As part of this plan, taxpayers will be now pouring substantial funds into exploding America's shipbuilding capacity, understood to be some \$3 billion in the first four years, and that we will have the first Australian-built nuclear-powered submarines, fitted with vertical launch systems to fire cruise missiles and they will, possibly, enter service in the early 2040s.

I have to say, watching the response unfold last week with the former Prime Minister, Paul Keating, and the former environment minister, Peter Garrett, I think they are both on the money. Former Prime Minister Keating has openly criticised both current Prime Minister Albanese and the foreign minister, Penny Wong, in his appearance on the National Press Club on 15 March last week. He has been quoted as saying:

I don't think I suffer from relevance deprivation, but I do suffer concern for Australia as it most unwisely proceeds down this singular and dangerous path... [This is] the worst deal in all history.

These are strong words from a former Prime Minister. While he has been dismissed by many in the Labor Party, I will also point to the former environment minister, Peter Garrett, who does distance himself from some of the commentary made by Paul Keating. I have to say, I do refer to the four-page statement made by Peter Garrett recently titled 'AUKUS stinks, and that's an understatement' to all members of this place and the other place. Mr Garrett quite rightly states:

Where were the scientific reports, assessments and risk analyses that should precede and inform a decision of this size? Has Defence ever delivered a major construction or weapons delivery program on time and on budget? Not once in living memory.

Ask any Australian how they would spend this amount of public money to make Australia a fairer, safer, kinder nation and I doubt the answer would be nuclear subs.

As many experts have noted, expecting three nations to effectively co-ordinate and deliver a project of this magnitude and over such a long time period is epic wishful thinking, and flies in the face of any relevant past experience.

AUKUS does stink, and that is an understatement. I commend former Labor MPs who have started to voice their concerns—the concerns echoing the confusion and the concern of many Australians, who are wondering how we have signed our future away for this \$368 billion deal without a public debate, without proper due process.

In fact in the dead of night, overnight, we saw Labor fall into lockstep with Scott Morrison to become a small target in a federal election campaign and then crickets in terms of a proper conversation. We can see, as people like Doug Cameron speak out, as the Prime Minister's own sub-branches move motions with their concern about this deal, that not only have the Australian public not had a conversation about AUKUS, the Australian Labor Party are yet to actually all be singing from the same hymn sheet on this.

I commend the member for Fremantle, who was the first sitting Labor federal MP to come out and express his concerns: Labor backbencher Josh Wilson, the federal member for Fremantle, who has gone on record this week speaking out against the AUKUS pact, fearing it might undermine Australia's commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. I am a cynic, but I know that that came because his electorate was doorknocked by concerned members of the public over the last weekend.

The people have started to raise quite valid concerns about why we are sinking this money into subs when we should actually be securing a prosperous future for us all.

FIRST NATIONS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:51): Recently, I engaged in something that can actually be pretty risky—that is, I sat around a table with some friends and we discussed politics. Anyone from this place would know that that can be both the best and possibly the worst conversation you can have with friends while you are in this job because, as a member of parliament, at some point, whether you are in government or whether you are in opposition, your friends are going to turn around to you and say, 'Well, what are you going to do about it?'

Cost of living: that was raised—the basic price of everyday items. It is increasing. Wages are not keeping pace with it. The rental and housing affordability crisis: that was discussed. I mean, people are worried about their children: where will they live? Health and education were raised: people want to know that our state is heading towards a better, healthier and safer society. Jobs came up, particularly as our economy moves forward with hydrogen and defence projects.

While these are not easy subjects, the conversation was pretty good. People were quite patient with me. They understood that as governments we do not wield absolute power but we seek to take action where we can. They were happy to have a government that has its hands pretty firmly on the wheel. They were particularly happy with a government that cares about fairness. They saw reason for optimism among the challenges that are clearly in front of us.

As the chat was winding up, I had one of my friends say, 'Well, thanks for this, but one last question: what's going on with this Voice to Parliament?' I explained that we would be having a special and historic sitting to pass a bill that is going to allow First Nations to advise parliament on matters affecting them. 'Sunday, 26 March, 11am, free public transport. Don't miss it,' I said.

But my friend clarified something to the effect of, 'Yes, but why does it have to happen now? Shouldn't we sort out all these other issues we discussed first?' While my friend hastened to add that they supported First Nations people, they wondered: why now? In truth, I did not even have to consider my answer. It just came out.

I was sitting around a table with these good friends in a state with a long history of progressive and inclusive reforms. We were the first colony to bring in universal male suffrage and among the

earliest adopters of secret ballot voting. We were the first colony and only the fourth global jurisdiction to give women, including First Nations women, the right to vote.

South Australia was the first to legalise trade unions, the first, as it was then, in the British Empire, in the 1800s. We established the first Aboriginal Lands Trust, something I assure you was quite revolutionary at the time. We were the first state to embrace the big battery, renewables and now hydrogen. We look to the skies with the national Space Agency.

We were the first to decriminalise homosexuality, embrace the abolition of the death penalty, introduce consumer legislation and lower the voting age. At the same time as all these things were happening, our community doubtlessly endured significant challenges and misfortunes, but it didn't stop us from legislating broadly. Now, this Sunday, we are going to take another historic step: a step seeking to make our democracy better and more able to listen directly to representatives of the oldest living culture on the planet.

It struck me that, during any of these past reforms, surely similar discussions must have been taking place around tables just like the one I was sitting at with my good friends in our healthy democracy. The fact is that issues matter most to those who are most affected by them, and I understand that not every South Australian is as keenly focused as we are on the shameful impacts of our nation's long history of disenfranchisement of Aboriginal people and cultures, but for many South Australians nothing could matter more.

That this government is taking action in one area of community life does not make others matter less to anyone. On Sunday, we should all attend and indeed extend our empathy to those South Australians and those people who are watching from around our nation to whom the Voice to Parliament matters most. That is what I said to my friend.

The Voice is not a voting seat in parliament. Its existence will not distract from this government's focus on health, education, jobs, cost of living, energy, or any other matter. In fact, the Voice will support our ability to address these issues when we pass these laws as they affect the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our state: our First Nations people.

Addressing disadvantage is not a threat. I look forward to seeing all of you on Sunday at 11 on the steps of parliament, just outside. Come and see our state make history again.

Bills

HEALTH CARE (AMBULANCE RESPONSE TARGETS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:56): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Health Care Act 2008. Read a first time.

Second Reading

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

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Health Care (Ambulance Response Targets) Amendment Bill 2023 seeks to establish clear targets for ambulance response times in our state. Ambulance services are the backbone of our healthcare system. When we or a loved one is facing a life-threatening situation we rely on our ambulance services to arrive promptly and to provide the care that we need. But how do we know whether or not we are likely to get an ambulance when we call one? One way is for us to measure ambulance response times.

Response times relate to the amount of time it takes for an ambulance to arrive at the scene of an emergency after receiving a call for help. It is an essential metric to measure the performance of our emergency medical services. The South Australian Ambulance Service already use performance indicators (KPIs) to measure their response times.

As referenced in this bill, they aim to respond to 60 per cent of priority 1 cases within eight minutes, and 95 per cent of priority 2 cases within 16 minutes. When I reference priority 1 cases, I

am referring to those cases where an immediate life-saving intervention is required, while priority 2 cases relate to those where significant intervention within two or four hours of reporting is required.

In their submission to the Legislative Review Committee, the Ambulance Employees Association revealed that their response times have been in steady decline for priority 2 cases since 2014—in other words, spanning both the previous Labor government, the previous Liberal government and, of course, this government. The Malinauskas government already supply a data pack with all this information to the Ambulance Employees Association; however, this is for official use only, as I understand it, and permission is required from the minister before any such data is released.

The question of course comes to mind: why is this data not publicly available? The government has a responsibility to be open and transparent with the community about the performance of our emergency services. Publishing ambulance response times would allow the public to see whether or not these targets are being met. We would then be able to hold any government of the day to account on those targets. Making response times public would clearly demonstrate where there are problems in the system and whether those systemic issues are ramping or resources or indeed other problems.

Under this bill, the Minister for Health would be required to publish response times monthly on a website and table a report in the parliament within six sitting days. Through legislation, this bill would stabilise these targets so they cannot be downgraded by future governments. In other words, we would legislate ambulance response times for the very first time and hold the government to account in relation to their performance on these.

Ambulance response times and ramping are interconnected issues and let's not forget the Malinauskas government made a commitment to fix the ramping crisis. That was the commitment that they made to the people of South Australia just last year. I submit to you that simply improving ramping to 2018 levels, the level that it was at under the previous Labor administration, is not sufficient because we know that ramping was already unacceptably high at that time.

A better measure would be ambulance response times and, whilst I note that the Malinauskas government has recently ensured that the targets of the South Australian Ambulance Service are being met in the last month, that has not been consistently the case and certainly was not consistently the case under the previous Liberal government. What this bill seeks to do is require the government of the day to provide a report in terms of its performance in relation to that.

I should note also that I welcome the fact that the Minister for Health has given a commitment in the media to release this data, but let's legislate to ensure that that happens so the government of the day is not able to elect not to release data that is less favourable should circumstances change.

Ambulances are regularly delayed when they are waiting on the ramp outside hospitals because there are no available beds. This has a significant impact on ambulance response times as it means that ambulances are tied up waiting on the kerb at hospitals, rather than being able to respond to other emergencies, and of course we know that this can lead to delays in response times and potentially put lives at risk.

To tackle the issue of response times, the government needs to address the root cause, including ramping, which of course is a result of a lack of hospital capacity and resources. While ramping statistics are being published regularly on the state government website, I understand ambulance response times are not.

Similarly, on the SA Health website there are a number of dashboards that show real-time information about the status of emergency departments and how many ambulances have been waiting. The dashboard showed 21 ambulances were waiting longer than 30 minutes at the Royal Adelaide Hospital—that is the latest information that I have—and the average wait time was 88 minutes, in terms of getting an ambulance from Flinders Medical Centre. It showed that four major hospitals were at Code White, where all the emergency department's treatment rooms were currently being used.

However, what we do not see is whether or not the Ambulance Service itself is at operational capacity. OpStat White, or Operational Status White, is the term used for describing when the

ambulance system itself is at operational capacity and it demonstrates whether or not resources are insufficient to maintain effective service delivery for high-acuity cases and patient safety may be impacted directly.

This bill calls for OpStat White to be published immediately, as is already done at a hospital level on the SA Health dashboards. These OpStat White codes are already used within the Ambulance Service and distributed as required, so it would not be onerous for this information to be made publicly available. This would allow people at the other end of the system, that is, the patient or the person who is in need of assistance, to be able to make a decision around what they do. In some instances, it may mean that they can call on a friend or family member to drive them, rather than waiting for an ambulance.

The Ambulance Employees Association has advocated for the real-time sharing of this information in line with other services, such as the Queensland Ambulance Service. In Queensland, this data is already published through an ambulance availability map. In Victoria, the ambulance service regularly posts updates on social media about the operational capacity, similar to the alerts that are put out by the CFS when an emergency fire breaks out.

By publishing when the Ambulance Service reaches its maximum capacity, patients would be able to make informed choices about their health care, and this is an important measure. The Greens believe that every South Australian should be entitled to the best healthcare system possible. It is vital that we set these targets in legislation so that future governments cannot simply downgrade the targets to suit their political aims or the circumstances of the day.

It is also vital that the government of the day, whether that be Labor or Liberal because both have failed in this regard, be held to account for their performance, and that is what this bill would do. This is about saving lives and it is also about ensuring that we provide members of the community with the information they need to assess the performance of the government in relation to health; after all, this is a vital KPI for any state government, whether that be Labor or Liberal.

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

Motions

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (16:06): I move:

1. That a select committee of the Legislative Council be established to monitor and scrutinise all matters relating to the management of the COVID-19 response including:
 - (a) government responses to outbreaks or emerging threats;
 - (b) public information campaigns;
 - (c) prevention and mitigation measures;
 - (d) implemented restrictions and safety measures;
 - (e) vaccination programs;
 - (f) infection testing;
 - (g) contact tracing;
 - (h) treatments;
 - (i) interactions with other jurisdictions;
 - (j) advice provided to the state government;
 - (k) impact on specific demographic groups;
 - (l) learnings from previous responses; and
 - (m) any other related matters.
2. That this council permits the select committee to authorise the disclosure or publication, as it sees fit, of any evidence or documents presented to the committee prior to such evidence being presented to the council.

The purpose of this motion is fairly clear, that is, to establish a select committee of this council to monitor and scrutinise matters relating to the management of COVID-19. The range of matters within the remit of the committee are outlined in the motion, so I will not go through them all, but in particular the committee would be looking at government responses to outbreaks or emerging threats, public information campaigns, prevention and mitigation measures, vaccination, contact tracing, treatments, any advice provided to the state government, learnings from previous responses and other related matters.

The genesis for this proposal is the joint parliamentary committee that was established looking into COVID last year, following the inclusion of COVID in the Public Health Act. Members may recall that the Greens had negotiated effectively with the Malinauskas government to ensure that we established that committee as an important accountability measure to look at how the COVID response was unfolding in our state.

The committee concluded in November. One of the recommendations of the committee was that there be an ongoing parliamentary committee to look into COVID and the state response, so this motion is consistent with that recommendation. I have had preliminary discussions with the Labor Party and the Liberal Party and others, and I understand that there is broad support in the parliament for what is being proposed. I intend to bring this to a vote in the next sitting period. With that, I conclude my remarks.

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

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:08): I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises that there are over 100 practising religions in the South Australian community;
2. Recognises that every South Australian has the right to practise their faith in a safe and peaceful way;
3. Recognises the right to prayer and the right to worship are human rights under article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), of which Australia is a signatory;
4. Recognises that schools, community, and welfare centres established under a religious affiliation have the right to practise their associated faith openly and freely;
5. Recognises that these same institutions have the right to employ those of their own moral code in both remunerated and voluntary positions; and
6. Ensures the continuation of section 34(3)(a) of the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 to allow religious affiliated institutions the opportunity to employ those of morals and ethics consistent with their beliefs and practices.

Over 110,000 South Australian children currently attend schools overseen by Catholic Education in Australia, and nine religious and faith denominations under the banner of the Association of Independent Schools SA. It seems that every few years across Australia religious organisations and communities of faith are pressed under the microscope.

Once again, there are rumblings of changes to the South Australian Equal Opportunity Act 1984, particularly regarding faith-led schools, their hiring practices and how openly they worship. It seems this is being done with little regard for the views and values of families, staff and leadership at faith schools. In SA, school faith leaders have expressed to me their genuine concerns due to the wider context of these issues across the country.

In Queensland, a review of the Anti-Discrimination Act includes proposals to further tighten the exemptions that provide the only protection for religious freedom. New South Wales—the only state, apart from SA, to not protect against religious discrimination—had a proposed bill to do so in 2021 rejected, and now there is a private member's bill flagged for 2023 to reduce religious freedom. In the ACT, a review of the Discrimination Act is currently underway. Faith leaders feel that the proposed amendment bill would drastically impact religious freedoms of churches.

In 2021 in Victoria, there was a tightening of their Equal Opportunity Act, which came into effect in June. Western Australia has a report reviewing their Equal Opportunity Act awaiting release,

which includes a discussion paper on the narrowing of religious exemptions. The Northern Territory conducted a review in 2017 but has yet to release details, and at a federal level the proposed religious discrimination bill has further reviews scheduled for later in 2022.

As I have already stated, faith leaders from South Australian religious schools have a genuine right to be concerned. Current and valid polling research shows that three out of four Australians support the right of a religious school to employ teachers and other staff who support the clearly stated values and beliefs of the school. Over two-thirds of Australians believe that Australian laws should protect the right to hold and practise religious beliefs. Institutes of faith must be able to practise and teach that faith freely, safely and without legal claws restricting their religious practice.

Where is the evidence of any problems to do with employment within religious bodies? Changes to section 34 of the Equal Opportunity Act may open the door to tribunals or courts determining when a faith school can employ a person who shares their beliefs. It is not the government's place to decide matters of faith. Yes, all appropriately trained and licensed educators have the right to practise their profession, absolutely, yet deliberately choosing to work in an environment which is a juxtaposition to your own lifestyle and coming in with a personal agenda which attacks your employer's values simply makes for an uncomfortable and unhelpful learning environment.

Certainly, children should be exposed to social diversity in their educational journey, but let parents and institutes of faith guide the manner in which this occurs: when, what age and in what forum. This motion seeks to give faith school leaders reassurance that they are not under legislative attack from the South Australian parliament and that all legitimate faiths are welcomed, that they are able to practise and teach in line with state law and their own moral compass. I commend this motion to the house.

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

MALE LIFE EXPECTANCY

The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:13): I move:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges that, statistically, Australian men have a much shorter life expectancy than Australian women;
2. Recognises that, statistically, Australian men are more likely to die at work than Australian women;
3. Accepts that, statistically, Australian men are more likely to die on South Australian roads than Australian women;
4. Acknowledges that Australian men can also be victims of domestic violence and family abuse; and
5. Recognises that Australian men make up more than three-quarters of Australian deaths by suicide.

Following International Women's Day recently on 8 March when women were celebrated worldwide, we must also acknowledge the significance of the issues Australian men face today. Men seem to be the silent victims continually overshadowed or dismissed due to gender insignificance. I perceive that International Men's Day, held on 19 November each year, attracts far less attention or importance than its gender counterpart.

For example, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian male life expectancy is four years shorter than that of Australian females. Men make up more than three-quarters of deaths by suicide. According to a 2020 study undertaken by the Australian Institute of Family Studies, men make up more than three-quarters of deaths by suicide in Australia, yet surveys show that only 25 per cent of men would seek help when experiencing personal or emotional problems.

The study highlights that around 25 per cent of Australian men experience a diagnosed mental health disorder in their lifetime, with 15 per cent in any 12 months. Concerningly, 80 per cent of adult men who participated in the study experienced depression, anxiety or suicidality in the past 12 months, yet only 40 per cent of those men contacted a mental health professional. They face multiple hurdles, including cost, wait times, stigma and fear of perceived weakness by others.

Men and boys need to know that speaking up is a sign of strength, not weakness. According to media reports, men are our silent victims. Our culture assumes that domestic violence is predominantly committed by men, yet data reveals that a high number of women can also be abusers. Even if men find the courage to speak up, they are less likely to be believed.

Over 200 studies summed up in a recent journal article called '30 years of denying the evidence on gender symmetry in partner violence', written by Professor Murray Straus, a Professor of Sociology from the University of New Hampshire and an editor of several peer-reviewed sociology journals, outlined that women can be as vicious and irresponsible as men, even with a complete absence of self-defence.

The Australian newspaper featured the professor's work in an article entitled 'Silent victims: both mothers and fathers can be violent' in November 2015. Back as far as 1975, Professor Straus published research showing that women were just as likely as men to report hitting a spouse. His report goes on to say that, even if a woman were to use a knife or other household object as a weapon, men feel forced to hold back from retaliation due to cultural prohibitions on using force towards a woman, even if in self-defence. He highlights the need for the domestic violence debate to curb male bashing misinformation.

Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that a whopping 36 per cent of Australians who experience violence are male, with some reports suggesting this figure is as high as 50 per cent. The types of abuse Australian men suffer at their partner's hands can range anywhere from physical, sexual, emotional or economic. In the 2022-23 federal budget, \$7 billion was allocated to drive gender equality and \$1.7 billion to address gender-based violence, but it failed to recognise the one-quarter of domestic violence victims who are male.

Seventy per cent of those who die in car crashes on South Australian roads are men. The Centre for Behavioural Health Statistics and Quality states that men are more likely than women to abuse illicit substances of all types and are also more likely to end up in emergency departments or die from overdoses. Australian men, who are suffering in silence and self-medicating with drugs and/or alcohol, find themselves being more than twice as likely to be killed in a car crash than are women, according to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport website.

Men are over-represented, suffering 65 per cent of serious injuries due to South Australian road use. Regardless of the mode of transport, whether the driver, passenger, cyclist or pedestrian, men are more likely to suffer fatalities on our roads—notably, 26 times more likely to be killed when riding a motorcycle.

A 2019 Safe Work Australia report tells me that statistically an Australian man dies at work every two days. In stark contrast, statistically an Australian woman dies at work every two months. According to the latest report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare website, 93 per cent of workplace deaths in Australia are men and over 64 per cent of the serious injury claims accepted by workers compensation are from men.

Historically, Australian men typically choose more dangerous occupations. Regardless, we must acknowledge these dangers to work towards appropriate and effective solutions to keep Australian men safer at work. According to the Australian Men's Health Forum in May 2021, the federal government unveiled a \$3.4 billion women's budget, which included an allocation of \$535.8 million to focus on five priority areas identified in the National Women's Health Strategy, yet there was no comparable allocation to cater for the five priority areas outlined in the National Men's Health Strategy.

Male suicide and male health were two of the five priority areas. Further examples of gender funding inequities are as follows:

- over the last eight years, the National Health and Medical Research Council invested five times more funding in women's health than in men's health (\$707.9 million and \$148.2 million respectively);
- women's health, albeit including maternal health research, received 7½ times more investment than men's health (\$1.1 billion compared with less than \$150 million); and

- the National Women's Health Strategy, launched by the federal government in April 2019, received three times more than the National Men's Health Strategy (\$52.2 million and \$17.9 million respectively); and in May 2021, the National Women's Health Strategy received \$535.8 million while the National Men's Health Strategy received no funding.

We need to acknowledge the seriousness of the issues South Australian men face, and predominantly face in silence. It is great that women are being celebrated. It is excellent that they are receiving significant funding, resources, acknowledgement, services and assistance, and women must continue to receive these things, but so should men. It is time the inequities cease. More needs to be done for men as a matter of urgency. Lives depend on it. I commend this motion to the council.

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

STRUAN RESEARCH CENTRE

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:21): I move:

That this council—

1. Notes that the Struan Research Centre, located 16 kilometres south of Naracoorte, is a world-class research and development centre, providing an important part of our state's historical and current research and development into agriculture as well as being a hub for agricultural technology;
2. Notes that on 4 November 2022, a fire ripped through the offices and laboratories of the Struan Research Centre causing significant damage;
3. Acknowledges that the fires, while devastating, provide an opportunity to renew and reinvigorate the centre; and
4. Calls on the Malinauskas Labor government to use this opportunity to provide funding to expand the functions of the centre to include training and education, to better benefit agriculture in our state.

The Struan Research Centre is a state-of-the-art agricultural facility located 370 kilometres south-east of Adelaide. The site has a long history in the growth and advancement of primary industries in not only this state but beyond our borders. Built originally by the Robertson family, who created a wildly successful mixed farming business in the South-East during the late 1800s, the estate was acquired by the state government in the 1930s for the purposes of establishing a farm school for boys and as an agricultural research hub.

The site consists of 250 hectares of sandy high-country soils, over 800 hectares of flood plains soils, and 300 hectares of red gum soils. There is a feedlot accommodating 200 cattle, extensive irrigation networks and pasturing. The centre's current research portfolio includes revegetation, crop agronomy, cattle and sheep genetics, grazing management, animal wellbeing, livestock nutrition, and meat production and quality.

In November last year, a significant fire damaged the centre and adjacent research laboratory. Its capabilities are currently, albeit temporarily, reduced, with damages running into an estimated \$5 million. My motion implores this council to acknowledge the importance of the Struan Research Centre and note the current opportunity to not only repair but improve the facilities. It would be a missed opportunity if the Malinauskas government dismissed the chance to inject targeted funding into local agricultural research.

The Struan Research Centre forms an important part of our state's historical and current research and development into agriculture, as well as being a hub for agricultural technology. Research and development underpin agricultural productivity now and into the future and, consequently, agriculture's contribution to our state's economy. However, over the years its capacity has reduced as resources have been cut from not just the site but from the budget.

Investing in our state's agricultural research is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, it is crucial for feeding the growing local and global population. The world's population is expected to reach nearly 10 billion people by 2050 and we will need to produce 70 per cent more food to feed everyone. South Australia is an important player in this puzzle. We are a key producer of wheat, beef, lamb, dairy products, pork, nuts, fruit and vegetables. Agricultural research can help increase food

production by developing new crop varieties, improving plant and animal genetics and enhancing farming practices.

It is critical for improving food quality and safety. South Australia already has an unmatched reputation for producing and exporting high quality, safe and sustainable foods. Agricultural research can develop new techniques for pest and disease control, reduce the use of harmful chemicals and develop more economically efficient farming practices.

Agricultural research is also a vital piece for enhancing sustainability. It can help farmers adopt more sustainable practices, such as reducing water usage and improving soil health. These practices can help protect natural resources and the environment whilst ensuring long-term food security. Apparently, sustainability is something the current government is keen on—in words at least. The Struan Research Centre has been a key player in developing sustainable and efficient farming practices since the 1930s.

Last, but certainly not least, it is important for supporting economic development. Under the former Marshall Liberal government, PIRSA reported that agriculture generated \$14.4 billion for the then South Australian economy in 2019-20. It supported more than 70,000 jobs across the state and we were on track to see that growth continue to \$23 billion by 2030 under the former government. To not sustain an investment is to sell our state short.

Investing to increase agricultural productivity, diversity, job creation and boost regional economies helps us all. Overall, investing in agricultural research, without doubt, has significant benefits for South Australia. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my previously publicised belief that this centre has even greater potential than everything I have already mentioned. There are other opportunities, such as training and education, which can sit alongside this research facility.

I challenge the government and Minister Scriven to think beyond what has been lost in the November fire. I believe the centre could be a hub for teaching excellence, not just research alone. There is a chronic workforce shortage across our regions. We know there is limited course availability and a lack of local places to further agricultural-based education in country South Australia.

With new investment, the Struan Research Centre could once again become an agricultural teaching institute alongside a research hub, as it was when first opened in the 1930s. This would surely go some way to addressing the lack of training in our regions and improve agricultural graduate numbers. Having students work so closely to a research hub would also encourage further research and education opportunities.

Now is the time to ensure that the new facility is fit for purpose, and we must be courageous in our vision for what the future for agricultural research and training can and should be. I encourage all members in this chamber to applaud our agricultural researchers and to stand by this motion and to stand by South Australian farmers both now and in the future. I commend the motion to the house.

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

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (16:29): I move:

That this council—

1. Notes:
 - (a) the widespread human rights violations perpetrated against the Uyghur people by the government of China in East Turkistan and across China, including arbitrary detention, torture, sexual violence, physical and psychological abuse, and forced sterilisation;
 - (b) the use of internment camps to repress the cultural and religious identity of ethnic minorities, such as the Turkic Muslims, by the government of China; and
 - (c) the use of 'idle labour transfer programs' to facilitate forced labour in factories, which may constitute a part of the supply chain of products exported from China by countries around the world and particularly into Australia.
2. Acknowledges that:

- (a) slavery-like practices cannot be supported by the South Australian government, including through the procurement of products or services from places, businesses or organisations that are known to adopt slavery-like practices;
 - (b) certain groups, such as migrants and refugees, are more vulnerable to becoming victims of forced labour;
 - (c) the International Labour Organization reports an estimated 49.6 million people are living in slavery globally, and that 27.6 million of that number are exploited through forced labour;
 - (d) forced labour and slavery-like practices occur in every region, including within Australia; and
 - (e) the International Labor Organization's Forced Labour Convention of 1930 imposes the obligation to suppress all forms of forced labour.
3. Calls on the state government to:
- (a) institute procedures and processes, including introducing legislation if necessary, to ensure that places, businesses or organisations that are known to adopt slavery-like practices are precluded from tendering for state government contracts; and
 - (b) provide support to Uyghur communities in South Australia who are experiencing the trauma and distress of their relatives and friends suffering overseas.
4. Calls on the federal government to:
- (a) implement an information campaign which actively promotes due diligence in procurement processes, products and services to decrease reliance by businesses on products created by forced labour to ensure accountability;
 - (b) produce and adopt program strategies aimed at providing advice and support to newly arrived migrants and refugees about their rights; and
 - (c) continue dialogue with the government of China to address the human rights violations being perpetrated against the Uyghur people.

Xinjiang province in north-west China is a region of enormous strategic significance. It borders India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kurdistan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia, or what the form of Prime Minister—I have forgotten the name of the former Prime Minister—

An honourable member: Scott Morrison.

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS: No—Paul Keating referred to as the 'stan' countries. It serves as a gateway to the Middle East and beyond that to Europe. It is also home to the Uyghur people, a distinct ethnic group with their own language, religious practices, culture and history. Official estimates and the 2010 census places the Uyghur population as 45 per cent of the total population in Xinjiang.

Some groups refer to the area of Xinjiang as East Turkistan, and attempts at gaining independence were made at various points in the early 20th century. The region was formally consolidated under the control and oversight of the Chinese government after the Chinese Communist Party victory in 1949. Though tensions remained high in the region through the second half of the 20th century, there has been a dramatic escalation in repressive policies against the Uyghur population since 2017.

In 2017, reports began to emerge of the confiscation of people's passports, the destruction of mosques and invasive and extreme state surveillance measures. This included the installation of facial recognition technology and CCTV footage, an increase in police presence, the compulsory collection of biometric data and the creation of security checkpoint and visitor management systems.

Most alarmingly, reports emerged of the arbitrary detention of Uyghur people in internment camps. These facilities were first referred to by the government as vocational skills, education and training centres. These camp facilities are heavily guarded, surrounded by perimeter walls, watchtowers and armed guards. They are observable to researchers and journalists often only through satellite imagery. The ABC, BBC, Reuters and other media and humanitarian organisations have produced reports tracking the rapid growth of these camp facilities in the region.

Many of the people detained are held without trial and without being charged with any crime. Justifications given for detention include flimsy reasons such as observance of religious practices or overseas travel and connections. Official offences are vague, with people arrested for reasons such as inciting ethnic hatred, provoking trouble or listening to content deemed to be extremist.

The accounts of people who have been released from these camps are harrowing. They are prohibited from speaking their language and are subject to a program of political re-education. Numerous deaths in detention or shortly after release from custody have been reported. Human Rights Watch and other humanitarian organisations, including Uyghur advocacy groups, have reported the following offences in the internment camps: the use of physical torture, shackling and sleep deprivation, lack of medical care, overcrowding, sexual violence, forced sterilisation, forced labour.

People in Xinjiang represent 1.5 per cent of the total population. In 2017, according to official statistics, arrests in Xinjiang represented 21 per cent of the total arrests in all of China. The total number detained is unknown, though Human Rights Watch reports the number as being anywhere between several hundred thousand and one million.

Last year, it was my honour to host the delegates from the World Uyghur Congress in Parliament House. I welcomed, as my co-hosts, Ramila Chanisheff and Halimah Valiyff of the Australian Uyghur Tangritagh Women's Association. In attendance were two Uyghur survivors of the so-called education camps. They shared their stories with us via a translator. The details of their experiences were shocking and harrowing. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Kelbinur Sidk and Omer Bekali for their bravery and strength in speaking to us and bringing these difficult truths to life.

The government of China claims that these measures are necessary to curb terrorism and religious extremism, alleviate poverty and stabilise the area. There is nothing that could possibly justify the human rights abuses alleged to have taken place in these internment camps. The actions of the government indicate that this is nothing less than an attempt to erode and potentially destroy the unique identity and culture of the Uyghur people.

Almost no member of the international Uyghur diaspora is without a missing relative or loved one. This is particularly pertinent to us in South Australia. Many may not know that we are the home to the biggest Uyghur population in Australia. The pain and suffering of their community is immense. We must support them however we can. There is no other way in which this issue is far closer to home than we might automatically assume, that is, through the supply chain of goods and products that find their way into our homes, workplaces and lives.

The Xinjiang region produces a massive amount of cotton. Some estimates place it as high as 20 per cent of the world's supply. They also produce 45 per cent of the world's supply of solar-grade polysilicon, which is primarily a material used in 95 per cent of all solar panels and modules. These are only two of the major examples.

It has been alleged that Chinese authorities are engaging in forced labour programs in the form of idle labour transfer programs whereby ethnic minorities are placed in jobs in Xinjiang and other regions of China to drive economic growth. There has been evidence to indicate that after release from internment camps detainees may have been sent to perform forced labour under these programs. Amidst a backdrop of repression, internment and arbitrary imprisonment there is little room to resist involvement in these programs.

The tracking of the growth of the internment camps via satellite also reveals the emergence of factories attached to or near to the camp facilities which may be used in forced labour. The International Labour Organization's Forced Labour Convention dates back to 1930 and imposes on those who have ratified it the obligation to suppress all forms of forced labour. Australia was one of those first signatories. It would only be a matter of years before the horrors of the Second World War highlighted the necessity for nations to adopt and abide by the provisions of such instruments.

Nearly 100 years later, it is just as necessary. Slavery-like practices should not and cannot be supported by any Australian government, either state or federal. That includes through the procurement of products or services from places, businesses or organisations that are known to

adopt slavery-like practices such as forced labour. Where we cannot do more for those separated from their loved ones or those detained, we must at least ensure that we are not the beneficiaries of their pain and suffering.

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

Bills

RETURN TO WORK (POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:38): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Return To Work Act 2014. Read a first time.

Parliamentary Committees

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE: RIVERLAND FACT-FINDING VISIT

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:39): I move:

That the second report of the Fifty-Fifth Parliament of the committee be noted.

In November of last year, the Natural Resources Committee conducted a fact-finding visit to the Riverland, the first trip away from Adelaide for the committee. This is the committee's report of that visit. I was pleased to welcome my colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee, the presiding member, being the member for Mawson, and the member for Gibson, to my part of the world. We were also accompanied by the member for Chaffey for part of the visit.

The committee visited the Riverland as part of its general statutory function to take an interest in and keep under review the protection, improvement and enhancement of the natural resources of the state; however, the committee also wanted to hear about the big issues that affected our region—my region—namely, water management and fruit fly.

As the committee prepared for the visit, Australia was experiencing its second wettest spring on record. Communities upstream in Victoria and New South Wales had just experienced heavy rains and consequent flooding and the water was heading our way. Flow projections for South Australia were increasing daily as the Murray was steadily rising and expected to peak around Christmas time.

Then the Riverland was also inundated with rain, with Renmark recording an astounding 95 millimetres on 23 October, with localised flash flooding. These events caused the committee to pause and reconsider the timing of the trip, but the member for Chaffey and I reassured the committee that we were eager for them to visit, that they would not be a distraction or burden on the community as they prepared for the high-flow event and, most importantly, that the visit would reiterate to the public that indeed the Riverland was open for business despite the anticipated high flows.

The committee was glad that they listened to our advice as they were able to see the Murray and its flood plains at its most magnificent. Over our three days in the Riverland, the committee met with staff from PIRSA, the Department for Environment and Water, local government, growers, ecologists, scientists, rangers and native title holders.

On the first day of the visit, we met with Jan Whittle and Tony Herbert from the Department for Environment and Water, who took us on a tour of the work being carried out by DEW in the area. The committee was impressed by the ongoing upgrades being made to the Bookmark Creek area and my colleagues felt privileged to be able to drive across the blocking bank and view the breathtaking Pike Floodplain up close.

The next day we headed to Murtho to visit the almond farm of Drew and Caren Martin. As well as offering an insight into almond farming in the area, the trip to Omega Orchards allowed the committee to hear firsthand the concerns felt by the community, particularly irrigators, as the waters rose. The Martins took the committee down to their pump house on the river, allowing the members to see the work they had carried out to prepare for the high flows, including securing the base of the pump house to stop erosion as the water was due to rise.

When we visited them, they were also concerned about the possibility that they may lose power to their pump house during the floods, preventing them from irrigating their orchard at a key stage in the growing season. Pleasingly, I can report that this did not occur, thanks to some levee work organised before the waters peaked.

The next day, the committee headed to Calperum Station. Calperum is situated on a parcel of former pastoral land the size of Kangaroo Island, which now hosts important ecological work, as well as accommodation, education and training programs and recreational offerings like canoeing. It includes breathtaking stretches of creeks, rivers and wetlands, which provide habitat for a wide range of native flora and fauna.

Calperum and neighbouring Taylorville Station are also home to the Riverland Rangers program, which began in 2010, employing a team of six Aboriginal rangers. This program is part of the national Indigenous Rangers Program, supporting Indigenous communities to manage Indigenous protected areas.

At Calperum, the committee also met with Sheryl Giles and Fiona Giles from the River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation, the native title holders of the region. My colleagues and I greatly appreciated hearing about the extensive and diverse work the River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation do with various stakeholders since they received native title determination back in 2011.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Julie Robertson and her team in working hard to further progress Calperum Connect, which is Calperum Station's ecology, education and engagement program. The committee learned about this program, and the biggest barriers to reaching Calperum's potential were explained to the committee as infrastructure limitations. The station's buildings are old and no longer fit for purpose.

Julie and her team, along with Barb Cowey, regional coordinator from PIRSA, have been working extremely hard to develop a master plan and are looking at different grant funding opportunities to help expand the business model and maintain self-sufficiency. I would like to place on the record my support for this program going forward as I believe it will be beneficial for tourism, education and ecology in the Riverland into the future.

During the committee's time in the Riverland, it was fantastic to visit those doing innovative work, like Mr Richie Roberts from RNR Farms. RNR Farms is a relatively new operator in the region, and Richie credits the round 1 and round 3 SARMS grants he received for giving him the courage to grow blueberries on a commercial scale under shade cloth, a fruit not typically associated with the Riverland. His farm now supplies blueberries to all the major South Australian supermarkets. If you pick up a punnet of blueberries with your weekly shop in November and December, chances are they come from RNR Farms. By the way, I can strongly recommend them, having sampled the sweet berries straight from the plant.

We were also able to witness innovative research being carried out at the Australian Almond Centre of Excellence. This national research centre houses a 60-hectare experimental and demonstration orchard. The committee was joined by the CEO of the Almond Board of Australia, Tim Jackson, and SARDI research scientist Mark Skewes. Mark and Tim guided the committee around the orchard, explaining the different field trials in place and the use of technology such as lasers and drones to deter pests. This important research is vital to supporting the whole of the Australian almond industry.

The committee then visited the Loxton Research Centre, a valued research and innovation hub for the region. The committee walked through the experimental farm at the centre and heard about the valuable work being done by PIRSA employing predatory insects rather than pesticides. My colleagues and I were also pleased to hear about their collaborative work with the local community, such as the recent drone challenge with Riverland high schools in which students were asked to respond to a simulated infection on a demonstration citrus orchard.

Also at the research centre, we heard from local grower and Chair of the Riverland Fruit Fly Committee, Jason Size, and Biosecurity SA's Incident Controller for the Fruit Fly Emergency Response Program, Rob Baker. Fruit fly remains a major risk to the Riverland, with growers still being impacted by current outbreaks. Rob and Jason gave the committee a thorough presentation

on PIRSA's fruit fly eradication efforts and the aggressive action being taken to hold onto South Australia's fruit fly free status. This is so important to the local growers. Fruit fly free status not only is a brilliant marketing advantage but it also reduces the cost from spraying and management of the produce.

The final stop on the trip was the Renmark Paringa Council, where the committee spoke with Tarik Wolf and Tim Pfeiffer about the work being done to upgrade the council's 38-kilometre levee system. They demonstrated to the group the sophisticated mapping software being used to examine the levee system, identify levee defects and prioritise remedial work. Renmark's position on the flood plains makes it more vulnerable than neighbouring areas, and challenges lie with the levee system being located on a mixture of council, Crown and private land.

The lack of easements on private land presents concerns, but landowners realised the gravity of the situation and were cooperative. Land access is something that will need to be considered when looking at future management and maintenance of the levee system. The committee then had the opportunity to inspect the levee works being undertaken behind the Renmark district hospital.

The spirit of collaboration throughout the Riverland stood out to the committee members and my colleagues on the trip. It was clear that all the people the committee spoke to share a deep love of the region, as do I, and want to ensure the safety of the community in uncertain times. In January this year, committee staff checked in with some of the people we spoke with as a group to see how they fared following the peak. It was heartening to hear from Tim Pfeiffer of Renmark Paringa Council that the local community had shown the council great love and support on social media, and it was even more heartening to hear that largely the people the committee visited back in November were spared any significant damage to their properties or livelihoods by the floodwaters.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank those who shared their knowledge and experience with us during the trip and the months that followed. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage people to visit the Riverland and take advantage to see the Pike Floodplain, the Murray River flowing and the general beauty born from the wet weather. It is an experience we hopefully will not encounter again for some years, but please come and make the most of the Riverland.

I thank the members of the committee for coming out to the Riverland. I enjoyed sharing my region with you and I thank the committee staff, Alison Meeks and Dr Amy Mead, for arranging the visits. I commend this report to the house.

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

Motions

LYMPHOEDEMA

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. R.B. Martin:

That this council—

1. Recognises that 6 March 2023 is World Lymphoedema Day;
2. Notes that the message of World Lymphoedema Day 2023 is 'Lymphoedema: what we want you to know';
3. Acknowledges that lymphoedema is a chronic condition, which can often go undiagnosed and untreated; and
4. Expresses its support for people living with lymphoedema and the many organisations working to ensure that people with lymphoedema get the information, treatment and support they need to live well.

(Continued from 8 March 2023.)

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (16:50): I rise to place some remarks on the record in support of this particular motion and thank the honourable member for bringing this matter to the parliament's attention. World Lymphoedema Day was 6 March and the month of March is used to raise awareness of this chronic condition of lymphoedema and to support those people who are living with lymphoedema.

Lymphoedema is a condition in which part of the lymphatic drainage system fails to work effectively. It can affect anyone at any age. While there are treatments to manage the condition, there is no effective cure. People can be at risk of developing lymphoedema not just through their lymphatic system but through a failure of some of the venous system as well. Sometimes this will occur through faulty valves, cancer treatment, lymph nodes having been removed through surgery or treated with radiotherapy, lymph node damage through trauma, or poorly developed lymphatic vessels at or before birth.

With early diagnosis, assessment, intervention and treatment, this condition can be more easily managed and the quality of life improved. Lymphoedema is best treated through a holistic and multidisciplinary approach administered by qualified lymphoedema therapists, including physiotherapists. Treatment usually consists of education, skincare, exercise, manual lymphatic drainage and compression therapy, including garments and bandages.

South Australia is fortunate to have some of Australia's leading experts in lymphoedema practising from the Lymphoedema Clinical Research Unit and the lymphoedema clinic at the Flinders Medical Centre. There are current clinical trials being undertaken at the Lymphoedema Clinical Research Unit, including the efficacy of machine-delivered massage and a possible medication to help control lymphoedema.

It was my great honour in a former life to have been a physiotherapist at the Repat who indeed practised assisting and supporting people with lymphoedema. In that, I was trained by the late John Casley-Smith and his wife, Judith. It was very much at the learning stage at that stage for a lot of people who worked in the lymphoedema space. We certainly learnt a lot about massage, the use of bandages and compression garments. There was a range of people who needed assistance, particularly breast cancer survivors and someone who had had a mastectomy, and people who had become immobile and therefore their venous system was not returning blood and the like from their lower limbs.

It was very much a lot of trial and error at that stage, but I note that in 1991 the Lymphoedema Support Group of South Australia was formed through the work of Dr John and Judith Casley-Smith. The Marshall Liberal government and the former Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Hon. Stephen Wade, were certainly very active in supporting people with lymphoedema, and I note that there were members of this parliament who were very active, including our colleague the Hon. Connie Bonaros.

In 2020, there was a consumer voice in the Wellbeing SA Compression Garment Subsidy Scheme Advisory Group, which was tasked to assist the working party to develop and introduce a compression garment subsidy scheme to South Australia for the first time. That was launched by the former minister, the Hon. Stephen Wade, in July of that year, and in October of that year a lymphoedema clinic was opened at Flinders Medical Centre.

In 2021, there was a survivorship conference poster 'Minding the Gap' a consumer-led program, and Ms Monique Bareham, who was the former Lymphoedema Association president, was awarded the 2022 South Australian Local Hero Australian of the Year Award, nominated by the Lymphoedema Association committee. Her work in that space continues; she is very active and has gone on to receive further awards for her very important work in that space, and we commend her for it. With those remarks, I indicate support for the motion.

The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:55): I rise to speak on behalf of SA-Best in support of the Hon. Reggie Martin's motion in recognising the importance of promoting awareness of lymphoedema, and in so doing and at the outset I take the opportunity to acknowledge the incredible advocacy and huge body of work of Monique Bareham and also Alison Neilson, who at the time were the president and vice-president of what was then the lymphoma support group of SA, now Lymphoedema Association SA. They did an extraordinary job raising the profile of lymphoedema and finally achieving the garment subsidy scheme in SA and securing the resourcing and government support the Hon. Michelle Lensink has just highlighted, and I will speak to that in a moment.

I am very humbled to have worked with both Monique and Alison on this most important health issue, and I thank both women and their colleagues for all they have done and continue to do. I also take the opportunity to sincerely congratulate Monique on being named the 2022 Local Hero at last year's SA Australian of the Year Awards for her tireless, courageous and inspiring work in

lobbying to successfully have that compression garment subsidy scheme for lymphoedema sufferers in South Australia, finally.

Monique's work was extraordinary: she received a cancer diagnosis. Like many people who go through cancer treatment, she was left with lymphoedema, and we know it is a debilitating, incurable condition caused by damage to the lymphatic system, but it is one that does have treatment options available and that is what she, Alison and others fought so hard for. In so doing, Monique soon realised that we were the only jurisdiction that did not have the compression garment subsidy program, so it meant that people with lymphoedema were going without those necessary medical items.

Monique won that award off the back of the work she did in joining the lymphoedema support group, now Lymphoedema Association SA, taking on the role of president and, after years and years of advocacy in this place and elsewhere, gathering people's life experiences and advocating on their behalf, we saw the subsidy scheme implemented in 2020, and I will get to that in a moment.

It was truly quite remarkable what she and Alison were able to do. Not only did they provide sufferers a much-needed financial benefit to a practical but expensive treatment option for an incurable but treatable condition but also, and perhaps just as critically, raising awareness of the existence of lymphoedema and the hidden effects for those suffering in silence.

We know that lymphoedema is a debilitating, long-term condition that causes swelling in the body's tissues as a result of the lymphatic system's inability to remove those excess fluids, which leads to that swelling. We know that, according to the Lymphoedema Association of Australia, around one in every 6,000 births will develop primary lymphoedema, with secondary causes of lymphoedema mostly found in cancer survivors and trauma injuries, which can require very invasive surgeries and treatments, such as radiotherapy.

Unfortunately, it can be difficult to diagnose, due to the symptoms being similar to other conditions, and in secondary lymphoedema cases, of course, it can be several years after cancer treatment or therapy that those symptoms arise. It is for this reason that raising awareness of lymphoedema is critical to ensuring continued developments in treatment options and early intervention information.

As we have alluded to, and as my colleague opposite has alluded to, the issue surrounding lymphoedema and the lack of that dedicated treatment service and information for sufferers are issues that many of us have worked on in this place. I acknowledge also not only the work of the former health minister, who I will get to shortly, but indeed the work of the Hon. Dennis Hood as well, who has long advocated for this issue in this place over many years.

The long and short of it is that lymphoedema sufferers in our state deserve a better quality of life and better, more well-informed supports and support services. I think I have stood up in here about five or six times now and spoken in support of the representations made to us by Monique and Alison and others involved with the Lymphoedema Association, and those representations were successful, I am pleased, in lobbying the then Marshall Liberal government into introducing the compression garment subsidy scheme.

In 2019, I recall standing up in this place and asking the then health minister if he would agree to a round table with Monique and Alison. I remain grateful to our former health minister, not just for agreeing to attend that round table but also for genuinely and truly listening to Monique and Alison and delivering on the commitments that he made to them at that round table in terms of delivering on that scheme. We got there in the end. We were the last jurisdiction to get there, and it is a crying shame that it took us that long, but it was certainly a step in the right direction.

I know Monique still watches this space closely to ensure that it is working equitably and that people who need access to that scheme are getting access to that scheme. There is always the concern that we might fall into the same trap as developments around lymphoedema treatments and services continue to advance, and I certainly hope I am wrong to this end. I think there is bipartisan appetite for the continued support in the advancement of lymphoedema supports and services, and all of us in this place have a role in ensuring sufferers are not disadvantaged in their ability to access affordable treatment services.

I am pleased to see the Lymphoedema Association SA is working with the national Lymphoedema Association Australia group in merging those associations in a joint effort to expand local and national representation with a unified voice in advocating for the lymphoedema community and ensuring consistency between jurisdictions in terms of the services and supports afforded to those people who need them.

I am encouraged to hear the Hon. Mr Martin taking a keen interest in the continued development and recognition of supports and treatments for lymphoedema sufferers through this motion, and I hope that this is an indication of this government's commitment to promoting best practices in lymphoedema treatment, expansion of clinical options, as well as supporting the Lymphoedema Association's goal of establishing better data collection frameworks to better understand its prevalence and support those who suffer from lymphoedema.

With those words, I congratulate and in particular commend again not only the mover of this motion and those people who have been involved in this advocacy in the past but, more importantly, Monique and Alison, who played such a key and critical and pivotal role in ensuring that we got that scheme off the ground.

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (17:04): I will start by thanking the Hon. Ms Lensink and the Hon. Ms Bonaros for their contributions and their continued efforts to draw attention and awareness to lymphoedema. I want to again place on the record my thanks to Monique Bareham for giving me a lot more information about this condition and the need for more resourcing and support for its treatment and my thanks to the people involved in the lymphoedema clinic at Flinders Medical Centre for all the work that they do.

It is a condition which requires a lot more advocacy, and anyone suffering from lymphoedema should know that with Monique providing that amazing advocacy we would hope that there are some significant positive changes in the future. I commend the motion.

Motion carried.

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (17:06): I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises that April is Autism Month and 2 April is World Autism Awareness Day.
2. Acknowledges that Autism Awareness Day recognises and celebrates the rights of autistic people to lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of our society.
3. Congratulates the Malinauskas government on its commitment to improving the lives of our autistic and autism communities through—
 - (a) appointing the nation's first Assistant Minister for Autism;
 - (b) investing \$28.8 million to fund access to an autism inclusive teacher in every public primary school;
 - (c) seeking to increase the number of autism-qualified staff in preschools;
 - (d) working with service providers to offer early intervention services in children's centres;
 - (e) developing a state autism strategy that will operate with the state disability plan and requiring all government agencies to sign up to an autism charter; and
 - (f) investing \$50 million to fund 100 speech pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists and counsellors for access in public schools.
4. Thanks everyone who participated in the public consultation on the development of the state's first autism strategy and charter.

Today, I rise to speak on the autistic and autism communities and the important value they have within our community. For those who do not know, April is Autism Month and 2 April is known internationally as World Autism Awareness Day. Indeed, we know one in four families in Australia will find this an important time of the year as that is how many families in the country have an autistic family member. Autism is also the largest group on the NDIS, with 40 per cent of participants being autistic.

Despite the statistics, though, the autistic and autism communities have historically been relegated to the side, with little to no dedicated government attention and focus. On the eve of Autism Month, I am proud to say that worrying trend has come to an end. Just over six months ago, the SA Premier, Peter Malinauskas, from the other place, the member for Croydon, set about making South Australia not only a state leader or a nation leader but a world leader by creating a government member role solely focused on the autistic and autism communities.

For the last six months, I have been incredibly honoured to have taken up the role, to listen and meet with many in the autistic and autism communities. It is exactly these people whom I would like to dedicate this speech to. While it will be impossible to name all the people we have been working with, I will name but a few of the many incredible members of the autistic and autism communities.

When I first began in this role, I was like many in our community—I had heard of the word 'autism', I probably thought to myself that I knew a lot about autism, but my knowledge barely scratched the surface and went beyond real knowledge. In other words, there was a gap in my knowledge between the word 'autism' and what autism is in its many variants.

What I have come to learn over the last six months is exactly that. Autism is a diverse, broad and varied community and that has been made especially clear by the many diverse and unique individuals I have had the pleasure of meeting and even calling my friends over the last few months: from Paige and Oaklan and Paula and Nash, to Emma and Katharine, to Tammy, Mel, Amanda and Dylan, just to name a few of the many who have joined not only myself or the autistic and autism communities but the South Australian state and beyond in shining a light and giving voice to the autistic and autism communities to help build knowledge and make lasting cultural change.

Indeed, over the last six months, at every meeting, every forum and every conference, the importance of knowledge and of building knowledge—whether that be in our schools, or workplaces, or our sports clubs, or even the general community—is always seen as a top priority. The South Australian Malinauskas Labor government has listened to the voices of the autistic and autism communities; we have listened to Emma, Dylan, Katharine, Tammy, Mel, Paige and Oaklan, Paula and Nash and Amanda and, more importantly, we are not only listening but we are working to make this change together.

Our government has begun to build knowledge in our schools by investing \$28.8 million to provide access to an autism inclusion teacher, also known as an AIT, in our public primary schools. More than 400 autism inclusion teachers have begun in their new roles to help build South Australia's understanding and knowledge to support autistic children and young people and influence the practice of other staff in schools.

We know big cultural change does not happen overnight, but we have not waited 10 years, five years or even two years to make change. Within six months of my role being created we have delivered the nation's first statewide autism inclusion teacher network. Beyond our schools, our government is also working to create the state's first autism strategy, a strategy that is co-designed by autistic and autism communities.

Over the last three months we have consulted with the autistic and autism communities and travelled across our state to make sure we collect as many stories, as many ideas and as much feedback as we possibly can. Importantly, this consultation was guided by the discussion paper that was co-written and co-designed by 19 autistic adults. After all, it is the force behind the voices, goals and aspirations of the South Australian autistic and autism communities that we are seeking to drive, and we are going to do this through our state strategy.

We will use the feedback to not only develop a state strategy but, as the state's largest employer, the Malinauskas Labor government will lead the way in bringing a whole-of-government approach and change to our workplaces through the creation of a charter, which will be rolled out to all South Australian government agencies.

To help guide the strategy, we are also creating an autism strategy advisory committee, believed to be the only state government committee in the nation which will be predominantly autistic-led. I look forward to chairing the nation's first predominantly autistic-led autism strategy advisory

committee, as the Malinauskas Labor government continues to work side-by-side with the autistic and autism communities to help build knowledge and create a more inclusive society for all.

Importantly, while it is important to make big policy changes in our community, we must also make sure we do what we say and say what we do. We must lead by example and make sure that we have an autistic voice at the heart and centre of government and in leadership roles. The Malinauskas Labor government has announced we are creating another nation first, an office for autism, to be based in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and are filling the two senior roles, including director, with autistic people.

The importance of a centralised hub of information led by autistic people has continually been raised as essential for the autistic and autism communities through the last three months of consultation on the state's first autism strategy. The Office for Autism will be tasked with supporting the implementation of our state's autism strategy and autism charter, which will be rolled out to each government agency. Further, the office has the ability to work with all government agencies, private industries and the community to help make lasting cultural change required in our schools, built environment, hospitals and more.

Once again, I thank the autistic and autism communities for the knowledge they have provided me and the ways in which we have been able to work side-by-side over the last seven months and into the future. Happy World Autism Awareness Day.

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

Bills

STATUTES AMENDMENT (MEDICINAL CANNABIS DEFENCE) BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 22 February 2023.)

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (17:13): I rise behalf of the Greens to support this bill, a One Nation bill that is in fact very similar to legislation the Greens have previously introduced into this place and clearly an issue of ongoing concern for our community.

This bill, the Statutes Amendment (Medicinal Cannabis Defence) Bill 2023, is a result of our current system of laws. In 2016, the federal government legalised access to medicinal cannabis after a campaign spearheaded in many ways by Lucy Haslam, a retired nurse who gained attention when her then 20-year-old son Dan was diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2010.

Medicinal cannabis provided relief to Dan, whose chemotherapy killed his appetite, gave him nausea and mouth ulcers, and made him vomit. Dan's father, Lou, who had actually worked as an undercover cop for the New South Wales Drug Squad from 1972 to 2006, told of how things got so bad for Dan that he would vomit at the mere thought of the chemotherapy. Mr Haslam tells of a life-changing moment when a family friend who had colon cancer offered Dan some cannabis to try after all else had failed.

His son's ulcers disappeared, his appetite returned, and his nausea decreased. Mr Haslam said, 'He'd tried every bloody pharmaceutical drug. They did nothing. This was really working.' Dan was not alone in this struggle, of course. In Australia, the average medicinal cannabis patient is 49 years old. That is not somebody who is undertaking this lightly. The most likely reason they are taking this medication is for pain, anxiety or multiple sclerosis. Indeed, 60 per cent of the legal products that are available are oil-based and have some THC within them.

That THC, if present, is metabolised at a very slow rate, yet the some 35,000 active legal medicinal cannabis patients in our nation, some 70 per cent of whom are taking a medication with THC in some form, are not currently able to legally drive in mainland Australia and will fall foul of our drug-driving detection systems—and our drug-driving detection systems are, indeed, more profound and present than ever before. In the last few years the approximate number of roadside drug tests undertaken annually in South Australia was around 49,000.

Drugs like morphine are exceedingly more dangerous than medicinal cannabis, both on and off the road. Research shows that morphine causes a delay in reflex responses for up to 36 hours. If the government can provide a medical defence to those who legitimately use morphine to combat their pain, surely there is no justification for not providing that same defence to the growing thousands of South Australians who legally use medicinal cannabis.

Dr Karen Hitchcock, who works as a GP specialising in medicinal cannabis, said Australia's current drug laws were pushing patients towards other prescription drugs. She is quoted as saying:

Many patients choose to stay on their more dangerous and more addictive medications because of the driving laws. Others take a risk, as the relief and increasing quality of life now that they are sleeping soundly are worth the risk of losing their licence...It is time we stopped mistaking innocent citizens for criminals.

So we have had the legalisation of medicinal cannabis since 2016 with Dan's Law, the law that passed federal parliament, but now our drug-driving laws have a long way to play catch-up.

For many South Australians medicinal cannabis has actually given them back their lives. They have been given back the ability to function, the ability to move, the ability to comfortably go about their life's basic activities—something that many of us take for granted. Around the country we are seeing medicinal cannabis laws progress, allowing better access and protections for patients but, again, we still have a very long way to go.

Tasmania is the only state currently that provides a medical defence for those driving with the presence of THC in their bodily fluids, and that is by a simple accident of history not by a deliberate reform to their drug laws. Recently, however, in the Victorian upper house, the Legalise Cannabis Party have introduced similar legislation to that which we debate here today, including their Road Safety Act, to include it so that it would no longer be an offence for otherwise unimpaired drivers to have detectable THC in their blood or oral fluid.

Even the Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, has now given a strong indication that that state's strict rules around drug driving after using medicinal cannabis may soon be overhauled. On that, I commend the extensive work of the previous MLC and leader of the Reason Party, Fiona Patten.

Our current drug-driving laws have failed to improve road safety when it comes to this matter and they unfairly discriminate against so many thousands of South Australians by imposing a grossly disproportionate punishment regime against individuals—patients—and impede broader public health outcomes for the growing number of South Australians who are simply seeking an alternative to often far more impairing and certainly more addictive pharmaceutical medicines.

Over the 2020-2021 year, SAPOL says that it conducted 33,790 roadside drug tests, with 5,317 returning a positive result. Approximately 6 per cent of these positive test results were for cannabis. Hundreds of individuals have been penalised for the mere presence of that drug in their system, despite a lack of evidence that they were ever impaired. This is an injustice, and it is the reason why legislative reform is so necessary.

This bill does provide for a complete defence against the charge of driving with a detectable presence of THC in oral fluid or blood where a person has a valid doctor's prescription for a medicinal cannabis product containing THC and that that product has been administered as directed. This bill also makes the defence available for persons participating in medicinal cannabis clinical trials, removing a major hurdle for the advancement of science and research in this area. The defence is not available in any circumstance involving dangerous or reckless driving or in any matter where the police can establish impairment.

Dr Michael White, behavioural scientist with a PhD in psychology from the University of Adelaide—and I strongly recommend anyone interested in the issues around medicinal cannabis to look at his research—is a strong advocate for equal drug-driving laws and he has said:

Australia's cannabis-presence driving offences have no legitimate scientific justification. The introduction of the offences, with their associated penalties, is one way that the counterproductive War on Drugs is currently prosecuted. This enforcement regime is particularly cruel for medical users of cannabis.

Jurisdictions with similarly controlled prescription-only pathways for medicinal cannabis include the UK, New Zealand, Germany, Norway and Ireland, where they all have a medical defence for drivers. For the benefit of South Australians, it is time we did the same.

I commend to the council the work of an organisation called Drive Change, which raises the awareness of the need for drug-driving law reform for fair and equal treatment that contributes positively to our health system and to the lives of those patients I mentioned before.

Medicinal cannabis is currently potentially perfectly legal. It is the only prescribed medication without a legal defence against roadside mouth swab tests for presence. Indeed, those tests only test for presence. The technology we use is a blunt instrument. The technology we use could indeed be something quite different. There is the ability to test for level and not just presence when it comes to THC, so this is also a choice that has been made within our policing.

The need for reform is urgent. We need to give people prescribed medicinal cannabis the assurance that they will not be treated as criminals simply for taking a legal prescription medicine under the care of their medical practitioner.

I will alert members to the fact that our very own advertising with regard to drug-driving testing in this state boasts of the furphy, the lie, the mistruth. 'If you do drugs, you will be penalised long after the high has gone,' say the signs on the bus and the ads on the billboards. They actually boast about the fact that this drug will be present in someone's bodily fluids well after the impact of the drug has caused any impairment whatsoever. It is extraordinary that for some days, weeks or sometimes even as long as a month the THC may remain in somebody's system and they may well become a criminal simply for being a patient taking a legally lawfully prescribed medication.

It is extraordinary that in this state and in this country we continue to criminalise patients and treat them as criminals, much as Dan was well before Dan's Law passed. As I noted at the beginning of this speech, it has forced middle Australia—like Dan's father, a former undercover drug cop—to actually go to the black market, to actually become criminals themselves as carers for those patients. It is high time in this state that we got real about drugs and that we provide protections and defences for patients.

With that, I commend the Hon. Sarah Game for bringing this bill to us, and I ask her to have a word with her colleague Mark Latham MLC in New South Wales. When the Greens put this bill up there in that parliament, his comment was 'Pass the bong' as he voted against it. However, he is out of step with One Nation in this state of South Australia, he is out of step with his leadership in the federal parliament, and he is definitely out of step with the community of Australia.

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

Motions

WORLD WATER DAY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (17:26): I move:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges that on 22 March 2023 we celebrate international World Water Day;
2. Acknowledges that managing our water requires a balancing act of maintaining sustainable water ecosystems, while providing enough to efficiently support agricultural, industry, social and cultural needs;
3. Congratulates South Australian businesses, industry and households on their performance to date when it comes to responsible water use;
4. Calls on the Malinauskas Labor government to urgently disclose the site and cost of the Eyre Peninsula desalination plant to provide the much-needed water security in that region; and
5. Calls on the Malinauskas Labor government to restore efforts to progress agricultural water efficiency projects as a means of achieving environmental water recovery in the Murray-Darling Basin.

World Water Day 2023 is about accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis. Dysfunction throughout the water cycle undermines progress on all major global issues, from health

to hunger, gender equality to jobs, education to industry, and disasters to peace. In 2015, the world committed to Sustainable Development Goal 6 as part of the 2030 Agenda, the promise that everyone would have safely managed water and sanitation by 2030.

Billions of people and countless schools, businesses, healthcare centres, farms and factories are being held back because their access to safe water and sanitation still needs to be fulfilled. Water is a critical resource for South Australia due to the state's arid climate, limited rainfall and reliance on agriculture. The region's economy, environment and communities depend heavily on the availability of water. South Australia has a diverse range of water sources, including surface water, groundwater and desalinated water, which are used for irrigation, industry, urban supply and environmental purposes.

One of the most significant water resources, and one that I personally have a strong connection to, is the River Murray. It is the state's most significant source of surface water, supporting irrigated agriculture and providing drinking water to Adelaide and other towns. However, the river is under pressure from climate change, drought, overuse and upstream developments. The effective management of the River Murray resource is an important and difficult one. With competing uses, a river that cuts across different states and a plethora of stakeholders, managing the River Murray takes strong leadership.

Unfortunately, since Labor took office almost a year ago, we have seen anything but this. Despite being told that only Labor could fight for the river, we have seen nothing but rhetoric and concerning remarks from the water minister, who has done nothing in the space apart from dish out \$2 million for a River Murray commissioner. What do taxpayers get for that? A good question. I will come back to the chamber when the minister finally releases the documentation that all taxpayers deserve to see.

One of the most concerning matters is her lack of effort on progressing agricultural water efficiency projects as a means of achieving environmental water recovery in the Murray-Darling Basin. Even her own bureaucrats have acknowledged the lack of progress since state and federal Labor took office. This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal government, which oversaw the contracting of around 23 gigalitres of water through these projects in its last 12 months of government, and there were several other projects identified.

Instead, the current minister takes the lazy option and calls for mass water buybacks. She clearly does not understand the water market or regional communities, but this is to be expected from a city-centric minister who is not across her portfolio. Water security and management was a key focus of the previous Liberal government.

The Hon. C.M. Scriven interjecting:

The ACTING PRESIDENT (The Hon. L.A. Henderson): Minister, interjections are out of order.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Unfortunately, a lot of that momentum appears to have been lost under the Malinauskas Labor government.

Members interjecting:

The ACTING PRESIDENT (The Hon. L.A. Henderson): Members, interjections are out of order.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Another example is the water minister, who recently disclosed the locations of the Eyre Peninsula desalination plant after quite simply dithering for months. Water security is critical for Eyre Peninsula. The community have been working towards supplementing the Uley South groundwater supply with seawater desalination to ensure water security for the region into the future.

In February 2022, the Marshall Liberal government formed the site selection committee to engage the community in consultation on the proposed site of the desalination plant. In August 2022, the site selection committee made a recommendation to SA Water and the government of South Australia, identifying a new Sleaford West site as a suitable location to host the desalination plant.

Since that decision, the project appears to have stalled under the water minister. It was announced on 9 March 2023 that she will ignore local expertise on a preferred site for a critical desalination project on Eyre Peninsula, instead selecting Billy Lights Point, a location that attracted significant concern from the seafood and agricultural sector, local businesses and the community.

Her decision is a kick in the guts for the Eyre Peninsula desalination plant project site selection committee, which includes members from business, community leaders, fishing and agriculture industries, local government and other key stakeholders, and handed down its recommendations seven months ago.

Water affects everyone. I am proud of the innovative and sustainable solutions my fellow South Australians are initiating, even under the poor leadership of the state's water minister. I want to congratulate these South Australians—the businesses, industry and households—on their performance to date when it comes to responsible water use and recognise that South Australia is a leader in water management and innovation when it comes to ensuring sustainable water use and resilience in the face of future challenges.

For example, grapegrowers in the Adelaide Hills wine region are experiencing the benefits of soil moisture and temperature monitoring technology. Promotion of the technology across the sector is encouraging growers to find new ways to manage their water use sustainably. Students on Eyre Peninsula are growing native plants in their school nursery for the local Coastcare group. The area has been struggling with the effects of increasingly saline groundwater. Installing a tank, pump and new irrigation has improved water efficiency and quality and expanded the growing capability of their onsite nursery. It is this type of innovation, efficiency and dedication that will continue to steer our state to prosperity in a changing climate.

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

ZOOS SA

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:33): I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises Zoos SA was originally established in 1878 as The Acclimatisation Society of South Australia, and is one of the state's oldest conservation organisations;
2. Notes that both Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Safari Park are long-established parts of the South Australian community and have been integral to the state's tourism industry;
3. Congratulates Adelaide Zoo for winning the Major Tourist Attractions category at the 2022 South Australian Tourism Awards;
4. Congratulates Monarto Safari Park for winning the Tourist Attractions category, Excellence in Accessible Tourism category and Voters' Choice Award at the 2022 South Australian Tourism Awards; and
5. Commends Zoos SA for representing South Australia at the Great Wine Capitals Global Network and winning the 2023 Global Best of Wine Tourism Award for the 'Grapes for Good' program, and for the support the program brings to tourism in the Langhorne Creek region.

It is a great honour to rise today to move the motion standing in my name. As the shadow minister for tourism and hospitality, it is my privilege to speak about the outstanding achievements of Zoos SA and to recognise the remarkable history as well as incredible contribution that Zoos SA makes to its wildlife conservation, education and support for the South Australian tourism industry.

As an organisation, Zoos SA has proven itself to be resilient and adaptable despite a number of challenges, including restrictions on the number of visitors allowed on site during the coronavirus pandemic period. Zoos SA remained steadfast in continuing to deliver on their purpose of connecting people with nature and saving species from extinction.

With more than 135 years of history, Zoos SA has long been established as an integral part of the South Australian community's heritage and social history and is one of the state's oldest conservation organisations. Zoos SA was first known as the Acclimatisation Society of SA when it was established on 23 July 1878, at a meeting attended by many prominent Adelaide citizens. The patrons included Joseph Fisher, William Magarey, Samuel Davenport, George Kingston, William

Milne, John Morphett and Henry Scott, as well as the society's founder and the first president, Chief Justice Samuel Way.

Since the beginning, the society has had a keen interest in the care and preservation of both native and exotic rare and endangered species. Its founder, Chief Justice Samuel Way, said:

With introducing and domesticating 'select animal, insect and bird species' from the British Isles 'whether useful or ornamental...in the hope that they may be permanently established here and impart to our somewhat unmelodious hills and woods the music and harmony of English country life.

The vision set by the founder projected hopes that insect-destroying birds of the mother country would help diversify the South Australian agriculture industry.

Over the years, the society would change its name several times, becoming the SA Zoological and Acclimatisation Society in 1882. In 1937, to celebrate the society's diamond jubilee, King George VI granted the society a royal charter and with it came the right to use the prefix 'royal'. Thus, the society became known as the Royal Zoological Society of SA, which is until this day the official name of Zoos SA.

On 23 May 1883, Sir William Robinson opened Adelaide Zoo to the public, making it the second oldest zoo in Australia. As a not-for-profit organisation, it has more than 45,000 members today. With such a rich history, the Adelaide Zoo retains many of its original buildings, garden design and features, some of which are state heritage listed places. This includes a head keeper's cottage, built in 1883; the Thomas Elder Rotunda, built in 1884; the Minchin House, built in 1887; and the Elephant House, built in 1900.

To make special mention of the Elephant House, our Indian community in South Australia is very respectful of the Elephant House. The Hindu community helped restore the elephant god, Lord Ganesha, at the Adelaide Zoo. Lord Ganesha, as some honourable members would know, clears obstacles and paves the way to move forward in life, and is still a very respectful statue in the Adelaide Zoo.

I thank Elaine Bensted, Chief Executive of Zoos SA, together with Dr Phil Ainsley, Director of Adelaide Zoo, for meeting with the Hon. Dr. Nicola Centofanti, the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, and myself last year to provide key updates about the operation. We appreciate them showing us around the site. I recall that it was a wet, rainy day. The animals knew that it was going to rain before we actually did, because the giraffe, for example, was suddenly running into the shelter sensing the change of weather.

Last year, the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. David Speirs, and the Liberal parliamentary team had the pleasure of visiting Monarto Safari Park. I thank Peter Clark, Director, Monarto Safari Park, and Sarah Brown, Director, Community Engagement, for showing us the latest development, which included the new visitor centre at Monarto Safari Park that was completed in March 2022. The construction was made possible with the investment of \$15.8 million in funding from the former Australian Liberal government and the Marshall Liberal state government.

The former Liberal government, at the national and state levels, are very proud to have supported the development of the visitor centre as the first stage of the Monarto zoo expansion project. The government funding helped unlock \$35 million in private investment to develop a range of accommodation facilities at Monarto zoo. The stakeholders involved with Zoos SA have expressed their appreciation to the former Liberal government for working together in strong partnership with industry in order to deliver a major boost for the state's tourism credentials, and will further bolster economic activity in South Australia.

This world-class visitor centre at Monarto Safari Park was the first of three phases that has seen Monarto Safari Park transform into the largest safari experience outside of Africa. It has cemented Monarto zoo's reputation as a must-visit nature and wildlife destination, with a resort hotel under construction—providing onsite accommodation of a 78-room hotel and glamping facilities—to be opened by a private investor as part of a multimillion-dollar expansion.

With the opening of the new visitor centre, I learned from the member for Hammond in the other place, Mr Adrian Pederick, that the impact was felt around the entire region, with locals and city dwellers descending on Monarto to answer the call of the wild. As the shadow minister for tourism

and hospitality, I am very excited about the type of nature-based experiences that can be offered at Monarto.

Monarto zoo is already one of the largest open-range zoos in the world, attracting around 160,000 visitors each year, and the exciting upgrades and expansion will help enhance the visitor experience and allow the zoo to welcome many more visitors. There will be a huge, positive flow-on effect to our two iconic zoos that enhance the South Australian economy. They will bring thousands of visitors into South Australia every year, who stand to spend millions of dollars visiting other attractions, sleeping in our many hotels and dining in our restaurants.

Zoos SA Chief Executive, Elaine Bensted, revealed that the investment in two of South Australia's major tourism attractions helped Zoos SA to unlock growth in the tourism industry, continue to meet the needs of visitors and generate additional economic activity for the South Australian economy.

By touring some of the new facilities, my Liberal colleagues and I vividly recall venturing into a behind-the-scenes area and coming face-to-face with a truly impressive southern white rhino bull. The southern white rhino is one of the largest land animals on Earth and has the biggest horn of all rhinos. With a keeper to guide us that day, we discovered that despite his size and stature the gentle giant rhino enjoyed a tickle behind the ears.

On the topic of rhinos, I am really sad to report that more than a thousand rhinos were killed in South Africa last year alone; hence, in a world first, Zoos SA is working with the Australian Rhino Project and other Australian zoos to build an insurance population in Australia. Having experienced it personally, I certainly got a deeper appreciation of why Monarto Safari Park has grown to become an international standard conservation and zoological park and an iconic South Australia destination, since it opened to the public in October 1993.

Today, Monarto Safari Park is one of the world's largest open-range zoos, covering 1,500 hectares and plays a major role in numerous breeding programs for both native and exotic species, many of which also are rare and endangered species. Our safari park is the largest in Australia, and with the opening of the new African precinct it will become the largest safari experience in the world outside of Africa.

While the primary objectives of Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Safari Park are wildlife conservation and education, there is no doubt that they are two of the premier tourist attractions in South Australia, and the impact they have made on the state's tourism industry is immense. Animal and nature lovers from across Australia and the world are consistently visiting Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Safari Park as part of their holiday and leisure experiences here.

This perhaps can be demonstrated by the numerous awards that both Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Safari Park have received over the years. In particular, I would like to highlight the Tourism Industry Council of South Australia's 2022 SA Tourism Awards, which recognised the best tourism businesses in the state and for which Zoos SA has won multiple awards.

I had the pleasure of attending the tourism awards gala last year with the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. David Speirs, who shares the same passion with me in tourism, especially ecotourism and nature-based tourism developments in South Australia. We were most impressed that Adelaide Zoo was awarded the Major Tourist Attractions award, which recognises natural or built attractions that people visit for pleasure and interest, and attracts the highest visitor numbers into South Australia.

It is indeed very rewarding to see that South Australia is nationally and internationally competitive. Adelaide Zoo then went on to represent South Australia at the Australian Tourism Awards held on Friday 17 March, where they won the coveted gold medal in the Major Tourist Attractions category, beating out the National Zoo & Aquarium and other tourist destinations.

It was certainly a golden moment for Adelaide Zoo to be recognised as an iconic attraction for its unique behind-the-scenes experiences and its commitment to sustainability and conservation. It is the first time a South Australian tourism organisation has ever charted in the top three in the category—definitely an absolute coup for our state.

Monarto Safari Park was awarded with the Tourist Attractions, Excellence in Accessible Tourism and the Voter's Choice Award. These awards recognise the significant visitor numbers that Monarto Safari Park attracts to South Australia as well as its welcoming atmosphere and services for people of all abilities.

Zoos SA also had the privilege to represent South Australia at the 2023 Best of Wine Tourism Awards, as part of the state's membership in the prestigious Great Wine Capitals Global Network, and won the Tourism Collaboration Excellence Award for its Grapes for Good Program. The Grapes for Good initiative is a partnership between Zoos SA and six wineries from the Langhorne Creek region, namely Kimbolton Wines, Bleasdale, Bremerton, Lake Breeze, the Winehouse and the Vineyard Road wineries.

Each winery partner came together to create a unique mix of wines that support the conservation efforts, with part proceeds from the sale of these wines supporting Zoos SA's conservation mission. The multitude of awards and accolades that have been bestowed upon Zoos SA proves its consistent excellency and importance in its contributions to and representation of the South Australian community and the state's tourism industry. Both Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Safari Park have and continue to represent the very best that South Australia has to offer, both on the national and international stages.

In conclusion, I would like to place my special thanks and congratulations on the public record to acknowledge the fantastic work and strong leadership by: Chief Executive of Zoos SA, Ms Elaine Bensted; Director of Adelaide Zoo, Dr Phil Ainsley; Director of Monarto Safari Park, Mr Peter Clark; and all the senior management team, and also acknowledge the president and board members who contributed their time, skills, knowledge and expertise to manage and govern the affairs of Zoos SA.

Congratulations to the entire team, to the 45,000 devoted members and volunteers, for their commitment to wildlife conservation. It is a great honour today to recognise the outstanding work of Zoos SA for their long-established role in the South Australian community. They have been integral to the state's tourism industry. I wholeheartedly commend the motion to the chamber.

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

ASSANGE, MR J.

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. F. Pangallo:

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 U.S. 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.

(Continued from 8 February 2023.)

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (17:48): In debate on the previous motion from the honourable member on the matter of Mr Assange, I acknowledged that the South Australian government noted that the Australian government has been clear in their view that Mr Assange's case has dragged on for too long and that it should be brought to a close.

However, the government will not be supporting this motion. The government notes comments last year from the Prime Minister that he has raised this matter personally with representatives of the United States government and that the Prime Minister has stated 'enough is enough'. The state government also notes the comments of the foreign affairs minister in relation to this matter, and I quote:

We believe that this matter has dragged on too long, and we continue to raise it at the appropriate levels with both the US and the UK governments.

You would be familiar with the very many legal processes with which Mr Assange is involved, and you would also know that in all three countries being discussed the rule of law applies.

The South Australian government reiterates that it understands the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will continue to offer consular assistance to Mr Assange, noting that Australia is not a party to Mr Assange's case, nor can the Australian government intervene in the legal matters of another country. I am advised it remains the case that the federal government will continue to convey expectations that Mr Assange is entitled to due process, humane and fair treatment, access to proper medical care, and access to his legal team.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (17:49): I rise to indicate that the position of the Liberal Party has not changed since the matter was raised last year. At the risk of being repetitive, although these are not lengthy words, I refer again to the comments of the Hon. Simon Birmingham, shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, whose comments are as follows:

The Australian government—

I am assuming this was prior to the change of government—

will continue to monitor Mr Assange's case closely, as it would for any Australian citizen in detention overseas. However, beyond providing consular assistance, it is important to note that Australia has no standing in Mr Assange's legal proceedings and is unable to intervene.

Whilst there is a crucial role for whistle-blowers and free speech, there are also instances of importance where sensitive information is kept secure, including to protect the lives of others.

I appreciate that some members of the public feel very strongly about Mr Assange's situation, nevertheless I believe that Australia should respect the rule of law in countries like the US and the UK.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:50): I rise to speak in support of this motion. In doing so, I note this is the first time I have spoken on the matter in the chamber, so I did want to put on the public record my support for Julian Assange's freedom and indeed this motion. I also want to recognise the leadership of my colleague in this place the Hon. Frank Pangallo and the work that he has done on this issue. Of course, I note that Mr Pangallo is a former journalist who understands the importance of a free press and freedom of speech in our democracy. I also acknowledge the work of my colleague the Hon. Tammy Franks, who has spoken out on this issue many, many times.

The motion does several things. It recognises that 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 classified US materials, which of course included the Afghanistan war logs in 2010 and the Guantanamo Bay files in 2011 that were supplied to WikiLeaks by Chelsea Manning, a former US Army intelligence analyst. The material in those files that has been published in the media was truly shocking.

The motion also acknowledges that Mr Assange genuinely believed his actions were for the purposes of government accountability, transparency and integrity and for the broader public interest and in the interests of justice. It notes that since the publication of these documents Mr Assange has been forced into isolation or imprisonment over the course of 10 years, which has resulted in a serious deterioration of his health and his mental wellbeing.

The motion recognises that Mr Assange's impending prosecution by the United States of America constitutes a serious attack on the fundamental democratic freedoms of the press. It 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 of imprisonment. It also questions the legitimacy of whether that act should be applied to non-US citizens who were living and working in other countries at the time of any alleged offending.

I must say it is appalling to me that we have those who are exposing war crimes being punished in this way, yet the world leaders who have overseen these appalling atrocities are let off the hook. That is an appalling turn of events. The Greens have long advocated to release Julian Assange. His prosecution has always been political, and over the last 13 years the Greens have continually called on the federal government to secure his freedom.

In 2019, my colleague in the federal parliament Senator Whish-Wilson tabled a petition with over 200,000 signatures calling on the government to intervene and ensure Julian Assange's safe passage home. Similarly, my colleagues Senator Janet Rice and Senator Steele-John have continually asked questions in the federal parliament and pushed the federal government to do the right thing and release him from jail.

In 2021, the then opposition leader, the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, called for Julian Assange's release, saying, 'I can't see what is being served by keeping him incarcerated.' Now, the Hon. Mr Anthony Albanese is our Prime Minister and he is in a position to act, and so the Greens call on the federal government to act quickly and decisively to end Julian Assange's long-term imprisonment.

The Australian Greens believe that freedom of the press is integral to the functioning of our successful democratic society. Journalism should never be a crime. Indeed, as observed by my colleague Senator Jordon Steele-John, 'The Greens will always support journalists' right to speak truth to power, and we will continue to fight to bring Julian home.' I commend the motion.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (17:55): I rise today to speak briefly in support of this motion, noting that I have similarly spoken before upon it. I thank the Hon. Frank Pangallo for his commitment to this issue and echo the words of my colleague the Hon. Rob Simms in terms of his leadership on this matter as a member of parliament and as a journalist. As a democratic society we guard ourselves against the misuse of power through fundamental freedoms, including freedom of speech

and freedom of the press. Julian Assange's case is an example of the importance of protecting those freedoms.

As the director of WikiLeaks, Julian Assange received information from various sources which he then published online. By doing so he exposed the war crimes of the United States to the world, that is, proof of criminal behaviour by the United States. What is not criminal behaviour, of course, is journalism. If the United States is left unchallenged in their pursuit of charges against Julian Assange, it will have devastating consequences on the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press not just here in Australia, not just in America, but across the globe.

We have a responsibility to do all we can to ensure that this does not happen. It is clear that there is widespread public support for Julian Assange to be returned to Australia. Across the nation thousands of people continue to organise and rally to bring him home. Indeed, I attended a rally on the Parliament House steps just this afternoon. I have actually lost count of the number of such rallies that I have attended over this last decade.

The voices, of course, were loud and the call to action obvious. I note also that my Greens colleagues, such as Senator Janet Rice, Senator Peter Whish-Wilson, Senator Jordon Steele-John and Senator David Shoebridge, have all advocated and continue to advocate diligently for Julian Assange in the federal parliament, and I also commend the work of previous Senator Scott Ludlam.

Julian has spent over three years in maximum security in Belmarsh prison in the UK—three years in maximum security. If he is convicted, he could potentially spend the rest of his life in solitary confinement. All the evidence indicates that his health has deteriorated from the years of arbitrary detention that he has already been forced to endure.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment concluded in 2019 that in addition to physical ailments, Mr Assange showed all the symptoms typical for prolonged exposure to psychological torture, including extreme stress, chronic anxiety and intense psychological trauma. That was obviously picked up on most recently by the UK magistrate in the High Court there that accepted the testimony that if Julian's extradition to the US were to become imminent he would have the desire to end his own life.

In 2021, the then opposition leader, and now our Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, called for Julian Assange's urgent release from jail. He said he cannot see what justice is served by keeping him incarcerated—indeed, I agree. On 30 November 2022, during question time in the House of Representatives, the Prime Minister acknowledged that Mr Assange's case was of great interest to the Australian community and that he had raised this personally with the United States government.

However, it has now come to light that, since that date, in response to freedom of information requests by former federal senator, Rex Patrick, multiple departments of the Australian Labor government have confirmed that they have made no representation to the US administration of President Joe Biden regarding Julian Assange. This now paints an even grimmer picture in Australia's role in his continued persecution.

We cannot leave Julian Assange to die because our leaders think it is politically expedient to allow our so-called allies to exact revenge on a journalist who exposed their war crimes. It is not a complicated issue. We must have immediate intervention and act decisively to end this injustice. Mr President, I think that a letter from the Legislative Council to the President of the United States is probably the least that members of parliament could do right now for a man who has been isolated for over 10 years and incarcerated in a maximum security prison for over three whose life may well be in the balance.

Straying slightly off script, I note that I read a range of stories in the last few days about people who had gone on TikTok or had posted on Twitter who had been incarcerated in Saudi Arabia and do you know what happened there? They have been freed because President Joe Biden intervened on behalf of the freedom of press, the freedom of speech and the rights of US citizens not to be incarcerated for violating oppressive regimes.

On 20 January 2022, the Belmarsh Tribunal, named after the maximum security where Julian is residing—captive, not residing—convened in Washington DC to demand that US President Joe Biden drop these charges. In his remarks to the tribunal, whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, who most

recently released documents exposing just how close the US came to using nuclear weapons against China during the Taiwan crisis in 1958, spoke about the intentionally ambiguous wording of the Espionage Act, which allows prosecution not just of those who leak sensitive information but also individuals who merely possess it, overriding the fundamentals of free speech.

As WikiLeaks wrote in their statement responding to the extradition news, Julian Assange's freedom is coupled in all our freedoms. The Greens will always support a journalist's right to speak truth to power. We will continue the fight to bring Julian home. These freedoms cannot be left to others. Indeed, I wish a few more people in power were willing not just to speak the truth to power when they were in opposition but to protect the truth and their own citizens when they are in government.

The Hon. C. BONAROS (18:02): I have three words for my Labor and Liberal bedfellow colleagues today and three words only. To those opposite on the opposition benches, shame on you, but especially—especially—to those on this side of the chamber in government, shame on all of you.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (18:03): I would like to thank members on the crossbench, the Hon. Robert Simms and the Hon. Tammy Franks, for their words about Julian Assange and their encouragement in the battle to have Julian Assange freed from the nightmare that he is enduring in Belmarsh. I would also like to thank the Greens nationally for their support and also the efforts that are being made by Mr Assange's supporters around the country.

I will echo the words of my colleague the Hon. Connie Bonaros about the attitude of both Labor and the Liberals in this place. It is disgraceful, quite frankly, to hear two members get up and mouth off the words that have been given to them by their federal counterparts. These were hollow words and it showed that nobody bothered to even look deeply into the situation that is confronting Mr Assange and what had led to all this. Clearly, no research has been done for them to form any opinion that is balanced.

An honourable member: Educated.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: And educated; thank you very much. Just to go through what the Hon. Reggie Martin was saying in relation to claims that the Prime Minister and the foreign minister had intervened and said something to the Americans: they had not. It has just been pointed out by the Hon. Robert Simms and the Hon. Tammy Franks.

The Prime Minister has raised nothing formally. He has been bluffing and so has the foreign minister, Penny Wong. She has raised nothing officially in relation to that. It has been proved by freedom of information documents that were released by former Senator Rex Patrick. Interestingly enough, he also has not been visited by Australian consular officials since 2012, so I do not know where they are going that he is continuing to get consular support.

I just want to point out to the Hon. Michelle Lensink that nobody has died as a result of the information that Mr Assange published—nobody has died. The only one who has been targeted is Mr Assange, even though some of the world's leading newspapers and journalists have used that information and published it in their journals. None of those journalists, none of those publications, have been targeted by the United States, particularly under this bizarre Espionage Act that they are trying to enforce on the world. That is their own act. Mr Assange is an Australian citizen and he did not commit a crime.

That is the other thing: he has not committed a crime. They just want their pound of flesh, and that is all it is about for the Americans. The other thing I find interesting from the Liberals is that they come knocking on my door and that of the Hon. Connie Bonaros seeking our support for a bill that they want to make government accountable and transparent. This is just so hypocritical of them. If you want openness and transparency, why would you not support a whistleblower who exposed horrendous war crimes?

On top of that, we have the Attorney-General in Canberra, the Hon. Mark Dreyfus, who, again using hollow words, says that he supports press freedoms in this country. These are weasel words, just like those of Mr Albanese and Ms Wong. How can journalists believe that? When we have a journalist who is isolated in Belmarsh prison, suffering from his years of isolation with serious mental illnesses, how can journalists in this country believe it?

I am quite disappointed in my profession in this country. Unlike journalists in other parts of the world who have come out strongly in support of Mr Assange, here they are almost like sheep and are afraid to speak out for one of their own for what he had done. I can assure you that, as a journalist myself, if that information came to me, I would have absolutely no hesitation in publishing it because it would be publishing something that is in the public interest. You are publishing about criminal activity by a government.

Before I finish up, we saw at last week's AUKUS love-in in San Diego Prime Minister Albanese having what may have been a water—I do not think it was a beer on this occasion—with the British Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, then we saw him trying on Joe Biden's Ray-Bans. You would have thought that, during those little conversations, he may have raised the fact that Julian Assange is a matter that needs to be addressed and put in a word to Sleepy Joe: 'What are you going to be doing about it?' But clearly nothing was said about Mr Assange in that regard.

I want to finish off by recommending a book to my colleagues in this chamber and in other places. It is called *The Trial of Julian Assange* by Nils Melzer, who is the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture—quite a distinguished person. I want to read a couple of paragraphs from the introduction to this book:

...when investigating the case of Julian Assange, I came across compelling evidence of political persecution and gross judicial arbitrariness, as well as of deliberate torture and ill-treatment...

The reason for my strong engagement in this case is that its importance extends far beyond Julian Assange as an individual and, indeed, far beyond the states directly involved. It reveals a generalised systemic failure gravely undermining the integrity of our democratic institutions, our fundamental rights, and the rule of law more generally...

The Assange case is the story of a man who is being persecuted and abused for exposing the dirty secrets of the powerful, including war crimes, torture and corruption. It is a story of deliberate judicial arbitrariness in Western democracies that are otherwise keen to present themselves as exemplary in the area of human rights. It is a story of wilful collusion by intelligence services behind the backs of national parliaments and the general public. It is a story of manipulated and manipulative reporting in the mainstream media for the purpose of deliberately isolating, demonizing, and destroying a particular individual. It is the story of a man who has been scapegoated by all of us for our own societal failure to address government corruption and state-sanctioned crimes. It is thus also a story about each and every one of us, our lethargy, our self-deception and our co-responsibility for the political, economic and human tragedies of our time.

All I can ask of my colleagues in journalism is to wake up. Wake up and stand up for one of your colleagues because one day it could happen to you and, most surely, it will. With that, I commend the motion to the chamber.

The council divided on the motion:

Ayes4
Noes.....16
Majority12

AYES

Bonaros, C.
Simms, R.A.

Franks, T.A.

Pangallo, F. (teller)

NOES

Bourke, E.S.
Hanson, J.E.
Hood, D.G.E.
Lensink, J.M.A.
Ngo, T.T.
Wortley, R.P.

Centofanti, N.J.
Henderson, L.A.
Hunter, I.K.
Maher, K.J.
Pnevmatikos, I.

Girolamo, H.M.
Hood, B.R.
Lee, J.S.
Martin, R.B. (teller)
Scriven, C.M.

Motion thus negatived.

There being a disturbance in the gallery:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Bills

FAIR WORK (FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVE) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

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

At 18:19 the council adjourned until Thursday 23 March 2023 at 14:15.