

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 3 May 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 (14:18): I bring up the 24th report of the committee.

Report received.

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS: I bring up the 25th report of the committee.

Report received and read.

Ministerial Statement

HORNE, MR I.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:20): I table a ministerial statement made in the other place by the Hon. Andrea Michaels on the subject of the retirement of Ian Horne.

HIGH-RISK INCIDENT, CRYSTAL BROOK

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:20): I table a ministerial statement made by the Premier on the subject of a high-risk incident at Crystal Brook.

Question Time

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:22): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Leader of the Government in this place on transparency and accountability.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: By the parliament's own reconciliation, the opposition and crossbench have not received answers to 25 outstanding questions on notice. Some of these questions are outstanding from 8 February—almost three months ago. The Legislative Council's standing orders—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: He thinks it's funny.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr Hunter, the Hon. Ms Girolamo!

The Hon. H.M. Girolamo interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Girolamo!

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Ms Girolamo and the Hon. Ms Henderson! Leader of the Opposition, finish your question, please.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: As I was saying, some of these questions are outstanding from 8 February—almost three months ago. The Legislative Council's standing orders are clear that questions to the government must be answered within 30 days of asking. My question to the leader is: why is his government not adhering to our council's standing orders, and why are they choosing to not be transparent or accountable to the South Australian public by not answering questions within the stipulated 30 days?

The PRESIDENT: I call the Attorney-General.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:24): I thank the honourable member for her question. If there are specific questions that the honourable member would like to have followed up, I am happy to do that, but what I wish to do—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: —is place on record—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY: Point of order, Mr President.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY: There is definitely a health and safety issue here. I happen to sit across the aisle from the three over there on the opposition benches and very often, through the screaming and the screeching, I can't hear myself.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY: I haven't finished. I would like to request that you and the Clerk get together and work out a way that we can measure the decibels that come from that side to here.

The PRESIDENT: Sit down, the Hon. Mr Wortley. That is not a point of order.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY: It's a health and safety issue.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! That is not a point of order. Attorney-General, provide your answer.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: As I was saying, one thing I would like to do is place on the record my thanks to the many, many dedicated hardworking members of the public sector who spend many, many hours diligently working to find answers—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: —some that take many hours and hours of dedicated research to answer opposition questions.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Just yesterday, I tabled—I can't remember the exact number—15 to 20 answers to questions. I will not partake in denigrating hardworking public sector employees who are trying to do their job diligently.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: I ought to but I don't think I will delve into the many, many months of delays that former Liberal ministers had in answering questions because that wasn't the subject of the question so I shan't go there.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: I will give you the call for your supplementary when everyone calms down.

The Hon. R.P. Wortley interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: If you have a problem you can go out.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Ms Girolamo, you are testing my patience.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:26): My supplementary to the leader is: when can members of this council expect the government to provide answers to these questions?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:27): As soon as possible.

SHEEP AND GOAT ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:27): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding the sheep and goat electronic identification.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Five days ago, the Western Australian government committed a further \$22.3 million in addition to \$3.4 million previously provided to assist their industry transition to a mandatory sheep and goat electronic identification system. Already, more than 400,000 electronic eartags have been distributed to WA producers. The minister repeatedly talks about the importance of biosecurity and traceability in this chamber, which I certainly support, but she is leaving South Australian producers in the dark and behind their interstate counterparts. My question to the minister is: is the Malinauskas government going to commit any funds to this rollout?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:28): I thank the honourable member for her question. The EID rollout is incredibly important because traceability is incredibly important. As I have repeatedly said in this place, it is important that this is also industry led and that is what has been undertaken by this government: to work closely with industry to ensure that the implementation—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —and rollout can be done in a way that is systematic and meets the needs of South Australian producers. This is a constant theme from those opposite and from the Leader of the Opposition.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: If she and the Liberal Party do not support the identification—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —of electronic identification for farm sheep and goats then she should say so. If she doesn't support improved traceability, if she doesn't support EID, if she wants to continually undermine the process—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: —which has been outlined numerous times in this place—

The PRESIDENT: Minister, sit down.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: Point of order, Mr President.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: Mr President, I am very interested—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order, the Hon. Ms Girolamo! Just sit down, the Hon. Mr Simms. I am on my feet now. Nobody speaks when I am on my feet. I am not going to put up with it. Today is a pretty important day for one of our members and it would be sad for you to miss it because I will throw you out for the day. Let's get on with it. The Hon. Mr Simms, what is your—

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: I think you have resolved the matter, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: Right. Minister, conclude your answer, please.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: As I was trying to say, if those opposite don't support improved traceability, if those opposite don't support the implementation of electronic identification—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —for farmed sheep and goats, if they don't support these measures, which are supported by the peak industry, then they should say so.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Minister, sit down. The Hon. Ms Lensink, you have a point of order?

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: The minister is trying to put words into members' mouths and verballing the opposition.

The PRESIDENT: I am sure the honourable member will have her opportunity to rebut that. Minister, conclude your remarks, please.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: If they don't support EID they should say so.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Mr President—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: No—

The PRESIDENT: Order! No, you are not having a conversation with him, you are having a conversation with me. Look at me.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! You have a supplementary question?

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Personal explanation, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: Do you seek leave to make a personal explanation?

Personal Explanation

SHEEP AND GOAT ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:30): I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: The minister has put words into my mouth. I said that we supported traceability of the sheep and goat industry.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: I ask that the minister withdraw her comments.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister, you have been invited to withdraw your remarks.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:31): I think if *Hansard* is checked my words were, 'If they don't support EID they should say so.' I don't see how that can be interpreted as putting words in, so I will not be withdrawing.

Question Time

YABBY NETS

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:31): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding changes to regulations involving yabby nets.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Regulations gazetted on 20 April seek the deletion of yabby pots in permitted devices, meaning that from 1 July yabby pots or opera houses will no longer be legal to use in the rivers or waterways.

The Hon. J.E. Hanson interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr Hanson, silence!

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Chuck him out.

The Hon. J.E. Hanson interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hanson!

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: My question to the minister is: will she consider a yabby net exchange program for fishers, similar to that delivered in Victoria in 2019, as well as the ACT?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:32): I thank the honourable member for her question. This certainly is an important change which is designed to better protect air-breathing aquatic animals that can otherwise become fatally trapped in opera house style nets. This move does bring us into line with most states and territories except, I am advised, the Northern Territory and some parts of Queensland, but all other states and territories have banned the use of opera house style yabby nets.

It is also an issue that has been discussed for quite a number of years, including by the previous government's Ministerial Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (MRFAC). However, on

losing government, the Liberals had failed to enact the change at that time. On coming to government and with the change from the MRFAC to RecFish SA being recognised as the peak body for recreational fishing, consultation and discussion occurred with RecFish SA who also indicated support for a phase-out of the opera house style nets.

The change in regulation will commence from 1 July this year, and PIRSA will ensure that information regarding the change is widely available and take an educative approach in the initial stages so that recreational fishers are certain to be aware of the new rules. However, this is something that has been, I guess, on the cards for quite some time, hence the fact that nearly all the other states and territories have already implemented this.

I am advised that almost a year ago a major retailer of outdoor and fishing gear ceased selling these opera house style nets in their Australian stores, and I am aware of reports of other large national retailers taking the opera house nets off the shelf some time ago. A cursory look at the websites of some of the more well-known fishing and tackle retailers show that the opera house nets are either not sold or simply marked as not available. These changes have a long history and many recreational fishers have been aware that these changes have been looming for some time, which is indicated by that lack of availability of the opera house nets at a number of major retailers.

Victoria and, indeed, New South Wales have had swap programs—Victoria in December 2018. I might just check whether that's accurate. I will come back to the chamber if I have made an error there. Both states did implement a swap program. However, it's worth noting that both those states also have recreational fishing licences, which is one of the ways, I guess, that people argue in favour of a recreational fishing licence. It comes down to the sorts of things that might then be in place when this type of change occurs.

However, as members would be aware, we don't have a recreational fishing licence here in South Australia and such a licence is not on the agenda for this term of government. It would require significant support of the recreational fishing community and its peak body to warrant even investigating that option.

I think it's fair to say that this change has been in place interstate for some period and it has been on the cards here in South Australia for some time. Most people who are involved in yabbying would have been aware of it and they would have been aware that purchasing new nets was perhaps not the best option. Indeed, as we found, the opportunity and availability of those nets was very restricted in any case.

The opera house style yabby nets are an enclosed trap with a side funnel entrance, designed to prevent an animal that enters the trap from escaping. That creates a risk to air-breathing aquatic animals that can become fatally trapped.

Following consultation with the then recognised recreational fishing advisory group, an alternative open-top yabby fishing net, known as a pyramid net, was introduced as permitted gear on 1 July 2021, which of course was another indicator that the change was going to be forthcoming. At the time of the introduction of pyramid nets, the former recreational fishing advisory group supported the phase-out of the opera house style yabby nets as a permitted fishing gear by 30 June this year.

YABBY NETS

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:37): Supplementary: does the minister consider a two-month lead-in time reasonable for a so-called phase-out?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:37): As I have just outlined, the discussions and the indicators around this have been here in South Australia for quite a number of years.

YABBY NETS

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:37): Further supplementary: when was it first communicated to the public about the ban?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:37): Permitting the pyramid-style nets was certainly one of the indicators. The Leader of the Opposition in this place needs to be aware that this is a type of discussion that has been around for quite some time.

The Hon. N.J. Centofanti interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: She's interjecting and saying that—

The PRESIDENT: Interjections are out of order.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Indeed, interjections are out of order.

The PRESIDENT: And so is responding to them.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I wouldn't refer to her interjection that said that introducing a new type of net doesn't indicate the phasing out of an old one, and I would perhaps beg to differ on this particular occasion. The narrative around the reasoning for introducing the pyramid nets was very clearly linked to the problems with the opera house style yabby nets.

YABBY NETS

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:38): Supplementary.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: How was that communicated to the public?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:38): As I say, this issue has traversed both the former Liberal state government as well as our current Labor government. So it has been throughout that period that there have been discussions by those who are involved in the recreational fishing sector and it has all been a part of those discussions among peak bodies as well as individual fishers.

MOB TALKS LAUNCH

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (14:38): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Will the minister inform the council about the *Mob Talks* launch and the recent screening of the First Nations TV talk show?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:39): I thank the honourable member for her question and her interest. I can inform the chamber with pleasure that back in March it was an honour to attend the *Mob Talks* launch and preview screening of the new First Nations TV talk show.

This new series, hosted by rising First Nations star, Marcellus Enalanga, and featuring an array of First Nations guests, explores issues affecting First Nations communities in South Australia. The show not only highlights First Nations South Australians' stories and issues but, most excitingly, has been created and driven by First Nations South Australian screen creatives, producers and directors Keith Gilbey-Warrior and Rick Hutcheson. Keith and Rick are both graduates of the South Australian Film Corporation and Channel 44 First Nations Internship Program, which sees emerging First Nations filmmakers and screen creatives undergoing hands-on training and mentoring in TV production at Channel 44's Collinswood studios.

Mob Talks is a first production driven by participants of this innovative skills development program. It's very exciting to see how partnerships like this one between SAFC and Channel 44 are creating new career pathways for First Nations South Australians in the screen industries and strengthening the capacity, creativity and connectedness of our state's First Nations screen sector.

During the preview, all attendees had the opportunity to see firsthand the trailer and first episode of the program, with special guests being Ms Shona Reid and Elijah Bravington. The program itself is proof of what innovative things can come from such partnerships with state

government investment in the screen sector, and also attests to the depth and breadth of creative and technical talent amongst our state's First Nations communities. The sneak peek episode at the official launch provided an eye-opening intro into what will come in the future, discussing issues that affect the everyday life of First Nations people in South Australia.

It is exciting to see new and original locally made First Nations-driven content being created and broadcast to the wider community, not just here in SA but nationally through the CTV+ online streaming platform. Hopefully, it won't be too long before we see even more. Early last month (in April), nine First Nations writers took part in another exciting Film Corporation and Channel 44 initiative: the First Nations TV Pilot Writing Workshop. I am sure that some of these will go on to great things in the screen and television industries as well. *Mob Talks* officially premiered on Channel 44 at 8pm on Sunday 2 April and can be streamed, as I said, on CTV+. I congratulate those involved and encourage everyone to watch it. Do yourselves a favour.

MALE LIFE EXPECTANCY

The Hon. S.L. GAME (14:42): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Attorney-General, representing the Premier, on the creation and delegation of ministries.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: Ninety-five per cent of workplace deaths in Australia are men. Seventy per cent of those who die in car crashes on South Australian roads are men. The Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality state that men are more likely than women to abuse illicit substances of all types and these same men are more likely to end up in emergency departments or die from overdoses of illicit drugs and abuse of alcohol than women.

A 2011 longitudinal study in the journal *Demography* states that divorce is associated with worse mental and physical health for men than women. Depression, anxiety and suicide are the three leading causes of burden of disease in Australian men, and suicide is also a leading cause of death for young men in this country. Across every age cohort above 15 years, men are grossly over-represented in Australian suicide statistics and in some categories the figure is 14 times higher than for women.

Male life expectancy all round is a full four years shorter than that of females in Australia, according to the ABS. The South Australian government has a dedicated Office for Women for the purpose of achieving gender equity and positive change for women. There is no such office for men. My questions to the Attorney-General, representing the Premier, are:

1. Does the Malinauskas government acknowledge that there are indeed model issues seriously affecting men disproportionately compared to women in South Australia?
2. Considering that disproportion, has the government considered creating an office for men's issues in balance with the current Office for Women?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:43): I thank the honourable member for her question. I don't think I need to refer that. I can inform the honourable member: no, we have not.

FOOD AND AGRIBUSINESS

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:44): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development about food and agribusiness.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.S. LEE: It was reported by industry stakeholders that overseas buyers from Malaysia and Thailand are in Australia sourcing fresh produce and products from Australia. The two buyers are Jaya Grocer and Jagota Thailand. Our understanding is that Jaya Grocer is a Malaysian-based high-tech supermarket chain that specialises in premium grocery products and high-quality fresh and organic produce, and Jagota Thailand represents a multitude of brands across

various product categories, including dairy, meat, seafood, snacks and groceries. My questions to the minister are:

1. What funding has the state government allocated to attract these overseas buyers to Adelaide?
2. What is the role of PIRSA in this buying mission?
3. Does the minister have any involvement at all in her role for this inbound mission? Please explain your involvement.
4. How many South Australian food and agribusinesses have been invited to participate, and what indicators will be used to measure the outcomes?
5. How will the minister ensure that South Australian agribusinesses get their fair share of representation for this inbound mission?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:45): I thank the honourable member for her question. Governments are often involved both in outbound trade missions as well as inbound trade missions, and that sounds like what the honourable member is referring to. I will certainly speak with the office of my colleague the Minister for Trade and Investment, as well as my department, to seek additional information about the particular issue that the member is asking about and bring back an answer to the chamber.

FOOD AND AGRIBUSINESS

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:46): Supplementary: can the minister confirm whether she has received any briefing from PIRSA because this is food related?

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER: Point of order: I cannot see in any way how the supplementary question the honourable member has launched into relates to the answer—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER: —the minister just gave that she will bring back an answer to the chamber.

The PRESIDENT: Minister, you can choose to answer it, if you wish. If not, we move on.

NO-ALCOHOL AND LOW-ALCOHOL WINE RESEARCH FACILITY

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (14:47): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister please inform the chamber about the world's first no and low-alcohol investment led by South Australia?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:47): I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in this sphere. I recently had the privilege of launching the no and low-alcohol wine trial-scale research facility (known as NOLO for short, for obvious reasons) at the Hickinbotham Roseworthy Wine Science Laboratory at the University of Adelaide Waite campus, and it was an excellent event.

South Australia is indisputably Australia's wine state, producing 50 per cent of all bottled wine and 80 per cent of all premium wine. Adelaide is also home, of course, to world-class wine education through an important cluster of research bodies, including the University of Adelaide, the Australian Wine Research Institute and the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).

I am advised that the global NOLO wine market is valued at over \$1.5 billion, and it is rapidly growing across the globe. Currently, Australian wine producers have about 5 per cent of that market share, but there are clearly great opportunities to be able to expand that further. For this reason, and many others, the Malinauskas Labor government is proud to partner with the University of Adelaide and the Australian Wine Research Institute to invest \$1.98 million into the creation of this NOLO trial-scale facility.

The trial-scale facility will provide opportunities for South Australian wine producers to undertake product development in what is a low-risk setting and will enable them to commercialise their products sooner. One of the particular benefits of this trial-scale facility is that producers will be able to experiment on as little as 150 litres of wine, whereas the current existing facilities require 10,000 litres of wine, which is very difficult for smaller producers to avail themselves of. Being able to use this facility for as little as 150 litres will be a big step forward.

Researchers from the University of Adelaide and the Australian Wine Research Institute now also have the best opportunity to make strong progression in the flavour, in the aroma and in the texture retention of NOLO products. I had the great pleasure of being able to sample some of the products that were already there, and I must say the 7 per cent alcohol white wine was very, very pleasant, and I can see some great commercial opportunities happening around that one, but there is still clearly more work that needs to occur for the no-alcohol options.

With research and development of NOLO wines taking place here in South Australia by researchers and our innovative wine producers, the South Australian wine sector can capitalise on this generational opportunity to diversify the wine product range to expand markets and build resilience both in traditional but also in non-traditional markets. The facility is open to wine businesses now. Anyone who wants to learn more and register can visit pir.sa.gov.au/nolo.

NO-ALCOHOL AND LOW-ALCOHOL WINE RESEARCH FACILITY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:50): Supplementary: when was the first grant announced by the South Australian government for this NOLO alcohol partnership?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:50): Certainly there were some press releases early last year, but in terms of funding, I approved funding in June last year.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Because after all, I think press releases are cheap. What we do is actually fund the initiatives.

RIVER MURRAY FLOOD RESPONSE

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (14:51): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General, representing both the Premier and Treasurer in another place, a question about road repairs.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Amid media fanfare in February, as the River Murray flood started dissipating, the Premier and Treasurer announced a \$60 million road repair package for River Murray communities substantially damaged by floodwaters. Last week, my Chief of Staff and I witnessed firsthand some of the damage caused to the many roads and highways impacted by the once-in-a-generation flood when we visited some of the worst impacted areas.

What became obvious to us and is of considerable concern to all the affected councils is that the \$60 million, which by the way isn't new money but money funded from within existing allocations, won't come close to fixing all the road damage. There is also concern that the resiphoned \$60 million is only to repair damage already caused and not to futureproof the damaged roads to ensure they aren't so severely impacted the next time there is a similar flood.

The council CEOs and mayors I spoke with last week are seeking an additional commitment of government funds—new funds—to help them with the betterment of the damaged roads. My questions to the Premier and Treasurer are:

1. Is the government considering/open to committing new funds to help affected councils improve, not just repair, roads and infrastructure damaged by the floods?

2. How much of the \$60 million is being given directly to local councils to help them repair council-owned roads and how much is being given to DIT to repair government-owned roads?

3. Do you agree with the logic of council CEOs and mayors who argue that if you are going to repair a flood-damaged road it makes sense to commit more funds to improve its flood resistance?

4. What other road projects across South Australia have been delayed or mothballed as a direct result of the \$60 million being funded from within other allocations?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:53): I thank the honourable member for his question. He has indicated two ministers in another place, but I suspect this spans even more than those two ministers, so I will take that question on notice and bring back a reply from the relevant minister or ministers in another place for the honourable member.

TARRKARRI

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:53): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing a question to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs regarding the Tarrkarri—Centre for First Nations Cultures.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: This morning on ABC radio, City of Adelaide Lord Mayor Dr Jane Lomax-Smith AM spoke at length about the Tarrkarri—Centre for First Nations Cultures and the outcome of the review panel's findings to state cabinet. After six years of consultation we understand there is support and enthusiasm for the centre in the South Australian Aboriginal community, and the understanding is there is an expectation it will go ahead as the promised internationally significant 'best in the world' institution. The Lord Mayor said the following on radio this morning:

It will be an extraordinary slap to Australian First Nations people to say, 'We've consulted you for six years and now we can't afford it.' This building could be iconic, it could be significant, it could be a game changer.

Will the South Australian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs commit to listening to the Aboriginal community and assure the chamber that this project will go ahead to the standard expected?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:54): I thank the honourable member for her question. I can absolutely assure her and this chamber I will listen to the South Australian Aboriginal community. I have done that since I have been in parliament and certainly in the seven or eight years I have held the portfolio, in government, in opposition and in government again, of Aboriginal Affairs, and I will continue to do that.

In relation to the Tarrkarri project, what I can say is one thing this government does not intend to do is create something that is so manifestly substandard that it's designed to fail. That's what the previous government had envisaged, had set it up. What was initially said was this could be something of what the previous government had envisaged was something that could be of some local interest. On coming to government, that's not something we wanted to do for this project. It's not something we were interested in doing and that's why a review has been undertaken and will be considered.

ARCHIBALD PRIZE

The Hon. T.T. NGO (14:56): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Will the minister inform the chamber about the strong recent history of Aboriginal people, particularly from the APY lands, and their involvement in the Archibald Prize?

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 his question and his strong interest in these issues. Since 1921, the Art Gallery of New South Wales has presented the Archibald Prize for a portrait painting. It is certainly one of this country's, if not the most, prestigious and significant art awards and a huge honour for those involved, particularly those

nominated. It has also had a long history of recognising both Aboriginal artists and subjects. In 1924, a portrait of Ngarrindjeri man David Unaipon was the first known portrait of an Aboriginal Australian that was exhibited.

In 1949, Georgia Lee became the first Aboriginal woman to be the subject of a portrait exhibited. In 1956, William Dargie's portrait of Aboriginal artist Albert Namatjira was the first portrait of an Aboriginal person to win the Archibald Prize. In 1989, Robert Campbell Junior was the first Aboriginal artist to be exhibited as part of the prize. In 2001, Julie Dowling was the first Aboriginal woman to be exhibited.

I am very proud to say that in 2020, very recently, Vincent Namatjira became the first Aboriginal artist to win the Archibald Prize for a painting of one of the most extraordinary humans I think Australia has ever seen, Adam Goodes, and I congratulate Vincent who is of the famous Namatjira family I have mentioned with Albert Namatjira. I have had the opportunity to meet Vincent a number of times. Vincent paints out of Iwantja Arts in Indulkana and creates extraordinary pieces of work.

In 2022, there were the highest number of entries for the Archibald Prize by Aboriginal artists, and for the first time a portrait of Karla Dickens, an Aboriginal artist by another Aboriginal artist, Blak Douglas, was the winner—quite a remarkable and increasing change in our history and our recognition of Aboriginal people and Aboriginal artists.

This year, across the three different prize categories, the numbers of entries and finalists by Aboriginal artists has hit a new high. Vincent Namatjira, OAM now, was born in Alice Springs, and as I said now calls Indulkana in the eastern side of the APY lands home. It was in Kanpi, a small community in the APY lands, in 2011 where Vincent met his wife, Natasha, and was inspired to take up painting.

In 2012, Vincent initially began working on traditional paintings, taught by Natasha. It was not until 2013 that Vincent started painting portraits, and the subject of one of his very first portraits was his great-grandfather, Albert Namatjira. As I mentioned earlier, a portrait of Albert Namatjira by William Dargie was the first painting of an Aboriginal person to win the Archibald Prize, and it is fitting that his great-grandson would go on to be the Aboriginal artist to first win the Archibald Prize.

I want to talk a little bit about some of the finalists in this year's Archibald Prize. One particular painting by an outstanding South Australian Aboriginal person is by someone who might be very familiar to the Hon. Robert Simms: Mr Simms' very talented brother, who hails from Adelaide, Michael Simms, has produced an oil portrait of Aboriginal musician and artist Zaachariaha Fielding, Nayuku Ukari-ku, who I am proud to say is, by ceremony, my nephew.

Some in the chamber may know Zaachariaha as the lead vocalist of a fantastic musical outfit, Electric Fields. Michael Simms drew inspiration from Zaachariaha's own work, depicting the musician on a dark background with elements of gold through the garment and his overall presence to depict 'Gold Energy', a powerful thing, not just in the songs of Electric Fields but in the paintings by Zaachariaha.

While there are many talented finalists from different walks of life showcasing their incredible work, one artist's work particularly stands out. Tiger Yaltangki, also from Iwantja Arts, Indulkana, is no stranger to the Australian art scene or the Archibald Prize, having been previously announced as a finalist in the Archibald Prize, also in the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, and for the Paul Guest Prize at the Bendigo Art Gallery—all in the year 2020.

Tiger, as an artist, draws inspiration from music and pop art, which translates onto canvas in characters, which is vastly different to many other works of art we see. Tiger's artwork, called *Ngayulu munu papa kutjara* (Me with two dogs) depicts a self-portrait of Tiger in the middle of two dogs, surrounded by different shapes and colours. These depictions highlight the importance of things in Tiger's life.

I want to congratulate Tiger, Michael Simms, Zaachariaha Fielding as the subject, and all artists and all those who sat and were depicted in the artwork, but particularly those Aboriginal people in this year's Archibald Prize.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING ORDERS

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:01): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question without notice to the Attorney-General on the topic of parliamentary standing orders.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: Last month, the *Adelaide Advertiser* reported that, following a review, changes have been made to standing orders in the other place to ensure the adoption of gender-neutral language. Previously, the standing orders in that place referred to the monarch as 'Her Majesty', the Governor as 'His Excellency', and the Chair of Committees as 'the Chairman'—anachronistic, given the number of women that are chairing committees in this parliament.

After the reforms were reported in the media, several members of the opposition lined up to say that they would oppose similar changes to standing orders here in this place. *The Advertiser*, however, later revealed that gender-neutral language had in fact already been adopted in this chamber. My question to the Attorney-General therefore is: in light of the confusion, will he clarify the current status of gender-neutral language within the Legislative Council's standing orders?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:02): I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in this area. I can certainly provide an answer to his question. I might start at the start, start from the beginning, and say that I am a firm believer that workplaces should strive to stay contemporary and relevant, particularly workplaces with such an old history of traditions as in our parliament. That's why this chamber unanimously recently agreed to rename the Strangers Gallery the Public Gallery. We have a responsibility in this place, I think, to be inclusive not just to the people who work here every day but to the diversity of the community that we represent.

With that being said, I can advise the honourable member that we have no plans to amend the standing orders in this chamber to introduce gender-neutral language, and that is quite simply because we were beaten to it. We were beaten to it, I am ashamed to say, not by the Greens—with apologies to the Hon. Robert Simms—but, to my great shame, we were beaten to it by that beacon of political correctness, the Hon. Robert Ivan Lucas—the wizard of wokeness, the prince of progressiveness, the king of correctness: the Hon. Robert Ivan Lucas.

I have to say, I think many people have been astounded over the last few weeks at what we have heard about the priorities from those opposite. While those on this side of the chamber and many on the crossbench were working hard for the people of this state, the Liberal Party in this chamber chose to spend its time over the last month trying to start a culture war with themselves, and I am not even sure that's a war that they would win. A culture war that was fought and won by their own side in the last century.

It was on the motion of the king of woke, the Hon. Robert Ivan Lucas, that gender-neutral language was removed from the standing orders of this council back in 1999.

The Hon. I.K. Hunter: When?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: In 1999—almost a quarter of a century ago. In the 1999 report of the Standing Orders Committee, chaired by then Liberal MLC and President, the Hon. Jamie Irwin, the very first recommendation was, and I quote, 'Standing orders be amended to incorporate gender neutral language.' It was such a sensible change that the Hon. Robert Lucas put forward, remembering he was the Liberal campaign's spokesperson just last year. The Hon. Rob Lucas, last century, urged all members to support the change to gender-neutral language.

For the record, this woke gender-neutral language was passed unanimously—not a single vote of dissent in August 1999. I am sure the Hon. Rob Lucas has dragged off that spoil of war, his gender-neutral win no doubt rousing cheers over muskets at dawn at The Adelaide Club. I can imagine him now in his twilight years, as he tends to his ponies in the field, remembering, thinking back on this great victory in his younger days: removing gender-neutral language from the Legislative Council. Guess what happened when this change was brought in last century? Nothing. The sky didn't fall in, the world didn't come to an end. Gender-neutral language, last century, really was the Y2K of its time.

The Hon. Dennis Hood is quoted as railing against this with great passion, saying that the Liberal Party was likely to come to a different position in the Legislative Council should there be a move away from non gender-neutral language here. Unfortunately, it had already happened more than 20 years ago. The Hon. Nicola Centofanti was quoted in the media also, standing firmly against this change that had already happened. The honourable member obviously wanted a time machine to go back more than a quarter of a century to fight the culture war with the Hon. Robert Ivan Lucas.

Just yesterday, it was reported in the media that a former Liberal candidate has criticised her own colleagues as focusing on niche culture war issues within the Liberal Party. I can assure this council that this government will continue focusing on issues that impact South Australians, not fighting against the ghost of Rob Lucas, tilting at his windmill, but it's a shame we can't say the same of those opposite. Ta.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING ORDERS

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:08): Supplementary.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr Hood has a supplementary question.

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: Is the Attorney-General implying or stating that there is no gender-specific language in all of the Legislative Council's standing orders?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:08): I think that standing order 455A refers to he or she, And do you know what, sir? When the Liberals were caught out either being ignorant or incompetent, and not knowing, they said, 'It says he or she in 455A'. No-one believes that. They thought these changes weren't made. They didn't know the Hon. Rob Lucas had made these changes. They had no clue, no idea and they are not relevant.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING ORDERS

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:08): A further supplementary: Attorney, did the Hon. Robert Simms advise you previous to question time today to be asking this question?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:08): I have discussions with many of my colleagues many times about a whole range of things, and do you know what? I thank the Hon. Robert Simms for raising this question today. We know the Hon. Robert Simms takes these matters seriously but, unlike some of those opposite, he also concentrates on matters like rent prices in South Australia. We may not always agree on the positive steps to overcome them, but I commend the Hon. Robert Simms for actually taking into account the sorts of issues that affect South Australians, rather than fighting culture wars with the ghost of the Hon. Rob Lucas.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING ORDERS

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:09): Supplementary: is the Attorney-General in the habit of having pre-advised or pre-warned questions in questions without notice in our chamber?

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: Point of order: supplementaries must arise from the original answer.

The PRESIDENT: We are all well aware of it and that's correct.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. H.M. Girolamo interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Ms Girolamo, you can ask a question now. It's finally your turn to talk.

*Personal Explanation***QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (15:10): I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! I am sure leave will be granted.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: I ask the Hon. Mr Wortley to withdraw and apologise for his comments about my colleagues and I that were made earlier. I query whether he would characterise a male member of the parliament in this manner. Using words such as 'screeching' or 'decibels' or 'OH&S issues' is highly offensive, and I ask you to withdraw and apologise immediately.

The PRESIDENT: I believe the question is directed to the Hon. Mr Wortley, who can choose to answer it or not.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (15:10): This should not be a gender issue; this is a health and safety issue. If there were three males over there screeching in such a high-pitched voice I would say the same thing.

*Question Time***AUTISM**

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (15:11): I seek leave to provide a brief explanation before asking a question of the parliamentary secretary regarding autism.

Leave granted.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: Since being appointed as the Assistant Minister for Autism, the parliamentary secretary has refused to answer questions on six occasions, questions from the opposition in regard to autism, autism in schools and preschools and funding for the Autism Strategy, instead stating, 'I'm not the education minister', despite the questions clearly being within her portfolio responsibility area of autism and autism responsibility.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order, the Hon. Mr Hunter! Conclude.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: My questions to the parliamentary secretary in her role as Assistant Minister for Autism are:

1. What is the parliamentary secretary responsible to the chamber for?
2. What questions are allowed to be asked or will be answered?

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (15:12): I thank the honourable member for her question. I think we just have to reflect back a few months when the President advised the chamber that I have no responsibility in answering questions to this chamber as the parliamentary secretary. We have had this discussion that it is not the responsibility of the parliamentary secretary to answer questions in the chamber. I have been advised—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! This isn't a conversation.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: We were advised earlier that that wasn't necessarily a responsibility of the parliamentary secretary. I am happy to seek advice from the Clerk to see what is the responsibility in regard to question time. I am happy to talk about what we are doing in autism, because it is something that has not happened before in South Australia.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: I'm more than happy to say that I am not the minister for autism. I am the parliamentary secretary for autism and I am the first parliamentary secretary in the entire world to focus on autism.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: The Hon. Jing Lee says to do something about what we are doing. Well, I can assure you that we are, because—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: It is really important for this chamber to focus on the fact that this state, South Australia—

The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Attorney, you are not helping.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: —is leading the nation when it comes to autism. We are doing roles in South Australia that have never been done before. There has never been such a large network of autism inclusion teachers in any schools in our nation that I have been advised of. I have been advised that our consultation—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: —is leading the way in the autistic community. I have been advised that we are bringing communities and private businesses together that have never been brought together before to be able to actually start building more inclusive environments. I have been advised that our consultation was the largest consultation for YourSAy when it came to a disability focus—and not just by a small amount.

We had over 180 people, I am advised, who applied for our very first in the nation, predominantly led, autistic advisory committee. This has not happened before. We are not just saying that we are going to start making change for the autistic community, we are walking side by side with the autistic community. My job is to do just this: to bring a spotlight to the autistic community and the autism community, a spotlight that has—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: You asked the question.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: —not been on this community before, and a spotlight—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: You asked the question.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: —I would like to point out, that those opposite—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: You asked the question.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: —have not put on this community. Those opposite have not put a spotlight on this. You had the opportunity when you had a reshuffle to also put in a shadow ministry for autism, but you didn't. That could have been a responsibility that you did—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: —but it doesn't really surprise me that that was not the case.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! No, parliamentary secretary, I have given you leeway; conclude your remarks so that we can move on. I want to get to the crossbench.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: I am very proud of what we have been able to achieve. We have been able to achieve a lot in this space in a very short amount of time, and I cannot wait to continue to work side by side with the autistic community, getting out into the community, holding forums and hearing what is important to them—not just hearing, but listening and also acting on their advice.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hanson. The Hon. Mr Hanson. The Hon. Mr Hanson, I have given you the call three times now.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON: I was just so impressed by that answer, sir.

GHOST MUSHROOM LANE

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:16): My question is to the Minister for Forest Industries. Will the minister inform the chamber about the start of the Ghost Mushroom Lane in the Limestone Coast?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:16): I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in *Omphalotus nidiformis*. I am not sure if he realised that he was interested in *Omphalotus nidiformis*, but that is the name of ghost mushrooms, something that I have spoken about in this chamber before, and I am sure I will do so again.

I am delighted to report that our forests in the Limestone Coast will once again be a key tourist attraction for the region with the unique Ghost Mushroom Lane. I am sorry to see that those opposite are not interested in this unique part of the world which I am so happy to be able to call home, in terms of the Limestone Coast. Ghost Mushroom Lane is a temporary event open to the public between May and June each year.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Ghost mushrooms get their name because they have an eerie glow and these mushroom cup-shaped fruiting bodies grow on pine stumps and other rotting wood, and can grow as big as 20 centimetres. The chemical in the mushroom responsible for the glow can be poisonous if ingested, however, it poses no harm simply to the touch.

I am advised that, although it has been a slow start to the season due to the warm autumn weather, the mushrooms are now emerging in good numbers. The rate of growth is so good that I understand the event is expected to formally open this Friday night, 5 May. It is a unique event and provides a family-friendly night walk through a pine forest to view the luminescent glow of the ghost mushroom.

It really is a magical experience for all ages, and I encourage members to consider a visit over the coming weeks. This event is one of the many benefits highlighted through ForestrySA's community service obligation programs. In the Limestone Coast these are delivered under an agreement between ForestrySA and the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and together with DEW and ForestrySA private partners, including OneFortyOne Plantations, collaborate to deliver this showcase event at the beginning of each wet season.

There is a lot involved in terms of planning and preparation, and I would like to thank all of those who are involved with this. It is a truly remarkable project. It is estimated that over 100,000 people have enjoyed visiting this since its inception back in 2017, and it is expected that over 10,000 visitors to the site will occur this year. I look forward to being able to update this place at a later date about the success of this year's event and the economic benefit to the region.

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:18): I hope our guests here today are not looking at us as model examples of how to behave. With that, I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development a very important question about a cost-recovery policy review of South Australia's seafood industry.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: As we know, the South Australian government recently commenced an independent review of the current commercial seafood sector's cost-recovery policy model to ensure that it was flexible, sustainable and appropriate. For that to occur, the minister established an independent cost-recovery review panel to ensure that there was an objective process to provide advice for government consideration.

For the uninitiated, the objective of the cost-recovery policy introduced about 20 years ago was to try to ensure any costs associated with government services that arise are directly attributable to commercial fishing practices and are recovered partly from commercial licence holders through regulated licence fees. Those services include management policy, scientific monitoring and stock assessment, compliance and licensing.

In reality, several commercial fishing sectors in South Australia are currently operating in an environment costing commercial operators between 10 and 25 per cent of their revenue in licence costs and at the same time there's no comparable policy applicable to recreational fishing sector bodies.

Commercial fishing sectors are facing a grim future and this is heavily impacting their mental health. Indeed, the Premier has acknowledged the stress the sector is under when he wrote to key stakeholders last year following the government's election when reinforcing Labor's election commitment to reduce licence fees by 50 per cent in the northern and southern rock lobster fisheries. In that letter he said, and I quote:

I know your industry has been hit hard over the past few years. There is no doubt this has been a difficult time for the dedicated fishers and producers in your industry who work hard to export a first-class South Australian product to the world.

Furthermore, he wrote:

My government stands ready to continue to assist the industry with a further commitment to review the effectiveness of the current cost recovery model by considering the merits of different approaches to recovering fees for that service that could incorporate more flexibility into what are increasingly volatile markets.

My questions to the minister are:

1. Can the minister provide an update on the review process?
2. Is the review on schedule? If so, and in light of the Premier's election commitment, his letter to the industry and the continuing volatility of the sector, will the minister assure this council, and most importantly the sectors involved and impacted by cost-recovery policy, that the final report will be publicly released prior to any recommendations being finalised and going to cabinet for sign-off?
3. In the meantime, has consideration been given to an interim report being made publicly available so as to give stakeholders the opportunity to respond to the panel's recommendations?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:21): I thank the honourable member for her question and, indeed, her ongoing interest in the commercial fishing sector. I would like to emphasise again the premise of the cost-recovery approach, which is that South Australia's aquatic resources are owned by the state and managed by PIRSA on behalf of the South Australian community. They are a community resource and therefore costs associated with government services that arise as a result of commercial access to the resource are recovered from commercial licence holders through regulated licence fees.

The honourable member has already outlined the election commitment that we made in terms of having a review of the cost-recovery process and that was in contrast to what had previously happened in terms of things that were titled reviews, which looked more at the nuts and bolts implementation rather than necessarily the underlying premise of cost recovery.

We have two cost-recovery reviews going. One is looking at aquaculture and the other is looking at the remainder of the fisheries. I have not been advised that there are any delays in that.

In fact, in my regular catchups with various stakeholders within the industries, they have indicated that they have had positive interactions with the panel that is undertaking the review. As I have mentioned in the past, the expectation is that I will release the recommendations later this year.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The PRESIDENT: I would like to acknowledge in the gallery the former President of the Legislative Council, Senator McLachlan. I also welcome Senator Antic, the former member for Waite, the member for Barker, and the former member for Boothby. All guests are very welcome.

Members

MEMBER, NEW

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:24): By leave, I move:

That this council welcomes the Hon. Ben Hood, elected by an Assembly of Members of both houses on 7 March 2023, caused by the resignation of the Hon. S.G. Wade.

The PRESIDENT: Before I call the Hon. Mr Hood, I remind members of the courtesy that we extend in this place to a member making their maiden speech. I call the Hon. Mr Ben Hood.

The Hon. B.R. HOOD (15:24): In addressing this place for the first time, the honour to do so in front of my parliamentary colleagues, and, importantly, my friends and family, is not lost on this regional bloke from Mount Gambier. I would first like to acknowledge the Hon. Stephen Wade, whose position I now fill. Stephen, thank you for your 16 years of dedicated service to the people of South Australia.

I am honoured to be standing here in this place as a regional representative, along with fellow country members the Hon. Nicola Centofanti MLC, the Hon. Clare Scriven MLC and, of course, yourself, Mr President. No matter which side of the fence one is on, it can only be a positive thing that South Australia's regions can add another voice to their parliamentary representation.

Home for my family is in the state's South-East, the Limestone Coast, an area known for fossils, farming, forestry and wine. It is where my siblings and I were raised by my mum, Penny, my dad, Robin, and my stepdad, Patrick, and it is where my wife, Elle, and I now raise our family.

My mum worked in aged care at Longridge Retirement Village in Naracoorte. Before mum met Patrick, mum would work nights and me, at the age of 11, would look after my brother, Toby, and sister, Lucy—cook tea, run the baths and get them to bed. I had to grow up quickly, but these times strengthened my love for my family and, like mum, I would do anything for them.

Mum's passion for her residents led to her becoming a lifestyle coordinator at Longridge, a role she was born to do. Her dedication made many older people's lives so much brighter. Our older generation are a wealth of knowledge and wisdom and still offer so much to our communities, to our state and to our nation, and we would be a poorer nation should we ever forget that.

There was not a person in Naracoorte who did not love my stepdad, Patrick. Patrick also shared my love of music and would buy me the latest Nirvana or Pearl Jam CD and let me keep the original if I burnt him a copy. I am not going to incriminate myself in breaking copyright law in my maiden speech; still, Patrick and I enjoyed the greatest decade of music together.

My life has always included music, both listening and playing, a love that ultimately began with the most polarising of all instruments: the bagpipes. On Friday night, dad, a farmer but even more passionate car collector, would load us up into whatever vehicle he chose to drive that day and take us all to band practice. Much like parliament these days, the Hoods made up quite a contingent of the Naracoorte Highland Pipe Band. My grandfather, Lindsay, my dad and I all played the bagpipes. In addition, my brother, Toby, played the snare drum and my sister, Lucy, played the tenor drum.

The Hoods would play across the Limestone Coast on ANZAC Day, in Christmas pageants and country shows, and we wore our Wallace tartan with pride. Unfortunately, being a 15-year-old

teenager wearing a kilt on weekends in front of the entirety of my peer group proved too much pressure. I stopped playing the bagpipes and turned my attention to the guitar and singing in rock bands. In those early years, my voice sounded distinctly like the bagpipes I had given up. But singing then, as it is now, is a passion of mine and at some point I got a little better at holding a tune.

I have performed for many years across the country, but no matter the size of the crowd or in front of no-one at all, I still close my eyes and enjoy singing for the sake of it. Without music, without art, our world would be a darker place. Nietzsche said, 'The essence of all beautiful art, of all great art, is gratitude.' As a musician, a designer, as an illustrator and as an artist, I am grateful for the opportunity I will have to be a champion of the arts in this place.

My weekends growing up were spent on the farm with dad, cleaning troughs, tearing around on our old ag bikes and spotlighting for rabbits and foxes. Dad would give you the clothes off his back or his very last dollar. He was always ready to help a neighbour, a mate or a stranger, and he taught me that, ultimately, we are all the same—none higher than any other—and if you can help, you should.

One of my favourite memories from the farm was spending hours exploring the Mary Seymour Conservation Park at Bool Lagoon. Our nanna, Bobby, would lead us through the bush trails left by kangaroos, pointing out the natural flora and fauna. Nanna is now 100, and my love for our natural landscape and ensuring that we do our best to preserve our environment grew from those times with her.

My grandparents, Lindsay and Bobby Hood and Lavington and Lois Fisher, were all farmers. My pa, Lavington Fisher, lived to 103, and Lindsay, or Fafa as we affectionately called him, lived to 91. They were both constants in my life, sharing their wisdom, and I miss them dearly, along with my late grandmother, Lois, whose love for music, reading and exploring the wider world in person or by the pages of *National Geographic* was passed on to me.

My grandparents taught me the value of hard work, of getting the job done and, importantly, that if you are going to be a member of a community, you should always give back to that community. Whilst my grandparents shared those values, you would not have found a more distinct set of political or ideological views. The Hoods were Liberal conservatives, and agnostic at best. The Fishers were Labor voters with a strong Christian faith.

Political and ideological differences have always been a hallmark of my family, and not just between the Labor member for Adelaide (my little sister, Lucy) and I. My grandfather was a passionate duck hunter and I joined him on many hunts as a child around our home at Bool Lagoon—the road around the Bool is now named after him. I distinctly remember one night, as a family, gathering around the lounge room TV to watch Lindsay's wife, Bobby, my grandmother, be interviewed by *The 7.30 Report*. We were all very excited and proud to see nanna on national TV, but my grandfather maybe not, as the reason why nanna was being interviewed by *The 7.30 Report* was her passionate opposition to duck hunting. It was quite the talking point around the district that week.

The dinner table has always been a place for strong debate in our family, and I speak of my family to illustrate a point: that husbands and wives, that grandparents and parents, that brothers and sisters, that friends can share and can respect and love each other but still hold opposing views. They can fiercely debate the issues and maintain their respective ground and still break bread at the dinner table, sharing an understanding that our ideas, our views and beliefs are but one part of us as fearfully made human beings.

But what I see in the public square, both physical and digital, concerns me. Many are jettisoning respectful debate for arranging others into smaller and smaller tribes, shouting into their own echo chambers and doing the most vicious things a society that should champion free speech can do, and that is to cancel someone. We will not always agree. Indeed, we may never agree, but we should always attempt to hold another's views in tension with our own and, should it be necessary, agree to disagree and break some bread irrespective of it.

One of the ways our society is currently failing to do this is through respecting people's right to personal faith. Attacking people because they are Christian or Jewish, for example, seems to have

become popular, especially with many on the left side of politics. For much my life, I was an evangelical atheist. I owned a Bible to ensure that I had the ammunition I needed to debate Christians and help them understand how silly their faith really was. But as is the case with God, He is more patient with me than I am with Him, and after a crisis of faith in my own atheism, and after six months of a wrestle with a God I did not believe in, I became a Christian and was baptised, along with Neave and Piper, in 2013.

My faith in Christ is what guides me, and although I am quite honestly a pretty ordinary Christian at the best of times, the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:8 tells us:

For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith—and this is not from yourselves, but a gift from God...

My ability to question and to think for myself, to find my faith, came from not just our robust family dinners but from my school education, and it may surprise you to know I was a good student—in primary school at least.

Everyone can remember their favourite teacher, those men and women who make learning fun and who are a trusted adult to guide and inspire. My favourite teacher was Mrs Yvonne Hogarth. Mrs Hogarth inspired not only my academic learning but saw in me a creative streak and fostered it. Mrs Hogarth gave me the opportunity to test my artistic skills and silly comedy skits in front of school assemblies. Yvonne is still a friend and, as a woman of incredible Christian faith, has in my later years been a source of inspiration in my own journey to faith in Jesus Christ.

Education is a vital foundation for the prosperity of our society. We must ensure our education system reflects education and not indoctrination. We need more Yvonne Hogarths in our schools. We need more teachers like my little brother Liam, those who educate but, importantly, inspire our children. We must ensure the basics are taught in primary school and instil in our next generation the skills of critical thinking and resilience, teaching not what to think but how to think.

In high school I quickly realised I wanted to get out into the world and work, so in 1996, halfway through my year 11 studies, I left school to start an apprenticeship as a graphic artist with the local newspaper, *The Naracoorte Herald*. I loved graphic design but was not particularly good at it for the first 3½ years of my four-year apprenticeship. But with the help and patience of my dear friend and mentor, Natalie Burgess, I eventually found my feet.

In 2000, I joined print house Hansen Print and continued to hone my skills in traditional design and branched out into web development, teaching myself through trial and error how to design and build websites, knowing that in the future this skill would be what I needed to start my own business.

In 2005, Elle and I married, and in 2006 we welcomed our eldest daughter, Neave, into the world. At 26 years old with a young family to support, I knew I needed to bring in a little bit more money, so on weekends I worked at the Bushman's Arms, pouring beers, and on weeknights after my day job I would work into the night designing and animating TV commercials for local businesses with my side hustle, Capture Creative.

My work ethic could be described as like a bull at a gate. For me it has always been a case of being afraid that if I stop I will not be able to start again, but the most important thing is to start. Perfect is always the enemy of the good. If you have a passion, if you want to succeed, just start and you will always be surprised where you end up.

In 2008, Elle, Neave and I moved to Mount Gambier for Elle to study to be a registered nurse and midwife. We did not think we would stay in Mount Gambier past Elle finishing her degree, but in six months we knew this beautiful city would be home for our family. Between Elle's study we welcomed Piper in 2011 and Arlo in 2016, and with him our little family was complete. I am so proud of Elle for her achievements in returning to study. With UniSA building a campus in our region, our family did not need to move to Adelaide for Elle to achieve her dreams.

While Elle was studying, in 2009 my friend Simone Kain and I took a leap of faith and merged our two businesses to launch the creative agency Hello Friday. In 2014, Simone, inspired by her young son's love of farming, suggested we create a children's farming character to teach the next generation about where their food and fibre comes from. Simone began to write the first story, and I

got busy illustrating how our new farming hero and his world would look. I was lucky enough to be able to draw on the wonderful memories I had as a kid on the farm at Bool Lagoon.

George the Farmer was born and has grown into 14 picture books, toys, music and a TV show on the ABC. We have performed in every state and territory in the country and in front of tens of thousands of kids, both city and regional, and 50¢ from every book sold goes into producing free curriculum-aligned teachers' guides that have been used to educate tens of thousands of Aussie kids.

It is vitally important that our next generation know that the true origin of their food is from the farm and not the supermarket shelf and to understand the role our farmers play in the prosperity of our state and our nation. I am proud of what Simone and I have been able to do with George, and I know that this is only the beginning of the George the Farmer story.

It is also vitally important that the next generation are encouraged to do what I have done and start their own business or at the very least understand how important our small businesses are. Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy, especially in the regions, and I want to advocate for our small business community right here because I know what it means to risk everything, to go out on your own, to employ people and make ends meet. There is no greater risk but similarly no greater reward. Our state government should be finding ways to reduce red tape and limit oppressive cost-of-doing-business increases, and I will fight for this throughout my time in this place.

I have advocated for small business during my time serving the community over many years, notably in my service on the City of Mount Gambier as a councillor and deputy mayor. I see the privilege of serving in this place as a natural extension of my previous role serving my local community.

I am proud to have continued the tradition in my family of serving on local councils. My grandfather, Lavington, was councillor for Edenhope in the Victorian Kowree Shire and my grandfather, Lindsay, was a councillor for the Naracoorte council. To have been part of the achievements over the last five years in council with the City of Mount Gambier under the leadership of Mayor Lynette Martin is very special to me, particularly regarding the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre.

Wulanda is a generational asset for our state's second largest city and would not have been realised without the thousands of hours of grassroots community involvement, from the initial town hall meeting through to the official opening only a short month ago. Of course, without the \$15 million from the former Liberal federal government, secured by the member for Barker, Tony Pasin, and the \$10 million from the former Liberal state government, Wulanda would have remained a dream. My great-grandkids will learn to swim in Wulanda and I am proud to have played a small part in delivering the project.

Ultimately, I am here because I want to ensure that we leave our state a better place for our children. As a Liberal, I believe in the inalienable rights and freedoms of all peoples, of personal responsibility, enterprise and aspiration. In his speech to the electors of Bristol, the father of conservatism, Edmund Burke, famously said:

Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgement; and he betrays you instead of serving you if he sacrifices it to your opinion.

In this place, as elected representatives, we have a duty to use our own judgement and expertise to make decisions in the best interests of our constituents, even if those decisions may not align with the popular opinion. By prioritising our constituents' interests over our own popularity, we will demonstrate integrity and serve as true representatives of the people. Burke, in his wisdom, also said:

A state without the means of some change is without the means of its conservation.

I want the people of South Australia to have the opportunity to own their own home, to start a business, the opportunity to create and to give back, the opportunity to have a crack without the government getting in the way. But are our current systems working?

When I hear of people not being able to access the housing market, when stamp duty may account for up to 20 per cent of their deposit, is the system working? When bureaucrats make decisions that materially affect people's lives, close their businesses and restrict their ability to earn a living or even see their own families, while those same bureaucrats do not suffer the same consequences for their decisions, is the system working?

When regional people in the fight of their lives with cancer must strive 10-hour round trips to Adelaide for radiation treatment when funding was available for the service in their home region, is the system working? When everyday South Australians are suffering through a cost-of-living crisis and energy prices skyrocket, yet ideology trumps practicality in our energy mix, is the system working? When we as a state can build and as a nation operate nuclear submarines but cannot even have a conversation about utilising nuclear energy for our base load generation, is the system working?

We must begin the hard conversations as a state and as a nation to ensure the system works for everyday South Australians, that the levers we pull in this place make the road straight for those seeking an opportunity to prosper. Government is at its best when it works in tandem to provide equal access to opportunities and nurtures the aspirations of the citizens they are elected to represent. We must reward those who want to put in the effort, and encourage and support those who because of circumstance cannot.

These values, values the Liberal Party holds dearly, can unlock the potential of individuals and communities alike, unleash creativity and innovation, and build a brighter and more prosperous state. History shows that big, unwieldy and centralised governments are hampered in achieving these ideals. Decentralising government services away from the capital city and into the regions must be considered.

Post pandemic, this moment is a prime opportunity for us to reconsider how we deliver essential government services and to investigate moving departments into our regions or establishing satellite offices in our regional population centres. The benefits that could be derived from our regional cities and towns are immense.

This country's longest serving Prime Minister and founder of our great Liberal Party of Australia, Sir Robert Menzies, made home ownership a national policy objective. As a result, home ownership rates skyrocketed from 50 per cent of the population in the forties to over 70 per cent in the sixties while Menzies was at the helm of this ship called the great Australian dream. Menzies defined a home as:

...the foundation of sanity and sobriety; it is the indispensable condition of continuity; its health determines the health of society as a whole.

Menzies understood the importance of the family unit and that they must have a home for the family unit to be strong.

An increasing number of Australians believe home ownership is an unattainable aspiration. Without the bank of mum and dad, this great Australian dream is vanishing for today's youth. While adhering to Menzies' values of self-sacrifice, frugality and saving is still essential in achieving this dream, reforms are needed to reduce the heavy impost of taxation on the family home, which governments have become all too reliant on. Every policy area touching the housing market is crushed by regulation and red tape in finance, planning and construction.

There is no greater example in Australian history of the proportional relationship between bureaucratic regulation and poor outcomes, except perhaps in education. Stamp duty is lazy, archaic and an inefficient tax. Alternative taxation methods that are more efficient and fairer ought to be investigated, as jurisdictions to our east are pursuing.

Of course, no-one comes into this place without the assistance and support of many. To my wonderful friends here today—Bec Wight and Shane Hagan, Ben Uppill, Adam Creek, Mayor Lynette Martin OAM and Colin Martin—thank you for being friends I can count on through thick and thin. To my friends of the Mount Gambier Liberal branch and more broadly around the state: thank you for your prayers, your friendship and your support. I would like to acknowledge those here today—Mark

and Julie Peucker, Neil and Krys Howard, John and Lyn Nitschke, John and Di Harvey, and Marg and Colin Westmore—and those who are watching back home. I hope I can make you all proud.

I would like to especially acknowledge federal member for Barker Tony Pasin MP and Senator Alex Antic for all their support over many years. To my friends whom I have served with on state executive: Party President Rowan Mumford, Lachie Haynes and his wife Sarah, Mayor Ella Winnall, Leah Blyth, Nicolle Flint, Aric Pierce, and Jake Hall-Evans, thank you for your continued friendship.

I would also like to acknowledge my friends and colleagues here today: the President, the Hon. Terry Stephens MLC; the Hon. Nicola Centofanti MLC; the Hon. Laura Curran MLC; the Hon. Heidi Girolamo MLC; the Hon. Dennis Hood MLC; Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC; opposition leader David Speirs MP; Sam Telfer MP; Adrian Pederick MP; Josh Teague MP; State Director Alex May; Alexander Hyde; Sam Duluk; David Blyth; Lee Girolamo; Cam Henderson; and many other of my colleagues in the lower house. Thank you for your friendship and support and for welcoming me into this place. To my Liberal colleagues in this place, the Hon. Jing Lee MLC and the Hon. Michelle Lensink MLC, I look forward to fighting the good fight with you.

To my brothers, Toby and Liam: you will not find two more different blokes who are exactly the same when it comes to their kindness, their humour and their love for family. I am so proud to call you my brothers. To my little sister, Lucy, the best looking Hood in parliament—sorry, Dennis—I am proud that we have been able to make a little bit of history in this place, but I am infinitely more proud of you and your passion and commitment to our state and to your community. Thank you for being my little sister. I love you. To Audrey and Ned, Uncle Ben loves you too.

To Mum, thank you for everything that you have sacrificed for me. To Alan, thank you for being a loving influence in our lives, especially to our kids. To Dad, to Bruce and to nanna, thank you for your love, your support and your wisdom throughout my life.

To my beautiful wife, Elle, thank you for all your love and for keeping me grounded. You are an inspiration to many for your dedication to your calling as a midwife, and I am so proud of you. I love you. To my wonderful children, Neave, Piper and Arlo, I could not ask for a more beautiful bunch of misfits to be a dad to. You are so much like me, but I know you will forge your own paths. Thank you for allowing dad to do this job. I know it is hard for me to be away, but I am here because of you, because I want to play a small part in ensuring that our state is a place where you can prosper, where you can grow and live your lives to the fullest. I love you more than you could know.

In closing, I would like to read a few lines from poet Adam Lindsay Gordon. Adam Lindsay Gordon was many things, including a horseman, a police officer and a politician, and he lived no more than 20 minutes from my home in Mount Gambier on a property called Dingley Dell. It is not Gordon's political career or daring horsemanship I wish to dwell on today, but his words.

Stand Like Stone is South Australia's largest community foundation, and it is a foundation I have been privileged to be a director of, along with many of my friends, including my late next door neighbour, Brian Page, who was a founding donor and patron of Stand Like Stone until his passing in 2022. Stand Like Stone is named after the final stanza of Gordon's poem, *Ye Wearie Wayfarer*. I hope that these words will guide me as I serve the people of South Australia in this place:

Life is mostly froth and bubble,

Two things stand like stone.

Kindness in another's trouble,

Courage in your own.

Motion carried.

Matters of Interest

PLANNING AND DESIGN CODE

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (15:52): I rise to make some remarks in relation to some planning and design issues that have been made of late and to point out the asymmetrical approach by this current government in particular when a local member of parliament disagrees with the

minister and the government in relation to a zoning issue or a code amendment, as it is often known now, in their particular area.

I say so as a member of the Environment, Resources and Development Committee, which has a significant statutory role in terms of code amendments, in that the minister refers matters to us which we can consider agreeing to, not agreeing to, or recommending amendments to the minister. We have had several so far and those include some of the new policy as a result of changes to the way the act is operating in relation to developer-led amendments, but there are three in particular that I would like to highlight.

There was a matter to do with Mooringe Avenue, Plympton, zoning. That was a private-led code amendment process. The amendment was to change the zone to a maximum building height of three storeys, and to include in that the overlays that relate to affordable housing.

The Environment Resources and Development Committee—and these are matters on the public record—made a decision to suggest some amendments, which were accepted by the minister, and I do not seek to reflect on the merits of those or otherwise because those are matters of deliberation by the committee.

We also had a code amendment relating to the Riverbank Precinct, which was to fulfil the new Labor government's commitment to alter that zoning to fulfil its particular commitments and revert to what had existed previously in relation to an area known as Helen Mayo Park. That was something that was addressed by the committee as well and, again, I make no reflection upon that because that is a process for the committee.

However, in relation to the Kidman Park residential mixed-use code amendment, there has been quite a diversion from the processes that have been considered previously. The member for Colton, Mr Matt Cowdrey OAM MP, has been fighting in the corner of the local residents on this particular amendment, on which he and the local residents believe they have not been listened to.

There was information provided to the community in 2021 which indicated that there would be something along the lines of townhouse developments, two storeys, three storeys, and I am quoting from the proponents of that particular site: '[We don't] think the site is ultimately needed to contain apartments or other styles of higher-density development.'

The City of Charles Sturt undertook a sponsored code amendment process and what had been envisaged as 250 dwellings on that site has now become something much larger and there is a significant diversion from the indicative layout that was provided to the community originally in favour of five four-storey high apartment blocks.

The member for Colton has consistently championed what the locals have been seeking, which I think can be characterised as they are generally in favour of development of the site but do not agree with the large five-storey proposals, or four storeys for that matter. The member for Colton has said that it appears the government may be making up the rules as they go as this has been effectively endorsed by the minister.

The member for Colton and some local residents came and made some representations to the Environment Resources and Development Committee but it was, unfortunately, very obvious that this code amendment is not going to be amended by the Labor Party and the wishes of the locals have been overruled.

WORLD DROWNING PREVENTION DAY

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (15:57): I have spoken before on the tragic but preventable subject of child drowning and the upcoming World Drowning Prevention Day gives me another opportunity to reinforce the message.

If I sound repetitive, I make no apology. Drowning is one of those tragedies that may never be completely eradicated but we can certainly do much more to reduce the chances of it happening. Most drowning prevention measures are common sense and it is often apathy and plain non-thinking that leads to many of the tragic deaths.

A pool fence with a gate that closes automatically is not just the right thing to do, it is legally required, so is adult supervision for children under the age of 10 or those who cannot swim. The Royal Life Saving Society figures are sobering but very necessary reading. The latest national drowning report showed that 339 people drowned across Australia between July 2021 and June 2022. Of those, we lost 13 people in South Australia.

There were a further 686 non-fatal incidents nationally, some of which have left massive physical and emotional issues for the victims and their families. Those national figures—and it is sad but still necessary that they are reduced to statistics—are a 15 per cent increase on the previous year. Let us think about that: it means that 50 more lives were lost than one year earlier.

The figures show that every year Australia loses 22 children under the age of four to drowning, and another 10 every year aged between five and 14. Every one of these deaths is due to a lack of adult supervision, no matter how briefly they have gone unsupervised or unnoticed. A third of those children perish in swimming pools, almost exclusively backyard pools, and the most common factor is falling into the pool.

This tells us that if a young child is within a swimming pool area, whether they are swimming or not, safety measures need to be taken. Toddlers should have an adult watching them at all times and be wearing a floating device. These numbers tell us that we need to improve the already good work being done in teaching children to swim and educating them on water awareness. It is encouraging that the percentage of drowning deaths among young children is decreasing, but we cannot get optimistic while drowning deaths are being recorded.

The reason for the decline is the remarkable work done by the Royal Life Saving Society of South Australia and the lessons being taught at swimming schools around Australia. The overwhelming number of Australian children learn to swim in swimming pools, and this is where the Royal Life Saving Society does its work. For the trend to keep travelling in the same direction, we need to make sure that the Royal Life Saving Society continues to get the funding it needs to provide the courses needed to save lives.

The society's Swim and Survive courses are designed to consolidate the foundation skills children should be learning as infants, teaching them new skills and increasing the distance and duration they can swim. These kids have a lot of fun doing the courses but the focus is squarely on safety and survival around water. They are taught floating and orientation, swimming and survival strokes and rescue methods, and are educated about water hazards. The course is inclusive for all children and is an essential and critical part of a child's greater education.

Of course, children need to be taught about water safety and the dangers water presents from a very early age. A simple bathtub is too often overlooked as a very real drowning hazard. The latest research shows that Australia lost 14 people, mainly children, in that way in just 12 months. It is not just children who need to learn to swim either—it is never too late to learn.

The Royal Life Saving Society of South Australia also provides lessons for parents, which is obviously very important for family safety. Their inclusive courses are designed to teach swimming and water safety to people of all ages and from all walks of life. This means that members of our multicultural community, many from landlocked countries who have never learnt to swim, can gain essential life-saving skills. That is so important for these people who love our beautiful beaches and waterways but may not be aware of the dangers they hold.

On 25 July, World Drowning Prevention Day, we are reminded of the avoidable tragedy of drowning. We need to practice water safety throughout the year, and the Royal Life Saving Society of South Australia is instrumental in helping reduce these tragedies.

COST OF LIVING

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (16:02): I rise today to speak about the number one challenge facing many South Australians—the cost of living. Twelve months ago the cost of living was not a focus for many people. The focus was on health in the wake of COVID-19 and the many challenges faced there. Now 12 months on, and 11 interest rate rises, it is becoming more challenging for families to work out how to cover the increase in their mortgage, the increase in their rent, the

massive increase in their electricity costs, and increases in basics like bread, milk, meat and everything in between.

Concerns have been raised with me time and time again, and I am sure with many of us in here today, around the pressures families are facing with the cost-of-living crisis. The opposition has crunched the numbers on the skyrocketing prices for housing, food, electricity, petrol and other essentials for a family of four, comparing prices from 2022 to 2023. This relates to an average family of four, including two children aged eight and 12 who are attending the local public school. Mum and dad work full-time and earn an average weekly salary, sharing the cost of a mortgage of \$500,000.

The analysis shows that average families are now paying \$16,886 extra each year compared to what they were paying 12 months ago. That equates to \$324 a week, creating a challenge for everyday South Australians not seen since the so-called recession we had to have in the 1990s. Many South Australians have never experienced an interest rate rise but now have had 11 in a row, with only one month's grace. That is quite terrifying and a major component of the more than \$16,000 needed by an average South Australian family, with \$12,000 relating to additional interest rate charges.

Yesterday's increase announcement by the RBA was a slap in the face to many South Australians. That is \$12,000 on a \$500,000 mortgage. The average house price in South Australia is now closer to \$600,000 and many South Australian families are searching for far more than \$16,000 a year. This is pushing many families below the poverty line and many are having to go without.

The Labor Party will do their usual spiel about increasing concessions and building a hydrogen plant. That seems to be their go-to for anything cost-of-living related. However, this is not sufficient. The concessions are for the few and the hydrogen plant is many, many years off to see any electricity relief. Both the state and federal Labor governments need a plan. They need real action to tackle this crisis. As we all know, you will always be paying more under Labor.

An average South Australian family is spending an extra \$16,000 per year on basic cost of living compared with 12 months ago, and we need a plan from the government around cost of living, a plan around energy and a plan around housing. They need to work with the federal government, not just play the blame game against each other but work together for real action to support South Australians.

Peter Malinauskas needs to outline how he will combat cost of living for everyday South Australians, provide a plan and implement it—not just talk, real action—like the Liberal government did with decreases in the emergency services levy and decreases in water bills, which was at the time covering the debt and reckless spending from the Weatherill government.

Business confidence was at its highest under the previous Liberal government, through huge investment in our state, payroll tax cuts and other supports for businesses, which grew confidence. We hope to see the same under this government, but unfortunately they seem to be more focused on the glitz and glamour rather than finding results and solutions for South Australians during the cost-of-living crisis.

As a Liberal, I believe in a hand up, not a handout. There are plenty of levers the government can utilise, both from a state and federal perspective. They are so focused on delivering on election commitments with no accountability and honesty to taxpayers. As we head towards a potential recession, we need to ensure there is a plan to increase investment in South Australia, cut red tape and reduce cost of living for South Australians.

ICE FACTOR PROGRAM

The Hon. T.T. NGO (16:07): Today, I rise to speak about a youth program for students who have been identified as being at risk because of absenteeism from school, literacy problems and behavioural issues. As we all know, adolescence can be a difficult time for many young people, but for those who may also be exposed to drugs, violence or dealing with poverty that can lead to dropping out of school and many other detrimental outcomes.

Ms Marie Shaw KC, a District Court judge, founded the Ice Factor program for at-risk students, which is run in collaboration with the South Australian Ice Sports Federation, the Adelaide IceArenA, school communities and local businesses. It grew from a group of 15 disengaged students from Parafield Gardens High School who entered an eight-week ice hockey pilot program in 2005. Due to the success of this pilot, Ice Factor was formed and learning to play ice hockey became a vehicle to develop long-term life skills within a team.

From the 22 South Australian schools now involved in the program, an average of 200 students per week participate in Ice Factor. Students learn to work as a team and, although considerable emphasis is placed on teaching ice hockey, they also learn valuable and transferable life skills through producing newsletters, maintaining statistics, fundraising and developing promotional material.

In 2017, two former Ice Factor students sought Marie Shaw's support to form the first Indigenous ice hockey team. They found players to form a team, designed shirts, their team name and wrote letters to sponsors for assistance in obtaining funding for equipment, and the Boomerangs were born. In early 2020, the Boomerangs travelled to Canada for a hockey tour with Canadian First Nations teams.

Ice Factor has now been delivering to schools and the community for 18 years. The lease at the Thebarton IceArenA ends in April 2025. This means that a new location must be found so that this valuable program can continue. I have more than 50 pages of testimonials from current and former students, verifying the positive impacts this program has had on their lives. Sophia from Golden Grove wrote:

If it wasn't for ice factor I wouldn't be where I'm at in life now...Ice Factor gives me a reason to engage in my learning, to put my head down and to try my best.

Jesse, who is now in year 10, said:

When I was in year 8 I hated school and never wanted to go...The ice hockey program has helped me in many ways...I have been good at school...my attitude towards teachers has changed...and I keep anger down.

Kiana wrote:

When I started the ice factor program my motivation was very very low and I struggled to do the simplest of tasks. Getting out of bed was the hardest...Ice Hockey has really helped with my mental health.

Bridget wrote:

I believe the Ice Factor program sponsors should continue to help young people like me because a lot of us need a safe place like the Ice Arena and people to be patient with us while we learn, grow and come to find our own outlook of the world.

I commend and thank Ms Marie Shaw, the board and the coaches for their caring mentorship and their tireless work. With the continued support of sponsors, the Ice Factor program is helping to create a bridge to a better life for many disadvantaged youth.

VETERANS

The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:12): I want to start with an acknowledgement, but not one of country, like we have become accustomed to; I want to begin by acknowledging our veterans, without whose service we would not be on this land. I want to pay my respect to those serving our country, those who have served and those who will serve.

Our veterans are a forgotten group. Even with services allocated to them, their constant struggles are still present. Their mental, physical and emotional health has been impacted. Affordable housing and employment opportunities are not where they need to be. A royal commission is being actioned into these issues, producing an interim report highlighting key problems where improvements have been strongly recommended.

We must improve veterans' current issues and enhance their quality of life now. Long-term physical and mental health conditions are significant issues for Australian veterans, especially depression, PTSD and alcohol dependence. Self-reported data from the 2020-21 National Health Survey revealed that male veterans aged 18 years and above have higher rates of arthritis and back

problems, with 33 per cent and 31 per cent respectively, compared to 12 per cent and 19 per cent in non-veterans.

These conditions affect veterans' health and quality of life, emphasising the need for better health care and support services. This government must prioritise veterans' mental and physical wellbeing by allocating sufficient resources to tackle the issue. Timely, appropriate intervention, such as counselling, rehabilitation and medication, should be readily available to veterans. Currently, there is a royal commission into defence and veteran suicide, investigating systemic problems faced by veterans and preventative measures for suicide and suicidality from former members.

The interim report 2022 illustrated the failure of the claim system, employed by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. A claim made by former or current Defence Force members must meet all the requirements of the relevant legislation. Sometimes this is practically impossible. It highlighted the DVA's staff's complexity in assessing claims due to the legislative framework. Historically, poor experiences with claims further deepen the mental health issues amongst veterans, noting that it can be a contributing factor to suicidality.

The current government must investigate this further, as the number of veterans has increased substantially since 2016-17, creating a backlog of claims and exacerbating the problem. The federal government has recognised the need to manage mental disorders such as depression, PTSD, anxiety and alcohol dependence in the veteran community. Studies have shown that veterans have a higher prevalence of risk factors for dementia, including traumatic brain injury, PTSD and major depressive disorder.

From the same NHS study, over a quarter of males aged 18 and above who have ever served in the ADF have a mental or behavioural condition compared to less than 17 per cent of those who have never served. Similarly, 12 per cent of male veterans reported having depression or feeling depressed compared to those who have never served. These figures indicate the need for more focused interventions and support services to address mental health issues among the veteran community to improve their quality of life.

The 2010 ADF Mental Health Prevalence and Wellbeing study researched the mental health of members of the Australian Defence Force. The study interviewed almost half of the ADF members and found that 17.9 per cent sought help for stress, emotional, mental health or family problems in 12 months. However, there were some concerning statistics surrounding seeking help: 27.6 per cent of members were worried that reporting a mental disorder might lead to differential treatment, while 26.9 per cent feared it could harm their career prospects. The most significant barrier to seeking help was the fear that it would reduce deployability, with 36.9 per cent of members reporting this as their primary concern. These findings indicate that the stigma of seeking help still outweighs the stigma of getting help.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs aims to improve our veterans' quality of life and outcomes. As of 30 June 2021, the DVA provided support to over 189,500 veterans who suffer from injuries or diseases related to their services. To better support veterans in Australia, the government should take several actions: increase funding for mental health support programs, provide additional resources and increase funding for affordable housing programs for veterans. These actions could significantly improve the quality of life for veterans and their families, and better recognise their sacrifices to serve our country.

WORLD AUTISM MONTH

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (16:16): Today, I rise to speak about World Autism Month. We have much to celebrate in SA, as we are leading the way in autism and inclusion. For those who do not know, World Autism Month happens every April, along with World Autism Day, which falls on 2 April. In SA, we have been leading the way when it comes to autism inclusion, not just for the nation but for the world or, as my kids like to say, in the galaxy.

This has been the first World Autism Day and World Autism Month since last August when the South Australian Premier and member for Croydon, Peter Malinauskas, set about becoming a world leader by creating a government member solely focused on the autistic and autism communities. Since then, I have been immensely proud to have taken on this groundbreaking role.

We have delivered the nation's largest autism inclusion network in public primary schools since we have taken on this responsibility. We have also undertaken record consultation on the state's first ever Autism Strategy, and we have worked to establish the nation's first predominantly autistic-led advisory committee.

We have created the nation's first office for autism and appointed an autistic director to lead this historic office based in the heart and in the centre of government, in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. I would really like to congratulate Dr Emma Goodall, who has taken on this role as director of this nation-leading office, and a very historical office indeed.

We have partnered with private industries like Adelaide 36ers, the Adelaide Zoo and supermarket giant Drakes, and delivered more inclusive experiences for the autistic and autism communities. I was lucky enough to be at the Drakes in Golden Grove last night to experience shopping with the dim lights and no beeping at the cash registers or sound and music blaring through the speakers, and it was an incredible experience. I encourage everyone to head along on a Tuesday night between 6 and 9pm at either of Drakes' Hallett Cove or Golden Grove stores.

Importantly, since the creation of this role, parliament has also seen for the very first time that the lights have been lit up in a spectrum of colours on the outside of Parliament House to display the diverse community that the autistic and autism community is in South Australia. It was a really heartwarming evening to see so many members come together—it was a little bit chilly on that Sunday night—to see the building lit up in a spectrum of colours.

Whilst it may have taken a little bit of time, because it was the end of daylight saving that night, it was worth waiting for, and the community really enjoyed being a part of that moment, seeing the lights coming on in Parliament House. I thank all of the parliament staff who assisted in lighting up the building. I know the community was very grateful for this event.

At the end of autism month, I would like to reflect on the incredible achievements the Malinauskas Labor government have been able to make by working side by side with the autistic and autism communities. Each step of the way we have learnt something incredibly important: that we must listen, we must hear and we also must act on what we are hearing. I feel very proud to have taken on this very important role, and I cannot wait to see what we can achieve by the next World Autism Day.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE LOCATION

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (16:20): Over the past year, the cost of living for South Australians has skyrocketed. This is not news to anyone in this place or indeed in the community. The opposition has crunched the numbers with regard to the increased costs of housing, food, electricity, petrol and other essentials and found that the average family of four would have needed to find an extra \$16,000 to \$17,000 a year to maintain their lifestyle over the past 12 months.

Indeed, with 10 and now 11 consecutive interest rate rises, one of the most onerous expenses for most people, of course, is their housing. More than ever, I believe it is incumbent on governments to devise and implement strategies to help lower the cost of living and, most importantly, to ensure the dream of home ownership is still within reach.

To this end, I am of the opinion that one such strategy worthy of consideration is to establish significant government agencies in our regional cities, where appropriate, in order to increase their presence on the state stage, if you like. Co-locating government services in our regional areas such as Mount Gambier, Whyalla, Port Pirie, Port Lincoln and Port Augusta, where housing is significantly more affordable than it is in Adelaide, would no doubt stimulate these cities in many ways.

The creation of potentially hundreds more job opportunities would attract more South Australians to these locations as well as those from interstate and potentially overseas, as the lower cost of living would be attractive to many. Not only would the individuals who choose to relocate to the regional areas for employment with the government benefit financially but the decrease in demand for housing within metropolitan Adelaide, for example, would likely slow the rate of increase here in Adelaide.

I note the concept of moving government services to regional areas to revitalise regional cities and encourage population growth is one that is already being implemented by the Victorian state government. It is not a government I would normally quote, but in this case I think they have got it right. It is coined as government hubs; that is what the Andrews government calls it.

They are focusing their attention on transforming Ballarat, Bendigo and the Latrobe Valley, where the development of regional government hubs are now accommodating up to 1,000 public service employees in each of those locations in addition to what was there before, generating long-term jobs growth, increasing business confidence and furthering private sector investment.

These projects are also creating hundreds of jobs during the construction of new buildings and redevelopment of existing facilities, utilising local trades and services throughout the construction process. Each of Victoria's GovHubs, as they are called, is unique to its local area, having been developed in close consultation with the local councils and communities, including the use of focus groups and stakeholder briefings, which have indicated overwhelming support for these initiatives. To date, they have been very promising.

In Ballarat, for example, services included in the government's expansion are Consumer Affairs Victoria, Regional Development Victoria, the Department of Education and Training, the Department of Justice and Community Safety, the State Revenue Office, VicRoads and Service Victoria. Bendigo is, or soon will be, home to the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions; the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; the Department of Premier and Cabinet; Parks Victoria; and the Department of Transport, among other services. Numerous agencies are or will be situated in the Latrobe Valley GovHub, again as they call it, including Parks Victoria, Earth Resources Regulation, Solar Victoria and the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority.

Our own state government likewise needs to be pragmatic in the way it approaches our current cost-of-living crisis. I think there is a real opportunity to counter some of the major challenges South Australians are facing by emulating what the Victorian government is achieving in some of their more populous regions. Similarly creating economic hubs in our state's South-East and Mid North would diversify those economies and offer an option for families and individuals seeking to reduce their living expenses, enter the housing market, or simply explore a more relaxed lifestyle.

I strongly encourage the Malinauskas government to consider the vast benefits catalysing greater growth in our regions would have for our state as a whole. As stated previously, the benefits are not just extended to those directly employed by these proposed initiatives but the multiplier effect, to use an economic term, on local businesses and communities would be significant. The result would be stronger, more vibrant regional cities in South Australia with growing populations and services. Everybody wins. If it works in Victoria, I have no doubt at all it can work here.

Motions

HOGAN, MS M.

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (16:25): I move:

That the Legislative Council expresses its deep regret at the death of labour movement leader Michelle Hogan and places on record its sincere appreciation for her activism and the profound contributions she made to the wellbeing and empowerment of South Australian women.

I rise today to commemorate the life of Michelle Hogan, a fierce and dedicated unionist, activist, feminist and friend to many. I would first like to welcome Michelle's family, Robert and Sarah, her sisters and her many friends, comrades and colleagues who have come in today to listen as this parliament pays tribute. I extend my sincerest condolences to all of those who knew and loved Michelle as you grieve this significant loss.

I knew Michelle mostly in a professional capacity. I rarely saw her without a smile on her face, even when the work was tough. Her commitment to fighting for the rights of workers, especially for those of women, was both obvious and inspiring. She advocated relentlessly for fair wages, dignified working conditions and equitable treatment for all.

I cannot speak to the personal loss. I know it is profound. What I can speak to with profound admiration are the contributions she made in her life. The labour movement and the state of

South Australia have lost a citizen who worked tirelessly on behalf of others to make this state a better place. In that regard, her loss is one that we all share in. Although the loss is mighty, I do not want to speak only of grief today. I wish to speak in gratitude because there is much in Michelle's extraordinary life that she would be thankful for.

For the past five years, Michelle was the chair of the Working Women's Centre and was wholly and profoundly committed to advocating for working women. She was their defender, their advocate and their dear friend. Her strength, leadership, courage and support guided the centre through tumultuous times so that it could remain devoted to supporting and empowering women, especially during hardships.

Her career in education, community services, project management and civil society spanned almost 40 years and reflects her commitment to improving the lives of South Australians. She served on the management committee of SACOSS in the eighties and nineties. In the early 2000s, she became the assistant secretary of the United Trades and Labour Council (SA Unions), a first for working women in our state.

Here she was a driving force of the Anna Stewart Memorial Project, a program aimed at training and empowering union women, strengthening the union movement's advocacy for women workers and promoting leadership of working women in their representative associations and unions. Michelle's drive towards justice and equality was also clear in her role on the Port Adelaide Enfield council. As an elected councillor, she moved the motion that saw the Port Adelaide Enfield council become the first council in this country to support a raise to the JobSeeker payment.

Michelle was also a long-term supporter and volunteer for the May Day Collective and APHEDA Union Aid Abroad. She additionally ran the Dale Street Women's Health Centre in Port Adelaide for an extended period.

Michelle was truly an extraordinary force in the South Australian labour and feminist movements. She went above and beyond in the service of others. The thousands that showed up to attend her memorial service and funeral are testament to this fact. The family and friends who spoke and attended came from incredibly diverse backgrounds and differing spheres of Michelle's life and work.

The massive group of diverse people who watched via live stream and attended in person is a reflection of Michelle. It is a reflection not only of what she did and what she gave but also of the strength of her character and the love she inspired. It is a reflection of a deep commitment to solidarity and the rights of her fellow men and women. It is a reflection of her commitment to the empowerment of every person and dignity for all. It is a reflection of the way she used her generosity and warmth of spirit to lift others up. It was a reflection of a life well lived. Vale Michelle Hogan.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:30): I rise to speak on behalf of the opposition on this motion. The South Australian Liberal Party acknowledges the late Michelle Hogan as a dedicated and prominent South Australian unionist and feminist. In researching this speech, I was reminded of a quote by a renowned Australian geographical adventurer, Robyn Davidson, who said: 'I learned that you are as powerful and strong as you allow yourself to be.'

Those who knew Michelle well have characterised her as being someone of strength and of good character. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, stated that Michelle practised her values in all that she did, recognising the importance of the application of those values. Michelle deeply believed in an approach of unionism and comradeship to achieve political and social equity for all South Australians.

I understand that she was a dedicated and passionate woman, committing four decades—her whole career—to advocating for fairer work conditions and greater life balance, especially for female workers. She did this through both paid work and voluntary service. She held several official paid union positions over her career, including on the United Trades and Labor Council and as assistant secretary for SA Unions.

Michelle was a dedicated supporter of several not-for-profit organisations, including the Anna Stewart Memorial Project, the May Day Collective and APHEDA Union Aid Abroad, and she was a

longstanding chair of the Working Women's Centre of South Australia. As if that was not enough, she was also a councillor for the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.

One cannot deny that Michelle Hogan lived a life dedicated to the cause of workers' rights. As the honourable member notes, this motion recognises Michelle's activism and contribution to the wellbeing and empowerment of women in this state. Western Australian environmental campaigner Professor Anne Poelina once said:

Leaders have a responsibility to open doors and create opportunities for others and to support them to reach their full potential.

I understand that Michelle Hogan embodied this for the women's worker movement. The Liberal Party are pleased to support the motion in her name.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (16:33): Michelle's death leaves a chasm in our hearts and an absolutely enormous, gaping hole in the thread and the fabric of our community. She was a beautiful, colourful, vibrant and staunch thread in that fabric. I express my deepest sympathies and support for her partner, Robert, and her family as they grieve what is a significant loss to them and a significant loss to all in her community.

I share my condolences with Michelle's many friends, comrades and colleagues, including those she knew through the Working Women's Centre and the so many other causes and communities she belonged to, connected with and built. The gathering for her funeral and, of course, here today is testament to Michelle Hogan's impact, her leadership and her legacy.

Michelle was an amazing activist, an advocate, a feminist and a friend. Her career and her life involved significant work in women's community services, women's health, civil society and the trade union movement. The recorded history—or should I say herstory—will show us that one of her notable achievements was that Michelle was assistant secretary of the UTLC of South Australia (now SA Unions) during the early 2000s. She broke that glass ceiling and she bashed down that patriarchal brick wall.

We also know she volunteered her time and her energy to work with the May Day Collective, APHEDA Union Aid Abroad and the National Trust in her local area of Port Adelaide. Those contributions are less well recorded but certainly will be just as long-lasting. Michelle was an elected local councillor in the Semaphore ward of the Port Adelaide Enfield local council. Indeed, there her love of that part of the world is shared by myself—that same little patch of the world that Michelle lived in for so many decades that I have only now lived in for a year but have long loved.

I do not know what the event was when I first met Michelle, but I know it was in North Adelaide as part of the Women's Health Statewide program when she was a manager of the Dale Street Women's Health Centre. I remember, as a young women's program manager for the YWCA of Adelaide, working with the many young women that Michelle inspired on a project called 'A young mermaid's guide to planet earth'. That was a series of publications and, indeed, performances, one of which I remember well was Agender, which clearly is something worthy of reflection upon as we see culture wars deny people's very own identity and continue to have a meaningful reason to be advocated and experienced.

I will miss her vibrancy, her intellect, her kindness and her determination. She was unrelenting in her pursuit for her causes, and I am proud to say are my causes and many of the progressive community of our state's causes. Her legacy does include her contribution to the Anna Stewart Memorial Project—a project that has trained and emboldened a generation of union women—but her legacy definitely lies in those particularly young women, many of us now not so young, whom she inspired and whom she emboldened. We have lost a leader, we have lost a friend, we have lost a comrade and we have lost a sister, but we will continue to live her legacy.

I reiterate my condolences for her partner, Robert, her children and grandchildren. I extend my deepest condolences to her many friends in the union and the women's and community sector movement. Michelle brought art and working life together in a way that we have not seen since those times in the early 2000s and is often remembered when we hear the words of one of the songs that the Born on Monday Choir sang at her funeral, which is:

From birth until life closes

Hearts starve as well as bodies

Give us bread, but give us roses

Michelle gave us bread and she gave us roses. Vale Michelle Hogan.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (16:38): I also rise to make some remarks in relation to this motion. Michelle Hogan was not well known to me, but certainly the many causes that she championed and the list of organisations she was involved in are incredibly impressive. In fact, when you look at that one wonders how someone could find the time to do the many things that she was engaged in.

It is in her role as the chair of the Working Women's Centre that I wish to particularly thank her for her service for five years, an organisation which is incredibly important in the lives of working women in South Australia and for the diverse range of services that it provides to a lot of women who, if it did not exist, would struggle to find the services that they need.

It is really in no small part to her leadership that she played such a significant role as chair of the Working Women's Centre. A quick look at their website will demonstrate the diversity of issues, whether it is family violence, work, discrimination, a whole range of industrial rights and the many services that the Working Women's Centre provides.

As a government, we worked closely with the Working Women's Centre and we were very grateful for the role that they played in their ongoing services and also through COVID, when they undertook projects and assisted in some very challenging times for working people and all people. I think they were there to provide support to many otherwise marginalised South Australians. Vale Michelle Hogan.

The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:40): On behalf of SA-Best I, too, would like to echo the sentiments expressed by my honourable colleagues today and extend our deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of Michelle Hogan following her passing on 8 March.

I did not know Michelle personally other than through work but, like every woman in this place and outside this place, I have felt the benefits of her lifelong advocacy and commitment to advancing workers' rights and women's rights. Michelle's legacy as a role model, a generous mentor and a champion for justice issues and gender equality lives on in the empowerment of women in this state.

Today, there is a gallery filled not just with loved ones but other trailblazing South Australian women who over decades, alongside Michelle, have fought tirelessly to make this a better place for all of us and for our daughters and for our children's daughters. For that, we are all forever grateful. Their presence today is a reflection of the high esteem we all hold Michelle in.

To Michelle's family: I know there are really no words I can offer today, but I hope you can take comfort in what has been said today about the extraordinary and profound impact Michelle has made and that her legacy will continue to make. Finally, I acknowledge her friends in the chamber, in particular, the Hon. Tammy Franks and the Hon. Irene Pnevmatikos who I know had a lasting personal friendship with Michelle. Rest in peace. May your memory be eternal.

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (16:42): I thank all members for their contributions today. Everyone highlighted a particular aspect or a particular experience with Michelle. At the end of the day, it is a sad loss. I commend the motion to the chamber.

Motion carried.

SOFT PLASTICS RECYCLING

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (16:43): I move:

1. That a select committee of the Legislative Council be established to inquire into and report on the recycling of soft plastics and other recyclable material in South Australia, with particular reference to:
 - (a) how South Australia has responded to REDcycle being unable to process soft plastics;
 - (b) investigating how supermarkets and other collection points have ceased collections and what can be done to re-establish these services;

- (c) determining whether funding from the state government (including Green Industries SA funding) has been sufficient to support South Australian businesses and local government councils within the soft plastics and other recyclables industry;
 - (d) identifying short and long-term opportunities and solutions to ensure soft plastics can be recycled in South Australia;
 - (e) examining strategies more broadly to reduce soft plastic waste generation and better management of commercial and residential waste; and
 - (f) 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.

As this chamber would be well aware, Australia used to have a soft plastic recycling scheme known as REDcycle. You would collect your soft plastics and packaging from home—usually from products bought from the supermarket—and return them back to the supermarket.

Not many Australians gave it a second thought about what the next step was and what happened after the collection of soft plastics occurred. Furthermore, this chamber would be aware that Australia no longer has a program like this, and it is a tragedy. The collapse of REDcycle in November last year is still reverberating across the recycling and waste industry today. More than six months after they collapsed and three months after being declared insolvent, they found that there was stockpiling of collected soft plastics around the country and they were unable to pay for the storage fees. There was no answer to be had. Most Australian packaging that had a logo on it was going to REDcycle, indicating that it could be returned to the store and be processed and taken care of.

This stockpiling of soft plastic waste in warehouses around the country was raised as a huge risk by the Environment Protection Authority. In an update on the website in late February this year, REDCycle partially blamed the COVID-19 and subsequent mass increase in online shopping, with its extra plastic packaging, and that led to the increase of more than 350 per cent from its figures in 2019. At the height they said they were collecting five million pieces of soft plastic every day.

Then the straw that broke the camel's back of this system was a fire at the largest take-off partner. In November 2022, the decade-old and largest soft plastic recycling program in Australia was paused with immediate effect. It has not returned and that is where we find ourselves today. As the pandemic dragged on the economy flattened the market and the need for recycling plastic went the other way and diminished. It certainly did not increase by 350 per cent. The input was becoming too great for the output. It was an excessive supply and a market problem.

Following the collapse of REDCycle, the major supermarket retailers—Aldi, Woolworths and Coles—created a soft plastics task force. This task force, with the authorisation of the ACCC, have 12 months to collaborate and manage a short-term solution to the soft plastic stockpile, and to facilitate a resumption of in-store collection for recycling. That 12-month clock began to tick in March this year. They have also released a road map to restart with core objectives of resuming access to soft plastic recycling throughout Australian supermarkets, restoring public confidence in soft plastic recycling, and maximising the recovery of soft plastics.

Recycling in Australia is a system built on good collection, sorting, vigorous infrastructure to process and remake, and strong end-markets for recycled material and products. Recycling must be economically viable and sustainable for long-term solutions. According to the statistics released by the federal government in 2021—the National Plastics Plan—Australians used 3.5 million tonnes of plastic in 2018 and 2019, with around 60 per cent imported.

Another statistic out of the National Plastics Plan in that report is that 70 billion pieces of soft scrunchable plastic, such as soft plastic bags and food wrappers, gets used annually. That equates to roughly 2,700 soft plastic items per person. In fact, according to data from the Minderoo Foundation, per head of population, we consume more plastics than any other nation—almost 60 kilos a year. That is right: more than any other nation. That is several kilograms ahead of the US and almost four times the global average.

The focus has been on processing soft plastics, not on post-sale of recycled plastics. An economic lens needs to be added to this process. What to do with the recycled content is not a post-REDCycle problem, and governments across the country have been attempting to fix this issue prior to its collapse, partially spurred on by the announcement that China would not import the world's rubbish anymore from 2017.

Both the former state and federal governments contributed to \$45 million of recycling modernisation funds, where state, federal and local businesses were able to match the funding to further enhance South Australia's reputation as a nation leader in waste management. The Liberal Party has much to be proud of from its time in government to protect and conserve our environment. As with the Labor governments, both state and federal, I hope to see a bipartisan approach to finding an ongoing viable solution. I think one of the biggest improvers for the environment was the work done within single-use plastics, and whilst substantially delayed, we are pleased that the current government is still working to continue this and any further bans would seek to improve the situation in South Australia.

Governments can take a strong lead in conserving our environment. We are all aware of the strong leadership South Australia has had with the container deposit recycling scheme. This year that scheme will be harmonising across the country, with Victoria and Tasmania getting on the scheme some 40 years after South Australia led the way.

We know that some councils or regions and some groups are trying to tackle the soft plastic problem on their own but separate groups would not have the same impact as a statewide recycling system. Here in Adelaide there is a 12-month trial of soft plastic collection with the partnership of Green Industries SA and the National Plastics Recycling Scheme, a project led by the Australian Food and Grocery Council. This trial is underway in the Adelaide City Council, the City of Charles Sturt and the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.

One of the key elements of what this select committee would hope to achieve in this motion is to be able to identify long and short-term opportunities and solutions to ensure that soft plastics can be recycled in South Australia. I have consulted with a number of key players in the ecosystem, including YCA Recycling at Wingfield, a major industrial recycler resource company from right here in Adelaide and a global player in this important industry.

In talking to experts, it is apparent that when considering a recycling system such as this it is important to think of the end product and ask the question: what could be recycled, and, importantly, the economic benefit. The collecting, the sorting and even the recycling can come later. If there is no market for the end product, which we saw with the demise of REDcycle in the first place, one could argue that there is not a strong enough system to be able to recycle in the first place.

That is where we find ourselves today: a parliament without all the answers but with the strong tools to understand and possibly find a pathway forward so that those in the community who seek to do good by their environment can do so in an efficient and successful way. This is not an issue that can be exported: out of sight, out of mind. We must tackle it. It has been proven before. As a parliament, let's seek to understand the barriers and work together to ensure that recycling of soft plastics can continue. I commend the motion to the council.

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

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:51): I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises that 3 May 2023 marks 30 years of World Press Freedom Day, celebrating the importance of freedom of the press and freedom of expression;
2. Notes that UNESCO has designated this year's theme is 'Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a driver for all other human rights.';
3. Acknowledges that an independent press and a media-literate public is vital in tackling corruption, abuse of power, disinformation, hate speech, censorship of opinion, exposing human rights violations and poor transparency and accountability and advancing democracy;

4. Recognises that journalists across the world continue to face threats to their safety and liberty in order to silence their reporting;
5. Pays tribute to journalists killed in the line of their reporting duty;
6. Notes that a record number of journalists, including Australians Julian Assange and Cheng Lei, and Evan Gershkovich of the *Wall Street Journal*, are currently detained while dozens more are being held hostage;
7. Calls on Australians to unite to demand the UK government and the US government cease their persecution of Julian Assange and release him from Belmarsh Prison; and
8. Urges the Australian Prime Minister, the Hon. Anthony Albanese, and Foreign Minister, the Hon. Penny Wong, to work harder and request that Chinese President Xi Jinping intervenes to lift the detention of Cheng Lei.

Today marks the 30th anniversary of World Press Freedom Day and will be celebrated at a special anniversary event at the United Nations headquarters, where it was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly after a resolution by UNESCO known as Article 19.

It had its genesis two years earlier in Namibia where African journalists met with UNESCO to discuss press freedoms and human rights in Africa. Now, it is a global event, which casts a spotlight on abuses of free speech and a free press and is a reminder of the vital importance of independent media, free in democracies. As US President Thomas Jefferson said:

The only security of all is in a free press. The force of public opinion cannot be resisted when permitted freely to be expressed.

One cannot overstate the enormous worth to a democratic society in having an independent media, free of interference, which is able to expose corruption and malfeasance.

There have been many significant examples of that, like the Watergate bugging scandal in the 1970s by *Washing Post* reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, which ended President Richard Nixon's corrupt tenure in the White House; the Panama Papers leak, which exposed hundreds of thousands of secret tax havens used by high-profile people, corrupt government officials and ambiguous entities from 200 nations; and, of course, the Wikileaks release of secret documents, which revealed abhorrent war crimes committed by the United States.

The eventual whistleblowers were journalists working for some of the largest and most prestigious media organisations in the world, yet the US is persecuting only one person: Julian Assange, the Australian journalist who received the volumes of classified information from US soldier, Chelsea Manning, in 2010.

Mr Assange continues to languish in Belmarsh prison in the UK, awaiting the outcome of an appeal against his extradition to the United States to be tried under an espionage act which should not even apply to Mr Assange. It is rather ironic and hypocritical that the US President, Joe Biden, and his ambassador to the UN, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, have condemned Russia for detaining *Wall Street Journal* reporter, Evan Gershkovich, on spying charges, with Thomas-Greenfield saying, 'Journalism isn't a crime.' There are glaring double standards here with what the US is wanting to do to Mr Assange. Shame on them and shame on our government, our Prime Minister and our foreign minister for their grovelling approach to the Americans on the issue.

Media reporting can and does cast a light on serious human rights abuses, corrupt practices in government and organised crime, particularly in authoritarian and oppressive regimes like Russia, Belarus, Myanmar, Turkey, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria and China. The covenant on civil and political rights has been ratified by 173 countries and covers the freedom of speech, and that includes the right of journalists to do their job. However, courageous journalists covering events in global flashpoints or carrying out investigations that uncover awful truths that can alter power balance and authority continue to run the high risk to their safety and their liberty.

Between 2014 and 2019, nearly 1,500 journalists were arrested and almost 400 kidnapped. The annual survey for 2022 of Reporter Without Borders (also known as RSF) showed a record number of journalists, 488, including 60 women, are detained worldwide, while another 65 are being held hostage. China, the world's biggest jailer of journalists for the fifth year running, is also the biggest jailer of female journalists, with 19 currently detained. They include Zhang Zhan, a 2021 RSF

Press Freedom laureate, who is now critically ill, and Australian-Chinese TV anchor, Cheng Lei, who has been held for almost three years after being accused of providing state secrets to foreigners.

Australian diplomatic assistance for her has been frustrated at every step. Her court appearances have been held in secret and are in denial of her rights to procedural fairness and the justice a country like Australia affords Chinese nationals who may be accused of breaking our laws. This motion will call on our government to exert more pressure on the Chinese President, Xi Jinping, to intervene.

Last year, 57 journalists were killed—the highest number since 2018, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. The figure is 50 per cent higher than in 2021 and due to hostilities in Ukraine and violence in Latin America, places like Mexico and lawless Haiti, Russia, Syria, the Philippines, Iraq, Colombia, Brazil, Algeria, and Somalia round out the most hazardous black spots for journalists. Eighty-four per cent of those killed were deliberately targeted.

Australian journalists have also been killed doing their job. The Balibo Five, a group of commercial television newsmen, were murdered by Indonesian troops on 16 October 1975, during an attack in the Timor Leste border town of Balibo. Justice still has not been served for Greg Shackleton, Tony Stewart, Gary Cunningham, Brian Peters and Malcolm Rennie, but for journalists in this country they will always remain in our hearts and in our minds.

Journalists are also under attack in countries and by countries you would least expect. Let's take Israel, for example. In May last year, Palestinian-American Shireen Abu Akleh, one of the most high-profile and distinguished reporters in the Middle East for her coverage of the bloody conflicts in Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories, was shot dead in the West Bank city of Jenin while working for Al Jazeera. It was no accident, nor was it a death from a random stray bullet. She was wearing a vest with 'Press' clearly marked on it.

Several separate, credible investigations concluded she was deliberately shot by Israeli forces. The Israelis, after denying any involvement, finally admitted the journalist was accidentally hit by army fire. This version was rejected by the London-based research group Forensic Architecture, which found Shireen had been deliberately targeted, and that sustained shooting where she fell indicated Shireen was actively and deliberately denied medical aid in the absence of any fighting in the area. It was an assassination.

In a disproportionate use of force, Israeli police officers then attacked pallbearers at her funeral with batons and stun grenades, and injured patients and staff at the Christian hospital in East Jerusalem as her coffin was being moved. Shamefully, Israel refuses to cooperate with any investigation. Israel arrogantly diffuses criticism as being an antisemite. Meanwhile, any justice for Shireen is denied.

In Australia, fearless investigative reporting has uncovered corrupt practices and abuse of power in government agencies like Centrelink, Medicare, the Australian Tax Office, and foreign affairs, as well as unethical and illegal conduct in the banking, insurance and aged care sectors. Australian Federal Police raided the home of News Corp journalist Annika Smethurst with an unlawful warrant to find the source of a leaked story on a spy agency's powers. It was thrown out of court, and she was never charged.

Meanwhile, Richard Boyle and David McBride are on trial and facing long prison terms for telling the truth and blowing the whistle to journalists in the public interest. Boyle's revelations were about the ATO's aggressive and ruthless debt collection practices, while McBride is being prosecuted for disclosing sensitive information about the Australian Defence Force. Both believe they were going to be protected under the Public Interest Disclosure Act. The Human Rights Law Centre argues the prosecutions are unjust and undemocratic and are demanding they be dropped and whistleblowing laws be reformed. It is not likely because the truth is that governments, politicians, and bureaucrats will resort to anything at their disposable to avoid embarrassing scrutiny or scandal in office.

We are also witnessing the rise of left-wing pressure groups imposing their ideology on media by 'cancelling' political cartoonists because they might be offended by what is drawn. Freedom of information has become freedom from information; suppression of speech if there are conflicting opinions.

Now let's take a look at the UK, a place you would think would uphold the fundamental rights of free speech and a free media. However, they are sleepwalking Britons towards authoritarianism with the new counterterrorism law that can criminalise protests and restrict personal freedoms, the basic human rights in a civilised democracy. An example of this was a recent arrest in London by police of the French national, Ernest Moret, an employee of a French publisher Editions La Fabrique, as he arrived on a train from Paris. Police interrogated him for six hours after he refused to disclose his passwords to his phone and computer.

According to the publication, Moret was asked disturbing questions about his views on President Emmanuel Macron, the row over the lifting of the pension age in France, as well as identifying any anti-government authors. Quinn McKew, the executive director of Article 19, said this case of over-reach by the police makes clear how it enables abuse of authority and undermines the rights to expression and opinion.

Last year, journalist Charlotte Lynch of LBC, was arrested while covering an environmental protest, and held for hours in a cell, an arrest later found by a police report to be unjustified. As a direct result of this, the Public Order Bill currently progressing through the UK legislative process has been amended to prevent a police officer from exercising a police power 'for the sole purpose of preventing a person from observing or reporting on a protest'. A British foreign office worker is suing her employer for unfair dismissal for giving an anonymous interview to the BBC about the UK government's shambolic failures in the withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Over in the land of the free, the US Press Freedom Tracker documented 145 arrests or criminal charges involving journalists in 2020 at the height of the Black Lives Matter protests. Numbers dropped to 59 in 2021 and just 15 in 2022, but it says attacks on journalists, especially those covering protests or civil unrest, could be attributed to a desire by authorities to deter protestors more generally by making the arrests more prominent.

It has also become more common for authorities to attack the media verbally, leading to a social discourse suggesting that the 'mainstream media' is biased or unreliable. The consequence of this for the media is that it makes defending journalism from attacks more challenging. Elizabeth Morley, the Diversity and Inclusion Officer of the IBA Media Law Committee and a partner at Howard Kennedy in London, says the growth of social media and other forms of reporting, including citizen reporting, have made it tougher to be a journalist or categorise them.

Another disturbing development designed to derail or dissuade investigative reporting is what are known as SLAPPS—strategic lawsuits against public participation. Article 19 recently compiled a report for Columbia Global Freedom of Expression, which is studying judicial responses to SLAPPS around the globe. Article 19 says SLAPPS are a form of abusive and costly litigation to harass and intimidate journalists, media outlets, protestors or environmental and human rights defenders and are usually instigated by politicians, public officials, the rich and powerful and public figures aiming to stifle criticism, scrutiny and public debate.

For instance, India's criminal defamation law has been attacked by free speech advocates because it is open to abuse by politicians. Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi was sentenced to two years' jail in a criminal defamation case after comments he made about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surname. Other opposition MPs and critics of India's government have also faced legal threats for expressing their views.

Article 19 points out that some common law countries have adopted some anti-SLAPP legislation. Australia has limited protection against SLAPPS through the public participation act which came into being following costly litigation initiated by Tasmanian forestry company Gunns against environmentalists, including Greens Senator Bob Brown, to stop their logging protests. However, it argues the legislation still falls well short of protecting against abusive litigation designed to deep-pocket individuals or groups. Perhaps it is something for our Attorney-General to consider.

In closing, I would like to leave you with a quote from Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi Arabian journalist who was brutally murdered in 2018:

What the Arab world needs most is free expression.

This sentiment is true not just for the Arab world but for the entire world. Let us continue to work towards a world where journalists can do their job without fear of reprisal and where free expression is valued and protected.

As a footnote, I will note that the only mention of this important observance of World Press Freedom Day that I noticed in the media here today was a brief mention in Marty Smith's The Last Word column. I would hope that our media would take this issue far more seriously. With that, I commend the motion to the chamber.

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

GENDER

The Hon. S.L. GAME (17:10): I move:

That this council—

1. Accepts that there are biologically two sexes and, in turn, a reflection of two genders;
2. Acknowledges that two genders have been accepted common knowledge for most of history;
3. Recognises that the idea of binary genders not being accepted language is denigrating to both males and females and harmful to our traditions; and
4. Acknowledges the importance of gendered language in society, specifically for explicit language and communication.

There are two genders: male and female. Gender is determined by one's biological sex. One cannot simply choose their gender, swap and change. Basic science tells us this. Not only is the difference between male and female clear and obvious on a gross macroscopic level, but our sex and thus our gender can be exposed and determined by the DNA in every cell in our body.

The sex of a baby, and thus the gender, is determined at fertilisation. The event is then recorded in every cell in our body as it is reviewed through cellular division. This basic biological truth has become a statement one must be too afraid to make. This is ridiculous. I understand the burden of my position and I will fulfill in this chamber my obligation to what I believe is the silent majority who expect more from their politicians than to bow to the pressure of the left.

It seems we live in a society where small children can better explain what makes a man and a woman than world leaders and eminent figures. Our own federal department of health struggled defining a woman, taking four months to respond when questioned in the Senate. Earlier this month, the New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins refused to define a woman, stating 'People define themselves,' and that the question had 'come out of left field' and that he did not have a 'preformulated answer on it'.

Our children know who is male and who is female; that is, until they are brainwashed by the woke societal values impressed on them such as the gender unicorn or genderbred man embedded into the year 7 state curriculum. It is vital that the parliament retain gendered pronouns 'he' and 'she'. Removing essential identifiers is the beginning of the slippery slope in what has quite frankly become a sex confusion pandemic amongst our young people.

I do not accept bullying of any kind, but should this generosity not be extended to those who understand there are two genders, male and female, and who want to protect their children? I have spoken to the stressed parents of sex-confused children. They adore their children, they love their children unconditionally, but they speak in detail of bullying and harassment in the workplace and school environment for their attempts to do everything right and protective.

Adopting the minority ideology and enforcing it on the majority is not right. The 2021 census allowed for the first time to use a third option in the gender category; 0.17 per cent of the Australian population ticked that box. You make exceptions to the rules, not rules for the exception.

School principals are too afraid to speak out, for fear of persecution and job loss. It seems one must accept that gender is fluid and take an affirmation-only approach to sex confusion, or face being cut out and excluded from decision-making for one's own child.

Instead of protecting society, representing and advocating for our community, politicians are often making matters worse. We have seen bipartisan support for removal of 'he' and 'she', and our parliamentary committee, which consists of Liberal and Labor members, decided that the term 'opposite sex' may be discriminatory. The parliament is wasting its time on a small percentage of people who want to dictate how we live.

It was reported recently that the Legislative Council adopted genderless standing orders in 1999. The House of Assembly attempted this almost 10 years prior, but it can be said that motivations were different then. They were more concerned about gender equality. How can we have equality between the genders if they are not even recognised or understood?

I know the woke brigade think that feelings trump fact in lawmaking, but laws based on feelings are fluid and subject to change, which is an unsound basis on which to make laws. It is damaging to society and, in particular, to our children. Parliament must retain fundamental essential terminology and set an example and uphold truth in this place. Teachers must have the right and the confidence to refer to their students as boys and girls.

In 2013, in the commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984, discrimination based on biological sex was replaced with discrimination based on self-identified gender. This development was a mistake because the hard-won rights of women are being lost, and children are being indoctrinated with the belief that they can choose to be male or female.

Tonje Gjevjon, a filmmaker in Norway, now faces up to three years in prison for saying that transgender men cannot be lesbian. This is a dangerous precedent to set as punishment for stating the absolute fact. In America, the Governor of Florida is before a United States district court because he supports sex being defined according to biology, on the basis that physical characteristics of men and women are enduring, stable and objective. I agree.

I stand alone in this chamber today, but I know others here feel the same. I will, in the near future, be calling this motion to a vote to clarify where we all stand, what we believe in, and for public accountability. I commend this motion to the house.

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

Bills

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES (RENT CONTROL) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 6 July 2022.)

The Hon. T.T. NGO (17:19): I rise to make a brief contribution to this bill on behalf of government members. South Australians are currently facing increased cost-of-living pressures, with factors such as rent increases and available rental property further contributing to the issue. Rent increases reflect demand and rental availability. Contributing factors, such as higher contribution costs potentially delaying new builds and higher home-loan repayments, are causing current and potential landlords to reconsider their positions.

The topic of rental affordability was raised at a residential tenancies forum hosted by the Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, the Hon. Andrea Michaels MP, in August last year. At the forum, a range of issues were discussed that are currently affecting the residential tenancies sector, with representatives on behalf of both tenants and landlords attending. I acknowledge and thank the Hon. Robert Simms for being there to observe the proceedings.

Concerns were raised that imposing rent restrictions could result in some landlords choosing to exit the market, which may in turn worsen current availability issues. Accordingly, I understand that it was the overall view of the parties in attendance at the forum that rent control measures or rent capping was not a viable solution, and may cause an upsurge in rental prices prior to commencement.

Between 15 November 2022 and 16 December 2022, more than 5,000 South Australians contributed to the state government's most extensive review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1995 (RTA) in almost a decade. Consumer and Business Services (CBS) recorded a high level of public engagement in consultation on the RTA, with 15,183 unique visitors to the YourSAy consultation web page, 3,001 people downloading the discussion paper, 5,565 responding to surveys and 155 written submissions being received.

Following public consultation, the minister asked the Commissioner for Consumer and Business Services, who is responsible for the administration of the RTA, to advise the minister on the outcome of consultation so as to inform the government's consideration on the best way forward for South Australia. The commissioner recognised that, while some stakeholders indicated they support rent capping, such measures may be viewed as an overreach by government and interfere in the private market and relationship between the tenant and the landlord.

The commissioner has also advised that rent capping would be out of step with other jurisdictions. The Australian Capital Territory's regulatory framework is the closest to rent regulation in Australia, with rent increases tied to CPI plus 10 per cent. There is also a concern that rent capping could result in landlords routinely raising rent by the legislated amount each year, where they otherwise would not have considered an increase.

Taking into consideration discussions at the forum on the outcome of public consultation, it is the government's view that rent capping and the Residential Tenancies (Rent Control) Amendment Bill 2022 should be opposed.

It was reported on the ABC website recently that Adelaide is one of the cheapest places for housing in Australia. For around \$500 a week, it is still possible to live in the inner city of Adelaide. This includes houses and apartments with at least two bedrooms. Within walking distance of the city, an unrenovated three-bedroom bungalow in Gilberton with a backyard and shed will set you back \$495 per week. Further out, in St Agnes, a leafy three-bedroom home with a large backyard is advertised for roughly under \$500.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! No harassing the Hon. Mr Ngo please.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr Simms and the Hon. Ms Franks, stop badgering the Hon. Mr Ngo.

The Hon. T.T. NGO: However, late this morning in the media, it was reported that data compiled by property market analysts CoreLogic shows that rent prices rose by 0.8 per cent in Adelaide last month and were up 1.1 per cent in regional South Australia. However, it was reported today that CoreLogic's numbers have Adelaide as the most affordable rental market nationally and they described a median cost of \$534 a week. I would like to note that after doing a bit more searching, Adelaide is the cheapest city to rent, therefore, as the government spokesperson, we would oppose this legislation.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (17:27): I rise to speak on the Hon. Robert Simms's Residential Tenancies (Rent Control) Amendment Bill and indicate that SA-Best will not be supporting it. I will also declare my conflict as a rental property owner, although I do not believe it will cloud my objectivity on this topic.

However, I do need to commend the Hon. Mr Simms and also the Hon. Tammy Franks on their strong and passionate social justice values, particularly when it comes to affordable housing availability which, as we know, is a chronic problem, not just in this state but elsewhere in the country.

I think there may be some economic naivety here, coupled with an unrealistic federal Greens policy. We need to be mindful that we do not allow ourselves to be tiptoed or sleepwalked into sleight of hand authoritarianism where governments impose themselves and tell us what to do and when to dog whistle.

Australia is not a communist country. It is a capitalistic free market economy. Property investment is a cornerstone of that economy, from large investment funds and corporate developers through to mum-and-dad investors aspiring to get ahead as economic headwinds now begin to gather speed and threaten to push us towards the R word—recession.

When it comes to property ownership, you cannot dictate to property owners what they can or cannot do with their investment. It is the biggest investment they will make in their lifetime. It is undeniable that housing in South Australia is in a crisis and it has been created by a multitude of economic and social reasons: affordability to buy a house, affordability to rent, if you can find one. Supply is one of the main reasons houses are costing so much and are out of reach for some. There simply is not enough stock on the market to meet the demand, and that has also seen rents spiral.

Property taxes, like the Marshall government's harsh land tax reforms, have seen many mum-and-dad investors and self-funded retirees reluctantly abandon their rentals and sell them off for their capital gain rather than be put through the complex and costly maze of conditions and red tape they were required to meet. That certainly contributed to the drop in the number of vacant properties available for rent. Added to that, higher income from short-term holiday accommodation platforms like Airbnb and Stayz are making it far more attractive for investors than long-term leases, therefore further reducing properties available for rental.

Telling a landlord that they must cap or freeze their rents is a disincentive for further investment in property. Not all landlords are wealthy. They have mortgages where repayments have climbed 11 times in the past 12 months. They have maintenance costs, service costs, and rising insurance premiums. They had to accept rent freezes during the pandemic, absorbing their own costs.

While urgent fixes are needed to assist renters, what the Greens are proposing is an awfully blunt instrument that will have a negative effect on the property market and send the wrong message to potential investors. Financial experts are in unison about this. Warren Hogan, an investment adviser with Judo Bank, this week warned the federal government against artificial rent caps, saying they would scare off investment and further jeopardise future supply of housing in Australia. Mr Hogan said in *The Australian* this week that we must get to the heart of the problem, which is demand and supply, rather than patchwork policy solutions with a whole bunch of unintended consequences which would undermine the economy.

He has been backed up by another expert, Peter Tulip, an economist for the Centre for Independent Studies, who predicted that increased renter protections would only worsen a shortfall in the housing market, with mum-and-dad investors more wary of investing in a climate where interest rates are climbing.

Bruce Djite, the executive director of the Property Council, also hit the nail on the head with his opinion piece in *The Advertiser* today in which he, too, warned that investor confidence would take a big hit if there was artificial manipulation of the rental market. He pointed to initiatives already announced that could supercharge investment in housing, including the lowering of the Management Investment Trust withholding tax rate from 30 per cent to 15 per cent. This, Mr Djite said, would act as an incentive for institutional investors to develop and manage housing dedicated to renters. He also believes it could be as close as you could get to a silver bullet as similar schemes reducing tax hurdles are working overseas. We have also had the state government releasing large tracts of Crown land for housing development and projects—including the Franklin Street bus depot—which are slated in the city.

As for *The Advertiser*, while I have no issue with my property interests or those of other members being disclosed, as they are under our register of interest, I was disturbed to see that the editor decided to also publish photographs and disclose locations of properties owned by members of parliament. As we know, politicians are fair game constantly for the media, but this was a gross and unwarranted invasion of privacy, and potentially places the safety of members, their families and their homes at risk.

In my view, and as a former newspaper editor, I think it was an unwise editorial call considering the sometimes explosive opinionated world we live in and where hate speech levelled against politicians is a daily occurrence on social media platforms. *The Advertiser* would not have a

clue about the personal circumstances of members, nor whether they have been subjected to any threats in the past.

The Advertiser also has a duty of care to politicians, which they would also afford to other citizens. Considering the range of volatile and controversial topics covered by the newspaper on a daily basis, I am certain the editor would be most unhappy if anyone were to post a photograph of her home or that of any of her staff on a social media website. With that, I conclude my remarks and I thank you.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (17:34): I rise to indicate the Liberal Party position in relation to this particular bill before us. As we know, these are difficult times. We are in the midst of a housing crisis and all ideas should be on the table. In that context, I thank the Greens for putting a bill before the parliament. Unfortunately, the Liberal Party will not be supporting it—as I am sure the member is shocked to learn; in fact, we were outed in the paper today—consistent with our position over many years that property is an asset class and subject to market forces and that there would be some very significant unintended consequences of passing these sorts of rental control bills.

If we look at how we have come to the position that we are in at the moment, there are supply side issues in South Australia and nationally, in that there are fewer houses available than people who want them. Particularly during COVID, South Australia was a very safe place, probably the safest place in the world, and a lot of people wanted to return. We saw significant increases in property prices that we have not seen in South Australia probably for 20 years, and well above what our typical averages would be because there were so many people returning to South Australia. Off the back of that, we have seen a lot of landlords take advantage of that and sell a property that would have been rented to a tenant to owner/occupiers.

Certainly, more supply, as other speakers have noted, is important. We are also seeing the advent of build-to-rent in Australia, which is a fairly new thing for Australia. The Marshall Liberal government initiated the first build-to-rent project at Park Court at Eastwood, which is proceeding in a different format under the new government. For the benefit of members, with build-to-rent prices are generally capped at 75 per cent or 80 per cent of what the market price is for those properties, so it is not as cheap for people as being in public or community housing, but there is certainly a discount.

I know a number of the personal stories of people who have been successfully living in the private rental market who have either been priced out or their properties have been sold and they have just been unable to secure another one because the market is so tight. The answer to that is not to cap rental increases, which is what this bill would do: the answer is to see more supply both through the private sector and through the build-to-rent market.

A number of single mothers I have met and spoken to in the last year or so, who find themselves in this invidious situation, would manage very well in a build-to-rent type scenario. Some of them do not necessarily want to live in public housing. Some of our walk-up flats are less than desirable places for a number of reasons and this would be of great benefit to them.

In the context of 'all good ideas should be on the table', I want to place on the record that the Liberal Party released a 10-point plan in July last year, which was to assist people who might be experiencing homelessness and/or people who are in the private rental market. We did that proactively in terms of putting some ideas out there for consideration and things we know would have been successful.

In terms of that, I am pleased that the government has since adopted a number of these suggestions, including changing the Private Rental Assistance Program cash asset limit of \$5,000 to align with the asset limits for public and community housing, which at the time were \$48,250 for a one-person household or \$61,600 for a two-person household. What that effectively means is that people who were seeking to access the Private Rental Assistance Program could not and they would run down their savings before they could access it, which really did not make any sense.

I have mentioned the build-to-rent initiative, which will increase the number of affordable and market rental properties. We were also looking at the matter of reducing rental bonds from six weeks to four weeks, which would mean South Australia was more consistent with other jurisdictions.

Disappointingly, the new Labor government has not acted on the following suggestions in our 10-point plan.

We had a domestic and family violence crisis accommodation program, which was very successful, of some 31 beds that operated throughout most of our term. I note that the new government has extended the funding of that, but we actually had cabinet approval to increase that from 31 to 100 beds. That does not seem to be taking place under the new government.

We were also interested in and examining an immediate accommodation program for family households as an alternative to emergency hotel and motel accommodation because we know that hotel and motel accommodation is incredibly expensive. It is not suitable accommodation for people in most circumstances, but certainly not for families. So those funds would be better placed to head leasing properties in the private sector and putting families in those is a much more suitable place for them to be.

We sought that the new government would recommit to the Affordable Community Housing Land Tax Exemption program. I think Minister Cook on radio dubbed that as a dud; however, we believe it should be readvertised, particularly under the current circumstances, because landlords would have a land tax holiday for five years if they placed those properties in that program.

We also think it is worth seriously considering what the disincentives are for people who have converted their longer term rentals to short-term rentals, such as Airbnb and Stayz, that have been mentioned because a lot of these issues are driven by tax policies at state or federal level, and also to examine how people who might be wanting to stay in a hotel or motel to access the private rental assistance available if they are provided with a longer term tenancy.

Those are some of the things we think ought to also be looked at in this current market, but a lot of this does come down to financing. We believe that the effect of passing this piece of legislation would be to actually reduce the number of properties in the private rental market and therefore would actually have the effect of placing a further squeeze on the number of rental properties available and therefore would be quite detrimental in the market.

The Hon. S.L. GAME (17:43): I rise to oppose this bill. Interest rates have risen 11 times this year and they have become out of control as most South Australians are feeling the pressure from the increase of living costs. Increasing interest rates put landlords in vulnerable positions. As they feel the squeeze of yet another interest rate rise, they will end up possibly exiting the market. This will be exacerbated if landlords do not have autonomy over their property prices. How can we expect property owners to keep their stock in the market if they cannot afford their own repayments to the banks?

This bill will not only price lock the top end of town but also mum-and-dad investors who may only have one or two investment properties. The rent control will ultimately lead to a reduction in housing stock and renters will miss out. I do, however, agree with the statement that we have seen the Labor Party and the Liberal Party fail to do anything to deal with social housing over the last 10, 20, 30 years. However, the way I see it is that the answer is not through rent control.

Politicians should not be focusing on dictating what landlords can and cannot do with their property. This only causes uncertainty and distress in a rental crisis. The cost and risk associated with supplying new rental properties is the big problem. Interest rate hikes significantly lower their borrowing capacity. If mum-and-dad investors manage to hold onto their property, they are now faced with the introduction of this type of bill that will possibly force them into looking into short-term rental leases, which destroys supply.

We should be focusing on supply and affordable entry into the investment market. More than 80 per cent of Australian residential rental properties is supplied by mum-and-dad investors. Instead of rent capping, we should be interested in looking at incentivising people to get into the market.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:45): I want to thank all honourable members for their contributions: the Hon. Mr Ngo, the Hon. Frank Pangallo, the Hon. Ms Lensink and the Hon. Ms Game. It is disappointing to note that it seems only the Greens will be supporting this bill. I do not propose to speak for very long tonight because I appreciate members accommodating this bill on

tonight's schedule, but I do want to correct some of the incorrect or ill-informed statements that have been made in the context of this debate.

The Hon. Mr Ngo talked about Adelaide being some sort of nirvana for affordable housing. I would urge the government to turn its attention to the latest findings from Anglicare. In fact, they should look at the snapshot weekend of Saturday 18 March this year, which looked at 1,456 private rentals that were advertised for rent in South Australia. That report found that just 11 individual properties, or 1 per cent, were suitable for at least one household type living on income support payments without placing them in housing stress.

Just 256, that is 18 per cent of individual properties, were suitable for at least one household type living on minimum wage without placing them in housing stress. Zero per cent of rentals, that is not one of the listed rental properties, were affordable for a single childless person trying to live on the JobSeeker payment, and just two properties out of all of those listed on the day of the snapshot—zero per cent—were affordable and appropriate for out-of-work couples with two children. Anybody who seeks to suggest that rental accommodation is affordable in South Australia has the wrong information.

There also appears to be a concern from some members of this chamber that to implement rent controls of the kind that the Greens have proposed would create a terrible stress for landlords. I do not accept that argument given all that my bill is seeking to do is limit rent increases in line with CPI. That has happened in other jurisdictions around the world. It would allow landlords to increase the rent but not in an exorbitant way. The problem that we are facing in our state at the moment is that rent prices are simply surging out of control due to lack of regulation.

I should put on the public record my appreciation for some of the actions that the Malinauskas government have taken to date. In particular, I welcome their efforts to ban rent bidding, albeit in a partial way, but I do support that and I recognise that there is broad support for that across the chamber. They have also made some changes relating to the amount of bond that somebody is required to put forward when they are acquiring a new property, and that will be a welcome relief for many renters. They have also announced a large affordable housing spend, which I think also will have a positive impact on the market, although it will take several years for that property to come to fruition.

The reality is that these things do not go far enough in terms of addressing rent prices in our state, rent prices that are surging out of control. I urge members of parliament to turn their attention to their fellow South Australians who are sleeping on the street, sleeping in tents, sleeping in caravans because they cannot afford a place to rent. I urge them to think of their fellow South Australians who are anxious, worrying about the skyrocketing rent prices that they are facing, and then I urge them to think about whether or not the solution that the Labor government has put forward goes far enough. The reality is this is well short of what is needed. It is not enough.

If there is not support for rent capping in this chamber tonight, then my challenge to the government is to come to the parliament with a clear plan to deal with rent prices. It is on them to try to solve this crisis, and I urge them to take action. With that, I conclude my remarks and indicate that I will be calling a division to put people's positions on the public record.

The council divided on the second reading:

Ayes2
 Noes.....19
 Majority17

AYES

Franks, T.A.

Simms, R.A. (teller)

NOES

Bonaros, C.
 Game, S.L.

Bourke, E.S.
 Girolamo, H.M.

Centofanti, N.J.
 Hanson, J.E.

Henderson, L.A.
Hunter, I.K.
Maher, K.J.
Pangallo, F.
Wortley, R.P.

Hood, B.R.
Lee, J.S.
Martin, R.B.
Pnevmatikos, I.

Hood, D.G.E.
Lensink, J.M.A.
Ngo, T.T. (teller)
Scriven, C.M.

Second reading thus negatived.

Motions

ANZAC DAY

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (17:54): I move:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges that ANZAC Day was commemorated on 25 April 2023;
2. Pays its respects to the families of those ANZACs who tragically lost their lives during the capture of the Gallipoli Peninsula; and
3. Remembers all Australian personnel and animals who have been injured or killed in action.

ANZAC Day marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during World War I. Tuesday 25 April, ANZAC Day, marked the 108th anniversary of Australian and New Zealand forces landing on Gallipoli, where they were met with fierce resistance from Ottoman Turkish defenders.

When the war began, Australia as a federation was young, having only been federated for 13 years in 1914. Come 1915, thousands of soldiers from Australia and New Zealand formed part of the expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli Peninsula in order to open the Dardanelles for the Allied navies.

It was hoped that this would knock Turkey out of the war, but it quickly became a stalemate and the campaign dragged on for eight months. Both sides suffered casualties and great hardships during this time. At the end of 1915, the stalemate finally ended when the Allied forces evacuated from the peninsula. More than 8,000 Australian soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice in the Gallipoli campaign.

Although the Gallipoli campaign failed in its military objectives, the actions of Australian and New Zealand forces during the campaign left a powerful legacy. Gallipoli, understandably, had a profound impact on Australians at home. What became known as the ANZAC legend became an important part of the identity of both nations, shaping the way in which we view both our past and our future.

The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps and the soldiers in those forces took great pride in the name of the ANZACs. The marking of ANZAC Day each year allows for that pride to endure. During the 1920s, ANZAC Day became established as a national day of commemoration for more than 60,000 Australians who had died during the war.

Later, ANZAC Day also served to commemorate the lives of Australians who died in the Second World War, and in subsequent years the meaning of the day has been further broadened to include those who lost their lives in all military and peacekeeping operations in which Australia has been involved. It allows us as a nation to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, those who were injured and those who maybe did not come back the same person they had left as in order to defend our nation and the freedoms we are fortunate to have.

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.

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

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. R.A. Simms:

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.

(Continued from 22 March 2023.)

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (17:58): I rise on behalf of the government to support this motion and thank the joint committee for its work and its continued interest in exploring South Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. South Australia has never experienced an emergency event as complex and as lengthy as the COVID-19 pandemic, and there are undoubtedly learnings that could help determine how the state manages future emergencies.

Throughout the initial stages of the pandemic the then Labor opposition sought to work constructively with the government and public health officials to respond to the pandemic. The work undertaken by the South Australian government to keep South Australians safe throughout the pandemic has been instrumental in ensuring that we were able to respond to and manage the pandemic at its worst. Importantly, the South Australian government has assisted in providing testing, vaccination services and public health advice to our community when they needed it most.

As the pandemic has moved from an emergency phase to managing COVID-19 in our community, the approach being taken to minimise its impact on our state has changed too. Monitoring and management of the pandemic is being incorporated into the broader functions and responsibilities within public health and other areas of SA Health and as part of business continuity and management tools used across agencies and stakeholders to manage any infectious diseases. This change is drawing on the experience and expertise gained during the emergency response; however, a formal process has also begun that will ensure important lessons can be learned from the state's response to this emergency.

The Department for Health and Wellbeing is undertaking an important review of its response as the control agency for the period of the emergency declaration for COVID-19 from March 2020 to May 2022. This is a requirement of the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) for all emergencies, major incidents and disasters across the state. The independent reviewer will capture learnings from leaders involved in the decision-making during the declaration.

This was a whole-of-government approach and response with a whole-of-government community impact, and all agencies involved will also be looking at their roles in the response. The Health Control Agency Review will inform the whole-of-government process being coordinated by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet under the State Emergency Management Plan Lessons Management Framework.

The response has required the involvement of a range of agencies and stakeholders, such as GPs, pharmacists, retail, industry and SAPOL. Most importantly, this effort has been backed by our frontline healthcare workers across SA Health and public health experts. The Health Control Agency Review has very specific parameters under the framework to look at 10 responsibilities of the Control Agency, as defined by the State Emergency Management Plan. It will look at the challenges and innovations across the department's responses.

The motion to establish a select committee of the Legislative Council is supported to continue the work of the joint parliamentary committee established to look at the COVID-19 response. The range of matters outlined in the motion will look at some of the same issues that are being addressed in the process described recently and also in the Lessons Management Framework for a Control Agency, but from different perspectives. Any lessons we can learn that will assist how we respond in the future to any emergency, major incident or disaster are welcome and worth pursuing. I look forward to the outcome of the select committee's work.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (18:01): I will speak very briefly to this motion, which re-establishes a COVID-19 select committee from the Legislative Council. The Liberal Party will be supporting this particular proposal which, as we have heard from honourable members, had a significant role in analysing some of the matters in relation to the management of COVID-19. There are all sorts of superlatives that people could throw around about it being unprecedented and pandemics and a whole range of things, but certainly I do not think anybody anticipated what South Australia and the globe were to face when we first heard that there was an emerging virus that had the potential to cause a global pandemic.

Thankfully, we have sailed through this very well in South Australia, in no small part due to the leadership of the people who were known as the fab four, that being Premier Steven Marshall, health minister Stephen Wade, the police commissioner and Saint Nicola—

The Hon. R.A. Simms: Spurrier.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: Spurrier. Thank you, I had a mental blank. I was thinking Centofanti. Nicolas—Saint Nicolas.

Public health advice was very strongly adhered to to ensure that the best available science was guiding decisions of the state government. Now that we are in the phase where vaccinations have been available for some time and we understand a lot of the behaviour of the virus, we have come through that. However, COVID is still with us. There are outbreaks of a larger number of infections from time to time. It got me last year, finally, but I note that the Hon. Ian Hunter has remained virus-free, due in no small part to his particular caution. Clearly, long COVID is one of the issues that is of huge concern in our community as people have extended impact from infection, and we are still in the learning phase.

I note that the mover of this motion, the Hon. Mr Simms, has stated that the focus of the committee is to look at outbreaks, 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. As a species we need to learn and adapt, and we constantly need to do our best to learn from recent experience so that we can manage any potential future threats. With those words, I indicate that we are supporting the motion to establish this committee.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (18:05): I want to thank all members for their contributions and for their support in establishing this committee. I have spoken previously about the genesis of the committee and the process leading up to the establishment of the joint parliamentary committee. One of the key recommendations that the parliamentary committee made was that there be an ongoing committee of the parliament to look at the implications of COVID outbreaks, to look at what we have done previously, but also to look at the response of government, so I am pleased to see that this committee will be reconstituted.

As someone who has had COVID-19 twice, I am very interested in seeing what we can do to try to stop the spread of this virus, as I know all members of parliament are.

The Hon. I.K. Hunter: Wear a mask.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: I hear the Hon. Mr Hunter say, 'Wear a mask.' He is a great advocate for that and I should be inspired by his example. Obviously, we all have a responsibility to do what we can to try to eradicate this virus, and I am sure this committee will play an important role in terms of reviewing the government response. With that, I conclude my remarks and thank members for their support.

Motion carried.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: I move:

That the select committee consist of the Hon. E.S. Bourke, the Hon. L.A. Henderson, the Hon. J.E. Hanson, the Hon. B.R. Hood and the mover.

Motion carried.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: I move:

That the select committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from place to place and report on 28 June 2023.

Motion carried.

STRUAN RESEARCH CENTRE

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

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.

(Continued from 22 March 2023.)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (18:08): I move an amendment to this motion, as follows:

Leave out paragraph 4 and insert new paragraph as follows:

4. Notes the Malinauskas Labor government's intention to use this opportunity to renew the research centre to maximise the benefit to agriculture in our state.

The Struan Research Centre near Naracoorte is an important research and development centre. Members may be aware that it is focused on agtech, or agricultural technology, crop agronomy, revegetation, cattle and sheep genetics, grazing management, meat production and quality, animal welfare and behaviour and livestock nutrition.

The research centre is part of the historic Struan House site where staff from Regions, Major Programs and Biosecurity areas within the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA are located. It has an incredibly important role in the continued growth and success of the agricultural and livestock sectors that contribute so much to our state's economy. The centre has also been used for government and industry workshops and training sessions on a range of important agricultural matters, as well as the Struan and Kybylote Best Practice Demonstration Farm Field Day, allowing for hands-on experience for the sector with important and emerging agtech.

As we know, agtech has the potential to return \$2.6 billion per year to the state's economy and to give producers the ability to increase productivity, which only serves to highlight the importance of the centre's ongoing work in this area. Late last year, in November, a fire destroyed part of the facility. Some office areas were lost and a small amount of scientific equipment, and also some unprocessed research samples and farm records. Fortunately, most of the research was digitised and therefore was unaffected. Work at the facility continues, with farm and research staff

being moved within the historic building, Struan House, and a laboratory has been upgraded in an associated building.

Currently, the insurance claim for the damage caused by the fire is still being finalised and, while it is probably premature for the member to be calling on the government to provide funding to expand into different functions, there is an opportunity through planning—the planning that is underway—to ensure that the Struan Research Centre and facilities are rebuilt and repurposed in a way that meets the current and future needs of both the department and, most importantly, the agricultural industries of our state.

The amendment that I am proposing removes the reference, in the original motion, to providing funding to expand the functions of the centre to include training and education. The reason for that includes the fact that training and education does already occur there. I have already mentioned some of the training that is involved, and I know that there are workshops held for producers and there is the ability to be able to learn about, for example, agtech and other items.

Referring to the honourable mover of this motion's speech on the topic, when she moved this, she did not outline the sorts of training and education that she is seeking to have added. Therefore, I contend that paragraph 4 of the motion is at best ambiguous and at worst factually incorrect. However, I think it is incredibly important that the chamber does note the Malinauskas Labor government's intention to use this opportunity—which has come out of something that is, of course, very traumatic and devastating—to renew the research centre to maximise the benefit to agriculture in our state.

Coming back to the issue of training and education, I would draw the mover's attention to training for agriculture in our regional areas. I am not sure if she is aware that last month a new agricultural hub at TAFE SA's Mount Gambier campus was launched, which is providing training in horticulture and agriculture, conservation and ecosystem management, all of which are incredibly important. That program is a joint initiative between the federal and state governments. I was delighted to be there with Minister Blair Boyer, a member in the other place, to actually launch that.

I think there are always opportunities to improve, and what we are looking at and working on at the moment is working very closely with the staff at the Struan Research Centre in terms of looking at what their future needs will be: the infrastructure needs for a modern research centre, whether there are opportunities to improve and what that might look like. We are continuing, as I mentioned, to work through the insurance claim to enable the rebuilding to commence. Once that insurance claim has been fully resolved we will be able to move into more specifics about how we will rebuild the Struan Research Centre so that it continues to hold its place as a renowned research and development facility.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (18:13): I rise to speak in favour of the motion. In November of last year, a devastating fire tore through the Struan Research Centre in the state's South-East, causing an estimated \$5 million in damages. The centre represents a pivotal element of South Australia's agricultural research and development.

The research conducted at the Struan Research Centre is absolutely vital, not only to the future of South Australia's agricultural industry but in its broader implications globally. Climate change is an ongoing existential threat for our state and our nation. With the global population booming and the amount of arable land ever dwindling, it is more important than ever that we explore alternative, sustainable farming practices.

Further, in supporting this research we support the economic benefits that this industry will bring to our state. Beyond the wonderful produce that we are fortunate enough to be able to produce here in South Australia, the industry supports the jobs of over 70,000 people in South Australia alone. We have been given an opportunity to lead the way in agricultural research, and from the Greens' perspective it is important that we grasp that with both hands.

The expansion and revitalisation of this centre represents an important step for our state in combating the growing environmental threats faced by our country. I want to commend the Hon. Nicola Centofanti for putting this motion forward and for highlighting this very important issue.

The Greens will be supporting the motion in its original form and not supporting the amendment moved by the government.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (18:15): I would like to thank the honourable members for their contributions. I would like to thank the Hon. Robert Simms for his support of this motion. I also acknowledge the contribution from the minister, but I do find it incredibly disappointing that the minister has brought an amendment forward to this chamber without notifying the mover of the motion and possibly other members in the chamber. I would have thought it would be common courtesy to notify members of the amendment prior to the day of voting, particularly given that there was plenty of time to consider the motion, as I informed members many weeks ago that I would be bringing this motion to a vote today.

I note that in the past the minister and indeed many of her colleagues in the government have had no hesitation in reprimanding other members in this place for not following such a procedure, and that includes those who have had significantly less chamber experience than the minister herself. The opposition will not be supporting the minister's amendment because, in my opinion, the amendment waters down my motion and certainly changes the intent of the motion.

South Australia is known globally for producing high-quality food and fibre. Our products are safe and often allotted a premium price tag. We have earned this badge through exceptional agricultural and horticultural research and development. Genomics, agronomy, hydrological optimisation, zoology, entomology and microbiology are just some of the drivers that continue to keep South Australia a leader in primary industry innovation.

Whilst I acknowledge the investment the current government has made in vocational courses in Mount Gambier's TAFE—and indeed they are a welcome start—the opposition understands that the knowledge gap, not just the skills gap, for our primary industry sector is widening. The topics I listed prior have the potential to be industry altering, not just industry sustaining. They can accelerate production, profits and sustainability. Over the weekend, I was reading about a Tasmanian family who are trialling rare bean varieties on their farm, testing them for future climate resilience. Early in April, I had a three-hour discussion with a farming group from the USA about their ongoing research and development work in maximising macronutrients and water efficiencies in over a dozen different crops and orchards.

We must acknowledge that TAFE is not the be-all and end-all of education. Industry-operated and led research and development is critical to the success of agriculture and, indeed, for primary industries in our state. Equally important is the education and training in agriculture, in partnership with industry, that ensures that the next generation can have the opportunity to make a lasting contribution to the agricultural industry into the future. In a prior iteration, the Struan Research Centre was a joint research and teaching facility, and with leadership, vision and drive it could be that again. I therefore seek the support of the council on this important motion.

Amendment negated; motion carried.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REGULATIONS

Orders of the Day, Private Business, No. 109: Hon. C. Bonaros to move:

That the regulations under the Freedom of Information Act 1991, concerning Exempt Agency—Public Advocate, made on 17 February 2022 and laid on the table of this council on 3 May 2022, be disallowed.

The Hon. C. BONAROS (18:21): I move:

That this order of the day be discharged.

Motion carried; order of the day discharged.

At 18:23 the council adjourned until Thursday 4 May 2023 at 14:15.