

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 17 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 Procedure

ANSWERS TABLED

The PRESIDENT: I direct that the written answer to a question be distributed and printed in Hansard.

PAPERS

The following paper was laid on the table:

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

Lotteries Commission of South Australia—Report, 2021-22

Question Time

EXTINCTION REBELLION

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:19): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General a question about protests.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: This morning, a group of Extinction Rebellion protesters staged a dangerous stunt at the intersection of North Terrace and Morphett Street. There were significant traffic disruptions, shutdowns to public transport and delays to thousands of morning commuters: students trying to get to school, workers trying to get to their places of business and others just trying to get home.

To block arterial roads that service our largest emergency hospital puts lives at risk, not to mention the risk to our first responders who had to safely remove the protester hanging from the Morphett Street bridge and restore access to the Royal Adelaide Hospital, as well as general traffic flow. We all have the right to peacefully protest, but there is a substantial economic, social and, let's face it, environmental cost to what these protesters did today. My questions to the Attorney-General are:

1. What will the government do to ensure that legislation holds these protesters accountable for their actions and the substantial cost that is borne by the taxpayer in relation to emergency services call-out fees?

2. What changes will you propose to ensure we have a balance between the safety and wellbeing of our first responders and communities to ensure that stunts such as these do not unnecessarily place lives at risk?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:20): I thank the honourable member for her question and, as the honourable member points out, the ability to voice your opinion in a peaceful way that doesn't disturb society is a cornerstone of our democracy, and I think we all cherish that and seek to defend that. However, certainly I am aware that for protests there are avenues that include seeking permission and applications.

I think in the City of Adelaide the Adelaide City Council has an ability to help regulate and authorise protests, and I know that SAPOL are often involved or aware when there are applications for rallies, demonstrations or protests. I don't and this government doesn't endorse protests that are not done properly and cause damage or disturbance. In my view, I don't think it is particularly helpful to people's causes when they do that.

I know there are substantial penalties for doing things that can impede or restrict things like emergency services. I know that SAPOL do, and have in the past and will continue to do, enforce the laws that we have. I am not sure if there is a specific gap in the law that the honourable member is concerned about, but if there is we would be keen to have a look because there are laws that can apply and can have substantial penalties. If the honourable member thinks there is a particular gap in the law we would be happy to look at it.

BIOSECURITY

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 Minister for Primary Industries on supporting the primary industry sector.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: In last week's federal budget, a new food and fibre tax at a rate equivalent to 10 per cent of the 2020-21 industry-led agricultural levies has been placed on farmers to pay for biosecurity measures, despite the fact that farmers are not the risk creators. Additionally, an increased tax on the trucking industry means that heavy vehicle users will pay an additional 5.2 cents per litre in the heavy vehicle road user charge.

With already soaring costs of doing business, with significant increases in electricity prices, chemicals and wages, and now with additional taxes on the whole of the supply chain, this puts substantial pressure on our primary industries and, in turn, increased costs passed on to the consumer in the supermarket. My question to the minister is: in light of the federal budget, what is the Minister for Primary Industries doing to support our South Australian farmers and regional communities?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:23): I thank the honourable member for her question. She refers, of course, to the federal budget in which biosecurity was quite a headline. In and of itself I think that is actually a positive thing. I think it is very important that the status of biosecurity and the importance of biosecurity is raised in the public domain.

It is important that the general public, as well as industry, realise that biosecurity is a shared responsibility. If we don't share that responsibility by taking appropriate actions—for example, last year when we had the increased risk of foot-and-mouth disease emerging we talked very much about shared responsibility, whether it was travellers going to places that had foot-and-mouth disease, whether it was people receiving goods from overseas, and a variety of other measures.

We all need to be very conscious of the importance of biosecurity, and I am sure that those opposite would share the view that biosecurity is incredibly important in order to be able to protect our livestock industry and our agricultural industry.

I am advised that feedback from consultation on the development of a long-term sustainable funding model for biosecurity federally was clear, and that a strong biosecurity system is of national significance and should be funded by risk creators as well as beneficiaries. I am advised by the federal government that the biosecurity protection levy will commence on 1 July 2024, and that is to ensure that there is time to plan and negotiate new arrangements.

The new investment in the budget reverses, I am advised, a funding cliff for biosecurity that the Albanese government inherited. I am informed that without this new package, Australian government funding for the biosecurity system would have declined over the forward estimates by 15.9 per cent, a decline of almost \$100 million for biosecurity, to be less than \$500 million in 2025-26 and 2026-27.

I am advised that the federal budget includes more than a billion dollars in new biosecurity investments over the next four years, with over \$260 million in new funding per year, ongoing and locked from 2027-28. I am further advised by the federal government that that funding increase is permanent. It is good to see the increased recognition of the importance of biosecurity, and that everyone has a role to play in strengthening Australia's biosecurity system.

BIOSECURITY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:26): Supplementary: other than the low value imports of less than \$1,000, what are larger importers contributing to this shared responsibility to biosecurity?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:26): In terms of further details about the federal package, I suggest the opposition either looks at the publicly available information or they suggest to their colleagues in Canberra that they ask questions in the federal parliament.

BIOSECURITY

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:26): Supplementary: did the minister make a submission to her colleagues in Canberra to inform what should be in the budget?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:26): I think those who have made submissions to federal ministers include those across the various industries. I know that there have been ongoing discussions, as there always are, and that the federal government has undertaken to work closely—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —with industry in terms of implementation of various new measures.

BIOSECURITY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:27): Further supplementary: why didn't the Minister for Primary Industries make a submission?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister, you can answer if you want. I am not sure how that actually arises from the original answer.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:27): I am very pleased that the federal government has engaged in a far more collaborative approach since the change of government last year, and looking at the opportunities to discuss with the federal government, and particularly the federal agricultural minister, has been vastly improved because of the reinstatement of the agricultural ministers' meetings, which under the former Liberal federal government were almost non-existent. Indeed, there was a proposal, I am advised, to get rid of them altogether.

I am pleased that Senator Murray Watt, the minister in the federal government, reinstated those, and we have had a number of those where we can look at cross-jurisdictional issues, we can look at the sorts of issues and priorities that we want addressed on a national level, and I am very pleased that biosecurity has been one of those.

RURAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:28): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries regarding support for farmers.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Rural Business Support is an important financial and business advisory service offered to businesses, farmers and landowners in regional South Australia. It is a non-profit organisation listed with ACNC, and they offer rural and small business financial counselling, landowner and farm business management programs, agricultural support services, and a relief fund. On the ground, they are an incredibly valuable service. My questions to the minister are:

1. Is her government aware of any reductions in staffing or services to Rural Business Support due to the cuts to the Small Business Financial Counselling program?
2. What is her government's commitment to financial counselling to deal with the flood recovery support?
3. What money is PIRSA putting towards the effort to support primary industries and small businesses that are experiencing downturns as a result of challenging environmental and business conditions?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:29): I am not aware of any correspondence or approaches that have come to my office in regard to the matters that the member is referring to.

RURAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:29): Supplementary: can the minister explain to this chamber the impact a reduction in staffing and services to Rural Business Support would have upon their ability to serve rural communities in need?

The PRESIDENT: You can't get that out of the answer; I am sorry.

NORTHERN ADELAIDE PLAINS PRIMARY PRODUCERS

The Hon. T.T. NGO (14:30): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister tell the chamber about her recent visit to producers in the Northern Adelaide Plains?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:30): I thank the honourable member for his question and his ongoing interest in and support for the horticulture industry in South Australia. It's something that I know he is very passionate about and advocates on very positively and productively, on numerous occasions.

I had the opportunity to visit a number of producers on their farms last week in the Virginia area—in fact, I was accompanied by a colleague in this place, the Hon. Tung Ngo. The Northern Adelaide Plains plays a key role in the development of our horticulture industry in South Australia. This is an industry that certainly bats above its average—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —in terms of the contribution made in providing fresh fruit and vegetables—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —to this state and indeed across the nation.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Unless I am wrong, I thought the Hon. Mr Ngo asked the minister to update the chamber on her visit to the northern parts.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr Ngo asked the minister to update the chamber, so the minister is updating the chamber.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I am disappointed that those opposite don't have any interest in the horticulture industry, particularly given that tonight a number of them will be attending the Premier's horticulture industry awards and dinner.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Sit down.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Point of order, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: What is your point of order?

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: The minister is putting words in the opposition's mouth, and I ask her to withdraw.

The PRESIDENT: Minister, complete your answer, please.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Wortley! I don't need your—

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I will take your advice, Mr President, but I have barely begun. I only got through my first part—

The PRESIDENT: Yes, which is why I didn't say 'conclude'.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —before those opposite decided to interject.

The PRESIDENT: Continue.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Perhaps those opposite are not aware that the Northern Adelaide Plains plays a key role in the development of our horticulture industry here in South Australia. This is an industry that certainly bats above its average in terms of the contribution made in providing fresh fruit and vegetables to the state, and indeed across the nation.

The South Australian horticulture industry—I know you are aware, Mr President, but perhaps not those opposite—contributes over \$2 billion a year. The Northern Adelaide Plains horticulture region produces approximately 200,000 tonnes of fresh produce and over \$300 million in farmgate value annually. Some of the produce grown in this region includes potatoes, carrots, onions, cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, capsicum, cucumber and a number of varieties of tomatoes.

During our visit, something that became very clear was the large use of undercover cropping. The prevalence of undercover cropping in this region is now acknowledged as the largest undercover cropping region in the Southern Hemisphere, with over a thousand hectares of greenhouse production. I understand the region is continuing to expand by 100 hectares a year.

There are many advantages to undercover cropping. It provides a greater level of protection to the produce in the event of a hailstorm, something which of course we have seen in recent years. It also allows for faster growth rates, increased yields and extended growing periods while maintaining excellent quality produce.

It was also good to visit Living Colour Nursery in Penfield, and I thank David Eaton, the President of the Nursery and Garden Industry, for attending and joining the tour. I also want to thank Van and Tracey Le, owners of Le Fresh Hydroponics, for the tour of their facility, where they grow cucumbers and cherry tomatoes, and for seeing the impressive work that has gone into growing their business, which now includes a three-hectare greenhouse and a state-of-the-art packing facility.

We also had the opportunity to visit Merenda lettuce, which is based in Virginia. I want to thank Anthony for the opportunity to speak about some of the current issues facing the horticulture industry. Merenda Lettuce was established in 1989 and grows hydroponic lettuce. The farm has the capacity to grow 110,000 plants, which from the time of planting can be ready for market in just three weeks. Some of the varieties include green oak, red oak, green coral, red coral and butter. I also visited Lewis Horticulture, which had previously received close to \$40,000 in funding from the

Department of Primary Industries for the purchase and installation of 0.9 hectares of protective permanent netting as part of PIRSA's horticultural netting program.

We also visited the Virginia Farm Produce site, which was a hive of activity. Jessica Avery gave us a tour of the site, where they are currently in the process of investing over \$50 million on the site to help expand their business. Local tradespeople have been given the opportunity to work on this site, which means it will not only be a large employer in the future but is already providing significant work opportunities now for local trades.

The Farmer Group, which operates the site, has land that spans 85,000 hectares and produces a wide range of produce, while employing a significant number of people in the Northern Adelaide Plains region. The Northern Adelaide Plains feeds many South Australians through the produce it grows. It is also a key employer in the region, and I look forward to continuing to work with this region in assisting it to continue to grow and expand.

NORTHERN ADELAIDE PLAINS PRIMARY PRODUCERS

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:35): Supplementary: did the minister make any investigations to ensure that all workers are paid fairly, including at least award wages for their work?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:36): If the honourable member has any concerns about wages, I suggest she refer that to the appropriate bodies.

NORTHERN ADELAIDE PLAINS PRIMARY PRODUCERS

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:36): Supplementary: is the minister aware of the union campaign expressing their concern about the underpayment and ill treatment of workers in this industry?

The PRESIDENT: In your original answer you did talk about workers; however, you can decide to answer or not.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:36): Yes.

KOALA STATE NUMBERPLATES

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:36): I seek leave to make a brief explanation on the topic of the Labor election promise, specifically that for Koala State plates, before addressing a question to the Attorney-General, representing the Premier.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: The Malinauskas government announced during the 2022 state election that a Koala State plate option for South Australian vehicles would be introduced with an additional cost to car owners of \$50 for the purchase of the plates, going towards helping our state's native animals and wildlife rescuers. One such wildlife rescuer is Mish Simpson from Southern Koala and Echidna Rescue, coincidentally the very rescue facility at which the Labor Party chose to make that announcement about the Koala State plates.

Ms Simpson recently contacted my office and explained that her organisation has conducted more rescues or retrievals of koalas so far this year alone than across all the previous three years combined, explaining further that animals entering large, high-speed roadways, such as the Southern Expressway or the South Eastern Freeway, pose not only significant danger to animals but of course to road users. Current measures in place, such as the mesh ladders or concrete bollards, may limit incidences on roadways, but data kept by her rescue organisation indicates that the rate of injuries are increasing and wildlife carers need all the support they can get, and that includes minimising the need for their rescues in the first place.

I understand that she has written to the Malinauskas government, urging them to consider options, including funding from Koala State plates being used to prevent wildlife deaths and injuries on high-speed roadways by erecting effective physical barriers at high-risk locations, a measure that not only fulfills the Malinauskas government promise but improves road safety for road users and

could reduce the burden and stress currently being placed on wildlife rescuers and carers. My questions are:

1. How will the money from the sale of the Koala State plates be allocated?
2. Will wildlife care organisations be consulted about this allocation?
3. Will measures that actively make our roads safer for wildlife and so reduce the trauma and burden for our dedicated wildlife carers also be considered?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:38): I thank the honourable member for her questions. This will span a number of portfolios, in particular the Minister for Environment and Water, but also critically the Minister for Transport in relation to the collection of fees from numberplates and the actual infrastructure on roads.

I know that in very recent times I have had an email from an Aboriginal person living in Adelaide who contacted my office to talk about very similar issues, the incidence of koalas dying as a result of roads and how important koalas and other native animals are in Aboriginal culture. It is something that in recent times my office has been alerted to, but I will certainly seek some answers over a number of portfolios in relation to Koala State plates, how those funds might be used, in particular how those funds could be used in prevention mechanisms, as the member has outlined, and what consultation there will be in deciding on the distribution of funds. I am happy to take those away to the other ministers responsible and bring back a reply for the honourable member.

WITTON BLUFF BASE TRAIL PROJECT

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:40): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs about the Witton Bluff Base Trail project.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.S. LEE: On Tuesday 2 May, the minister advised this place that upon further advice on the matter of the Witton Bluff Base Trail project, he had decided that there was a possibility for a conflict of interest, perceived or otherwise, in relation to an application made under section 23 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act. The minister for environment and heritage has accepted the decision-making responsibility in relation to this application. On Thursday 4 May, when asked whether there were any briefings from the department during this time, the minister advised this place, and I quote:

I regularly get updates on all heritage matters—well, regular updates on heritage matters from the department; those that are under consultation or those that are looking at consultation.

My questions to the minister are:

1. Can the minister advise how many briefings he or his staff had prior to the minister for environment and heritage accepting the decision-making responsibility in relation to this application?
2. What advice was given to the minister at those briefings?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:42): I thank the minister for her question and for repeating, I think for the fourth time, exactly the same question. I am happy to answer it once more, and I am even more happy if the Liberal opposition want to ask the same question in different ways. It does make the government's job very easy but is probably not the best use of their time. Again, I am very happy to answer questions over and over again.

As I had previously outlined when this question was asked the first two or three times, this is a matter where I took advice. I handed it to another decision-maker, who is the Deputy Premier. The Deputy Premier will consider the information and make a decision in due course. As I have said previously, I regularly, at regular scheduled meetings, have updates on Aboriginal heritage matters.

WITTON BLUFF BASE TRAIL PROJECT

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:42): Supplementary: why did the minister need to take advice on where he lives?

The PRESIDENT: I am not sure how that relates to anything.

The Hon. K.J. Maher: That made no sense at all—about as much as most of your questions.

The PRESIDENT: Order, Attorney!

MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (14:43): My question is to the Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector. Will the minister advise the Legislative Council about this year's May Day celebrations?

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, her interest in this area and, as I have mentioned, for her life-long commitment to supporting workers as part of the labour movement, both in this chamber and for decades preceding that as a member of the legal profession supporting workers.

The Hon. I. Pnevmatikos interjecting:

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: For the two or three years or so that the honourable member practised in this area.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Pnevmatikos, you are not allowed to badger the minister.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Thank you for your protection from my own side. May Day, otherwise known as International Workers' Day, is celebrated around the world on 1 May each year. It is an important day to look at and reflect upon workers' rights and social justice where workers from all walks of life come together to look at ways for better treatment and fairer wages, and to celebrate the successes of the labour movement in building a better world for working people.

May Day has a rich history of over 100 years. While the tradition of an annual May Day demonstration is thought to originate with the strikes in Chicago in May 1886 in support of an eight-hour working day, it is often forgotten and unacknowledged that Australian stonemasons had been staging a similar annual event in support of the eight-hour working day at least 20 years prior. This shows once again how often the Australian labour movement has led the way.

While it's important to mark the successes of the labour movement that formed part of our modern lives—the eight-hour day, minimum wages, leave entitlements, superannuation and more—it's also an important opportunity on May Day to reflect upon the challenges that workers still face, drawing on issues that are facing workers today, such as insecure work, preventable deaths and injuries at work.

This year's May Day was marked by a march on the Saturday morning preceding May Day, where a family fun day was held, including many activities for families. While I wasn't able to attend the march on Saturday due to other commitments, I am reliably informed by the hundreds and hundreds of people who attended that the rain held off just long enough for the many marchers to finish, which maybe was a sign that they were being smiled down upon.

This year's celebrations were also joyfully marked by the return of the May Day dinner, after several years of interruption and hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a very large crowd that attended, including quite a number of people from this chamber, at the Waterside Workers Hall in Port Adelaide on a dark Monday night, including the Hon. Irene Pnevmatikos and representatives from the Greens, the Hon. Robert Simms and the Hon. Tammy Franks.

It was a significant event and the theme for this year's May Day celebrations on the weekend prior to and certainly on the night before was 'Unions for Yes'—the labour movement and trade unions supporting the campaign for a constitutionally enshrined recognition of a Voice to Parliament for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

As has been mentioned and was mentioned on that night and at other events that I have been at and other events that I have spoken at, there is a long and proud history of solidarity between the Australian trade union movement and First Nations people. The support of the union movement, for example, was instrumental in supporting the walk-off of the Gurindji people during the Wave Hill strikes that led to the iconic moment of the handover symbolically and then in law of land to Vincent Lingiari and his people way back in the 1970s.

This year's May Day dinner was addressed by keynote speaker, Thomas Mayo, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander man, wharf labourer, union official with the Maritime Union of Australia and signatory to the Uluru Statement from the Heart and one of the leading national voices for constitutional change. I think that only this week Thomas released a book with former ABC journalist Kerry O'Brien that is a very succinct and simple explanation of the case for constitutional change for recognition and a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament.

I am very pleased to once again be associated with May Day activities with the trade union movement, particularly this year when we will see a referendum in months ahead.

MORRISON, MR W.F.

The Hon. C. BONAROS (14:48): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Attorney-General a question about a coronial inquest.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: Last week, Deputy Coroner Jayne Basheer handed down her findings into the death of Wayne Fella Morrison, who died tragically in the Royal Adelaide Hospital on 26 September 2016 from multiorgan failure. She found in her report there were a litany of serious failings and shortcomings in how a first-time Aboriginal inmate was managed in both the police cells and the state's highest security prison.

Ms Basheer found Mr Morrison's death was possibly preventable and labelled conditions under which prisoners were held at the Holden Hill police cells as 'barbaric and inhumane'. She said the failings of the Department for Correctional Services that led to the death of an Indigenous man are so numerous that the department cannot be trusted to remedy its own shortcomings.

Following the handing down of the findings, the correctional services minister said the department:

...will now consider the findings and recommendations laid out in the Deputy Coroner's report and compare those recommendations against what has already been implemented.

My questions to the minister are:

1. Have you now had the opportunity to read the Coroner's report, and what are your views on those findings?
2. Have you met with your head of department to discuss its content?
3. What, if anything, will you be doing to address the recommendations insofar as they relate to your portfolios at least?
4. Does the minister acknowledge the warnings of the Coroner in stating that the Department for Correctional Services cannot be trusted to remedy its own shortcomings?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:50): I thank the honourable member for her very important questions. It is a tragic set of circumstances that led to the death of Wayne Fella Morrison, who was a 29-year-old Aboriginal man who eventually died in Royal Adelaide Hospital back in 2016. I certainly remember it well; it was when we were last in government when I was also Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

In the more than half a decade since, I have had a lot of discussions and contact with members of Mr Morrison's family about changes that can already be made and have already been made, particularly in relation to the use of spit hoods, and I know that's something the honourable member has had a significant interest in and an influence in shaping policy in relation to this area.

Last week the results of the coronial inquest were handed down. I have read a lot of the inquest. I think it runs to maybe 164 pages. It is very weighty, as it needs to be. It is a very weighty report that looks at the circumstances that led to the death, the recommendations to change systems to try to prevent such things occurring in the future.

I have already had some discussions with the heads of my department in the Attorney-General's Department. The vast majority, from an initial reading of the recommendations, relate to how Corrections does things, identifies things in the processes they have in place in terms of managing Aboriginal people who find themselves in the corrections system, but also the training and how correctional officers conduct themselves in certain circumstances. It is something I will be keeping myself abreast of.

I do note one of the recommendations, as the honourable member has pointed out, is that there be oversight that is not from Corrections. Certainly, I will continue to talk to my colleague the Minister for Correctional Services about that and the different parts of government that may be best placed to help with the implementation of those recommendations.

FARMER WELLBEING

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (14:52): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding farmer wellbeing.

Leave granted.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: The recently released National Farmer Wellbeing Report showed that 45 per cent of farmers have felt depressed, 64 per cent have experienced anxiety, and most alarmingly 30 per cent have attempted self-harm or suicide. My question to the minister is: as Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, how is her government investing in frontline services in rural communities to bring help closer to those in need?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:53): I thank the honourable member for her question. It certainly is a very important topic, and I think the sad statistics in regard to mental health in farming communities are probably fairly well known to most of us.

Obviously, in terms of direct mental health support, that comes under the scope of the Minister for Health in the other place. But in terms of support through my department and others, there are a number of projects that PIRSA lends its support to, either directly or indirectly, and that includes such things as the Family and Business Mentors; working with other organisations such as Rural Business Support, an organisation that was mentioned earlier in this question time; and bodies such as Primary Producers SA. We have been having discussions around this topic in various ways since coming into government and I will continue to support programs and initiatives that might assist.

FARMER WELLBEING

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (14:54): Supplementary: have any of the support services within your department relating to the wellbeing of regional farmers been cut or decreased over the past 12 months?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:54): I will take that question on notice to check. I don't believe so, but certainly if I'm mistaken there I will bring back updated information to the chamber.

FISHCARE VOLUNTEERS

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (14:54): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development about Fishcare volunteers. Will the minister inform the chamber about the important role Fishcare volunteers play as we celebrate National Volunteer Week this week?

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:55): I thank the honourable member for his question and, in particular, its relationship to National Volunteer Week, which is 15 to 21 May. It really is an opportunity for us all to take note, reflect and really extend our appreciation to volunteers in so many different ways.

I have certainly had the pleasure only today to speak on regional radio not just about Fishcare volunteers but about other volunteers within our communities who play such an important part, in particular in regional communities. The theme of National Volunteer Week this year is 'We are the change makers', which is a great way of thinking about what volunteers mean to us all, who benefit from volunteers' selfless dedication to the community and literally are making change from their desire to contribute to the greater good.

No matter what, who, or where volunteers dedicate their time and skills, this week is about recognising them and the fact that our communities will always be stronger for their efforts. One group of volunteers that I particularly want to highlight, given the question from the Hon. Mr Hanson, is PIRSA's Fishcare volunteers, who help to deliver fishing education to the public, often where it is needed most—by our waterways and all over the state—and it includes metropolitan Adelaide, the Riverland, Yorke Peninsula, Victor Harbor and the Limestone Coast.

Their important work revolves around delivering fishing education programs to the community and this is done in a number of different ways. Fishcare volunteers' tasks include giving advice and assistance to the public, educating recreational fishers about South Australian fishing rules and regulations, handing out information brochures and material and attending many community events all over the state, which can include field days, shows and fishing events.

Fishcare volunteers have accumulated over 83,350 hours of volunteer time since the project began, with more than 400 volunteers having participated in the program in its nearly 30-year existence. Indeed, of the 56 active Fishcare volunteers currently in the program, one has over 4,000 hours accumulated over 23 years. That's a fantastic achievement, nearly 174 hours a year, which equates to 3½ hours every week or, indeed, one could put it as four weeks' full-time hours a year for 23 years—just an incredible effort.

Undoubtedly, there are many examples of this kind of dedication over long periods in volunteering across all areas and this is just another aspect that makes them so special. Just recently, I had the pleasure of meeting a number of Fishcare volunteers at the RecFish SA Fishing Day at Happy Valley and also at the recreational fishing forum that is held in Wallaroo, with my colleague in the other place the Hon. Katrine Hildyard, as well as other events over the past year.

What strikes me, on meeting Fishcare volunteers, is that they are truly passionate about helping other people to enjoy fishing and to do so responsibly, so that future generations can continue to enjoy the incredible fishing opportunities that we have here in South Australia. I take this opportunity again to put on the record my sincere thanks to our Fishcare volunteers: their skills, knowledge and time are truly valued.

I wish all Fishcare volunteers, indeed all volunteers across all government and non-government agencies, a fantastic week. I hope you can take some time to reflect on your own achievements in making South Australia an even better place. Thank you.

REGIONAL HOUSING

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:58): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question without notice to the Minister for Regional Development on the topic of regional housing.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: This morning, *The Advertiser* reported that regional SA has the lowest vacancy rate for rental properties in the country. The figure shows that the number of rentals listed on realestate.com.au in regional South Australia has dropped by 60 per cent since 2020. Anne Flaherty from PropTrack Market Insights attributes the problem to a lack of supply but also the return of long-term rentals to short-term holiday rentals after the lifting of pandemic tourism restrictions.

Data from PropTrack also shows that regional renters aged 15 to 24 and those over 65 years of age contribute to a larger share of their income towards rent, but are also more likely than other age groups to reside in regions where rent prices are increasingly higher than the national average. My question to the minister therefore is: other than simply making a submission, what real action has the minister taken to advocate for regional renters who are adversely impacted by the housing crisis; and does the minister recognise the need for regulation of short-term holiday rentals such as Airbnbs?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:00): I thank the honourable member for his question, although it does surprise me a little that he is frequently mentioning submissions when he didn't bother to put in a submission to the banking inquiry federally, just by all of his protestations here.

The Hon. R.A. Simms: I made one to the residential tenancies.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Yes, the government did put in a submission, as I mentioned yesterday—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —but the opposition didn't, and the South Australian Greens didn't. However, that is another matter.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: The question in regard to regional housing is an important one, and I think it is something that we have discussed a number of times in this chamber, and certainly it is something that is raised with me at almost every forum or event that I attend in regional areas, which, of course, are very, very many. This government has done a number of things in terms of addressing the housing crisis, both here in metropolitan Adelaide but of course my particular discussions around it are more focused on regional housing.

I refer members to my previous answers on this topic in terms of what this government is doing, including the establishment of the Office for Regional Housing, so that we can look at innovative solutions to the crisis. Members who don't live regionally might not necessarily appreciate how the one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work in regional areas. It's not the same as simply being able to, for example, entice a developer to set up in an area.

There are a number of other issues that impact. For example, the regional development associations have been very active in looking at different ways that the housing crisis can be addressed in different regional areas, and I am certainly encouraging them to engage with the Office for Regional Housing so that those sorts of opportunities and different ideas and innovative solutions can be fully explored.

In terms of regulation for short-term accommodation such as Airbnb, it is an interesting topic that does come up quite frequently, and there are contrasting views. I think a lot of us could certainly see the benefits to freeing up for longer term accommodation that more regulation of Airbnb might provide.

On the other hand, people who own properties expect to be able to use those properties in the way that they wish. Indeed, a number of people, as I understand it, who do utilise their properties for Airbnb often do so for short bursts in between when they or their family members are staying in the properties themselves. Certainly that is the experience in my local township in Port MacDonnell of people who I am familiar with on a personal basis.

I think it is an important discussion to have. It's a discussion that might be had across a number of portfolios, impacting as it does on tourism, on workforce, on long-term rental, on cost of living, so I thank the member for raising the issue again in this chamber, as well as it being raised by others in a number of other forums. I am sure it is something that will continue to develop and be a topic of discussion.

REGIONAL HOUSING

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:03): Supplementary: does the minister have a view on the need for regulation of short-term holiday rentals, and has she raised this with the ministers to which she referred?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:03): I think I have just alluded to the contrasting views that are put, and I think there is validity in those contrasting views. If it was an easy problem to solve, I'm sure it would have been solved by now. It may even have been solved under the former government if it was an easy one, but clearly it isn't. It is something that needs to be weighed up and discussed. In terms of discussions with my cabinet colleagues, yes, discussions have occurred.

REGIONAL HOUSING

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:04): Supplementary: what is the minister's view?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:04): My view is as I have stated it in the answer to the first question.

REGIONAL HOUSING

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:04): Supplementary: is the government actively considering tightening regulations with respect to short-term accommodation in the regions?

The PRESIDENT: You talked about that in your answer.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:04): To my understanding, given that it is not directly my portfolio, there are no current proposals directly for tightening, to my knowledge.

WITTON BLUFF BASE TRAIL PROJECT

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:04): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs about the Witton Bluff Base Trail Project. My questions are:

1. Why did it take so long for the minister to determine that he had the possibility for a perception of bias or conflict of interest?
2. Had the minister not considered this application between March 2022 and January 2023, and is this in line with the expectations of the community?
3. Noting the community has been waiting for an outcome for over 12 months from the Malinauskas government, can the minister advise whether this will be made a matter of priority for the new decision-maker, and when can we expect to have clarity around this matter?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:05): I thank the honourable member for her question: (a) I don't think it took too long to make a decision, and (b) no decision was made by me. Further, I think it would be completely inappropriate—I know the Liberal Party have a different idea about what you do when there may be conflicts, but I think it would be completely inappropriate for me, having declared a conflict, to involve myself in a process.

WITTON BLUFF BASE TRAIL PROJECT

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:05): Supplementary question: is it in line with community expectations to take over 12 months to consider an application?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:06): I thank the honourable member for her question. What she seems to be alluding to, and she can say if it's not correct, is that one ought to override legislation that protects other aspects if they think there is a community expectation of it. What I don't endorse, what I absolutely do not endorse, is shortcutting, truncating or doing away with statutory provisions, whether they be environmental—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: —protections, whether they be Aboriginal heritage protections.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: What I certainly do not agree with—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: —and I will not agree with, is that there ought to be some sort of shortcutting and disregarding of Aboriginal heritage considerations or protections if there is someone in the community who thinks otherwise. I just don't agree with that one iota.

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON: Mr President, the minister should withdraw. That is not the assertion that has been made.

The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Excuse me.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Stop wasting question time.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK PROGRAM

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (15:07): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Will the minister please update the chamber about the recent expansion of the On The Right Track program?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:07): I thank the honourable member for his very good question. This hasn't been asked twice in question time today already, or four times in the last two weeks. Fancy that, sir: a unique and new question. That's how you do it; that's how you ask questions.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: I will be brief because I note that there are crossbenchers here who ask relevant, searching and probing questions to elicit answers, and many times they are not the same question asked by one of their colleagues only about six questions ago, which is obviously a very good way to do this.

The On The Right Track program is a service that assists Aboriginal people on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara and the Maralinga Tjarutka lands to get their driver's licences. The program assists with driving lessons and driving practice, as well as with the tests to obtain learner's permits and provisional licences. I am very pleased to be able to inform the chamber that, through an expansion of the program, drivers on the APY and MT lands are now able to apply not just for the learner's and provisional licences of the regular class but also heavy vehicle training. Eleven people from six communities are already receiving lessons with the prospect of securing jobs in the mining and transport sectors.

The aim of this new program is to improve road safety and driver licensing outcomes for Aboriginal people living in very remote communities where it can be difficult to gain a licence. Accessing a driver's licence is not just a matter of simple convenience, but it is a tool for professional and personal development.

Through a unique collaboration with Regional Anangu Services Aboriginal Corporation (RASAC), the program, which has been helping Anangu who live in the APY lands obtain their licences since 2015, will now offer heavy vehicle licence training. With the expansion to heavy vehicle licensing, the On The Right Track program is helping to foster these sorts of professional development opportunities. This expansion further strengthens existing efforts to increase road safety, employment opportunities and local business growth across the APY lands.

Unfortunately—as I know you know, sir, from having visited these remote areas, and many members of this chamber have—for many members in these remote communities the lack of access to a vehicle; the cost of running them; the difficulty in obtaining a licence; the unavailability, in many circumstances, of driver training; and long distances can prevail against the best efforts to obtain a licence.

Prior to the original commencement of the On The Right Track program, it was estimated that only 17 per cent of age-eligible Aboriginal people living on the APY lands held a driver's licence or permit, compared with a figure of 89 per cent for the general South Australian population. Since On The Right Track began, the service has assisted more than 2,500 customers and issued more than 900 learner permits and almost 300 provisional licenses. The On The Right Track program ensures that high-quality training and information is available even in the most remote of locations and is designed to benefit individuals, their families and their wider communities, as well as service providers in these remote communities.

Under the expansion, heavy vehicle driving lessons are now available in various communities, including Pipalyatjara, Kanpi, Amata, Umuwa, Pukatja, Kaltjiti, Mimili and Iwantja. Testing is available at the Amata and Pukatja communities. What is particularly impressive about this initiative is the commitment to breaking down the barriers to obtaining a driver's licence in a culturally appropriate manner. The addition of heavy vehicle training that started in March has already assisted 11 people across six communities to start lessons.

The On The Right Track coordinator for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, Jade Wilson, said that driver's licences for remote community residents offer more than just mobility. She said:

A drivers license can be like a shield, a shield that prevents people from getting picked up by the police and gaining additional fines, we know that drivers licenses are [not just] a national passport but for some Aboriginal people living in those areas they're a shield [against those things].

As part of the South Australian Road Safety Action Plan 2023-2025, the state government has committed to expanding the On The Right Track program to achieve further outcomes for Aboriginal people. I am pleased to be able to report to the council on the expansion to the heavy vehicles program and look forward to further opportunities to update the council on the way government is empowering Aboriginal people through programs like On The Right Track.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

The Hon. S.L. GAME (15:12): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General, representing the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, regarding psychosocial support.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: I have been in discussions with a number of mental health services and advocacy groups. All indicate the need for better implementation of psychosocial support for people experiencing mental illness. Psychosocial support includes recovery planning, support to live independently, assistance to manage a tenancy, assistance to manage health and emotional wellbeing, as well as support to get involved in your local community.

Housing and support programs are also important, and a number of states are starting to increase their investment in these. We have the Housing and Accommodation Support Partnership here in South Australia but, given the housing crisis, I would expect the government to have plans to expand this program. The Mental Health Coalition found that having a community-based psychosocial support would reduce hospitalisation and bed days by 62 per cent. Fifteen per cent of

people who are discharged are back in hospital within 28 days, putting a strain on the already burdened health system.

I note that the current government made mental health a priority; however, I cannot find any evidence of funding for psychosocial support services in the budget for the next four years. My questions to the Attorney-General, representing the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, are:

1. Knowing that psychosocial supports will reduce our ramping crisis and demand on emergency departments, does the government have plans to invest more in community psychosocial supports?

2. Given the worsening housing crisis and the effectiveness of programs that coordinate housing and psychosocial support, does the government have plans to increase investment in the Housing and Accommodation Support Partnership?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:14): I thank the honourable member for her questions and I will be happy to refer them to the Minister for Health, as she has indicated is the responsible minister, and bring back a reply.

MOUNT GAMBIER IN HOME HOSPICE CARE

The Hon. B.R. HOOD (15:14): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding palliative care in the South-East.

Leave granted.

The Hon. B.R. HOOD: There is certainly no certainty for the future of Mount Gambier In Home Hospice Care after its annual funding runs out at the end of this month. Were it not for a life-saving Hospital Research Foundation grant, they would be unable to continue their operations beyond the end of the year. In Home Hospice Care is a free 24/7 service run by amazing volunteers that goes above and beyond the current SA Health palliative care services in the South-East that only operate from Monday to Friday, nine to five.

Rather than extending their funding, it is reported that the health minister has instead allocated one half full-time equivalent to support the Country Health Connect team. My questions to the minister are:

1. As Minister for Regional Development and a South-East local, has the minister discussed the matter with the health minister?

2. Has the minister received feedback from South-East constituents about concerns over the lack of palliative care services in the region?

3. Can the minister advise whether the 0.5 FTE will provide palliative care services to patients or, instead, provide administrative support to the Country Health Connect palliative care team?

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. If I recall correctly, this is a service that the former Liberal government failed to put in long-term funding for, but in terms of any more recent updates, I am happy to refer those to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing in the other place and bring back an answer for the honourable member.

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (15:16): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister inform the chamber about the recent funding announcement by the state government for the establishment of an industry-wide seafood peak body in South Australia?

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. I was very pleased to be able to stand with key seafood industry figures last week to announce that the state

government will provide \$300,000 towards the establishment of a state-based seafood peak body. The new body, Seafood Industry South Australia Incorporated (SISA for short) will be independent and wholly industry driven.

SISA will be tasked with advocating for the seafood industry across a broad range of sectors, with its membership comprising of wild catch, aquaculture, processing and retail, which makes this new body unique in its whole-of-industry focus within our state. SISA will also have an important role as a voice for the industry on the national and international stage.

South Australia, as one of Australia's largest and premium seafood states, will now have a further enhanced ability to communicate its achievements, championing our diverse and world-class range of sustainably sourced seafood, as well as our fantastic processors and retailers. The new industry-wide seafood peak body is an initiative that key figures across the seafood sectors have long called for, including Northern Zone Rock Lobster Association Executive Officer, Kiri Toumazos, and owner of Barossa Fine Foods and Angelakis Brothers, Franz Knoll, who joined me last week in making this announcement.

It has taken a huge effort from a range of key people across the industry sectors, who have contributed to getting SISA to the point it is now. It strikes me often, when talking with seafood leaders within South Australia, the sheer passion and pride they have for our state and for ensuring that we rightly take our place as one of the most recognised and respected commercial fisheries anywhere in the world, not only for our premium seafood, which of course is incredibly important, but also for the sustainable way in which it is produced, and that is something we should be proud of.

The seafood industry is an important part of our state's economy, generating \$440 million across wild catch and aquaculture and employing approximately 6,700 FTEs, many of whom are based in regional South Australia. The new peak body will make the industry stronger, and I look forward to working with Seafood Industry South Australia in the coming months and years.

Matters of Interest

YUNUPINGU, DR G.

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:19): On 3 April 2023, Australia mourned the passing of a truly remarkable man. I rise today to speak about the passion behind Dr Yunupingu, also known as Galarrwuy Yunupingu AM. Dr Yunupingu was born in North-East Arnhem Land on 30 June 1948. He was a member of the Gumatj clan of the Yolngu nation.

This extraordinary man's lifelong mission was to see our Indigenous Australians have the same level of wellbeing and life opportunities as non-Indigenous Australians. Yunupingu sought to improve the relationship between Australians and our Indigenous people because he knew that if we improved the treatment of all First Nations people, then their lives would be better and Australia could heal.

He recognised education and a sense of community as being powerful tools for empowerment. For this reason, he passionately fought against discrimination and became a tireless advocate for Indigenous education, as he believed it would lead his people to take control of their own lives. Yunupingu's activism began when he helped his father and uncle draft the Yirrkala Bark Petitions in 1963 when he was 15.

The challenge for customary law and native title rights over land was not successful; however, it was the first case in commonwealth history in which First Nations people declared native title rights and challenged mining company leases. It contributed to the setting up of the Whitlam government's Woodward royal commission. This inquiry sought ways to recognise Aboriginal land rights in the Northern Territory and Yunupingu served on this commission as an adviser.

In 1975, Yunupingu worked with then Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser on what would become the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976. This legislation gave Indigenous people in the Northern Territory the right to claim land that was traditionally owned by their ancestors. For the following 23 years, he served as chair of the Northern Land Council.

Yunupingu was the founding member and chair of the Yothu Yindi Foundation. He was the elder brother of Mandawuy, lead singer of the Yothu Yindi band. Yunupingu sometimes played bilma

and guitar in the band. Its fusion of contemporary rock and Indigenous music raised awareness of Aboriginal culture and brought Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians together.

Yunupingu's tireless activism and relentless campaigning, as well as his contributions spanning across music and the arts, will always be an inspiration. His legacy is one of hope, resilience and an unwavering commitment to justice. It was noted that just before PM Bob Hawke's role ended in December 1991, while he and Yunupingu stood before the Yirrkala Bark paintings in Parliament House, Bob Hawke said, and I quote:

Its presence here calls on those who follow me; it demands of them that they continue efforts, that they find solutions to the abundant problems that still face Aboriginal people of this country.

Several prime ministers later, we will have a referendum asking Australians nothing more than to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the constitutional right of a Voice. Yunupingu understood the connections between Australia's social and political structures. With wisdom, humility and courage, he sought to ensure our nation is one of truth and inclusivity.

The principles of the Voice align with truth and inclusivity. The Voice referendum is the means by which all Australians can formally agree that our First Nations people deserve to be included in the process of genuine collaboration. I express the deepest condolences to Dr Yunupingu's family and colleagues and know that his spirit is embedded in our history forever.

FEDERAL BUDGET

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:24): The matter I rise to speak on this afternoon is one that will be of importance to all South Australians who are dealing with the cost-of-living crisis that is engulfing our country and that is the Anthony Albanese government's second budget. This budget is a betrayal of the Labor Party's promise that no-one would be left behind. Despite a worsening cost-of-living crisis, Labor is committed to stage 3 tax cuts that will cost the budget \$313 billion over 10 years—\$313 billion that will go to some of our nation's highest income earners when one in six Australian children live in poverty. What an outrage.

These stage 3 tax cuts will turbocharge inequality, disproportionately rewarding men at close to double what women will receive, with 65 per cent of the benefits flowing to men over the next decade. Just over half of the total cost of the stage 3 tax cuts, \$157 billion, will flow to people earning over \$180,000 a year, and previous analysis has shown that the top 1 per cent of income earners will receive more than the 60 per cent of Australians who are on lower incomes combined.

It is telling to note what was missing from Treasurer Jim Chalmers' budget speech—he did not even mention climate change once, not once, despite the fact that his budget pledges \$41 billion in fossil fuel subsidies. Let's not forget also this is a Labor government that is committing \$368 billion to nuclear submarines—to building war machines—here in our state.

The cost-of-living measures in the budget do not even begin to address the scale of the rental, housing and poverty crises that are engulfing this country. There is nothing in the budget to ease the burden for those who are dealing with student debt, yet uni students are bearing the brunt of the cost-of-living crisis in our country, with many regularly skipping meals, falling behind on rent and being forced to abandon their degrees in favour of paid work.

The Labor Party have increased JobSeeker and we welcome that, but by a measly \$2.85 a day. That is \$2.85 a day, bringing JobSeeker to \$50 a day, when the poverty line sits at \$88 a day. How is someone in trouble meant to survive off that? It is absolutely pathetic. The Labor Party has also cut \$74.3 billion from the NDIS over the next 10 years and all these decisions have been made in the context of delivering a \$4.2 billion surplus—money in the bank while people sleep on the street. Talk about warped priorities.

The Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, said that the government has had to make some tough choices. I do not accept that. The tough choices are being made by the ordinary men and women of our country, including South Australians, who are doing it tough, who have to choose between whether or not they can put food on the table or whether or not they can pay their rent on time or whether or not they can pay their electricity bills. These tough choices are being imposed on them by this Labor budget because of the failure of leadership that we are seeing in Canberra, and this is

happening in the middle of a once-in-a-generation inflation crisis, where again ordinary people are paying the brunt for inflation that is being turbocharged by large corporations.

We forget that the cause of this inflation crisis is not the ordinary Australian. The culprits are big banks, the energy and mining sectors and supermarkets that are making record profits. In fact, The Australia Institute estimates that surging corporate profits are to blame for more than two-thirds of our nation's inflation problem.

I would urge this chamber to look at The Australia Institute's analysis of ABS National Accounts data from the December quarter of 2019 to the most recent September quarter of 2022 where it was found that 69 per cent of inflation above the mid-point of the Reserve Bank's 2 to 3 per cent range was attributable to rising corporate gross profits. This crisis is being driven by corporate greed; that is what is driving this crisis. Yet, we see a budget that is going to prop up the big end of town, giving them support, giving them more relief, while ordinary Australians do it tough.

Time expired.

PALLIATIVE CARE

The Hon. B.R. HOOD (15:30): Today, I rise to speak about palliative care in our regions and of the vital work of the Mount Gambier In Home Hospice Care service. Mount Gambier In Home Hospice Care was established in 2020 with funding from the South Australian Palliative Care Grants Program with support from the Mount Gambier Private Hospital and the guidance of the Warrnambool and District Community Hospice.

In Home Hospice Care is committed to a philosophy of care that recognises the end-of-life issues concerned with death, dying, palliative care, grief and loss that affect us all and that are everyone's responsibility. Before its establishment, palliative care in Mount Gambier was only available from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. This vital new service has plugged those gaps and offers round-the-clock assistance to terminally ill patients by specially trained volunteers.

Most of those who require hospice care, when thinking about how they want to spend the final days and weeks of their life, would prefer to be cared for at home rather than in a medical setting. In Home Hospice Care can cater to these wishes by working closely with health professionals to provide patients and their families with practical and emotional support. It is a well-rounded, holistic type of care that these volunteers provide as patients face their life-limiting illness. Without the initial grant supplied by the former state government and from donations from groups like the Masonic Charities Trust, the Mount Gambier and Grant councils, WISE Employment and the Mount Gambier Lions Club, this free service would simply not exist.

Last month I had the pleasure of attending a charity afternoon tea, organised by local fundraising legend Lois Bayre, in support of In Home Hospice Care. The 250-strong crowd shared delicious scones and tea, while hearing inspiring and deeply personal stories from In Home Hospice Care Chairperson Maureen Klintberg, and Shyla Wills, CEO of Palliative Care South Australia. Lois and her team raised over \$10,000 for the organisation, and I thank Lois for her tireless fundraising efforts over many years.

For an organisation with no ongoing funding source, In Home Hospice Care has achieved remarkable results in its short two years. The service's annual costs are approximately \$110,000, not considering their growth plan over the next three years. Twenty-one families have received support since its inception, and they have employed two part-time staff to work alongside their 33-person strong and active volunteer base.

They have identified a growing need, both within and beyond their current geographical reach, and their goal is to ensure services are available for all who need them. To achieve this, they plan to expand their services to the Mount Gambier District Health Service, residential care homes and into the wider geographical area that includes Penola, Millicent and Naracoorte.

In Home Hospice Care ought to be viewed as an essential part of an integrated home-based palliative care service that supports individuals, families and caregivers outside institutional care settings. Empowering community-level grassroots services like this will ensure high-quality and

holistic care for those who need it and also reduce emergency department presentations and free up hospital resources.

KPMG and Palliative Care Australia's 2020 report found that some home-based palliative care services are twice as likely to fulfil an individual's wishes to die at home while reducing ED presentations by between 2 and 13 per cent, resulting in less time spent in hospital. This means significant financial and functional savings exist for SA Health services, including reducing the burden on our ambulance system and wider health workforce.

For these salient reasons, I echo the calls of our shadow minister for regional health, Penny Pratt, and my colleague the Hon. Nicola Centofanti, who have been calling on the health minister to review his decision not to fund this service going forward. The steady hands of chairperson Maureen Klintberg and hospice manager Sandi Elliot have ensured they can utilise the organisation's reserve funds until the end of May, and thanks to a life-saving Hospital Research Foundation grant and with community donations increasing, the Mount Gambier In Home Hospice Care service can continue, but only until December 2023.

Maureen, Sandi and the team of dedicated staff and volunteers are owed a debt of gratitude for their tireless advocacy and ongoing commitment to improving end-of-life care for the South-East community. Next week is National Palliative Care Service Week, a chance for us all to celebrate and acknowledge the need for quality palliative care services in our communities. The In Home Hospice Care has proved itself as a trusted, essential, free service for those who are willing to live and to die well in the South-East and they desperately need this government's support.

WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY FOR DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:35): You may not know that next week and indeed every 21 May the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization—known more colloquially as UNESCO—leads the celebration of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. That is quite the mouthful, so what does it all mean? Well, I am glad you asked. Actually, it means quite a lot for right here in South Australia. Why? Well, I am glad you asked that too.

The UN is asking us to recognise and to celebrate the richness of our world's tapestry of diverse cultures; in short, to celebrate multiculturalism, to highlight, to promote, to celebrate what it does in achieving peace among nations and people, but not just peace for peace's sake. We do not need to look far to see that peace brings more than just a place to raise our families. It brings a place for us all to thrive in communities, to grow economically. Conflict based on hate or division brings nothing more than destruction of homes, minds and, at its highest, lives.

The UN cites the figure that 89 per cent—89 per cent—of all current conflicts in the world are occurring in countries with low intercultural dialogue. Clearly, the role that dialogue between cultures can play in promoting understanding, tolerance and social cohesion has never been more important. The UN's former Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, once said:

...diversity is a universal value...the peoples of the world are far more united by common fate than they are divided by their separate identities.

I could not agree more. Culture is powerful. It is important. We should celebrate it—all of it. How does this affect us back here in South Australia? An awful thing happened last month. On Thursday 20 April, a racist banner was unfurled during the darkness of night by a masked group of people on a bridge over a major road in Salisbury.

It is not lost on me that 20 April is Adolf Hitler's birthday. Entirely leaving aside one of the most egregious, offensive things about the banner—which was its hateful message—the message of the banner simply does not bear out. The location in which the message was placed is one of the most multicultural in the state. It sits cheek by jowl next to a city synonymous with immigration in Elizabeth and, by a supreme act of irony, it was placed on a footbridge connecting two communities.

Multiculturalism promotes tolerance. Tolerance creates peace. Peace enables not only the survival but the thriving of all cultures. Multiculturalism literally brings us together. I greatly regret that we have seen the sorts of demonstrations, like that in Salisbury, more often in Australia and, indeed, here in our state.

There have been a number of racist incidents recently in our state and in other states—I am sure you are all aware of them. It has never been more clear: we need to be determined to call out and combat the ideology that underlies these offensive and woefully misguided acts. You do not have to share someone's values to live peacefully and respectfully alongside them.

The truth is that we have nothing to fear from cultural, linguistic, religious and racial diversity. The threat we should be wary of is knee-jerk, fearful responses of the ignorant people who think we do. Fearful and hateful demonstrations can and do escalate violence and conflict, violence that we unequivocally do not want to see in our community and conflict that tragically we see in communities around the world.

A lack of intercultural dialogue is a major factor in what enables dangerous ignorance and fearful bigotry to persist. I, along with the Premier, Peter Malinauskas, and almost every member here, proudly signed the South Australian first Multicultural Charter in March this year. I could not be prouder of the Labor member for Playford, and my mate John Fulbrook, who took a strong stance against the hate signs placed in his community by placing one of his own, which said: 'Multiculturalism brings us together.' And he did it not under the cover of darkness with masks, but in a community walk with hundreds of multicultural members of his community.

Like the member for Playford, each of us should model and promote intercultural dialogue in our own lives, and work together on a regular basis. Future generations of South Australians can come of age in a community that not only values but invites diversity of culture, and refuses to tolerate bigotry and hate.

LEGACY CENTENARY TORCH RELAY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:40): Last week, I had the absolute honour of participating in the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay 2023. The Legacy Centenary Torch Relay, presented by Defence Health, began in April in Pozieres, a town within the French provincial department of Somme. It is a town flanked by war memorials and cemeteries, surrounded by fields where hundreds of soldiers died. It is where the Legacy promise began 100 years ago as an Australian soldier held his dying mate in the trenches of the First World War and swore he would look after his family back home.

Since Federation, over 102,000 Australian servicemen and servicewomen have paid the ultimate sacrifice while wearing the uniform of our defence forces. Thousands more have been physically or emotionally wounded from their exposure to conflict. As anyone who has worked with this organisation can attest, Legacy is a part of families for life.

I know this firsthand because I am a wife of a veteran of the Iraq War. I am also a proud legatee myself, someone who is privileged to support other families like my own impacted by conflict. I am blessed with a husband and father who came home to us after service, and so I give back. Men, women, young and old, legatees have an enthusiasm for being involved in the community. In this National Volunteers Week, I encourage everyone to consider becoming involved in an organisation like Legacy, supporting widows and their families.

The 2010 Young Australian of the Year, Corporal Mark Donaldson VC, member of the Australian Army's Special Air Service Regiment, was a Legacy Youth recipient himself after his father died of a heart attack following active duty. He attests that Legacy assisted him and his family to carry on with as little disruption as possible. Mark and his brother became wards of Legacy; one of their legatees was a former member of the same Army unit their father had served in.

According to their latest annual report, Legacy South Australia and Broken Hill currently supports over 3,160 beneficiaries. The youngest widow supported is only 24 years old; the eldest is 108 years. Legacy South Australia and Broken Hill currently supports 103 children of contemporary veterans. The youngest youth supported by Legacy at the time of publication was only nine months old.

The simple promise that Legacy keeps is to provide stability, guidance and assistance that a missing partner would normally provide to their family. That comes in the form of practical support for those left behind. They play an important role in advocating for pensions, alleviating financial insecurity for veterans and their families. They have an important role to play in minimising social

isolation for widows and widowers, as well as providing care and respite for those struggling with physical and mental injury upon transitioning from active service.

School fees, scholarships, uniforms, books and equipment are all items Legacy assists Legacy Youth children with. But it is also the small things that children miss when a parent is missing. The importance of a legatee cannot be overstated. I heard from a young man, Ben Cox, who was orphaned at 13 years old. His legatee was there for him. He said, and I quote:

I could call him when I wanted to tell someone how much I missed my mum or how much I missed my dad. I could call him about troubles at school, relationship advice or even simple things, like learning how to shave for the first time.

It is a special friendship that walks with families for the rest of their lives. Romans 12:9 says:

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil and cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.

I believe this holds with the Legacy promise: looking after those left behind. Legacy cares for the consequences of past wars and conflicts on our defence force personnel, and they care for the next generation impacted by those terrible consequences, as Corporal Donaldson VC described.

Legacy Australia holds charity status with the ACNC and raises much of its own income to support its highly impactful services. The largest portion of funding comes from private and business donations, events, public appeals and bequests. They do receive some assistance from the state government, and I encourage that to continue, as it has done in the past, in a bipartisan manner.

I want to end today's speech by reciting *The Legacy Ode*, a special poem often recited at Legacy events and said for those no longer with us:

Fear not that you have died for naught
The torch you threw to us we caught.
And now our hands will hold it high
Its glorious light shall never die,
We'll not break faith with you who lie
On many a field.
Lest we forget.

JENKINS, MRS A.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:45): Five and a half years ago, an Adelaide grandmother visiting her elderly mother in Malaysia vanished and was never seen again. Her name was Anna Jenkins, she was 65 years old and was a much loved and devoted wife, mother and grandmother. It was a trip that Anna, a Malaysian-born woman, and her husband, Frank, an Australian former Air Force officer, made many times after they relocated to Adelaide in the 1970s, after first meeting while Frank was a serviceman at the Butterworth Air Base in Penang.

Along with her beautiful family, I too suspect that Anna was kidnapped and murdered, with her body dumped on the outskirts of Penang. I travelled to Penang last week to support Anna's son, Greg, and his family, as the coroner added further insult to the Jenkins' family's determined pursuit of justice, by declaring an open finding in a scant three-minute summary.

The inquest was a farce from the start. Held over six separate sessions over a 13-month period, the inquest took place over a total of 24 days and called 30 witnesses, but such is the Malaysian justice system that it only sat for a maximum of 40 hours or, on average, little more than 90 minutes per day.

Adding insult to injury, some witnesses told blatant lies to try to absolve themselves or others of blame, evidence which inexplicably was not able to be cross-examined by the Jenkins' family lawyer. Witnesses were allowed to say whatever they liked without a legal requirement to provide any evidence or documentation to support their outrageous allegations, which included:

- that Anna was involved in the drug scene in South Australia, which SAPOL had to later rebuke;
- that she was fleeing a domestic violence relationship with her husband and son—again, an outrageous and unfounded allegation;
- that she was affected by anaesthetic from an earlier dentist appointment and simply walked into a forest, something strongly refuted by the actual dentist, who confirmed that Anna did not have an anaesthetic at her appointment; and
- that she was trying to escape paying a dentist bill.

On the day she was abducted, 13 December 2017, Anna left her husband of 40-plus years at the hotel where they were staying to attend the dentist appointment, later taking an Uber, booked by the dental clinic, to drive her to an aged-care facility where her mother lived. She was never seen again.

The Uber driver gave evidence at the inquest that Anna requested to be dropped off outside an orphanage, telling him she was going to be picked up by friends. His evidence was not questioned, and the vehicle's GPS tracking system, given to police by Uber's law enforcement response team, at Greg's request, was lost twice by police and never examined. That evening, a distraught Frank Jenkins was driven around Penang by hotel staff trying to find Anna. The next day he reported her missing to police.

The early stages of any police investigation are critical, and it is clear that the incompetent Royal Malaysia Police botched things from the start. Police officers attended the hotel to receive Frank's report but insisted that he lodge the report in Malay, which he did not speak. In his police report, Frank said Anna called him, in distress, the afternoon she was abducted and told him she was being held against her will by two Ukrainians who promised to release her in exchange for her passport as ransom. That claim was never investigated.

Greg arrived in Penang two days after his mother's disappearance and discovered almost immediately the incompetence of the local authorities. It was Greg Jenkins who actually investigated his mother's disappearance over a period of five years, at a cost of more than \$400,000, in which he has travelled to Penang something like 40 times. Despite the initial abduction and kidnapping report, police only classified Anna's disappearance as a missing person, a classification that holds little weight in Malaysia.

In 2020, some of Anna's skeletal remains and belongings were discovered by a worker at the site. Aware of the case from thousands of fliers that Greg had put up throughout Malaysia, the worker had contacted Greg, who soon after returned to Penang and visited the site, where he discovered more of his mother's remains. Again, there was little interest from local police to investigate. Even the task of having a coronial inquiry conducted into their mother's death was arduous, not that it has shed any new light on what happened. It was a disgrace, and it is little wonder that it attracted the ire of both international and domestic media.

NAKBA DAY

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (15:50): On Monday, Palestinians and their supporters commemorated Al Nakba. Every year, 15 May is a day of mourning for Palestinians around the world. Al Nakba is the Arabic phrase for the catastrophe that resulted in the destruction of the Palestinian society and homeland and the permanent displacement of most of the Palestinian people in 1948. This year marks the 75th anniversary.

By way of background, at the start of the 20th century Palestine was part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. Britain took control of Palestine after defeating Turkey in the First World War and brought with it a commitment to build a home for the Jewish people in Palestine. British control enabled massive Jewish immigration into Palestine in the interwar years, spurred on by the rise of fascism in Europe. British control enabled massive Jewish immigration into Palestine in those interwar years.

When Britain gave up its control of Palestine, the problem was given to the United Nations, which recommended the partition into an Arab state and a Jewish state. The Arab population rejected the partition as unjust and unreasonable. Jewish settlers only made up one-third of the population

and 6 per cent of land ownership, and yet they were allocated 50 per cent of the country in this plan. Despite this rejection, the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 saw the dispossession of half the Palestinian population and the loss of three-quarters of the territory of Palestine.

The Nakba was instrumental in carrying out the expulsion of the Palestinians and the seizure of their homes, businesses and agricultural lands. Israel now occupied 78 per cent of Palestine, extending beyond the area recommended for a Jewish state in the Partition Plan. Around 80 per cent of Palestinians living in the occupied areas, some 750,000 people, were driven out or fled in fear, with only 20 per cent remaining and eventually becoming Israeli citizens.

The refugees were not allowed to return and were never compensated for the loss of their homes and properties. The refugees lost everything. They fled on foot with what they could carry. They went to Gaza, to the West Bank, to Jordan, to Lebanon and Syria and to other parts of the Arab world, and even to Australia.

After the Nakba, the State of Israel demolished over 400 villages to prevent the return of the refugees. The seizure of Palestine and the dispossession of the Palestinians led to several wars between Israel and the Arab states. Israel's victory in the Six-Day War of 1967 saw it take control of the rest of Palestine, making a further 250,000 Palestinians refugees.

This catastrophe did not just occur on this day in 1948, it was a practice that both preceded and followed the establishment of the State of Israel. It is ongoing; it is intentional. Seventy-five years after the Nakba, Palestinians are still waiting for their country and their freedom: 75 years and Palestinians still do not have their own state, 75 years of insecurity and 75 years of the longest military occupation in modern history. This is 75 years marked by war, dispossession and now segregation, which some, such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Harvard Law School and the UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine, have described as apartheid.

This is an occupation that has been in the international public eye for far too long. Israel continues to build illegal settlements and perpetuate human rights abuses. Attacks on Palestinian civilians, especially during special celebrations and commemorations for Palestinian society, is commonplace in both Israel and the occupied territories. In 2023 alone, more than 140,000 Palestinians have been killed already in increasingly violent clashes in the West Bank and Israeli air strikes on the blockaded Gaza Strip. We know, from ongoing polling, that most Australians support an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

I want to specifically acknowledge the work done in Australia by Australian Friends of Palestine Association, Australian Palestine Advocacy Network and Glimmer of Hope. All three organisations have played a significant role in informing the Australian community of the Palestinian right for justice, truth and liberation. Dhikra an-Nakba—in memory of the Palestinian catastrophe. From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.

Time expired.

Motions

CAT MANAGEMENT

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:56): I seek leave to move the motion standing in my name in an amended form:

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises that free cat desexing programs will improve population control and welfare outcomes for cats and shelter and rescue staff and volunteers.
2. Calls on the South Australian government to expand free desexing programs for cats to reduce shelter intake, overpopulation and strain on shelter and rescue workers and volunteers.

It was revealed in 2019, in a joint report published by the RSPCA and the Animal Welfare League, that the current management systems and the implementation of the Dog and Cat Management Act

in our state are simply ineffective. South Australia has the second highest number of cat ownership in the nation, with 37 per cent of South Australian households owning approximately 397,000 cats. That is no small number. However, our Dog and Cat Management Act currently fails to address the issue of the 171,000 unowned or semi-owned cats in our state.

Since 2018, this has led to a 20 per cent increase in shelter intake at the RSPCA, and that number is increasing. The resources of rescue charities, both large and small, are struggling to cope, resulting in poor welfare outcomes for both the cats and of course the people who seek to care for them. While there is no statewide figure published, it is estimated that at least 43 per cent of the annual intake is euthanised between the Animal Welfare League and the RSPCA. I note that the RSPCA does publish their figures. With the yearly intake at approximately 11,000, that is almost 5,000 cats per year.

Many more cats are currently euthanised and they could be rehomed if the system was not as overloaded. For example, RSPCA Queensland reduced their euthanasia rate by a third for cats previously classified as feral just by lengthening the time they spent in care. Shelter staff can suffer mental health problems as a result of being tasked with killing healthy, redeemable animals. Several studies have shown that these workers suffer higher rates of post-traumatic stress, depression and substance abuse. This has resulted in low job satisfaction and high turnover.

The current cat management strategies in our state have largely relied on animal welfare organisations and veterinarians to deal with unwanted cats. Councils have few responsibilities under current legislation and most do the minimum in managing cat issues within their council areas. This lack of local council involvement does vary greatly, and it also differs from other states and territories in our nation where in some places council responsibilities for cat management are similar to those of dogs. So what does work? Carefully targeted and free desexing programs. Whilst subsidised, low-cost programs help, they do not achieve the desexing volumes necessary to achieve the substantial reduction in population needed.

The 2022 announcement of the Dog and Cat Management Board that they were to have a \$100,000 fund for subsidised desexing is a step in the right direction, but it is absolutely not enough. It depends on councils being motivated to become involved, and we cannot rely only on that motivation. The board have even said it themselves: not all councils have taken up the offer. That is because this funding requires them to make a co-payment, and councils in the most severe financial distress simply cannot afford this.

The funding also needs to be targeted to the areas of highest need. It is clearly an unsustainable situation for organisations such as the RSPCA and the AWL and the many rescues who rely predominantly on community goodwill and community donations. One of the main contributing factors in the continued growth of the unwanted cat population and subsequent intake into rescues and shelters is likely to be the failure to desex cats in low income households and semi-owned and unowned cats.

Targeted, low-cost desexing programs have been shown to be effective in increasing desexing rates, and they also receive strong community support. Ongoing low-cost desexing programs have helped achieve what is called zero euthanasia of all healthy and treatable stray and surrendered cats and dogs in places like the Gold Coast, the second largest council in our country.

Our community have made it clear that they want to see parliaments take action regarding wandering cats and the first step to solving that problem is of course desexing. Desexing not only helps to ensure fewer unwanted animals but also helps to reduce their desire to roam in search of a mate or get into fights. Desexed animals can also live longer and healthier lives. It is time for our government to work with councils and provide leadership and also to invest in our shelters and rescues and fund free desexing programs for cats right across the state.

What that would look like is a question that other members of this council have already asked me, even before I moved this motion. I draw their attention to a document called the Dog and Cat Management Act review submission called 'Funding free desexing programs' dated December 2022. That submission has been made on behalf of a number of rescues in this state: Adelaide Kitten Rescue, Cats in Crisis, Cat Adoption Foundation, Ginger Ninja, Help Save the Kitties, Hisses to Purrs, Making a Difference Cat Rescue and Adoption, Paws and Claws Adoptions Incorporated,

Purrfect Paws Rescue, Rescue Me Whiskers and Paws, SA Cat Rescue, South Aussies for Animals, Tiny Tails Rescue Adelaide, Whiskers and Tails Adoption, and Wild Cat Cottage.

I apologise if I have forgotten any, but I think that is all the organisations that have been involved in not only making a submission to the dog and cat management review on this issue but working together over a period of some five or six months to see a handwritten petition tabled in the other place, handwritten, with over 11,000 signatures so far. It is an issue that therefore will warrant a debate in this parliament and it is one of the reasons why I moved this motion today.

As we know, previous legislation has seen a petition with more than 10,000 signatures, hand signed, of South Australians, verified, trigger a debate. Often, it will go to the Legislative Review Committee. Indeed, I know that issues of the Dog and Cat Management Act do already take up a significant period of time in that particular committee.

I note that we need a statewide coordinated response to both dog and cat management in this state. This is just one area that hopefully out of the Dog and Cat Management Act review we will see some positive reforms sometime soon. I refer members' attention to that petition, which shows the substantial level of community interest in our leadership on this matter. I also particularly thank Virginie Ducruc, who has been tireless not only in supporting unowned cats in our community but also in pulling together this particular document, the petition of over 11,000 signatures so far. Thank you, Virginie, for your leadership. I hope we do not let you down.

There has been a significant shift in the burden that we are currently seeing in our shelters and rescues in this state, and we are not unique in that; it is a trend happening right across the country right now. Interstate, shelters and rescues are at crisis point, as they are here. Interstate, some of them have had to close their doors. For the first time in my memory, we have seen the RSPCA have to turn away animals in the past year. That is because, after the COVID crisis, when many people took on animals, there are situations that have now led to them to not being able to continue that. We have also seen a cost-of-living crisis, which we would all be very well familiar with, that has seen people unable to sustain what would otherwise be much-loved pets.

The people who care for these animals, who provide that important role in providing rescue and care, also deserve our support. They are under enormous pressures right now financially, emotionally and literally physically. They need our help and desexing is something that this parliament can show leadership in ensuring.

In terms of looking at the best way to do it, I seek leave to table the submission made on behalf of all those rescues aforementioned to the Dog and Cat Management Act review. It provides costed examples that have worked in other jurisdictions of ways that South Australia can do better when it comes to supporting not just the shelters and rescues and the animals within them but the people who devote their volunteer time most often to ensuring appropriate care, as well as those veterinarians who, of course, get into this profession because they love animals and do not necessarily needlessly want to put them down. With that, I commend the motion.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. R.P. Wortley.

LIV GOLF

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (16:06): I seek leave to move the motion standing in my name in an amended form.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: I move:

That this council calls on the South Australian government to table in this council all documents relating to payments or agreements made to host the LIV Golf tournament, including details of money paid from the Major Events Fund or any other state government source to the proponents of the LIV Golf tournament and the Grange Golf Club.

LIV Golf has been dubbed by themselves as 'golf as you have never seen it', but by critics as golf that sportswashes the human rights abuses they do not want you to see or raise. The LIV Golf series is a large-scale effort to sportswash Saudi Arabia, using top-level sports to distract from their human rights violations.

The Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia is the major shareholder of this controversial new tour. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is Chairman of the Public Investment Fund. The Crown Prince now wants to release his Vision 2030 plan of making the country more modern and less dependent on oil money. LIV Golf puts the eyes of the world on South Australia, but do we really want South Australia to be tied to the Saudi regime when we are on that world stage, because that is actually what is happening.

By allowing LIV to happen in our state, allowing LIV to promote to the world from our state, we have condoned the actions of the Saudi regime, and what is this regime that we are giving this support to? This is a regime that executed 81 people on a single day. This is a regime that holds sham trials for child defendants. Since 2013, 15 child defendants have been executed. This is a nation of bloodshed and lies. The six bloodiest years of Saudi Arabia's recent history have all occurred under the leadership of Mohammed bin Salman and King Salman. We see LGBTIQ+ people in Saudi Arabia being targeted by laws to 'maintain public morality'. We have individuals who form community organisations subjected to grossly unfair trials and lengthy prison sentences.

This regime is the one looking for legitimacy and by welcoming LIV with open arms our Premier has tarnished our state's international reputation. He has provided Saudi Arabia with that legitimacy, all for a weekend of golf.

LIV Golf has come to South Australia after a string of states and venues refused to host them. The Royal Sydney Golf Club did not want anything to do with them. The state of Victoria and their Premier chose not to put themselves in the running, in fact to publicly declare that they were not interested in hosting an event. Tiger Woods, of course, reportedly turned down a payment in the hundreds of millions of dollars in their attempt to get him to play for them. Others saw the writing on the wall and saw LIV for what it was—a blatant attempt to sportswash the Saudi regime.

It is not just my word on this. It is the word of organisations such as Amnesty International, but I specifically draw council members' attention to Human Rights Watch, which has written to LIV asking them for information. Human Rights Watch have also revealed from the court documents they have reviewed that, in 2017, one of the Crown Prince's advisers ordered Yasir al-Rumayyan, the then Public Investment Fund's supervisor, to transfer 20 companies into the fund as part of an anti-corruption campaign. Human Rights Watch contends it is possible these companies were transferred from their owners without due process.

One of the companies transferred to the Public Investment Fund was Sky Prime Aviation, a charter jet company that owned the planes used by Saudi agents to travel to Istanbul where they then, of course, murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate. I am not sure how much more of a connection we need to see, but I note Human Rights Watch did write to LIV Golf in August 2022 urging the league to develop a strategy to mitigate the risk of laundering the reputation of the Saudi government. There has been no answer or indication that LIV Golf sought to develop such a strategy. The Crown Prince is rolling out ever more sporting events, and sponsors and our state should be insisting on human rights protections and disclosure and use the LIV Golf events to demand those human rights reforms.

We have heard our Premier, however, try to deflect by comparing this event to other investments made by the Saudi Public Investment Fund, and the difference is that the Saudi Public Investment Fund is 'the moving force behind the founding, funding, oversight and operation' of the LIV Golf tour. Its governor personally recruited players and had a hand in negotiating their contracts. The PIF owns a reported 93 per cent of LIV Golf and cannot be described as a mere investor. It is the driving force behind LIV and yet we have welcomed them here with open arms.

The Premier has blatantly refused to reveal how much taxpayers have spent funding this tournament. South Australians deserve transparency. Claims of commercial-in-confidence ring hollow when so many other places simply turned them down. The Saudi regime did not need our money. They wanted our reputation. It is now time for our South Australian government to restore our reputation around transparency and trust and disclose to this council and to the public the true cost and the true nature of this deal.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. I. Pnevmatikos.

ADELAIDE PARKLANDS

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:13): I move:

1. That a select committee of the Legislative Council be established to inquire into and report on the management and preservation of the Adelaide Parklands, with particular reference to:
 - (a) whether the Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005 is achieving the statutory principles of the act, having regard to section 4 of the act;
 - (b) whether ministerial responsibility for the Parklands is sufficiently clear during decision-making processes;
 - (c) consideration of delegated powers for the Adelaide Park Lands Authority;
 - (d) ways in which the area of green, publicly accessible open space within the Parklands can be expanded;
 - (e) initiatives which would enhance the biodiversity of the Parklands;
 - (f) consideration of recommendations about legislative reform;
 - (g) the appropriateness of the government's decision to relocate SAPOL from the Thebarton Police Barracks to Park 21 West: Golden Wattle Park/Mirnu Wirra;
 - (h) the benefits of state and/or World Heritage listing for the Parklands; and
 - (i) 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.

Adelaide's Parklands are a unique and much-loved feature of South Australia's colonial settlement, planned by Surveyor-General Colonel William Light in 1837. In his design he created a grid pattern of streets that were surrounded by Parklands, recognising the importance of fresh air and open spaces in urban areas.

The Parklands are approximately 700 hectares of precious open space, which provides South Australians with the chance to enjoy formal and informal recreational opportunities and community events. They preserve biodiversity in our urban environment. They are home to many prominent institutions as well as cooling and greening our streets in a practical way. Their historic layout has been preserved for more than 185 years.

In 2008, the Adelaide Parklands and city layout were afforded recognition on the National Heritage register, with the entry stating that they are:

...the most complete example of nineteenth-century colonial planning...the only Australian city to be completely enclosed by park lands and has the most extensive and intact 19th century park lands in Australia.

There is a concern in the community that the Parklands are under threat, with there being a number of significant government projects that are earmarked for development within the footprints of the Parklands. Since forming government in March 2022, the Labor government have announced the new site for the Adelaide Aquatics Centre, the new Women's and Children's Hospital and the relocation of the Thebarton Police Barracks, all of which will have an impact on the footprint of the Adelaide Parklands.

There are questions from our community about whether alternate sites have been given appropriate consideration. Are there additional projects in the planning stages that will further erode the footprint of the Parklands? Will the community be provided with alternate green open spaces to account for the erosion of the Parklands, or are they simply a land bank for the government to take advantage of?

Prior to the election in March 2022, the Labor Party committed to, and I quote, 'protect Adelaide's unique Parklands'. Actions speak louder than words and it is apparent that the government's intention to honour this commitment is nil. Members of this place may recall that in late 2022, we had an opportunity to increase the protection of the Parklands through recognition of the Adelaide Parklands and CBD layout on the State Heritage register.

The bill was brought to this place by the Hon. Robert Simms MLC, and I am pleased the bill did pass this chamber, despite the Labor government's decision to not support it. It is important to remind our community of Labor's backflip on this issue: they supported the bill for State Heritage listing when they were in opposition and since coming to government they have not supported the bill.

Labor cannot be trusted to protect the Parklands and to deliver the spirit of their election commitment, which is one of the many reasons why the opposition is moving to establish a select committee into the management and preservation of the Adelaide Parklands. We have an obligation to preserve the Adelaide Parklands for the benefit of present and future generations and it is unclear whether the Adelaide Parklands Act 2005 is achieving this aim.

The proposed select committee can inquire into and consider whether the legislative framework to protect the Adelaide Parklands is adequate, if ministerial responsibility for management of the Parklands is clear, how we increase the biodiversity of the Parklands and whether we can expand the open space in the Parklands that is available for community use and access.

I wish to acknowledge the support that I have received from members of this place in relation to the motion and I look forward to the motion passing this chamber some time in the near future. With that, I indicate to the chamber that I will be bringing this motion to a vote during the next sitting week.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. R.P. Wortley.

CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III AND QUEEN CAMILLA

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:18): I move:

That this council—

1. Congratulates Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla on their coronations; and
2. Affirms our steadfast allegiance to the throne and trusts that His Majesty's reign will be filled with great happiness for His Majesty and the Queen and be an era of peace, unity and prosperity across the Commonwealth of Nations.

We have now entered the third Carolean era. The first Charles reigned from 1625-1649, with the second Charles from 1660-1685. We have had the great Elizabethan eras between then and now, and it would be remiss of me not to mention again our late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who epitomised the head of state and embodied all that a constitutional monarch should be.

Our Queen ruled for longer than any other British monarch, affirming the declaration she made on her 21st birthday in 1947, which was:

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

For over 70 years, Her Majesty was a steadfast and remarkable uniter of over two billion people across the commonwealth. Her Majesty was dedicated to serve the commonwealth and, as a member of her parliament, I was honoured to serve in her name.

King Charles III is the oldest British monarch to ever be crowned. His ascension to the throne meant that in doing so he witnessed the death of a phenomenal monarch, who also happened to be his own mother. How much of a sobering moment that must have been for our King.

The coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla was widely celebrated and audiences across the globe were able to watch and take part in the hugely successful and historically significant ceremony. It was something that I watched and celebrated from my home in the Riverland. My children were fascinated by the pomp and ceremony and it was a great opportunity to share with them some of our history and explain the stability and governance that our head of state provides.

The monarchy continues to capture the hearts and minds of young and old across the globe. There is something truly magnificent and magical about the history, tradition and stability that the constitutional monarchy represents.

Coronations have taken place in Westminster Abbey since 1066, the first being that of William the Conqueror, held on Christmas Day, following the Battle of Hastings. They are a ceremony steeped in tradition and meaning. The monarch swears an oath to rule with honour, wisdom and mercy, affirms in the church and is anointed. It was indeed a celebration worldwide, and not just by His Majesty's government right here in South Australia.

It is especially disappointing that to have the coronation mentioned or even acknowledged in this chamber of His Majesty's parliament, I, the opposition leader in this chamber, needed to move a private member's motion. The fact that this Labor government have decided to remain silent and make no formal address to His Majesty the King's coronation and that of his Queen Camilla is a break from protocol and tradition. It demonstrates that this government places little value on our chamber's history and the role our head of state plays in ensuring stability and continuity.

Understanding and respecting the importance of remaining a constitutional monarchy and the networks and protections that being an integral part of the wider commonwealth provides seems to be lacking in this Labor government. It is not lost on me that as a member of the South Australian parliament I serve in His Majesty's parliament and, as such, I think it is important that we celebrate and commemorate our head of state and appreciate all that our rich and diverse history embodies, and all that His Majesty provides and represents.

Australia was settled by the British in 1788. Like many civilisations, the British conquered faraway lands and were continually defending and expanding their empire. We should not forget that the English were actually conquered by the Normans. Over 1,000 years ago, the first ever Norman King was William the Conqueror, who commenced the now long-held tradition of Westminster coronations.

In speaking about our nation's history, it is important to acknowledge our First Nations people in Australia and note that they were here long prior to British colonisation. We have come a long way since that time and, whilst we still have a long way to go, I believe continued reconciliation will come from being focused on what unites us as a nation and not what divides.

The monarchy has played an important role in Australia's history, and the coronation of the new monarch is a significant event that should be celebrated. By not marking the occasion, the South Australian government missed an opportunity to show its support for the monarchy and its role in Australian society and the wider Asia-Pacific region.

Whilst the constitutional monarch in Australia is largely ceremonial and symbolic, it serves as a unifying figurehead for our country. It represents the continuity of the Australian state and its institutions and provides a sense of stability and tradition. It also serves as a check on the power of the government, as the monarch has the power to dissolve parliament and call for new elections. This power is rarely used but it serves as a safeguard against abuses of power by the government of the day. Additionally, the constitutional monarch provides a link to the wider Commonwealth of Nations, of which Australia is a member. The monarch serves as the head of the commonwealth and this connection helps to strengthen ties between countries under this banner.

Retaining a constitutional monarch in Australia is seen by many as an important part of the country's political and cultural identity and as a way to maintain that stability and that continuity in the face of ever-changing political, geopolitical and social circumstances. An hereditary monarchy is not perfect. There are challenges in the unfairness of a birthright that is for the chosen few, but it is important to consider the alternatives to a constitutional monarchy.

An elected head of state has the potential to create division in its very nature. I say this because it would likely be a former political figure who would be elected by the people, a system which from the outside appears to represent a somewhat more democratic and fairer proposition. There is, however, one glaring issue: modern politics, as you know, Mr President, by nature is often divisive, and we would be naive to believe that a contested vote for a head of state would be any different. It would be politicised and the very independent, unbiased and agnostic approach to matters of state would likely be eroded. This hardly symbolises or represents what should be a unifying role.

It is difficult to articulate what His Majesty represents better than Stephen Fry, who said, 'A king is everybody's and nobody's which is the genius of a constitutional monarchy.' I am yet to hear a sufficient articulate argument to counter his wise words. Society progresses and times change but one could argue that it would be unwise to swap something that works for something that is unknown and has the potential to be far worse.

In lieu of this government's failure to commemorate what is a joyous occasion, it is my great privilege to congratulate Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla on their coronations. May their reign be long, peaceful and prosperous for all of the commonwealth. Long live the King.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. T.T. Ngo.

AGRIFUTURES RURAL WOMEN'S AWARD

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:27): I move:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges that the 2023 AgriFutures Australia South Australian Rural Women's Awards were held on Tuesday 9 May;
2. Congratulates Ali Paulett of Clare Valley on winning this year's award;
3. Acknowledges the other finalists, Lyndsey Jackson of Moonta, Emily Riggs of Burra, Bridget Johns of Alford and Kerri Cliff of Kimba; and
4. Acknowledges the outstanding contribution of women agricultural leaders in South Australia and their important contribution to their communities and industries.

We must ensure that Australia is and remains a leader in accessing and adopting, as well as developing and exporting, agrifood technologies and innovation. The 2023 AgriFutures Australia South Australian Rural Women's Awards is a wonderful way to highlight momentum from our regions, primary industries and their future.

AgriFutures Australia is the trading name for the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. The awards held on Tuesday 9 May 2023 celebrated rural women in the primary industry sector who are leading the way with innovation and invention. The importance of women in agriculture cannot be overstated. They are the backbone of so many South Australian businesses and social enterprises. It is encouraging that more women are having their voices heard from the dining room table to the boardroom table to the political table.

This year's South Australian Rural Women's Award winner, Ali Paulett, hails from the Clare Valley. Ms Paulett is the managing director of the family's 40-year-old business, Paulett Wines. She works alongside her mother-in-law, Alison, father-in-law, Neil, and husband, Matt. Ms Paulett is the lead on the Paulett Winery's award-winning in-house restaurant, Bush DeVine, but it was her passion for bush food that saw her walk away with this year's Rural Women's Award. The Bush DeVine Indigenous Australian Native sensory bush food garden not only supplies the restaurant with high-quality, fresh, native edible plants but also encompasses a sensory walking path and accessible learning space for school groups, communities and tourists to learn more about bush foods.

Each year, the award recipient receives a \$15,000 grant from Westpac for their project, which Ali Paulett has indicated will be used in collaboration with First Nations people for videography and enhanced digital interaction in order to bring a wider audience to the garden.

Ms Paulett is now entered as a national finalist, which will be decided in Canberra on 12 September. I want to congratulate Ali Paulett on her achievement and wish her all the best with the enhancement of the bush food garden. It is incredible to recognise that Ms Paulett has done all this work whilst raising three children. It follows on from other diverse careers in equestrian training, architectural drafting and veterinary nursing.

Congratulations must also be made to the other South Australian finalists—Lyndsey Jackson of Moonta, Emily Riggs of Burra, Bridget Johns of Alford and Kerri Cliff of Kimba—on making it through to the final stages of the South Australian award. I applaud this year's final five, and all women who entered the competition, for their efforts.

AgriFutures Australia, which is responsible for the awards, is one of several research development corporations that service the research, development and extension needs of Australian rural industries. They represent research needs for several rural industries in South Australia, including chicken meat, honey bees and pollination, pasture seeds and export fodder.

I have mentioned in this place before that investment in our agricultural research and development is vital. If we as a state are planning to feed our increasing population on homegrown produce, we must continue to innovate. If we plan on meeting these new needs in a sustainable manner, we must continue to research and improve. If we plan on not only maintaining but growing our regions, we must invest in them.

The state Liberal Party will always champion our food and fibre producers in South Australia, a sector that supports more than 70,000 jobs for South Australians and their families. I and my colleagues will continue to press for investment and support mechanisms for primary industry research, development and extension. We continue to support job creation, productivity, produce diversity and innovation. The South Australian Liberal Party understands that our regions and our primary industries are an integral part of our economy. Celebrating the innovators, the leaders and the achievers is one way that we all do our part to support this sector.

Congratulations once again to Ali Paulett on her wonderful work with the Bush DeVine Indigenous Australian Native sensory bush food garden and to all the innovators in South Australia's rural and regional areas.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. R.P. Wortley.

AFRICAN COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (16:35): I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises the important work of the African Communities Council of South Australia (ACCSA);
2. Notes the findings and recommendations outlined in the report, titled 'Inquiry into youth violence and crime within African-South Australian communities';
3. Recognises that the overarching objective of the focus group was to inquire into the causes, challenges, and potential solutions to violence and antisocial behaviours committed by African South Australian youth;
4. Acknowledges the extensive work and contributions by government agencies and non-government organisations who participated in the focus group discussions and shared their experiences of working with justice involved African-South Australians and their families; and
5. Calls on the South Australian government to consider key recommendations and empower ACCSA with resources to implement key priority preventive actions.

As the shadow minister and the longest continuous serving member of parliament in the portfolio of multicultural affairs, I have had the privilege to work with many exceptional multicultural leaders and not-for-profit organisations over the years, and today I want to highlight the incredible work by the African Communities Council of South Australian, also commonly known as ACCSA.

As a peak body for African communities in South Australia, ACCSA strives to promote and preserve the diverse cultures of its members. This motion seeks to recognise that, as a community organisation, ACCSA is led by a hardworking team of volunteers, including the management committee who diligently work tirelessly to meet the evolving needs of the 35 ethnic communities they represent.

Census data shows that there are approximately 35,420 African South Australians, of which 24 per cent are white South Africans and the remainder from Sub-Saharan and North African regions, the majority of which are born in South Sudan, Congo, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Eritrea, Liberia, Somalia, Ghana and Burundi. I would like to thank ACCSA for being proactive in supporting its members, always seeking to empower communities through cultural events, programs and culturally linguistically appropriate resources, which enhance the governance skills and capabilities of its members.

For those of us who have the pleasure and privilege to attend events such as its Africa Unites gala dinner and Unmasked Africa Festival, the African Nations Cup soccer tournament or the Africa Day Celebration, we get to see the vibrancy, energy and positive impact made to our state by extraordinary African Australian individuals, business owners and communities. The magnitude of ACCSA's work can be demonstrated through cultural events and sports carnivals which help break barriers and foster social inclusion.

While recognising that many of these initiatives I mentioned earlier promote social harmony and highlight the successful settlement and integration of African communities in South Australia, there are, however, some confronting issues about youth violence and crime within African South Australian communities which are often not widely known or talked about or being handled effectively in a holistic way.

I would like at this point to bring to the attention of honourable members in this parliament a number of shocking incidents that put a spotlight on a significant problem in the African communities that led to ACCSA initiating a working group to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into youth violence and crime within African South Australian communities. The first shocking incident I would like to highlight happened in the early hours of ANZAC Day, 25 April 2022.

A young man was stabbed to death in Adelaide's CBD. The victim was 25 year-old Ngor Bol, of South Sudanese origin from Melbourne. South Australia Police (SAPOL) identified a group of young men of South Sudanese background as the suspects in the murder of Ngor Bol. It was further alleged that offenders of the violent crime were members of the rival peer-affiliated groups of young men between the ages of 18 to 25 from the South Sudanese community in Adelaide's northern suburbs who had been under police surveillance over the last few years.

Sadly, the murder of Ngor Bol was not an isolated incident allegedly perpetrated by young men of South Sudanese origin. On 13 March 2022, it was widely reported that groups of young men had engaged in a mass brawl involving the use of knives and machetes outside The Nairobi Affair Lounge on Adelaide's Grenfell Street. Six people were reported to have sustained injuries from knife and machete attacks during this incident.

In February 2022, it was reported that SAPOL had laid over 120 charges against several people of South Sudanese background for engaging in crimes, including knife fights, fraud and robberies. African South Australian communities were shocked by these terrible crimes committed by some of their young people and have since called for law enforcement bodies to hold perpetrators to account.

Meanwhile, the African South Australian communities remain concerned about the far-reaching consequences of crimes committed by a small number of young people on the vast majority who are law-abiding and peace-loving people not involved in violence or criminal behaviour. Unfortunately, with matters that are culturally sensitive and of such a complex nature, public and media discourse commonly take on a biased view or racialised tone, as though crimes are solely committed by a particular racial group. This can perpetuate negative stereotypes and lead to perceptions of exaggerated criminality within the broader African South Australian community.

Indeed, the fear is not without foundation. Evidence from the 2015-16 Challenging Racism Project demonstrated that sentiments towards African Australians was hardly welcoming because of racialised reporting of crimes in parts of Australia, with survey respondents possessing negative sentiment towards African Australians. This type of negative public perception must not be underestimated. It can undermine the status and credibility of African Australian communities, lead to misunderstanding, limit their opportunities and, more importantly, invoke unwarranted law enforcement responses and further vilification of members of African communities.

The African Communities Council of South Australia, as a peak body, through the strong leadership of its chairperson, Denis Yengi, and the management committee, knew that they must act quickly and responsibly to address those important youth justice issues and concerns with the intention to explore potential solutions to tackle crimes committed by young people of African origin.

With that objective in mind, ACCSA established a working group on 14 June 2022. The working group prepared a terms of reference, setting the parameters of the inquiry into the causes,

challenges and potential solutions to violence and antisocial behaviours of young people within the African South Australian communities.

The final report of the inquiry was completed in April 2023 (this year), and I want to thank three members of the working group—Denis Yengi, the chair of the African Communities Council SA; Dr Yilma Woldgabreal, the report author; and Billy Siegfried Mends, the legal adviser—for coming to Parliament House to meet with me together with the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. David Speirs and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. John Gardner. On behalf of the Liberal Party, I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to these gentlemen and all members of the working group for meeting with us and tabling the important report in parliament on 4 May 2023.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the comprehensive work, the commitment and the dedication of each member of the working group that made the comprehensive Inquiry into Youth Violence and Crime Within African South Australian Communities. The full working group consists of Mr Denis Yengi, the Chair; Ms Jane Nyaketcho, Manager of Operations, ACCSA; Dr Yilma Woldgabreal, a psychologist whose experience was vital to facilitating discussions, developing surveys and ultimately writing the report; Mr Siegfried Mends, legal adviser; Mr Steve Millsteed QC, District Court judge and now barrister; Ms Mary Ajang, South Sudanese women's representative; Mr Mba Idikauduma, community leader; Mr Jur Deng, South Sudanese representative; Mr Elias Kabura, community leader; and Ms Amiok Wol, youth representative.

The working group's findings identified intervention and prevention mechanisms needed to be at the individual, relationship, community and institutional level to address challenging behaviours among a section of African South Australians. Early departure from family home due to conflict, disengagement with school and exposure to problematic behaviours, such as substance abuse, were found to contribute to the development of antisocial behaviour and see young people on a path they would not have imagined for themselves.

At this point, I would like to quote from the report to give honourable members some background evidence from the families themselves that experience these issues in their community. In terms of criminal justice issues, the members have relationships with the police that were questionable. For example, a quote in the report says:

We can't walk down the street as a group without getting stopped, searched and humiliated.

If I am out in the city in the weekend, I guarantee I will get stopped. The most embracing thing is others watching when it happens and giggling at what is happening to me. I just want to have fun and be normal like other young people, but you know they (police) spoil it on you and make you feel different wherever you go.

Another witness said:

We black people get searched all the times; I would say every second day at least. They spot us from a mile. When they spot us, they ask the same questions all the times—What is your name? Where are you going? What have you got on you? It was like they (police) have a vendetta against us.

In terms of experiences of court and legal services, I will quote directly from a 19 year old:

I went to court twice for gathering around shops and police thought we were going to do something illegal and charged us for loitering. Going to court really scared the hell out of me. I had no support on both occasions.

In terms of the juvenile justice area and the corrections area, young people do not feel they have been able to develop any relationship with the police, which causes lots of trust issues. Mental health problems have been quoted in the report as well. This 51-year-old female respondent said this:

The children know that you cannot discipline them the way we used to do in back in Africa. They feel like they have more power than their parents. In school, teachers encourage them to report everything and even to call the police on us. It is easy for children to get away with bad behaviours and that is why they end up doing crimes.

Another mother said:

We have a different culture, and it is hard to fit in with everyone else. It is hard when you don't have a middle ground.

In terms of family violence, a community leader said this:

We know family violence is a major problem in pockets of our communities. It has broken families apart...mothers could not control and raise children alone and that is why they are in trouble with the law. We need to stop this. But we could not do this without culturally sensitive services that would not further ostracise families.

Legal literacy is another major problem. This father said:

I didn't know disciplining children was wrong until I saw the Government removing them from the care of many families in our communities. They took them where they could do anything. Most of them are now homeless and doing crimes.

There is also a lack of trust and help-seeking behaviour within the African communities. This is a quote from a 39-year-old male:

We know some families don't share their problems. They feel shamed and keep everything to themselves. Even when those who talk about family problems don't ask help from police and other services. They have trust issues.

In the areas of discrimination and racism, a 23 year old said:

It doesn't matter whether you have a criminal background or what position you hold in your communities. If you are black, you are watched wherever you go. Even supermarket securities want to watch you closely. I personally feel anxious and unsafe wherever I go out these days.

I think they are enough examples and evidence from families and members in the communities feeling the issues are problems that I need to bring to the attention of this chamber.

The working group identified the need to help at-risk communities enhance their help-seeking behaviour to properly address the effects of pre-migration and post-migration experiences and prevent trauma manifesting in harmful behaviour. I want to thank the ACCSA for taking this really important initiative to put this working group together. The important findings of the report will highlight what we as a society and government should be doing to help address the problems. There are 39 recommendations contained within this report, and I encourage all members to read the report online at the ACCSA website.

I also want, on behalf of the Liberal opposition, to call on the government to allow ACCSA to continue its work with the resources that are required to be effective. The opposition today in the Legislative Council calls on the South Australian government to consider key recommendations and empower ACCSA with resources to implement key priority preventative actions. I encourage all members to support this motion. I commend this motion wholeheartedly to the council.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. T.T. Ngo.

STAMP DUTY

The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:55): I move:

1. That a select committee of the Legislative Council be established to inquire into and report on the impacts of residential, agricultural and commercial stamp duty, with particular reference to:
 - (a) the impact of stamp duty on residential house prices for South Australian residents;
 - (b) the impact of stamp duty on business outcomes for the state;
 - (c) the impact of stamp duty on the primary industries sector;
 - (d) the impact on businesses of the suspension of stamp duty payments on commercial transfers of lots;
 - (e) the potential impacts of reducing or removing stamp duty for—
 - (i) first-home buyers; and
 - (ii) pensioners who downsize;
 - (f) any alternative proposals to the current stamp duty system, including an annual land tax in lieu of stamp duty; and
 - (g) any other relevant matters.
2. That this council permits the select committee to authorise the disclosure or publication, as it sees fit, of any evidence or documents presented to the committee prior to such evidence being presented to the council.

The stamp duty regime in South Australia has not been reviewed in over 15 years. Where other states have established stamp duty exemptions and concessions for first-home buyers and pensioners who do wish to downsize, South Australia offers nothing comparable.

I have previously called on the Treasurer to conduct a review of our outdated stamp duty legislation by way of an earlier motion. I now seek to establish a select committee so that our parliament can investigate the impacts of South Australia's stamp duty regime with a view to modernising it. I believe South Australia is overdue for a genuine inquiry into this issue to hear firsthand from the community about how the stamp duty regime impacts residents, businesses, and the primary industries and not-for-profit sectors.

Enabling this chamber to hear from those most impacted by this tax will ensure that any review or update of the system will be informed by those who are most knowledgeable. We pay amongst the highest stamp duty rates in the country. In South Australia right now, the purchase of a \$500,000 home will attract a \$21,330 stamp duty bill. This is almost double that of the Australian Capital Territory, where they also offer a first-home buyer's exemption, as well as concessions for pensioners who wish to downsize.

Whilst it is true that Victoria and the Northern Territory attract slightly higher stamp duty rates, both jurisdictions offer exemptions or concessions that are non-existent in this state. The ACT and New South Wales have been first movers in reforming stamp duty, with our biggest state recently giving new home owners the option of substituting the significant one-off payment with an annual land tax of 0.3 per cent. The Australian Capital Territory is halfway through its 20-year plan to reform its property tax system, where it is aiming to 'abolish a number of inefficient and unfair taxes'.

A particular policy proposal that peaked my interest in this issue came from the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association. In their election policies 2022 document, they proposed a stamp duty rebate on the purchase of non-productive land that is returned to commercial production within a year of the transaction. This, they argue, would allow for any immediate revenue lost to government to be regained by way of increased productivity and jobs in South Australia.

In my dealings with the business sector, community organisations, primary industries and residents more generally, the high cost of stamp duty has been frequently raised as an inhibitor to growth, investment and moving freely around South Australia. Stamp duty has been described as archaic, inefficient and attacks on productivity and competitiveness by many economists and policymakers.

With all the modern technologies of the 21st century, it is hard to disagree that paying over \$25,000 for what is currently a median price house in South Australia just to officially stamp a document appears excessive. This is particularly so when we live in the very state that invented the Torrens title system almost 170 years ago, a comprehensive property register that ensures governments know who owns what piece of land at any point in time.

Stamp duty these days has grown to become a significant source of income for state governments, which have become reliant on it. With no review of the system occurring for over 15 years, bracket creep has meant that families purchasing a modest home in the suburbs pay the same rate as those who buy multimillion-dollar properties. It is hard to see how the community could view this as fair and just.

It is overdue for state and federal policymakers to revisit the debate about replacing stamp duty with a more efficient and less punishing taxation measure. South Australia needs to be a competitive place to attract working families, businesses and primary industries and it is in that vein that I wish to establish a select committee to inquire about the impacts of our current stamp duty regime. I commend the motion to the chamber.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. T.T. Ngo.

SOFT PLASTICS RECYCLING

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. H. M. Girolamo:

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.

(Continued from 3 May 2023.)

The Hon. T.T. NGO (16:59): Our impact on this planet will be much more long-term than our life span. For this reason, it is our duty to see that a greater effort is made to ensure our waste become a resource and helps to create a better and more sustainable environment for our future generations. When it became evident REDcycle was unable to process soft plastics, the complexity of the execution process of reducing soft plastics going to landfill became very clear.

I am sure many of you will remember the disturbing pictures of tonnes of soft plastics appearing in the media. These were in fact the soft plastics that were dropped off at supermarkets by customers and collected. The huge piles of stockpiled waste—once the collapse and the inability of REDcycle's domestic recycling program became known—were devastating to see. Any new collection and recycling program for single-use soft plastics will need to overcome the community scepticism that remains from those images and media reports.

As a community, we must increase and continue our consumer education and awareness campaigns. Raising awareness about the importance of recycling soft plastics is critical to encouraging a greater take-up of re-usable alternatives and encouraging consumers to commit to changing how they dispose of soft plastics. I hope that the establishment of the select committee can begin to identify how short-term efforts, such as consumer education campaigns, can work effectively with longer term solutions such as infrastructure strategies and technological advancements.

South Australia is already proving to be a leader in the area of renewables with a firm commitment to fostering a circular economy. The circular economy is more than just recycling or resource recovery. If materials cannot be suitably collected, processed and recycled by being remanufactured into another product and used, then they do not fit within the circular economy or in a suitable future.

This government welcomes efforts to identify solutions and strategies to complement the considerable work already being undertaken to implement the circular economy in South Australia. We can make recycling soft plastics and preserving our valuable resources a reality for our children. I am optimistic and believe the changing technological landscape, along with the development of long-term strategies to implement systematic change in this space, is certainly achievable.

Here in South Australia, we have entrenched recycling behaviours due to our nation-leading efforts with our container deposit scheme, single-use plastic bans, and the well-established three-bin kerbside system. We have also consistently achieved the highest landfill diversion rate in the country, with an outcome of greater than 83 per cent. The government, via Green Industries SA, has contributed funding towards several local council soft plastics collection trials. These trials will provide a good understanding of the collection methods; however, as I have mentioned, end-market challenges for the material remain.

The joint SA and commonwealth governments' Recycling Modernisation Fund, mentioned by the Hon. Heidi Girolamo, allocated \$1 million specifically toward soft plastics processing in SA. Green Industries SA recently ran a further call for applications to allocate this funding. I understand that this assessment process is underway. This government welcomes efforts to identify solutions and strategies to complement the considerable work already being undertaken. There is certainly opportunity for this select committee to facilitate more initiatives and supportive government policies as this government continues to promote an uptake of consumer recycling practices as well as sustainable packaging.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:05): I rise to speak in favour of this motion. The Greens, of course, are supportive of the establishment of this committee. In doing so, I want to acknowledge the leadership of all sides of politics in terms of trying to tackle and reduce waste. It would be remiss of me, I think, if I did not acknowledge the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition in this regard during his time as environment minister, when he championed legislation that led the country in terms of reducing single-use plastics. That was a really important innovation, so I acknowledge his leadership in that regard and also the leadership of the Labor Party, and more recently the support the government has provided to a Greens bill to allow for BYO containers to be brought into food establishments to reduce waste.

There is lots of work that is being done but there is always space to do more, and it is in that spirit that the Greens welcome this committee, particularly when one considers the problems that have been plaguing the use of soft plastics. Avoiding, reducing, re-using and recycling waste is integral to effective waste management and to achieving zero waste in our state. Waste, including soft plastics, should be treated as a resource and re-used to create new products in a way that achieves the maximum social, economic and environmental benefit.

A circular economy, as we all know, leads to new industries and to new investment. REDcycle was a program that was first established to divert plastic bags and other soft plastics from landfill, turning them into resources used to manufacture new products. According to Clean Up Australia, Australians throw away about 7,150 recyclable bags a minute, or 429,000 per hour—429,000 per hour. This figure does not include the countless bread bags, frozen vegetable bags, pasta bags, biscuit packets and sachets that consumers bring home from the supermarket every single time they shop.

Plastic bags and packaging cannot be collected by most local councils as part of their kerbside pickup; instead, they typically end up in landfill or as litter, and we know that that harms our wildlife and our environment. The REDcycle program was a voluntary, industry-led initiative and a true product stewardship model where everybody involved in the cycle of a product's packaging, including the manufacturers, the retailers and the consumers, chose to share responsibility for the best end-of-life outcome.

Consumers would collect all of the soft plastics that cannot be recycled at home and drop them into the REDcycle program drop-off bins at participating supermarkets. The collected plastic was then returned to RED Group's facility for initial processing and then delivered to Australian manufacturer Replas where they underwent transformation. The resulting recycled plastic products were then turned into items such as fitness circuits, sturdy outdoor furniture, bollards and other products. These products were extremely robust, as well as water and termite resistant, and not susceptible to cracking, splintering or rotting, and they did not even require painting, so a very effective way to use that waste.

The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation estimates that less than 5 per cent of consumer soft plastic was collected by the REDcycle program. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic heralded a boom in online shopping which, in turn, resulted in soft plastic collection volumes increasing by more than 350 per cent since 2019—350 per cent since 2019. This, coupled with a reduced demand for recycled products, led to stockpiling of collected soft plastics, forcing REDcycle to pause their program in November 2022. No longer able to pay the storage fees, REDcycle was declared insolvent, and that was a really disappointing outcome.

Since then, the Soft Plastics Taskforce has been established, and the Greens have very much welcomed this development. The task force is made up of the major supermarket retailers Aldi,

Coles and Woolworths and has released the Roadmap to Restart, outlining the steps needed to launch a new supermarket soft plastic collection scheme in Australia. However, several challenges do remain, confronting those seeking to relaunch a scheme. These include limited access to domestic soft plastic recycling that can manage the soft plastics that are deposited by the public in supermarket collection bins and an inability to recycle the volume of household soft plastics collected in a supermarket program using domestic infrastructure.

It is paramount for our community and our planet that we are able to deal with these challenges. To ensure the viability of soft plastics recycling schemes, our state needs to both increase its capacity to recycle soft plastics at scale and ensure the market for the end product is either equal to or greater than the amount of soft plastics being collected for recycling.

According to the Soft Plastics Taskforce's current plan, an initial in-store collection pilot is anticipated to launch in select stores in late 2023, provided that REDcycle's existing soft plastic stockpiles can be cleared. The new program would then be gradually rolled out nationwide next year. At the same time, I understand the Australian Food and Grocery Council is developing the National Plastics Recycling Scheme to take hard-to-recycle soft plastic packaging out of waste streams and give it a new life, making it easier for people to recycle soft plastics at home.

Restoring public trust in soft plastic recycling schemes is vitally important. This place has a responsibility to the community and to future generations to not only support but ensure that these schemes are successful. The proposed select committee will have an important role to play in investigating solutions that will ensure the viability and functionality of these schemes. The Greens are pleased to support the committee, and we look forward to seeing how this matter progresses.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (17:11): SA-Best supports the motion and looks forward to exploring the current state and future of plastic recycling and other recyclable materials in South Australia. This state has led the country in recycling with the 10¢ container deposit refund offered at recycling depots, which has been in place for decades and has been very effective in reducing plastic waste and pollution in our environment. Other states are now following our example.

Plastic is one of those evils we cannot do without. It is a remarkable product that is used in countless ways and, unless there is a more effective and easily recycled material invented, it will be with us for a long time yet. However, waste remains a scourge globally and is the single biggest threat to our environment. Countless tonnes are dumped in waterways, in landfill and in the oceans. There is the plastic you can see and the minute particles you cannot, which pose a danger not just to sea creatures but to humans as well. Scientific analysis has shown that nanoparticles have also been ingested and are present in our bodies.

Every year, 350 million tonnes of plastic are produced, with 14 million tonnes ending up in the oceans. Estimates claim that, at the current rate, single-use plastic production could account for 5 to 10 per cent of the world's greenhouse emissions by 2050. The Philippines, India, Malaysia and China are the largest generators of plastic waste. China produced 80 million tonnes of plastic last year, yet just 17 per cent gets recycled. Plastic waste has piled up since China imposed its green wall, Operation National Sword, banning the import of plastic waste for recycling.

Surprisingly, Australia uses around 70 billion pieces of soft plastics, such as food wrappers and stickers, each year. Our plastics use equates to 3.4 million tonnes. One-third of that is single-use plastic, 84 per cent of which goes into landfill. We are the biggest users of single-use plastics per capita, but that is changing.

I am anticipating that this inquiry will look at the effectiveness of recycling of plastic as well as aluminium. Surprisingly, reports this week showed that there was nowhere in Australia recycling the billions of aluminium cans and many other products made from it. I would expect the committee would also explore municipal waste disposal systems, the impact of plastic production and the effect disposal of it has on climate change.

Australia is heading on the right track, with states moving legislation to control and manage plastic waste, but there is still a long way to go. It is encouraging to see community and environmentally-minded corporates and organisations, like the Australian Food and Grocery

Association, looking at dispensing with plastic bags, single-use plastics and the packaging on products.

It will be interesting to also hear from the CSIRO on its ongoing research on reducing plastic in the environment and exploring other strategies in managing the amount of plastic waste. I would also like to see how the government is using the waste levy, which now stands at around \$150 million, to tackle plastic waste and encourage recycling. I commend the motion to the chamber.

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:15): I move an amendment to the motion as follows:

Paragraph 1(c)—after 'recyclables industry' insert 'including aluminium'.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (17:16): I thank all honourable members for their contributions and support within what is a very important area, both from an environmental aspect but also the economic elements, ensuring that there are viable businesses to be able to process the exorbitant amount of waste currently coming through within soft plastics. I wholeheartedly support the interest in aluminium as well; I think it is an important area that could potentially have a separate review and interest.

I very much thank all honourable members for their interest and support. I think this could be an invaluable bipartisan committee where we can collate ideas, information and look forward to engaging with experts in this area and come up with some tangible recommendations that can be put forward.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

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

That the select committee consist of the Hon. Michelle Lensink, the Hon. Tung Ngo, the Hon. Justin Hanson, the Hon. Robert Simms and the mover.

Motion carried.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: I move:

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

Motion carried.

Personal Explanation

MINISTER'S REMARKS, SERIOUS VEHICLE AND VESSEL OFFENCES BILL

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (17:21): I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: During the committee stage of the Statutes Amendment (Serious Vehicle and Vessel Offences) Bill 2022 yesterday, the Hon. Connie Bonaros asked a question in relation to clause 13 of that bill. I have received some further advice in relation to the question that was asked. Clause 13 amends section 45 of the Road Traffic Act. Being unlicensed is an aggravating factor of section 45, but I confirm, as I did during the committee stage of that bill yesterday, that the question of aggravating factors will be given consideration between the houses.

Bills

PUBLIC FINANCE AND AUDIT (AUDITOR-GENERAL ACCESS TO CABINET SUBMISSIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 16 November 2022.)

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (17:21): I rise to make a brief contribution on the behalf of the government on this bill, which was introduced by the Hon. Heidi Girolamo on 16 November 2022. The purpose of this bill is to amend the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987, providing additional powers for the Auditor-General to access cabinet submissions and measures for the management of documents.

It is important to note on record that there is already a current policy within the formalised and public Premier and Cabinet Circular PC047, entitled Disclosure of Cabinet Documents to Investigative Agencies. This is a current active government policy available publicly for viewing on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's webpage. The policy was approved by the former Marshall Liberal government on 18 February 2019 and remains active to ensure the South Australian government provides a level of access to cabinet documents to the Auditor-General.

Under this existing policy, the Auditor-General may request a cabinet submission required for the proper exercise of the Auditor-General's statutory functions. These requests are subject to the approval of the Premier in the case of a cabinet document of the current government or a government of the same political persuasion. If the cabinet document relates to the former government of a different political persuasion, the approval of the Chief Executive of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, is sought.

This bill seeks to insert a new section 34A into the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987 to increase the power of the Auditor-General to obtain certain cabinet documents. The new section 34A would empower the Auditor-General to obtain cabinet documents by request. A notification will be sent prior to providing or producing a cabinet submission to the Auditor-General to be made in writing to the current leader of the political party of the Premier at the time the cabinet submission was lodged.

Further, under the bill, the person who provides or produces a cabinet submission in good faith to the Auditor-General is exempted from any civil or criminal liability and the provision or production of the cabinet submission is not regarded as a breach of any duty or secrecy or confidentiality imposed on the person by law. It is important to note that current policy regarding the release of cabinet documents is exactly the same framework that the Marshall Liberal government operated under. The Marshall Liberal government refused to release 21 cabinet documents requested by the Auditor-General during their term of government.

This government values deeply the importance of cabinet solidarity and confidentiality and the only people in South Australia who are entitled to cabinet documents are members of cabinet themselves. The confidentiality of cabinet deliberations is a fundamental principle of our system of government—a fundamental principle of the Westminster system of government—and it remains a cornerstone throughout these systems around the world. The government opposes this bill and will continue to operate under exactly the same framework as the previous Liberal government. We will not be supporting this bill.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:25): I rise on behalf of the Greens to speak in support of this bill. I am disappointed to hear that the Labor government will not be supporting it. The argument seems to be 'Well, the Liberals didn't do it, so we are not going to do it either.' That is not a very compelling argument, with respect to the Leader of the Government in this place. It is not a very compelling argument to say, 'Well, the Liberals were poor on transparency, so we are going to be poor on transparency, too.' We need to do better than that.

We welcome the bill that has been put forward by the Hon. Heidi Girolamo. In the Greens, we recognise that the role of the Auditor-General is crucial to scrutinise and ensure transparency and accountability of the government of the day. In his 2022 report, the Auditor-General stated that:

At the time of writing, we had requested but not received a number of cabinet documents to fulfill my legislative obligations to form opinions.

The Public Finance and Audit (Auditor-General Access to Cabinet Submissions) Amendment Bill 2022 ensures that the Auditor-General can access cabinet submissions as required to undertake their statutory duties. The Auditor-General is an independent authority and a level of separation is

necessary to ensure true accountability when auditing the South Australian government; however, we need to ensure that the Auditor-General has the power they require to access records.

Most notably, in his report the Auditor-General made it clear that he had requested documents pertaining to the payment of sporting clubs and local infrastructure grants. There have been accusations of pork-barrelling over grants. Regardless of what these grants were, the Auditor-General should have had all the relevant information at their disposal to be able to make a suitable review of the processes involved. In relation to the case of sports grants, the executive director of The Centre for Public Integrity has said:

Election commitments around spending should still go through proper processes...there needs to be criteria. There needs to be open tender.

Of course, we know what can happen when that does not occur. We saw it with the Morrison government and the complete fiasco that unfolded there about the sports rorts. We do not want to see a similar culture take hold in South Australia. I am not suggesting that is what has occurred. We want to ensure there is not the potential for that kind of culture to take hold in South Australia, so this is a very important safeguard. Scrutiny of these processes is the role of the Auditor-General, but if their office does not have access to the documents they require, scrutiny is impossible.

As I said, it is disappointing to hear that the government will not be supporting this. I fear that it may suffer a similar fate to the other bill that passed this place relating to the disclosure of diaries. The Greens have been pushing for increased accountability no matter who is in government, whether it be the Labor Party or the Liberal Party. Members will recall that I put forward a bill in this place that was passed with the support of the opposition and the crossbench that required ministers to disclose their diaries. Unfortunately, that has been held up in the other place by the Labor government and I fear they are now going to stall on this bill as well.

That is a disappointing outcome because sunlight really is the best disinfectant in our democracy. We should let the sunshine in and, no matter who is in government, we should be subjecting all ministers to appropriate accountability, so the Greens will be supporting the bill.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (17:29): I rise to speak on behalf of SA-Best on the Public Finance and Audit (Auditor-General Access to Cabinet Submissions) Amendment Bill 2022. The bill comes as a bit of a canary in the coalmine for the opposition, given the potential consequences this ties them to should they form government in the distant future.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Excuse me. Order!

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: This bill is prompted by the decision of the government not to provide Auditor-General Andrew Richardson with cabinet documents—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: —which concerned \$133 million in local sport and infrastructure grants. This has brought into question very reasonable concerns raised around the Auditor-General's capacity to complete his audit in full and fulfil his statutory obligations.

The Auditor-General himself has been on record stating the change of government has changed the scenario for access. In a Budget and Finance Committee hearing, when asked about his powers to access cabinet submissions and whether it would help him undertake his functions, the Auditor-General admitted that, 'Yes,' it would. The role of the Auditor-General indeed serves a critical role in the mechanisms of government accountability, transparency and integrity. SA-Best supports the work carried out by the Auditor-General and we have made that known in a survey completed recently.

The framework of this bill is designed to build in greater accountability and transparency as it pertains to the executive government and the decisions that are being made in the public interest. This is an endeavour I am in support of in principle. However, there are concerns around the necessary importance of cabinet-in-confidence and the effect allowing a government appointed

statutory officer access to documents held in confidence will have in diminishing other protections where cabinet-in-confidence is needed for the proper functioning of cabinet.

There are serious considerations that must be given as to where cabinet-in-confidence begins and where it ends. Cabinet-in-confidence is a long-established principle and convention within governments across Australia, so making changes to the operations of such a convention needs to be thoroughly considered. Cabinet-in-confidence exists by convention to ensure a safe place for ministers to speak freely in confidence about issues of the day free from undue scrutiny to allow ministers freedom to explore rational options. Cabinet-in-confidence is not a simple hall pass.

In the High Court of Australia case, *Commonwealth v Northern Land Council*, cabinet-in-confidence and the operations of its effect on cabinet were considered and defined as, and I quote:

...[the] dominant political organ of Executive Government in our Westminster System. It is responsible for Government policy and is entirely a creature of convention.

Its Ministers are collectively responsible for the decisions it makes, so Ministers are effectively taken by convention to be of one mind and voice.

Walter Bagehot in the English Constitution explains the separation of the Executive and Legislative arms of government 'through the agency of Cabinet as the latent essence and effective secret of the English Constitution'.

The protection of Cabinet confidentiality is accepted as a necessary feature of the Westminster systems and as 'an important element in our system of government'.

In the *Northern Land Council* case, the High Court observed that the protection of cabinet-in-confidence is afforded on the basis that disclosure may precede the formal announcement of cabinet decisions and may diminish adherence to cabinet responsibility by revealing the individual opinions of cabinet members. In other words, without cabinet-in-confidence, further erosion of public trust of executive government as an institution would occur.

Cabinet-in-confidence is not an absolute shield and I agree that, in appropriate circumstances, government decisions made by the executive in cabinet should be subjected to scrutiny, but the question of what mechanism of scrutiny must be debated. Should such scrutiny of decisions related to public finance decisions made by cabinet be scrutinised by the representatives of the public—us, the members of parliament? Or, as this bill seeks to establish, do we expand on the powers of the Auditor-General as an appointed authority on the government to perform the role of scrutinising such affairs?

There is a real and genuine public interest debate to be had if we are to consider powers with respect to access to information and decisions made by cabinet. Does the public interest in the administration of the Auditor-General's functions outweigh the very high interest of preserving confidentiality? We already have jurisprudence on this issue with the High Court authority of *Egan v Willis*. The court found that legislative chambers in Australia have an implied power to compel their members to produce papers to the house, together with an implied power to counter obstruction where it occurs.

In particular, the New South Wales Legislative Council had the power to compel Michael Egan, the then Treasurer, Minister for Energy, Minister for State Development and minister assisting the Premier, to produce certain documents to the chamber. When he refused to do so, the forced removal of him from the chamber by the Usher of the Black Rod did not constitute a trespass. While this case did clarify the legislative chamber's authority to compel documents, no decision in this case was ultimately made in relation to the production or forced production of the documents to the chamber.

The opposition makes the point that, when in government, they agreed to an undertaking with the Auditor-General in 2019 to improve transparency and accountability, which is reflected by a Premier and Cabinet circular. The bill, as I understand it, is based on this circular, albeit with the removal of the Premier veto powers. I cannot help but wonder why, if they had struck an agreement with the Auditor-General, the opposition did not legislate this exact bill while in government.

A non-binding promise to do something means very little now when the power to follow through with that change has come to pass and only now in opposition, to get one back on the government, has this bill come before us. I note that changes like this bill took place in Western

Australia, where the McGowan government sought to shine a light on itself by providing greater access to the Auditor-General to certain categories of documents, which aligns with New South Wales legislation of a similar type.

The Auditor-General's Report was critical of the Labor government administration of payments totalling roughly \$133 million for local sporting clubs and infrastructure grants, or what observers consider pork-barrelling, a tool of the government utilised to produce results for members' constituencies in building up their communities.

This is not unique to either side of politics, with the opposition being as guilty of pork-barrelling as the current office holders. But can you label this as corrupt when the benefit is for the community? The answers the Auditor-General is seeking are whether proper processes and assessments need to be followed by government departments with grant allocations rather than fulfilling an election promise.

One particular concern I hold with respect to this bill is privilege. We sought an opinion from the South Australian Law Society, who queried whether there could be litigation arising from a challenge to what constitutes a non-waiver of privilege or immunity and whether section 34A(4) is sufficient to maintain those immunities and privileges. I note that section 34A(5) appears to provide the provision that a cabinet submission to the Auditor-General does not waive parliamentary privilege, legal professional privilege, public interest immunity and any other confidentiality, privilege or immunity.

Other aspects of this bill where consideration is not certain, and perhaps this goes beyond the scope of the purpose of the bill, is what impact does the Auditor-General having access to and holding within his agency cabinet documents have on freedom of information requests? By holding cabinet documents within its agency, does this open the Auditor-General's Department to freedom of information requests for information related to documents extracted from cabinet as part of the audit? Whether such requests result in rejections under the confidentiality provisions of the FOI Act are only one consideration. How much additional resourcing to deal with the potential for these requests will be needed for the department?

In principle, we are supportive of the bill, given it provides a platform for greater transparency and accountability for the decisions made by executive government in cabinet. I remain hesitant on the path which is being taken to achieve these integrity outcomes against the necessity to uphold the conventions of cabinet-in-confidence.

The Hon. S.L. GAME (17:40): I rise briefly to support the Public Finance and Audit (Auditor-General Access to Cabinet Submissions) Amendment Bill. The Public Finance and Audit (Auditor-General Access to Cabinet Submissions) Amendment Bill will allow the Auditor-General to access cabinet submissions, allowing for their job to be fully informed and completed properly and effectively. This amendment will grant more government transparency and accountability.

I remind the chamber that last November I asked the Attorney-General about cabinet documents that the Premier refused to release seven times to the Auditor-General, which impacted and undermined the whole audit process. One Nation supports keeping the government accountable, and I support the opposition in its attempt to pass this bill in the chamber.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (17:41): I will just start by thanking honourable members for their contributions and support on what is a very important bill. What I can indicate to you is that, as the Leader of Government outlined, there were similar processes in place, but the Auditor-General never raised concerns about the Liberal Party not having transparency and not giving access to documentation, whereas the Auditor-General has indicated that documentation has been requested and not provided.

By legislating this, which has been done in both WA and New South Wales, it will strengthen that transparency and allow access to that documentation within cabinet. I have full confidence that the Auditor-General has guidelines to be able to ensure confidentiality within those remits and, as a former auditor, I do find it quite concerning that the Auditor-General does not have access to all documentation to be able to fulfil his obligations from a financial statement perspective.

I would also like to thank the Hon. Frank Pangallo for his interest in this area and being able to delve into things because they are not always black and white. I do appreciate his comments and contributions. What I can say is that there were on many occasions requests by the Auditor-General and that information was provided—the documents that the Attorney-General indicated were cabinet notes rather than documents, so I do find it very interesting. There is always an ability to put self-interest and lack of transparency from the government's behalf first. I am disappointed that they will not be supporting this bill. I do hope that it is able to progress further, but I do have concerns given the numbers in the other place.

From our perspective, if it was good enough for the New South Wales government, while they were in government, and good enough for the WA government to put these forward, then it should be good enough for the South Australian government to put this bill forward in their own name as well. From my perspective, South Australians deserve to have transparency within the financial data and understand where their money is being spent. I think this bill goes a long way to ensuring that transparency, so thank you to members of the crossbench for their support.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

Bill taken through committee without amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (17:46): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Motions

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. F. Pangallo:

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.

(Continued from 3 May 2023.)

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (17:49): I rise to support this motion made by my parliamentary colleague the Hon. Frank Pangallo, with amendments, and before I start my speech I will move those amendments standing in my name. I move:

Leave out paragraph 6 and insert new paragraph 6, as follows:

6. Notes that a number of journalists are currently detained whilst others are being held hostage;

Leave out paragraph 7 and insert new paragraph 7, as follows:

7. Supports the efforts of the Albanese federal government in their ongoing work of journalistic and press freedom;

Leave out paragraph 8.

Press freedom plays a vital role in the quest for peace, justice and human rights. We recently celebrated three decades of world press freedom and recognise that journalists across the world continue to face threats to their safety and liberty in order to silence their reporting. This year's theme for the day was 'Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of expression as a driver for all other human rights,' signifying the importance of freedom of expression in all other human rights.

The importance of freedom of expression can be found in the fact that a free press enables and facilitates our knowledge and awareness of major world events, some of them in our own backyard. All in this chamber will know about Watergate and the important role the American journalists played in uncovering corruption at the highest level of the White House following leaks from the FBI to the journalists concerned.

That is not the only example. Journalists were the ones who sparked an investigation that uncovered that Wagner, a secret mercenary group in Libya, was continuing to fight and destabilise peace efforts even after a ceasefire. This report allowed the family of a murdered man to begin a legal case.

A journalist uncovered that global brand Shein used slavery-like practices in order to produce clothes that they could sell for low prices. They found that the seamstresses regularly worked for 75-plus hours per week with one day off a month. This report resulted in greater scrutiny of the company, and campaigns for more humane and sustainable practices.

Attacks and threats against journalists have risen at an alarming rate and this is dangerous both for journalists and for democracy. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, an independent non-profit organisation that promotes free press, at least 67 media workers were killed in 2022, an unbelievable 50 per cent increase over the previous year. Additionally, a UNESCO discussion paper found that nearly three-quarters of women journalists have experienced violence online, and one in four have been threatened physically.

In the ultimate form of censorship journalists are targeted, killed and silenced. Jamal Khashoggi was killed for criticising Saudi Arabia's government. Avijit Roy was killed for the subject matter in two of his books, religion and homosexuality. Newsagency AFP, headquartered in France, has seen many of their journalists killed in the line of duty, including Arman Soldin in Ukraine, Shah Marai in Afghanistan and Paolo Cocco in Italy. These people were only trying to inform their communities.

On Press Freedom Day the Australian Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance, the union for journalists and media workers, renewed calls for reforms so that journalists can confidently play their role to support democracy. They urged the federal government to undertake reforms which would include changes to national security laws, freedom of information and defamation. Federal president, Karen Percy, said that according to a report by international non-profit and non-governmental organisation, Reporters Without Borders, in recent years Australia had slid down the ranks for press freedom from 19th 15 years ago to just 39th place in 2022. This is something we need to take seriously.

The union has also flagged possible changes to the Privacy Act, journalists experiencing harassment and threats, and a decreasing media workforce in regional and rural Australia as some of the other barriers to the public's right to know. Now more than ever we need to end impunity for attacks on journalists and enact laws that protect journalists from undue pressure. It is our obligation as a democratic country to facilitate the work of a free pluralistic and safe press.

Whatever some of us may think about Julian Assange he remains incarcerated currently in Belmarsh prison. Villain or hero, he has been incarcerated for the last 10 years. To add to this, Cheng Lei, another Australian journalist, has been imprisoned in China for more than 1,000 days. The details of the charges against her are still a secret, and she is yet to be sentenced. She has not been allowed to see her children since she was arrested.

Let's not forget another fellow Australian journalist, Yang Hengjun, who has been imprisoned following state secrets charges and also had his sentencing repeatedly postponed. Assange, Lei and Yang were doing their jobs as they saw fit. The Australian Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, and the foreign affairs minister, Penny Wong, are continuing to raise the issues of incarceration of various political prisoners.

In closing, I would like to leave you with a question from Assange himself, who said, 'Which country is suffering from too much freedom of speech? Name it, is there one?' As a last note, I would like to thank those journalists and media workers in Australia and around the world who stand up for the truth in order to secure human rights and tell their stories.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (17:55): I rise to speak to the motion by the Hon. Mr Pangallo on celebrating World Press Freedom Day. I would like to thank the Hon. Mr Pangallo for bringing this issue to this chamber. As we celebrate World Press Freedom Day, we need to consider how important it is to retain a free and uncompromised press and what our world might look like without it. A free media is responsible for bringing important, often critical matters to the public consciousness. These could be political, criminal and social issues that often people in powerful positions do not want to expose.

Often the publishing of these stories can lead to significant changes in our society. Arguably, the most famous example of success of a free press, Watergate, led to the removal of a United States president. *The Washington Post* investigation, which would not have been possible in certain countries, exposed a political crime and scandal at great personal risk to journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. Without their work and the newspaper's ability to make these crimes public, we would probably never know about the conspiracy by people within the Nixon administration to steal documents from that building.

Such advancements in press freedom have often come at a serious cost to the journalists involved. Some have been killed, others imprisoned. Australian publisher and editor Julian Assange has effectively been imprisoned for more than a decade after publishing leaked US Army intelligence documents in 2010. He spent seven years holed up inside the Ecuadorian embassy in London and has spent the past four years in a British prison. Today, Assange lives in fear that he will be extradited to the United States and spend the rest of his life in prison there. Assange was essentially doing his job as an editor and a publisher.

Community views regarding Julian Assange are divided. It is far too easy and convenient to be able to put Assange in a category of being a traitor because he leaked information regarding threatening national security. It is a tried and tested means of censoring free speech: if someone reports something that certain sectors do not want published, call them a traitor. To instil fear in the general population, go further and call them dangerous.

Yet, Australian journalists have risked their lives pursuing stories, and some have paid the ultimate price. Two Australians were among the media group now known as the Balibo Five, who were murdered by Indonesian Special Forces while investigating the 1975 invasion of East Timor. After the murders of Australian journalist Greg Shackleton and his sound recordist, Tony Stewart, along with New Zealander Gary Cunningham and Brits Brian Peters and Malcolm Rennie, AAP-Reuters dispatched a journalist to investigate. That man, Roger East, was also executed. The same year, Sydney publisher and journalist Juanita Nielsen was killed for standing up to organised crime and police corruption while trying to bring it to the attention of the wider community.

Since then, Australia has lost two more media professionals just doing their work. ABC foreign correspondent Tony Joyce was shot dead covering the Zambia-Rhodesia conflict in 1979, and freelance cameraman Paul Moran was killed during the Iraq War in 2003. These people need to be always remembered, as does the importance of their work.

In Australia, the free press has brought to light many serious matters that would almost certainly not have come to the public's attention without investigative reporting and a media outlet with the legal right to publish. We would not have heard about the corruption involving Chinese high rollers in Australian casinos. Stories of the sex trafficking of our young girls would never have seen the light of day. Police corruption may never have been uncovered, and the royal commission into

New South Wales police corruption and Queensland's Fitzgerald inquiry may never have happened. Aboriginal deaths in custody might have been swept under the carpet.

While Australia generally recognises the need for a free press, it has no constitutional protection to guarantee freedom of speech. Journalists like Kate McClymont, Chris Masters and Nick McKenzie have put themselves at personal risk and risk of imprisonment when investigating their stories. Despite being the subject of major litigation over the years, along with many other colleagues, they have continued to investigate stories that many powerful people and companies want kept quiet.

Australia's defamation laws make it harder, sometimes for very good reason, to bring information to the public arena. The best investigative journalists know that the story not only has to be true but also has to be in the public interest. So journalists and the media should not only have the right to investigate and reveal important stories but also have a responsibility to balance confidentiality with that interest. As McKenzie, a multiple Walkley Award-winning investigative journalist, said recently, he has a duty to balance public safety and the greater good with the need to protect confidentiality. If he were told by a terrorist that an act of terrorism was going to be committed, he said he would reveal the situation because it was for the greater good.

While we have these outstanding investigative journalists and media outlets prepared to back them, there are also media outlets and newspapers not prepared to take a stand, either for political reasons or through fear of reprisal. This was highlighted recently when Australia, a country widely regarded as one of the fairest and most transparent in the world, ranked only 25th on the press freedom list. We have slipped six places since 2018, and that is something that we seriously need to address.

Press freedom can be compromised in many ways. Journalists being ordered to reveal their sources, which of course means that people are less likely to come forward with information, is just one way. Newspapers and media outlets that do not want to investigate and that effectively censure their journalists because the story may not fit with their financial or political narrative are another. Media monopolies with self-interest can be another way of silencing a free press. That self-interest actually does great harm to a free media.

We recently saw Fox News forced to pay out almost \$1 billion for knowingly broadcasting false and frankly absurd accusations that voting-equipment company Dominion had conspired to steal the 2020 US federal election. Election technology company Smartmatic may cost Fox even more, with a \$2.7 billion lawsuit pending. What this does, of course, is undermine the good work done by investigative journalists, with the general population doubting the honesty and veracity of sometimes shocking and extraordinary findings.

In Australia, journalists have to deal with many obstructions when they do investigative reporting. They have to convince their employer that the story is worth pursuing and needs to be published. They need to deal with threats made by sometimes very dangerous people and organisations. They even have to deal with a legal system that can threaten to put them behind bars for doing their work.

Law enforcement agencies in Australia have the legal right to investigate the identity of journalists' confidential sources by accessing their phone and computer records. This of course means that sources are less likely to come forward and stories that need to be told become less likely to be published. If someone who is going out on a limb to provide information to a journalist cannot expect to have their identity kept secret, it could also mean the risk of harm or even death to the source.

We should never forget the great work done by our best investigative journalists and the importance of a free press. They are essential to a strong democracy.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (18:04): I rise to speak on the motion of World Press Freedom Day. I want to acknowledge the incredible privilege Australia acknowledge enjoys of a free press. I also indicate I will be the lead speaker on this motion for the opposition. I also want to acknowledge the work of the Hon. Frank Pangallo in his former life as a journalist in South Australia and the work he continues to do in this place.

The fact that Australia enjoys such a benefit from a free press is not lost on me. You only need to look at the crackdowns and anti-press actions of foreign governments to know that what we enjoy and sometimes take for granted in Australia is a beautiful thing, and we are richer for it.

The World Press Freedom Index is an annual ranking of countries compiled and published by Reporters Without Borders. Whilst Australia does not enjoy the top billing in the index—that goes to Norway—it is No. 27, with pariah state North Korea at 180th, no surprises there.

Since 1991 World Press Freedom Day has been celebrated on 3 May in response to what was at the time increasing attacks against journalists and media outlets around the world. Today, it serves as a reminder to governments of the need to respect their commitment to freedom of the press. This year it celebrates the 30th anniversary since it was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly following a recommendation of the general conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, in 1991.

This year's theme is 'Shaping a future of rights: freedom of expression as a driver for all other human rights'. Freedom of expression is one of the essential elements of a modern democratic society. There are four fundamental freedoms laid out in the preamble of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights: freedom of speech, freedom of belief, freedom from fear and freedom from want. As UNESCO notes:

It is not incidental that the freedom of speech came first: this fundamental freedom is one that enables all others.

Article 19 in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights states:

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Freedom of expression is sacred and should be defended. Journalists often find themselves with a ringside seat to history, and that is not always the safest place. Indeed, Australian journalists, with their keen sense of adventure, often feature in tales of far-flung lands and are often quite adept at historical recording. As the motion states, there are a number of journalists currently detained or being held hostage. According to Reporters Without Borders, there are 547 journalists and 22 media workers detained as of today, and since 1 January 2023 nine journalists and media workers have been killed.

Right now there is history in the making in Europe, with the first war on European soil since World War II. This year so far three journalists have been killed or gone missing via forced disappearance or kidnapping in Ukraine. Right now there are journalists on the frontline, on the ground in the Ukraine-Russian war.

One of them is from Adelaide, an Australian Army veteran Matt Williams OAM, also known as Willy. He reports with frequent interviews from the frontline of the Ukraine war through his YouTube channel. Another Australian is Bryce Wilson, who has been reporting from Ukraine since 2015 following the Russian forces entering.

Away from those sombre numbers, back home in Australia, we have other issues. With the freedom of the press comes great responsibility. In Australia we have public broadcasters, including the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, or ABC, which is funded by the federal government. In the three years from 2022-23 to 2024-25, the ABC and SBS will receive \$4.2 billion.

The public media channel has an important remit of commissioning and broadcasting Australian content—Australian voices for Australian consumption. But all too often the public broadcaster finds itself in trouble for breach of its charter, and this was the case most recently during the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, where the ABC has received more than 1,000 complaints and allegations that it breached editorial standards. The more than 1,000 complaints triggered an investigation by the ABC Ombudsman into editorial failings.

In closing, I reiterate the absolute privilege we have of living in Australia, a land of freedom, including free press, and strong work in what we do. I thank the member for bringing this motion to the chamber and, with the proposed government amendments, we support the motion.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (18:09): I, too, rise in favour of the motion proposed by the Hon. Frank Pangallo; however, I take this opportunity to indicate that the Greens are not supportive of the government's amendments. We are concerned that they water down the motion of the Hon. Frank Pangallo and therefore we are not supportive of them; however, the Greens are supportive of the original motion that has been proposed by the honourable member.

I acknowledge the leadership of the Hon. Mr Frank Pangallo in this place on issues to do with press freedom. As has been observed by other members, he has been a journalist. He is a member in this place who has a keen interest in these issues and I certainly welcome his leadership in this regard.

May 3 was the 30th anniversary of the United Nations UN General Assembly World Press Freedom Day. The theme for this year's day was 'Shaping a future of rights: freedom of expression as a driver for all other human rights', signifying the enabling element of freedom of expression to enjoy and protect all other human rights. World Press Freedom Day reminds us that freedom to seek, disseminate and receive information on issues of public interest is a public good and vital to building a healthy and pluralistic civic space in which democratic institutions can flourish. Without a free and fair media acting as public watchdogs, citizens cannot access the information we need to make sound political choices, and accountability is severely impaired.

The media also offers citizens analysis of ongoing events, serves as a public forum in which different voices can be heard and interacts with and helps citizens understand what is becoming an increasingly complex world. The meaningful role played by the media in healthy democratic societies is recognised by the main universal and regional treaties on human rights, which entrench media freedom and pluralism in their provisions on freedom of expression and information.

World Press Freedom Day is also a day to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in pursuit of a story, to defend media from attacks on their independence and to assess the state of play of media freedoms worldwide, and to reflect about issues relating to press freedom and professional ethics.

Sadly, according to UNESCO World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development: Global Report 2021-22, 85 per cent of the world's population experienced a decline in press freedom in their country over the past five years. The report also found that between 2016 and 2021, 455 journalists were killed, either for their work or while they were on the job. Nine times out of 10 the murder of a journalist is unresolved. At the same time, imprisonment of journalists has reached record highs. Since 2016, dozens of countries have adopted or amended laws and regulations that threaten freedom of expression and press freedom online.

Growing numbers of media outlets have been forced to cut down on staff or close their doors permanently, and just two companies—Google and Meta—now receive approximately half of all global digital advertising spends. Here in Australia, I fear that press freedom is going backwards. According to the Reporters Without Borders' World Press Freedom Index, Australia has dropped 14 places between 2021 and 2022, down from 25 to 35, and its score dropped from 80 to 73.77 over the last 12 months. Just two firms—News Corp and the Nine Entertainment Group—dominate Australia's media landscape, making Australia one of the most hyperconcentrated media systems in the world.

This oligarchic model prioritises business interests to the detriment of public interest journalism. The executives of big media companies maintain close ties to political leaders, which fuels doubts about the editorial independence of the outlets they own. In 2021, a Senate committee confirmed the existence of a growing culture of secrecy by the administration through the press, and this manifested itself through informal pressure not to reveal certain matters and of intimidation of whistleblowers under the pretext of protecting national security.

I should observe that it is not just state and federal governments that have a track record when it comes to intimidating the press. I remember my days in Town Hall, when the Team Adelaide faction, under the leadership of Lord Mayor Verschoor, initiated a gag order, which prevented members of council from being able to talk to the press about motions they were intending to move. I found that to be an outrageous affront to democracy at a local level, and myself and councillors Anne Moran and Phillip Martin were very much against that change. It took a very strong campaign

from the media and the community to force the Team Adelaide faction, under the leadership of Alex Hyde, to reverse their position. It is a reminder that no level of government is immune from intimidating the press.

It is really important that we see strong, protected, independent public broadcasters like the ABC. These play a very important role in providing high-quality investigative journalism yet, sadly, they have had their budgets cut by more than half a billion dollars since 2014 and that has led to hundreds of lay-offs. The Liberal Party in Canberra have an appalling track record in that regard of trying to undermine the independence of the ABC. They have really gutted it over many years, and I hope that we see the Albanese government in Canberra putting more money into the ABC in the years ahead.

One of the challenges we face in our country is that Australia's constitution does not contain an explicit clause dealing with freedom of the press. This causes growing problems in our country, especially because some states are showing draconian tendencies concerning the free practice of journalism. At the federal level parliament has adopted, since the end of the 2000s, several problematic laws on national security, espionage and data encryption, which contain provisions authorising officials to violate the principle of journalists' confidential source protection. It is a really important principle for freedom of the press and it is one that is being eroded.

In a 2021 study, nearly 90 per cent of journalists in Australia said they feared, and I quote from that document, 'an increase in threats, harassment or intimidation', starting with threats from government. In 2019, the federal police searched the home of political News Corp journalist, Annika Smethurst, in Canberra, as well as the headquarters of the ABC, creating an alarming legal precedent that threatens the survival of public interest journalism in our country.

We are seeing all around the world an erosion of press freedoms. We are seeing, as social media takes more of a centre stage, the proliferation of misinformation and the terrible impact that can have on our democracy. It is so vital that we see the freedom of the press being respected and preserved going forward. In that spirit, the Greens support the motion.

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

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

*Answers to Questions***SA COURTS SYSTEM DELAYS**

263 The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (26 March 2023).

1. What is the backlog in the South Australian courts, criminal jurisdiction?
2. Within a table show the number of lodgements pending completion that are greater than 12 and 24 months as at 1 March 2023?
3. Within a table show the percentage of lodgements pending completion that are greater than 12 and 24 months as at 1 March 2023?

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

The number of lodgements pending completion as at 31 March 2023.

Supreme Court

Non-Appeal

| | |
|--------------|----|
| > 12 months: | 39 |
| > 24 months: | 11 |

Appeal

| | |
|--------------|----|
| > 12 months: | 11 |
| > 24 months: | 0 |

District Court

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| > 12 months: | 675 |
| > 24 months: | 188 |

Magistrates Court

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| > 12 months: | 3,553 |
| > 24 months: | 1,275 |

Youth Court

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| > 12 months: | 164 |
| > 24 months: | 47 |

The percentage of lodgements pending completion as at 31 March 2023.

Supreme Court

Non-Appeal

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| > 12 months: | 25 per cent |
| > 24 months: | 7 per cent |

Appeal

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| > 12 months: | 12 per cent |
| > 24 months: | 0 per cent |

District Court

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| > 12 months: | 36 per cent |
| > 24 months: | 10 per cent |

Magistrates Court

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| > 12 months: | 15 per cent |
| > 24 months: | 5 per cent |

Youth Court

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| > 12 months: | 9 per cent |
| > 24 months: | 2 per cent |