

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

### Thursday, 30 November 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*

#### **PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

Reports, 2022-23—

Administrator National Health Funding Pool  
Balaklava and Riverton Health Advisory Council Inc.  
Board of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium—Financial Statements  
Coast Protection Board—Financial Statements  
Coorong Health Services Health Advisory Council Inc.  
Department for Environment and Water—Financial Statements  
Eudunda Kapunda Health Advisory Council Inc.  
Funds SA  
Hawker District Memorial Health Advisory Council Inc.  
Industry Advocate  
Local Government Financial Authority of South Australia  
Lotteries Commission of South Australia  
Mamungari Conservation Park Co-management Board—Financial Statements  
Mid-West Health Advisory Council Inc.  
Naracoorte Area Health Advisory Council Inc.  
National Health Funding Body  
Port Lincoln Health Advisory Council Inc.  
Quorn Health Services Health Advisory Council Inc.  
Southern Adelaide Local Health Network  
South Australian Ambulance Service  
South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service Superannuation Scheme  
South Australian Public Health Council  
Southern Select Super Corporation  
Teachers Registration Board of South Australia  
The Whyalla Hospital and Health Services Health Advisory Council Inc.  
Preparing South Australia's Coast Progress Report

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

Professional Standards Council—Report, 2022-23

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

Reports 2022-23—

Australian Energy Market Commission  
Department for Energy and Mining  
Department of Human Services  
Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing  
Office of Hydrogen Power South Australia

South Australia Police  
South Australian Housing Trust  
Technical Regulator South Australia  
The Power Line Environment Committee

*Ministerial Statement*

**NORTHERN GAWLER CRATON**

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:19):** I table a copy of a ministerial statement relating to second drilling campaign launches in the northern Gawler Craton area made earlier today in another place by my colleague the Minister for Energy and Mining.

*Question Time*

**CORONERS COURT FUNDING**

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:22):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General a question regarding Coroners Court funding.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** For the last six years, funding has been available for a third coroner and ancillary staff to assist with the work of the State Coroner and the Coroners Court, and 2022-23 was the sixth year in which there has been funding. However, according to the Coroners Court 2022-23 report, tabled in the House of Assembly on 29 November 2023, the state government has made the decision for the budget year 2023-24 that such funding will not be renewed. I quote from the Coroner's report as follows:

The decision of the State Government not to renew funding for a third Coroner and ancillary staff was a great disappointment to me. Since my appointment as State Coroner in 2019 it has been my assessment that three Coroners are required, as a minimum, to satisfactorily discharge the statutory duties imposed by the Coroners Act 2003. I have consistently put that position to Government and advocated for an extra allocation to provide for a third coroner and the necessary ancillary legal and administrative staff.

The decision to cut funding has been made by the government, despite the fact that the number of reportable deaths has been steadily increasing over the years. In 2005-06, there were 2,080 reportable deaths, far less than the 3,340 reported in 2022-23. My questions to the Attorney are:

1. Given the increase in the workload within the Coroners Court in recent years, on what basis is the Attorney justifying the cut in funding for a third coroner and ancillary staff?
2. What plans does the Attorney have to support the Coroner and address the concerns he raised in his report?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:24):** I thank the honourable member for her question. She is quite right. There has been funding of a temporary nature provided to the Coroner's jurisdiction. I understand it was provided for a specific group of inquests. At any stage, the former Liberal government, of course, could have made it permanent, but they chose not to as well. We are in regular communication with the Coroner's jurisdiction and are looking at any way that we can make the jurisdiction as effective and efficient as possible.

**LIVE SHEEP EXPORT**

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:24):** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding live sheep exports. Does the minister support the federal government's push to ban live sheep exports?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:25):** I would like to thank the honourable member for this question, but isn't this a question that has been asked multiple times in this chamber already this year? I fully appreciate that those opposite have no ideas. I fully appreciate that those opposite have

run out of questions for this year, struggling to be relevant to this state parliament, and I fully appreciate that those opposite just don't know what else to say.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** I have answered this question before. I suggest that those opposite consult *Hansard*.

#### LIVE SHEEP EXPORT

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:25):** Supplementary, Mr President.

**The Hon. K.J. Maher:** It's going to be very difficult, I would have thought.

**The PRESIDENT:** I will decide that.

**The Hon. R.P. Wortley:** You are a man of great integrity.

**The PRESIDENT:** I don't need your encouragement. The honourable Leader of the Opposition, I will listen to your supplementary question.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** Given that the minister won't answer the question, does she then disagree with commentary from sheep producers in South Australia who say that the banning of live sheep exports has put significant downward pressure on the market?

**The PRESIDENT:** No, you can't get that out of the original answer, I'm sorry.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

#### CROSS BORDER COMMISSIONER

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:26):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, that she probably won't answer, regarding the Cross Border Commissioner.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

Leave granted.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** The 2022-23 annual report for the Cross Border Commissioner states as a key initiative that quarterly meetings are to be held between the Cross Border Commissioner and the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development to speak about key issues. My questions to the minister are:

1. How many times has the minister formally met with the Cross Border Commissioner over the last 12 months since her appointment to the role in December 2022?
2. When were those meetings?
3. Can the minister confirm that an executive support officer has indeed been recruited to manage the Cross Border Commissioner office and is active in that role?

**The Hon. R.A. Simms:** If only we could see her diaries.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:27):** I thank the honourable member for her question. It is good that she is taking the lead from the Hon. Mr Pangallo, who asked a relevant question earlier in the week. Since those opposite have run out of ideas, they are now trying to steal Frank's, so it's very good.

Certainly, I have met on a number of occasions formally with the Cross Border Commissioner, some via Teams and some in person in Mount Gambier. I can't remember off the top of my head, obviously, the dates. I am happy to bring that back on notice.

#### **CROSS BORDER COMMISSIONER**

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:28):** Supplementary: can the minister please answer my final question, which was: can she confirm that an executive support officer has been recruited to manage the office and is active in that role?

**The PRESIDENT:** It didn't come out of the original answer. Minister?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:28):** I am happy to answer it. I am aware that an executive support officer, I think that was the title, was recruited by the Cross Border Commissioner. In terms of operational matters, that is a matter for the commissioner.

#### **VICTIMS OF CRIME**

**The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI (14:28):** My question is to the Attorney-General. Will the Attorney inform the council about all the work that this government has undertaken over the past year to further support victims of crime in South Australia?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:28):** I thank the honourable member for her very well thought-out and very well written and very well asked question. While this government has a longstanding history when in power of supporting victims of crime, the past calendar year has been a particularly positive one for South Australian victims of crime being further supported, and to honour the importance of that I am happy to share some of the key actions that have been taken in this space.

Earlier this year, the government reinstated critical funding to the Victim Support Service that was cut under the former Liberal government, and we provided additional funding to the Victim Support Service's Court Companions Program. The Court Companions Program offers trained volunteers to accompany victims of crime during their time in court, which can often be a stressful and overwhelming time. This program, to help victims of crime navigate the criminal justice system, received a \$70,000 boost in funding to help bolster the service's volunteer workforce by up to 10 new volunteers, ensuring greater capacity to provide support to victims during their time of need, particularly during court trials.

It was also a fantastic moment for South Australia's victims of crime in July this year to appoint another dedicated victims' advocate to service as our Commissioner for Victims' Rights. Ms Sarah Quick took over from her predecessor Ms Bronwyn Killmier, who stepped down after five years of passionate advocacy in the role. Having previously been awarded the Victim Support Service's Victim Service Worker of the Year, Ms Quick has proven to be a fantastic advocate since starting in the role in August.

Further, this government has continued our strong support for the Homicide Victim Support Group of SA, a group largely made up of volunteers who provide support to people who have lost friends or loved ones to a homicide. A few months back, I opened the Homicide Victim Support Group of SA's information seminar for family and friends of homicide victims.

At that morning tea, I was proud to share that the Attorney-General's Department had been able to provide additional support and funding to the Homicide Victim Support Group for an additional staff member to provide support to that group in governance, communications, and management and events that support so many others. The support that the group provides includes the development and distribution of newsletters, organising monthly meetings, attending and taking minutes and organising guest speakers. I look forward to seeing the important work of this group continue in the future.

In further work supporting victims of crime, this government has recently commenced consultation on a suite of reforms to strengthen the process to give victims of crime a stronger voice in the criminal justice process, particularly in the sentencing process. The government began

consulting on potential changes after concerns were raised by the former Commissioner for Victims' Rights and other victim advocates about victim impact statements.

The government is currently consulting on a bill with key stakeholders to ensure victims of crime are given the opportunity to be heard by courts prior to sentencing, making sure the victims are provided with information around how they can provide a statement, what it involves and how it will be used, and ensuring that the court accepts victim impact statements in the form in which the victim wishes to give it. This change clarifies the court's discretion to discard any material that it deems irrelevant to sentencing and allow victims to be heard in their own words, giving victims control over whether their statements can be made public, and giving the court the power to prevent the publication of material that it deems irrelevant.

I look forward to the conclusion of this consultation period, and considering the feedback, before we introduce legislation to ensure victims of crime have an even stronger voice in the sentencing process. Further still, the government has provided additional funding to the Victim Support Service for other programs that they run. I had the pleasure of meeting some of the volunteers in Mount Gambier last year.

Additional services to the Victim Support Service will see a boost to their volunteer workforce, as I said, by up to 10 new members, ensuring greater capacity during trials. All of these have been done over the past 12 months, and I look forward to sharing with the council the government's actions that further continue the role that we do to support victims.

#### GOVERNMENT APOLOGIES

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (14:33):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General a question about government apologies.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** Child sex abuse victim Ki Meekins is a man well known in this place, not just for his courage, bravery and determination but also for his common decency and the legacy he will leave for others. Ki was the architect of an inquiry into the abuse of children in state care led by former South Australian judge Ted Mullighan, in 2004, after he revealed to the *Today Tonight* program, almost 30 years ago, how he was sexually abused as a child in state care. The 58-year-old's story inspired other survivors to come forward and led to some of the most substantial child protection reforms in the state's history. It also led to the Premier personally apologising to Ki in state parliament earlier this year.

Since March this year, Ki has been waiting extremely patiently for a letter of apology from the state government as part of the National Redress Scheme. I raised this delay with the Premier recently and he committed to look into the matter—a relatively simple task you would think. While Ki's lawyer, the well-respected and highly experienced Jennifer Corkhill, believes they could be close to agreeing on the words, the government's lawyers seem to disagree, and Ki is left waiting.

Recently, Ki was contacted by a lawyer from the Department for Child Protection to discuss the contents of the letter without Ms Corkhill's knowledge and without her being present, something that upset Ki and outraged his lawyer. The government lawyer then contacted Ms Corkhill claiming Ki had agreed to the department's draft letter when that wasn't the case. My questions to the Attorney are:

1. Do you think it is ethical for a government lawyer to contact an extremely vulnerable person—who is known to always be represented by Ms Corkhill and who attends all meetings with Ms Corkhill—without the knowledge of, and not in the presence of, Ms Corkhill?
2. While I know you are not the minister representing the Minister for Child Protection in another place, do you know the reasons for the unacceptable delay in finalising Ki's letter of apology and, if not, can you please come back to this place in the New Year with a reply? I think Ki is entitled to know when the apology letter will be finalised.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:36):** I thank the honourable member for his important question. I think, as the member has referenced in his question, the Department for Child Protection

oversees things such as apologies. I think in a speech marking the anniversary of former Premier the Hon. Mike Rann's apology to victims of sexual abuse in state care, I am aware the new Premier, Premier Malinauskas, referenced the matter of Mr Meekins in his speech.

In relation to where a form of words is up to and the process it is up to, as the honourable member has outlined, I do not have details in relation to that. But, as the honourable member has suggested, I will be more than happy to take that on notice and bring him back a reply.

### REGIONAL WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:37):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development about regional businesses.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.S. LEE:** On 20 November, an ABC News article was published with the headline 'General Skilled Migration visa changes making it tough for regional SA businesses to find workers'. The article writes that the Pearl Continental restaurant in Naracoorte has been advertising for more than two months for workers to replace three of their chefs whose visas were ending but has not had a single applicant. The federal member for Barker, Tony Pasin, was quoted as saying:

As a result people are not remaining in regional communities, they're leaving for the cities, and we should have a migration policy that encourages people to live, work, and raise their families in regional Australia.

Naracoorte Lucindale Mayor Patrick Ross was quoted as saying:

These family-owned businesses are going to struggle. It's an absolute disaster. We need to get this turned around as quickly as we can for the sake of small businesses in regional SA.

My questions to the minister are:

1. No doubt the minister is aware of the workforce shortages in regional SA; therefore, what consultation has she had with businesses in the regions facing worker shortages problems?
2. What strategies has the minister put in place to address these shortages and the concerns of business owners and operators in the regional area?
3. What representation formally has the minister made to the federal government to formulate a response to ensure the SA regional economy and businesses remain open and not be abandoned?
4. When was the recent meeting or briefing that the minister had to ensure the state and federal migration program is adequate to assist regional businesses with their needs for skilled workers? Can the minister outline the details to the chamber?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:39):** I thank the honourable member for her question. It's certainly something that I have discussed many times in this place, which is around workforce particularly for regional businesses and regional industries. It's something that as a government we have worked very hard on. Some of the ways that this has been raised is of course through country cabinet: that very, very useful forum.

**An honourable member:** What are you doing about it?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** Well, one of the questions from the honourable member was when and how I have spoken with regional industries, so I am answering that, and yet, because we dare to mention country cabinet, we start to get interjections from those opposite.

During country cabinet, and all of the meetings that are associated with that—so not just the public forums but the individual meetings that we have either with industry groups or with individual businesses—workforce is, of course, a key topic of discussion. This is an issue that throughout the country is a challenge and throughout regional areas around the country is a challenge.

One of the key issues that is related to that is housing. We do hear stories of businesses that have been able to attract staff to take up the roles but then end up not doing so because of a lack of

suitable housing. That is one of the reasons that the Malinauskas Labor government has established the Office for Regional Housing, which is a key initiative to make sure that we can work with local government associations, with regional development associations, with industry, with not-for-profits, etc., so that we can establish fit-for-purpose solutions in terms of regional housing, because we know that regional housing is a key enabler of solving workforce issues.

In relation to some of the other questions that the honourable member asked, workforce is a topic for the agricultural ministers' meetings, which are meetings of both the federal and state and territory agricultural ministers, and there is a piece of work that is proceeding on that in regard to workforce, particularly for agricultural industries, most of which are in regional areas.

### LIMESTONE COAST

**The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:41):** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister inform the chamber about how the government has supported growth and service delivery in the Limestone Coast region since the election, bearing in mind we only have 40 minutes left of question time.

**The PRESIDENT:** The minister knows that Dorothy Dixers don't go for more than four to five minutes.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:42):** I am not quite sure where these interjections and suggestions are coming from or why. I am more than happy to talk about the government's record, because in only our first 20 months in office, we have been supporting growth and community wellbeing in the Limestone Coast region, something that those opposite did little or nothing about in their four years in government.

While those opposite have been spending time working on their new logo—which I am sure will deliver great things for the people of South Australia and make a real impact on the issues that matter—while they have been doing that, we have been getting on with the job. I love it: #LogosMatter. I think that's a great summary of what those opposite have been spending their time on.

However, we have been getting on with the job. Indeed, within 72 hours of being elected, Premier Peter Malinauskas visited Mount Gambier to demonstrate the importance of the Limestone Coast to the economic and social fabric of the state. I will remind the opposition—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** —again that it was in Mount Gambier that our government reconvened country cabinet for the first time in June last year, that highly anticipated—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** —and useful forum to connect with regional communities, that very same forum which those opposite treat with disdain and reject. I was asked about how the government is supporting growth in the Limestone Coast. As alluded to, when the honourable member made reference to the fact that we only have 40 minutes, the list is long; the list is very long.

**The PRESIDENT:** You have about two more minutes.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** I will try to cover off on all of the aspects in the time that I have. The list will continue to grow. We are developing a \$59 million Mount Gambier research, education and training precinct, bringing together a new purpose-built technical college and an upgraded TAFE, the Mount Gambier campus, as well as the new Forestry Centre of Excellence.

We have moved quickly to build houses in Mount Gambier for government-employed workers in health, education and the South Australian police force, through the Regional Key Worker Housing Scheme, to encourage the filling of key roles and free up private rentals, in addition to new public housing dwellings, four of which are already built in Mount Gambier.

We have worked collaboratively with the Tatiara District Council to expand the program and build a further five houses in Bordertown for the key worker scheme and contribute to the civil works to support the construction of up to 60 more houses to facilitate business growth in the township and surrounding region.

We have committed to a \$5½ million co-investment contribution in a Telstra project, which is currently before the commonwealth government's Regional Connectivity Program. This project, if supported by the commonwealth, will enable the delivery of 27 new mobile stations and adds 2,400 square kilometres of new 4G coverage to the region, improving connectivity for homes, businesses, primary producers and for emergency situations.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** We have established the office of the Cross Border Commissioner in Mount Gambier, which is investigating and advocating on regulatory and service delivery issues that adversely impact cross-border communities. I hear from the Hon. Ben Hood across the chamber here and it reminds me—

**The PRESIDENT:** Interjections are out of order.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** I won't refer again to his interjections, but I will refer to the fact that I am reminded of an opinion piece in *The Border Watch* written by the Hon. Ben Hood that unfortunately reveals the type of divisive politics which, quite frankly, most of the community are just plain sick of. It contains a litany of accusations that he knows to be false. The honourable member might do well to take a leaf out of the books of the independent members for Mount Gambier and MacKillop, who have been very active in effectively advocating on behalf of their constituents across several issues—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** —including regional housing, education—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, both sides!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** —health and regional connectivity. The record of the previous Liberal government in the Limestone Coast, quite frankly, was dismal. They did nothing to deal with the housing crisis, they did nothing to improve services in Mount Gambier and at the last election they had next to no election policies whatsoever for the Limestone Coast. In fact, when the Hon. Ben Hood was the Liberal candidate for Mount Gambier, I remember vividly being at a forum in which he had no policies to offer for the Limestone Coast.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** His answer to the majority of the questions was that he would bang the table—he would bang the table.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS:** Point of order: it is relating to relevance. Is this going to wrap up anytime soon? I think some of us would like to actually ask a question.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Minister, conclude. You have had more than enough for your Dorothy Dixier.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** I appreciate that, Mr President, and I will do so. It is disappointing because there are so many more lists of things that we are doing in the Limestone Coast and in particular I would like the opportunity to rebut the falsehoods that were in the article I referred to. Anyway, while those opposite are designing logos and banging the table, our government has been getting on with the job to support the Limestone Coast.



**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Hood, you have a supplementary question?

#### **MOBILE PHONE TOWERS**

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD (14:47):** Should the federal government not fund the 27 mobile phone towers on the Limestone Coast, will the minister's government fund the shortfall?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:48):** That does actually lead to one of the wrongful claims that was made in that article I referred to about the connectivity project. In the article, the Hon. Mr Hood says that the government has not made clear that the recently announced project is reliant on federal funding that has not yet been secured, despite the fact that our media release said that this is reliant on co-funding with the federal government. The articles that covered this topic said that this was part of a co-funding project involving Telstra, involving the state government and involving industry, and we are very hopeful that the federal government will come to the party. Perhaps the Hon. Mr Hood might like to correct the public record—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** —either that or he can't read the media release. He should be ashamed of this sort of petty politics.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Hon. Ms Franks has the floor.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Hon. Mr Hood and the Hon. Mr Hunter, please, a bit of courtesy for the Hon. Ms Franks.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Hood! Minister! Order! The Hon. Mr Hood, you'll get an early minute if you keep it up.

#### **ANIMAL RITUAL SLAUGHTER**

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:49):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development a question on the topic of ritual slaughter.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** Under clause 7.12(2) of the Australian standard for the hygienic production and transportation of meat and meat products for human consumption, ritual slaughter is permitted with the proviso that animals are stunned afterwards. Islamic authorities, such as the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, which is the accreditation body for halal food, accept the stunning of animals and have indicated publicly that pre-stunning does not contravene halal requirements.

Ritual slaughter is seen as cruel and inhumane not only by the RSPCA but by organisations across the world. The reason many oppose this is simple: animals can actually remain conscious in extreme cases for up to six minutes, and scientific studies have shown that the time to collapse for one sample of 100 calves averaged 120 seconds.

It is my understanding that currently in South Australia some abattoirs have an exemption for some portions of that standard; however, I would like the minister, when I get to the question, to clarify what the conditions of those exemptions are. I raise the attention of the council to a complaint made in July this year, including footage of abattoirs or slaughterhouses in Snowtown, Murray Bridge and Kapunda, all provided to PIRSA in July this year, that show animals suffering extreme distress and stunning not being used for ritual slaughter.

That complaint and footage has now been forwarded to DEW but remains unaddressed. My questions to the minister are:

1. What is PIRSA doing to address the situation of ritual slaughter being done in compliance with the approved Australian standards in this state?

2. Does the minister have any concerns that a documented complaint, with footage, made in July has not yet been addressed to date, as we near December?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:52):** I thank the honourable member for her question. My advice is that the South Australian government has indeed received footage taken in June 2023 by the project known as the Farm Transparency Project from three separate small domestic meat processors in South Australia. The Farm Transparency Project describe themselves as an animal protection charity. This footage had some media coverage, with concerns raised about the slaughter practices, and one of the establishments, a small meat processor, performs halal ritual non-stunning slaughter.

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW), which administers the Animal Welfare Act, I am advised is currently investigating a number of claims from the Farm Transparency Project of animal cruelty pre-slaughter at these abattoirs. I am advised, and this is the most recent advice I have, that the investigations are still in their early phases, so there should be opportunities to speak further about it in the future.

Pre-slaughter stunning occurs in all export abattoirs and almost all domestic abattoirs, according to my advice, which means the majority of animals are stunned prior to slaughter in Australia. I am further advised that in South Australia there are only a few small domestic meat processors undertaking ritual slaughter of sheep and goats without pre-stunning. The throughput of livestock in these establishments is extremely low.

There are several pieces of South Australian legislation which apply to meat processing establishments. These include the Animal Welfare Act 1985 and the Animal Welfare Regulations 2012, which fall under the portfolio of Minister Close. They must also comply with the Primary Produce (Food Safety Schemes) Act 2004 and the Primary Produce (Food Safety Schemes) (Meat) Regulations 2017. That legislation requires compliance with various codes of practice and standards, including the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Livestock at Slaughtering Establishments and the standard AS4696:2023 hygienic production and transportation of meat and meat products for human consumption.

There are provisions, I am advised, in standards which allow for the ritual slaughter of livestock without pre-stunning. By permitting unstunned ritual slaughter, Australia is meeting its commitment to allow freedom to express cultural and religious freedoms. In terms of a further update, I am happy to refer that to the minister for animal welfare in the other place—the Minister for the Environment as well, as she is, of course—and bring back a response to the chamber.

#### **ANIMAL RITUAL SLAUGHTER**

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:54):** Supplementary: what is the nature of the exemptions given for slaughterhouses and abattoirs in South Australia undertaking ritual slaughter?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:54):** I am happy to take that on notice and bring back a response.

#### **ANIMAL RITUAL SLAUGHTER**

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:55):** Supplementary: what is the responsibility of the minister and her department for abattoirs and slaughterhouses, given they have handballed this investigation to another department?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:55):** It is usual for investigations to fall with the department that has legislative responsibility through their minister.

### DRIVING OFFENCES

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:55):** I seek leave to make an explanation before directing a question to the Attorney-General on vehicle licensing law.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK:** On 9 November, it was reported in *The Advertiser* that a man who had been previously convicted of aggravated driving without due care, causing the death of someone earlier this year, has now received his licence back just a few weeks ago.

On 7 March, 74-year-old Kadina man Mr Graham Hewett was killed in a car crash after Daniel Johannes van Sittert failed to give way to him. Graham's son, Andrew Hewett, has said that he was 'horrified' to hear that van Sittert got his licence back a few weeks ago, and was quoted as follows:

I didn't realise someone who causes death or serious injury were allowed to be given their licence back without any checks...

He had caused the death of my father, Graham, yet he didn't need to resit for his licence or be medically checked if he was capable of driving.

He further goes on to say, 'The law is wrong and needs to be addressed.' My questions to the Attorney are:

1. Is the Attorney familiar with this particular case and the circumstances of it?
2. As part of that, has the government considered introducing any harm minimisation assessment or risk assessment which considers public safety in response to risky drivers and their licences?
3. Would the government consider any legal changes in relation to this to ensure, particularly given the horrendous road toll that we have had so far, that poor drivers who aren't fit to be driving will be prevented from causing harm once they have been convicted?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:57):** I thank the honourable member for her question. I can remember reading the reports the honourable member referred to. I am not sure what detailed briefing has been provided. I don't think I have seen a detailed briefing on the circumstances in relation to that matter.

We do take matters of road safety, and those who cause harm on the road to others, very seriously. That is why we saw, during the course of this year, new legislation passed to combat such dangerous and selfish behaviour on our roads. New laws that passed this parliament come into effect on 1 January and create a new offence of causing death or serious harm by careless use of a vehicle or vessel.

This new offence lifts available penalties from a maximum of 12 months to five years' imprisonment for a basic offence and seven years for aggravated. The minimum licence disqualification under these new laws will be periods that have been increased from six months to one year for basic and three years for aggravated. Notably, these are only the mandatory minimum starting points for licence disqualification according to this new offence.

I thank the honourable member for her question. Yes, we are acutely aware of the distress and harm that is caused by those who don't have regard for others' safety when they do these sorts of things on our roads.

### DRIVING OFFENCES

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:58):** Supplementary: will the Attorney undertake to examine the particulars of this case to see what gaps may exist, and take that on notice and bring back a response to the chamber?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:59):** I would be happy to do so.

**MATTEO, HER HONOUR JUDGE C.**

**The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (14:59):** My question is to the Attorney-General. Will the minister please inform the chamber about the appointment of Her Honour Judge Matteo?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:59):** I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in the legal system. I am pleased to be able to take this opportunity to inform the chamber about the most recent appointment to the District Court of South Australia. Her Honour Judge Carmen Matteo epitomised the role of a prosecutor, as attested to by those who made speeches at the special sitting of the District Court very recently, on 23 November, to mark the occasion of Her Honour's commission.

The appointment of Carmen Matteo marked a bittersweet moment, particularly for those in the Attorney-General's Department. At least four attorneys-general have had the distinct privilege of having Carmen Matteo as a prosecutor in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions over the course of more than two decades of her legal practice. Judge Carmen Matteo began working in the law in 1999 as an associate to Justice Ted Mullighan, before taking on a role as a duty solicitor for the Legal Services Commission.

Judge Matteo, in her speech at the special sitting of the court, noted that Justice Mullighan was an important mentor in her legal career. Judge Matteo also noted that during her time as a duty solicitor she regularly had help and advice of hardworking counsel, and would go on in her role at the Legal Services Commission to handle many complex defences. After almost a year with the Legal Services Commission, Her Honour moved to the office that would be the centre of her professional career up until her appointment: the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

For the next 22 years, under four successive directors, Her Honour worked on some of the most complex, high-profile criminal matters our state has seen, including the Snowtown killings, the murder of Carly Ryan, the prosecution of Timothy Sexton and the murder of Suzanne Poll, amongst other matters. Her Honour's work ethic, attention to detail and intellect were renowned through the profession and resulted in her appointment as senior counsel in September 2022. The importance of Her Honour's role at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions was evidenced by the special sitting being full of rows of seats of those prosecutors in various stages of her career.

Judge Matteo noted that her last appearance before a court before being appointed to the bench as a judge was to move the admission of a young Aboriginal lawyer Her Honour had mentored. She had mentored the young Aboriginal lawyer through the Aboriginal Law Student Mentoring Program, which runs across all three South Australian universities, and it was a fitting last legal appearance as a lawyer for Her Honour before she became a member of the bench. We are looking forward to Her Honour becoming a valued member of the bench, as she has been in the legal profession for more than two decades.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL SECURITY**

**The Hon. S.L. GAME (15:02):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing a question to the Attorney-General regarding the employment of security personnel in state schools.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. S.L. GAME:** The Department for Education continues to assure parents and the community that its behaviour support policy and bullying prevention strategy are evidence based. *The Advertiser* reported that \$59,000 was spent on security guards in 2020, \$137,000 in 2021, and the department then advised under freedom of information that over \$815,000 was spent on security patrols in public schools in 2022. I asked the Attorney-General back in August to reveal the evidence that the policy and strategy is working. The department took 56 days to respond, instead of the required 30 days, and only partly released the information requested. My questions to the Attorney-General are:

1. Is the increased spending on security guards evidence that the evidence-based bullying prevention strategy programs do not work and, if not, why not?

2. How many schoolchildren have been assaulted each year in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023?
3. What is the cost of the student safety program?
4. What is the evidence supporting the department's policy and strategy?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:03):** I thank the honourable member for her question. As I am sure she appreciates, I will refer them to the Minister for Education in the other place and, as much as is possible with the records they have, bring back a reply.

#### COURT INFRASTRUCTURE

**The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (15:04):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General regarding the South Australian court infrastructure.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO:** In the Courts Administration Authority's latest annual report, Chief Justice Chris Kourakis has heavily criticised the condition of South Australia's court infrastructure, suggesting that overall the court infrastructure is in poor condition. Chief Justice Kourakis has said that many of the court buildings do not offer accessible modern facilities to people, such as victims, witnesses, jurors and other court users who are giving up their time to help in the administration of justice. In particular, he singles out people living with a disability and their ability to access the courts, as well as the lack of safe space within the court building for victims. My questions to the Attorney are:

1. Has the Attorney received a briefing from his department on this matter and, if so, when?
2. Does the Attorney agree with the comments made by Chief Justice Kourakis?
3. Does the Attorney intend to consider the resources within the 2024-25 state budget?
4. Finally, does the Attorney believe that the funds currently allocated in the 2023-24 state budget are adequate?

**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. I am very pleased to be able to inform the honourable member that, in our two budgets since coming into government, there has been a multimillion dollar allocation for upgrades and improvements to a variety of court infrastructure, and this comes on top of the \$31 million that was provided I think in 2017-18 for our higher courts.

#### GREAT WINE CAPITALS GLOBAL NETWORK

**The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:05):** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister inform the chamber about recent highlights and achievements of the Great Wine Capitals Global Network?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:06):** I thank the honourable member for his question and his ongoing interest in wine. The wine industry has long been a key driver of the South Australian economy, especially in our regions. In 2021-22, the state's wine industry generated \$2.4 billion in revenue, a significant portion of the \$17.3 billion in total revenue that is generated by our primary industries and agribusinesses.

I think that probably most of us, if not all of us, know that the wine industry's true value extends well beyond the dollar figure. Wine is central to our state's story. It's a source of immense local pride, and a story we are delighted to share with the world at every opportunity. That is why South Australia's membership of the Great Wine Capitals Global Network—a group of 12 internationally renowned wine regions, including Bordeaux, Nappa Valley, the Cape Winelands and Hawke's Bay—is so important.

I have mentioned previously that Hawke's Bay, central to New Zealand's food and wine country, was added to the network earlier this year, with Jo Collins, Chair of Adelaide, South Australia's Great Wine Capitals Steering Committee, travelling to New Zealand to officially welcome Hawke's Bay on behalf of the network.

In September, nine Outbound Knowledge Exchange travel bursaries, worth \$6,000 each, were announced, which will see recipients from across the regions who specialise in grapegrowing, winemaking, marketing, research and tourism travel to other great wine capitals of the world to build their knowledge and skills and, importantly, bring that knowledge back home to build capability within our local wine industry.

Honourable members may recall that Melissa Brown from Gemtree Wines, which won the Sustainable Wine Tourism Award for a record third time this year, travelled to Porto in Portugal, itself a great wine capital, to present on the topic of sustainable wine tourism and biodynamics at the inaugural Wine & Travel Week.

In October I had the privilege of presenting the seventh Best of Wine Tourism Awards at a special event at the National Wine Centre. Category winners included Pindarie Wines and Alkina Wine Estate in the Barossa, Mt Lofty Ranges Vineyard and Sidewood Estate in the Adelaide Hills, Yangarra Estate and Gemtree Wines in McLaren Vale, and Grapes of Mirth.

Then, late last month, my colleague the Minister for Tourism, the Hon. Zoe Bettison in the other place, was on hand in Lausanne, Switzerland, at the Great Wine Capitals Global Network annual conference gala dinner to accept a Global Best of Wine Tourism Award for Alkina Wine Estate in the Barossa. Congratulations to them.

Along with my colleague the Minister for Tourism, I had the pleasure of welcoming Dan Coward from Alkina Wine Estate to Parliament House just this week to present the Global Best of Wine Tourism Award and offer my personal congratulations on what is an incredible achievement.

We will also be having some brilliant minds from across the network visiting Adelaide over the coming year, with highly respected Hawke's Bay winemaker and Roseworthy College alumna Kate Radburn from Radburn Cellars coming to Adelaide to conduct a masterclass at Tasting Australia, hosted by the University of Adelaide.

I had the privilege of visiting another member of the Great Wine Capitals Global Network, Bordeaux, in August, where I signed a memorandum of understanding with its world-renowned wine museum, La Cité du Vin, to ensure the South Australian wine story is told to the world and that visitors to the museum could enjoy our local wine at the end of their tour.

The South Australian government partnership with the La Cité du Vin means South Australian winemakers can work with the museum to hold events and masterclasses at the iconic venue, which attracts almost half a million visitors every year. These are all examples not just of the far-reaching benefits of our Great Wine Capitals Global Network membership but also of how highly South Australian and Australian wine is regarded on the global stage.

### **SEXUAL ASSAULTS IN SCHOOLS**

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:10):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General a question about sexual abuse and sexual behaviour and charges in schools.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS:** Earlier this year, I made a freedom of information application asking for the number of assaults that have occurred in our schools across South Australia between 2019 and 2023. The FOI that came back to me said that the scope of that FOI application was limited to sexual abuse, sexual behaviour, where the incident occurred under DFE care and where the following site actions were selected: police attended, report to police by site.

In total during that period, 530 such incidents were recorded. My question to the Attorney is: does he consider that an appropriate number, and what is the government doing to address that high number of incidents, which average about 150 a year, in our education system?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:11):** I thank the honourable member for her question. I can't recall having seen such an FOI. I am assuming it was directly to the relevant authority: courts, police or maybe education. One matter of sexual abuse is one too many. It has an absolutely traumatising effect on a child for the rest of their life and on the whole family.

I think we have taken more steps over the last couple of years than in recent times to do what we can as legislators to try to lessen and try to rid us of the scourge of sexual abuse. The vile monsters who sexually prey on children deserve to spend as much time as possible in jail and away from children. Just this week, we have been talking about things like those who work in workplaces with children, who are registered sex offenders, and what we can do about those. I would say any instance is one too many, in my view.

#### ANIMAL WELFARE

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD (15:12):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development on animal rights.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD:** *The Guardian* reported recently that a draft animal care and protection act will soon be released for public consultation in Victoria and that it will be the first Australian state to explicitly recognise that animals are sentient beings. The act is expected to cover more species than is currently the case, and that will include octopus, squid, cuttlefish, lobster, crab and crayfish.

Because of the widespread potential impacts on primary producers, the Victorian Farmers Federation, while acknowledging that animals are sentient, has sought a range of assurances, including that this new act will not equate to granting animals human-like legal rights. The minister would also be aware of her government's community consultation review into the Animal Welfare Act earlier this year.

My question to the primary industries minister is: will her government be amending the Animal Welfare Act to recognise animal sentience and including those species that I listed prior? If so, will she provide an assurance to our primary producers and seafood industry that any changes will not adversely impact them by granting animals human-like legal rights?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:14):** I thank the honourable member for his question. He makes a number of statements in there which I think will certainly need to be fact checked, particularly given his record in local media in the South-East. In terms of the Animal Welfare Act—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** —which of course is under the ministry in the other place, I would be certainly keen to check his assertion that there is no acknowledgement currently of sentience of any animals, which I think was a statement that he made.

In terms of the sentience of aquatic animals, I do recall seeing a briefing on this at some stage during my roughly 18 months as minister. I am also aware that a number of the species mentioned—although I can't recall how many—have been in other jurisdictions already recognised in various ways, and I was advised at the time that there were no concerns from the fisheries or aquaculture sector about the way that those laws were operating in some of those other jurisdictions.

I am happy to bring back a further response, if appropriate, after referring to the minister who has carriage of the Animal Welfare Act.

#### ANIMAL WELFARE

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:15):** Supplementary: is the minister aware, given that fish and cephalopods are part of the Animal Welfare Act in every other jurisdiction in this country, if that has had any impact on those relevant industries.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:15):** I think the Hon. Ms Franks makes a relevant point, and was along the same lines as I was just alluding to, in that I am aware that a number of other jurisdictions—possibly all, the Hon. Ms Franks is asserting—have some of that recognition. The advice that I had was that it hasn't caused significant difficulties for either wild catch fisheries or aquaculture.

### JUSTICE PORTFOLIO

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:16):** My question is to the Attorney-General. Can the minister update the chamber about new initiatives this year in the justice portfolio?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:16):** I thank the honourable member for his question. I would be most pleased to outline a few highlights over the past 12 months of initiatives in the justice portfolio.

We are developing an Aboriginal justice agreement, which came off the back of the work that was undertaken in relation to the report of the Advisory Commission's Incarceration Rates of Aboriginal Peoples in South Australia. That is almost three-quarters of a million dollars to develop this program. We have continued to fund the Legal Services Commission, develop and implement a public campaign on coercive control, and we worked with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and multicultural organisations to deliver targeted legal education on this as well.

We are investing \$4.6 million over four years to secure and fit-out a new Port Augusta Community Corrections Centre. In an incredibly exciting development, a new suite of programs—which I mentioned in this place yesterday, so I won't go over them again—invests in excess of \$11 million into Aboriginal community-led initiatives known as Yalakiana Tappa, which will include support programs, supported housing programs, and residential drug and alcohol treatment programs.

As I mentioned yesterday also, we have established a two-year trial of the Youth Aboriginal Community Court in Adelaide. Importantly, in the equal opportunity space, Equal Opportunity SA launched the WE'RE EQUAL campaign following a successful pilot last year. Nearly 700 people and 40 businesses have registered in this initiative, and there was a 51 per cent increase in activity across the Equal Opportunity SA's website. This is just a brief snapshot of some of the highlights of what has occurred in the broader justice area this year, and we look forward to building on that over the course of the next year.

### MINISTERIAL DIARIES

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:18):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question without notice to the Attorney-General on the topic of ministerial diaries.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS:** Yesterday, in this place, we debated a motion from the Hon. Frank Pangallo regarding the release of ministerial diaries. The motion sought to require the release of details of diary entries from ministers. In that debate the Attorney-General stated, and I quote from *Hansard*:

It is the government's view that, if this sort of scheme were to be established by the parliament, it ought to be done by legislation, not solely by a motion of one house. For example, that is what the Hon. Sarah Game, as has been discussed, has sought to do with her Public Sector (Ministerial Travel Reports) Amendment Bill. For these reasons, we will not be supporting the motion.

On 7 July 2022, the Legislative Council passed a bill introduced by the Greens titled Freedom of Information (Ministerial Diaries) Amendment Bill. That bill aimed to bring South Australia into line with other jurisdictions such as New South Wales, Queensland and the ACT, where ministers are already required to disclose their diaries.

The government at that time did not support the bill; however, yesterday it supported the passage of a bill introduced by One Nation, which dealt with a similar transparency matter related to the disclosure of travel expenses. My question to the Attorney-General therefore is: given the



government's conversion on transparency, will it now commit to supporting the Freedom of Information (Ministerial Diaries) Amendment Bill in the new year and, if not, why not?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:20):** I thank the honourable member for his very keen interest in these areas, and I am very happy to say we will continue to do what we have always done: when we have a bill before us the government will consider the detail of the bill, how it is written, what it proposes to do, how it will propose to operate, and make a decision accordingly.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I want to listen to the supplementary question to see if I can possibly find some relevance.

#### MINISTERIAL DIARIES

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:20):** Supplementary: given the bill has been sitting there for over 12 months, when can we expect an answer?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:20):** We will, of course, as always consider the merits of each bill as it is put before us.

#### IMMIGRANT DETENTION

**The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:20):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General regarding criminal convictions.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON:** Attorney, it has now been confirmed that around 140 criminals have been released from immigration detention, amongst them a hit man who was convicted of murdering a pregnant woman and then proceeded to blow her body up using explosives. Others include a former bikie convicted of conspiring to supply prohibited firearms, child sex offenders and people smugglers. In the interests of public safety, and amidst an increase in crime across our state, my questions to the Attorney-General are:

1. Are any bikie gang members or former bikie gang members being released, and how is he ensuring the safety of their victims?
2. Does the minister have concerns about the risk of released detainees absconding in light of views around some of these people refusing to wear an electronic monitoring bracelet, including one detainee who was reported to have, until yesterday, absconded?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:21):** I am very happy to repeat what I have said earlier this week, and what I have said last week in relation to substantially—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** Sir, I want to try to get this out, so I can allow time for a supplementary, but I fear it is going to be difficult now. I am happy to say that, as I have previously advised, I am advised the Commissioner of Police has publicly noted that it was expected that somewhere around five of the detainees may have links to South Australia and may return to South Australia. What the police commissioner has advised is that there is a national coordination of this occurring between law enforcement agencies, and that SAPOL are prepared to dedicate the resources as needed.

*Parliamentary Procedure***STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:22):** I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move a motion without notice.

Motion carried.

**The PRESIDENT:** I note the absolute majority.

*Motions***EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSIONER'S INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF HARASSMENT IN THE PARLIAMENT WORKPLACE**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:23):** I move:

That upon completion by the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly of the third progress report on the Equal Opportunity Commission Review of Harassment in the South Australian Parliament Workplace, the report be deemed to be laid upon the table of the Legislative Council and the President is hereby authorised to distribute the report.

Motion carried.

*Parliamentary Procedure***STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION**

**The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (15:23):** I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move a motion without notice.

Motion carried.

**The PRESIDENT:** I note the absolute majority.

*Parliamentary Committees***SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNTING OF NATIVE BIRDS**

**The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (15:23):** I move:

That upon presentation to the President during the adjournment of the council of the report from the Select Committee on Hunting of Native Birds, the report be deemed to be laid upon the table of the Legislative Council and the President is hereby authorised forthwith to publish and distribute such report.

Motion carried.

*Personal Explanation***HYDROGEN**

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:24):** I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS:** Reading the article in today's *Advertiser* by Kathryn Bermingham, 'Deal or no deal', I had some thoughts that I felt are important for South Australian members of the public to know and, as such, I have prepared a public letter as follows:

Firstly Kathryn is right, you do have the right to know. I can only speak for myself because I did not discuss my position on hydrogen with Frank. But...

You have the right to know because, from what I can tell, I'm the only person mentioned in this article who did tell the Hon. Mr Simms in advance I would not be supporting his call for an inquiry.

You have the right to know that I focus my energy on improving what I thought was a good piece of legislation that has unprecedented potential for the state.

You have the right to know I don't share the Greens' views when it comes to hydrogen, whether it be blue, green, pink, gold or any other colour of the rainbow.

You have the right to know the government agreed to my changes because, as everyone knows, when I support something, I will always use my position to extract something more for stakeholders involved. In this instance, those stakeholders were our fisheries and aquaculture industries—you know, the ones that generate in excess of \$600 million in direct economic value, employ over 6000 FTE equivalent jobs in coastal regional communities and are the lifeblood of our regions. Not to mention the multiplier effect in flow on economic value they provide to the rest of South Australia. Those changes that I secured would put them on a level playing field with our pastoralists—nothing more, nothing less.

You have the right to know that I'm bloody proud of the outcome.

You have the right to know that my word is my word—and the Hon. Mr Simms had my word that I would not be supporting his call for an inquiry in advance of the debate.

And, you have the right to note that I'm not the Greens, I'm not the Liberals, I'm not One Nation—I'm me, and I will always make my decisions based on the best interests of this state.

### *Bills*

## **CHILD SEX OFFENDERS REGISTRATION (CHILD-RELATED WORK) AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:26):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Child Sex Offenders Registration Act 2006. Read a first time.

### *Second Reading*

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:27):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Child Sex Offenders Registration (Child-Related Work) Amendment Bill 2023, a very important piece of legislation. The bill will prevent registered child sex offenders and those accused of registrable child sex offences from working in jobs where they will have contact with underage employees. As a further measure to the suite of reforms that this government has taken to protect South Australian children from child sex offenders, this bill will protect children in our community from being exposed to child sex predators in their place of employment.

Young people are undeniably an important and vibrant part of the South Australian workforce. Many young people have part-time jobs or are earning a qualification through work-based apprenticeships. Like other employees, these young people are entitled to be safe at work and, by their age, to be especially protected in the workplace. There is currently nothing preventing a registered child sex offender from taking a job working alongside or even managing underage employees.

Whilst registered sex offenders are prohibited from applying for engaging in child-related work, at present working in a business that employs children is not considered child-related work. This bill would amend the definition of child-related work in the Child Sex Offenders Registration Act 2006 so that it will include work in a business or undertaking that employs children, where the work would involve contact with a child. Contact with a child includes physical contact, as well as oral or written communications. Therefore, the bill will prevent child sex offenders from working anywhere that has underage employees unless it can be shown that the work involved no contact with the children—for example, if they worked at different times of the day.

Because a wide range of businesses employ young people, exemptions allowing work with children may be appropriate in some circumstances on a case-by-case basis. For example, this may be required if a registered offender was a tradesperson and wished to work at a site that at a point in time also employed one 17-year-old apprentice.

The Child Sex Offenders Registration Act already allows the Commissioner of Police to grant individual exemptions from various requirements placed on the registered offenders. This bill adds to that power, providing that the commissioner may make a declaration allowing the registered child

sex offender to work with child employees if the child sex offences committed by the offender were not committed in connection with any child-related work and the commissioner is satisfied the offender does not pose a risk to the safety or wellbeing of children employed in the business or undertaking that constitutes the child-related work. This will also allow the commissioner to conduct a risk assessment of the proposed work and grant an exemption if it is appropriate to do so.

Child-related work is also regulated in the Bail Act. Under the current law, an accused child sex offender's bail agreement must have a condition that they not engage in child-related work. As child-related work in the Bail Act is defined by reference to the Child Sex Offenders Registration Act, the bill will also effectively amend the Bail Act provisions, preventing alleged child sex offenders from work involving contact with child employees whilst the charges are pending. A bail authority may lift this condition if satisfied that the proposed work does not pose a risk to children.

Even if the bail authority sees fit to allow an alleged offender to work with child employees until their charges are determined, the amendments will mean that the alleged offender must inform their employer of the charges. This will ensure that the employer is aware of the situation and allow them to take necessary steps to protect child employees as required.

This bill addresses a serious hole in our current laws that has the potential to place children at the risk of harm in their workplaces. I would particularly like to thank the Hon. Connie Bonaros MLC for raising this issue during a debate on a previous bill and also the SDA SA & NT branch for their public and private advocacy on this important change. The collaborative work from both of these parties with the government on this issue has been highly productive. I commend the bill to members and seek leave to insert the explanation of clauses in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### Explanation of Clauses

##### Part 1—Preliminary

###### 1—Short title

###### 2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

##### Part 2—Amendment of *Child Sex Offenders Registration Act 2006*

###### 3—Amendment of section 64—Interpretation

This clause amends the definition of *child-related work* to include businesses or undertakings in which children are employed.

###### 4—Amendment of section 66B—General power of Commissioner to make declaration

This clause allows the Commissioner to make a declaration exempting an offender from the operation of Part 5 or specified provisions of Part 5 in respect of work that is only child-related work by virtue of the proposed amendment in clause 3 if—

- (a) the relevant offences were not committed in connection with any child-related work; and
- (b) the Commissioner is satisfied that the offender does not pose a risk to the safety and well-being of children employed in the business or undertaking that constitutes the child-related work.

##### Schedule 1—Transitional provisions

###### 1—Interpretation

This provision defines certain terms for the purposes of the Schedule.

###### 2—Application of section 65 to certain registrable offenders

This provision allows an exemption of up to 6 months for a registrable offender whose employment is affected by the measure in order to give the person time to apply for a declaration under section 66B.

###### 3—Application of section 66 to persons arrested or reported before commencement

The transitional provision deals with situations where a person arrested or reported for a class 1 or class 2 offence before the commencement of the measure becomes subject to the obligations in section 66 of the *Child Sex Offenders Registration Act 2006* by virtue of the proposed amendment in clause 3.

###### 4—Effect of amendment on bail applications

For the purposes of section 11 of the *Bail Act 1985*, the proposed amendment in clause 3 will only apply to a person who applies for bail on or after the commencement of that clause (regardless of whether the relevant offence was committed before or after that commencement).

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. B.R. Hood.

## **STATUTES AMENDMENT (PUBLIC TRUSTEE AND LITIGATION GUARDIAN) BILL**

### *Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:32):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Guardianship and Administration Act 1993 and the Public Trustee Act 1995. Read a first time.

### *Second Reading*

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:32):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

Today, I introduce the Statutes Amendment (Public Trustee and Litigation Guardian) Bill 2023, a bill that seeks to enhance the efficiency of the office of the Public Trustee, as well as make related amendments to legislation governing the Public Advocate. The Public Trustee has an important role to safeguard and manage the estates of deceased persons and vulnerable persons who are under financial administration due to temporary or permanent mental impairment. It is important that the Public Trustee can operate in a way that is efficient and consistent with industry best practice.

Several provisions of the Public Trustee Act 1995 have been identified as requiring improvement and are addressed in this bill. The Public Trustee is empowered to invest money from estates under its control in common funds. The Public Trustee Act 1995 determines how income and capital gains and losses of the fund are distributed back to relevant estates.

Currently, capital gains and income are distributed by slightly different methods, which necessitates separate calculations and distributions. This bill would apply the same tests for distributing both types of profits so that the distribution process can be simplified and estates can be finalised more efficiently. This will not place clients in a less advantageous financial position.

The Public Trustee has obtained independent evaluation of the proposed changes to ensure that clients would not be materially disadvantaged. The evaluation concluded any difference in financial position would be negligible and that the change would be in line with industry standards and would lead to efficiency gains.

The Public Trustee is required to conduct a monthly official evaluation of common funds. Currently, this must take place on the first business day of the month. The bill changes this to the last business day of the month, as this is in line with industry practice. This change is administrative in nature and will not affect clients' financial positions.

The bill also proposes a new method for the Public Trustee to certify its authority to transact on behalf of a client that better protects clients' privacy. When undertaking its functions, the Public Trustee may be called upon to prove its authority to act on behalf of a client or a deceased estate. For example, a bank holding a client's money may seek proof of the authority before it releases the funds to the Public Trustee as part of the bank's own due diligence process or to avoid risk of liability.

Currently, the Public Trustee Act 1995 provides that third parties transacting with the Public Trustee must seek a copy of the relevant order granting the Public Trustee authority. This creates two issues in practice. First, administration orders are made by the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, which is not a court and so is not captured by this provision. Secondly, it is not always appropriate to provide third parties with copies of court or SACAT orders, as they can contain personal information about Public Trustee clients.

This bill would allow the Public Trustee to issue a certificate attesting that a court or SACAT has granted it authority as a protected person's administrator or the administrator of a deceased

estate. The certificate must identify the date of the order and the scope of the authority granted. Third parties can then rely on this certificate to satisfy themselves of the regularity of a transaction with the Public Trustee, and thereafter no liability lies on the third party for relying on the certificate.

I note that the certificate only relates to the position of third parties—a certificate cannot render a transaction valid on the part of the Public Trustee if it was not actually authorised by the original order. This provision simply lets third parties transact with the Public Trustee with confidence in regard to their own obligations to satisfy themselves of the regularity of the transaction.

The bill also provides guidance to courts on whether to appoint the Public Trustee as a litigation guardian. A litigation guardian is a person who is appointed to take responsibility for a court action on behalf of a party who is under a legal incapacity, meaning a minor or an adult who has a mental incapacity. The litigation guardian interacts with the court and instructs legal counsel on behalf of the party. It is common for the Public Trustee to act as litigation guardian.

The conduct of proceedings for persons under a legal incapacity, including the process for appointing a litigation guardian, is ultimately at the discretion of the court (subject to the rules of that court). However, the bill provides statutory factors to be considered when exercising the discretion to appoint the Public Trustee as litigation guardian, to ensure a consistent approach is taken.

Factors to be taken into account are whether the litigant is already a client of the Public Trustee, the nature of the proceedings and whether there is a relative, friend or associate of the litigant who is willing and able to act as a litigation guardian. The bill also makes equivalent amendments in relation to appointment of the Public Advocate as litigation guardian, to further ensure a consistent approach.

Finally, this bill amends the Guardianship and Administration Act 1995 to provide the Public Trustee limited powers to finalise transactions after its administration has been revoked. The Public Trustee's ability to act on behalf of a client under a mental incapacity is only allowed as authorised by SACAT. If SACAT decides that the Public Trustee should no longer be administrator—either because a friend or family member is able to take on the responsibility or because the client has regained mental capacity—then the Public Trustee's powers are revoked, and it can no longer act on behalf of the client or use client funds. As a general position, this is of course entirely appropriate.

However, this can sometimes create inconvenience for both the Public Trustee and the new administrator during the process of handing over administration of the estate. If the Public Trustee had engaged a service provider on behalf of a client during its administration but not received or paid the invoice at the time its administration is revoked, it is unable to pay it, no matter how small it is. Legally, the debt belongs to the estate and so must be paid by the person responsible for the estate.

The Public Trustee must refer the creditor to the new administrator, who is responsible for arranging payment. If the debt is routine, it would be much more efficient for the Public Trustee to finalise it as part of the handover process. The bill creates a power for the Public Trustee to pay minor bills during this handover period in order to settle any routine transactions where payment was outstanding at the time administration was revoked, making the handover process smoother.

The Public Trustee must inform the person newly responsible for the estate that this has occurred and must also inform any guardian that is currently acting. This power is only allowed up to a prescribed limit to ensure it is only used for routine transactions such as storage fees or property maintenance. The limit to be prescribed will be subject to further consultation after the bill's passage, but is expected to be only a few thousand dollars. I look forward to the passage of the bill and commend the bill to members. I seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Guardianship and Administration Act 1993*

3—Insertion of section 41A

This clause inserts new section 41A into the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1993* as follows:

41A—Public Trustee may retain money to pay outstanding debts etc

This section allows the Public Trustee to retain money belonging to a protected person to apply in or towards the payment of any debts, obligations or liabilities of the protected person, or incurred by the Public Trustee in the exercise of powers or duties under Part 4 Division 3 of the Act, that are outstanding at the time the administration order appointing the Public Trustee as administrator (of all or part of the protected person's estate) is revoked or the protected person dies.

The section restricts the amount that may be retained to the amount the Public Trustee considers is reasonably required or the amount prescribed by the regulations, whichever is less. It requires the Public Trustee to notify the person who takes over control and management of all or part of the protected person's estate and the guardian of the protected person (if any) of the amount retained and the nature of the outstanding debts, obligations or liabilities. The Public Trustee is required to apply the money in or towards the payment of the outstanding debts, obligations or liabilities and provide any money retained in excess of those debts, obligations or liabilities to the person taking over control and management of all or part of the estate as soon as reasonably practicable.

4—Insertion of section 83

This clause inserts new section 83 into the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1993* as follows:

83—Matters to consider when deciding whether to appoint Public Advocate as litigation guardian

This section sets out the matters a court or tribunal must consider in determining whether the Public Advocate should act as litigation guardian for a person in a proceeding.

Part 3—Amendment of *Public Trustee Act 1995*

5—Amendment of section 28—Money from several estates may be invested as one fund

This clause amends section 28 of the principal Act to remove the requirement for the period of each investment to be taken into account when dividing income arising from investment of money from more than one estate under the Public Trustee's control as one fund between estates.

6—Amendment of section 29—Common funds

This clause amends section 29 of the principal Act to remove the requirement for the period of each investment to be taken into account when dividing income arising from the investment of a common fund between investors.

It also changes the day on which the value of each common fund is to be determined to the last business day of the month (currently the first business day of the month) for the purposes of effecting investments in and withdrawals from a common fund and for the purposes of calculating the maximum monthly management fee that may be charged by the Public Trustee for managing the fund.

7—Amendment of section 44—Fee for administering perpetual trust

This clause amends section 44 of the principal Act to change the day on which the value of a perpetual trust is determined to the last business day of the month (currently the first business day of the month) for the purposes of calculating the maximum monthly administration fee that may be charged by the Public Trustee for administering the trust.

8—Amendment of section 54—Indemnity to persons having dealings with Public Trustee

This clause amends section 54 of the principal Act to allow the Public Trustee to provide a person entering into a transaction with the Public Trustee with a certificate certifying that the Public Trustee has been given certain authority by the Supreme Court or SACAT, rather than the order or a copy of the order giving the authority. It sets out the information the certificate must include.

9—Insertion of section 54A

This clause inserts new section 54A into the *Public Trustee Act 1995* as follows:

54A—Matters to consider when deciding whether to appoint Public Trustee as litigation guardian

This section sets out the matters a court or tribunal must consider in determining whether the Public Trustee should act as litigation guardian for a person in a proceeding.

10—Transitional provision

This clause is a transitional provision in respect of the amendments to section 54 of the *Public Trustee Act 1995*.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. B.R. Hood.

## **SUMMARY OFFENCES (NAZI SALUTE AND SYMBOLS PROHIBITION) AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:39):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Summary Offences Act 1953. Read a first time.

### *Second Reading*

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:40):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

Today, I introduce the Summary Offences (Nazi Salute and Symbols Prohibition) Amendment Bill 2023. The bill addresses concerns about rising Neo-Nazi activities in South Australia involving displays of the Hakenkreuz, also commonly known as the swastika as misappropriated by the Nazis, and other Nazi symbols including the salute.

Concerns have been growing about an observed rise in public activities by self-professed Neo-Nazi groups involving the unacceptable displays of the Nazi Hakenkreuz symbol, the name for the swastika symbol adopted as an emblem of the German Nazi Party, and of the Nazi salute. These symbols are associated with genocide and racial hatred, and are widely recognised by the general public as symbols of hate, violence and intolerance.

This promotion of Neo-Nazi, extreme far right or white supremacist political ideology has inherent power to invoke trauma and fear not only in the Jewish community but also in other minority and cultural groups. It is also used to attempt to recruit or radicalise vulnerable individuals, with fears of the further spread and escalation of harassment and, ultimately, violence. Prohibiting the display of Nazi symbols and salutes, as this bill will do, will help address these concerns and send a clear message that South Australia celebrates diversity and rejects racism, antisemitism and all forms of harassment and hate speech against minorities.

In June 2022, following the introduction of a bill by the Hon. Sarah Game, the government supported the establishment of a select committee on this issue. The select committee inquiry on the prohibition of Neo-Nazi symbols was established on 19 October 2022 and has received evidence about the proposal to ban Nazi symbols since that time. Since the introduction of the private member's bill in June 2022, and the establishment of the select committee, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory have all put forward legislation to prohibit Nazi symbols.

More recently, the commonwealth government has also introduced a bill that would prohibit public displays of Nazi symbols, the commonwealth Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Prohibited Hate Symbols and Other Measures) Bill. The commonwealth bill is described as intending to complement state and territory laws and extend their operation consistent with the Australian government's constitutional heads of power, including in respect of trade and online publication.

In the meantime, there have also been widely reported incidents of public displays of Nazi symbols, including disturbing displays of the Nazi symbol by self-proclaimed Neo-Nazi groups and individuals. The government is determined that it is untenable to defer legislating any longer and, with the support of the Chair of the committee, has put forward the bill that we are putting before the chamber now.

The select committee's work gathered evidence and submissions that have helped in informing the preparation of this bill, in particular in drafting exclusions that would apply for innocent display activities. The submissions and in-person evidence to the select committee indicated strong support to ban Nazi symbols, including salutes, and provide adequate defences or exclusions for innocent displays for a legitimate public purpose.



In particular, evidence to the committee supported an approach to legislate in line with other jurisdictions to address the concerning rise in the unacceptable displays of Nazi symbols and salutes, without precluding any later consideration of whether anti-vilification legislation or other offences should be amended to capture hate speech more broadly.

The Summary Offences (Nazi Salute and Symbols Prohibition) Amendment Bill 2023 will amend the Summary Offences Act 1953 to insert a new part 6A, summary offence of public use of the Nazi symbol or Nazi salute, with a maximum penalty of \$20,000 or a fine of 12 months' imprisonment.

The bill targets this observed rise in Neo-Nazi activities, where these activities are broadly white supremacist, anti-immigrant and against other minority communities, as well as being directed to the Jewish community.

This bill is drafted to ensure that it does not unreasonably restrict freedom of speech or political communication being targeted to Nazi symbols, which are very widely recognised as symbols of hate, violence and intolerance.

The bill ensures that sufficiently broad defences are available for the innocent displays of Nazi symbols, including for genuine religious, academic, artistic, educational, cultural, scientific, law enforcement or journalistic purposes.

In particular, it is important to reassure the Buddhist, Hindu and Jain faith communities in South Australia that defences will allow for displays of the swastika, which is a similar geometric shape to the Nazi Hakenkreuz symbol in appearance but which has been used in those faiths for hundreds of years as a religious symbol of peace, including by members of the Buddhist, Hindu and Jain faiths.

The bill takes the approach of the New South Wales legislation in not limiting prohibited Nazi symbols to specific described symbols. However, for clarity and ease of enforcement, the bill defines the Nazi symbol as including but not limited to the Hakenkreuz (as described in the bill) or other Nazi symbols that may be prescribed, as well as the Nazi salute. The bill includes an additional separate offence for failing to comply with a police direction to remove the prohibited symbol to ensure that the offending material is promptly removed from public display.

Creating these offences in the bill will also ensure that police have the necessary powers to direct anyone publicly displaying the Nazi symbol in breach of legislation to move on and to cease the offending conduct. I thank all parties and stakeholders who have contributed over more than a year to this legislation. I look forward to this bill ensuring better protection of South Australians against intolerance and hate-fuelled discrimination.

I seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### Explanation of Clauses

##### Part 1—Preliminary

###### 1—Short title

###### 2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

##### Part 2—Amendment of *Summary Offences Act 1953*

###### 3—Insertion of Part 6A

This clause inserts a new Part 6A into the principal Act, creating new offences to do with Nazi symbols and the Nazi salute.

###### Part 6A—Nazi salute or symbols

###### 32A—Interpretation

Proposed section 32A inserts definitions for the purposes of the Part.

###### 32B—Prohibition on use of Nazi salute or Nazi symbols

Proposed section 32B creates a new offence of engaging in a prohibited act, which is defined as the publication of a Nazi symbol or the performance of a Nazi salute. The section also provides for exemptions where the act was for a legitimate public purpose, was by a member of law enforcement or intelligence personnel or was in the course of the administration of justice.

32C—Direction to remove Nazi symbol from public display

Proposed section 32C gives police officers the power to direct a person to remove a Nazi symbol from display if the officer reasonably believes the display constitutes an offence against section 32B, and makes it an offence for a person to refuse to comply with such a direction.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. B.R. Hood.

## STATUTES AMENDMENT (BUDGET MEASURES) BILL

### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 28 September 2023.)

**The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (15:47):** I rise to speak on the budget measures bill, which has finally come to our house after initially passing the lower house in September, after being introduced on budget night in June. At a time when our community is in a cost-of-living crisis, this is a government of false hope. When the median house price in metro Adelaide is above \$900,000, and a unit or apartment median price is over \$465,000, the reduction of stamp duty threshold sitting at \$650,000 leaves many young people disappointed. There is also the fact that the lack of indexation will only make this problem worse, as inevitably house prices rise.

Small businesses are also victims to the rising cost of doing business in this state, and the inflationary pressures that it brings. As we have seen during this week, they are not the government that supports small business in this state. Through the budget and its subsequent estimates committee processes we have learnt of blowouts across almost every department, and this government is denying access to key strategic project information to our Auditor-General. Almost every single department and government agency failed to meet its budget last financial year.

As we reach the halfway mark of this financial year, we will be updated in the Mid-Year Budget Review as to whether the discipline of the Treasurer and the government has managed to bring this budget under control. We call on this government to get on with doing their job, ensuring these strategic projects are built across our state. With the federal government now cancelling a number of infrastructure projects across the state, especially in regional South Australia, we call on the government to take responsibility and ensure these projects continue and road safety is front and centre.

With the cancelling of the Truro freight route and a number of road safety projects in the region, when the road toll in this state is extraordinarily high and the regions are over-represented in those statistics, it is a huge concern. We need to see more pushback and more support by this government. This is a government with distracted priorities. The Premier is happy to be seen with his sporting heroes at all his favourite sporting events, but those are the wrong priorities for South Australia.

This government told the electorate that it planned to fix ramping. Almost two years later ramping has doubled under this government, with the latest figures showing that in the month of October (last month) more than 3,322 hours were spent by ambulances ramped outside hospitals. They said that they had a plan. That was a false hope for our electorates. Here are the facts: Labor's latest ramping figures are worse than in any month during the former Liberal government's four years.

Labor has delivered the worst 17 months of ramping in SA history. Ramping has more than doubled when compared with the former Liberal government's last four months in office. Ramping was on a downward trajectory until the election in March 2022. The only difference between that time and now is that the Labor government won the election and has overseen the worst ramping in our history.

If this is the result of fixing the ramping crisis, it is clear South Australia deserves better than this Labor government. If it was not for the budget blowouts that the Treasurer and the Premier and

their fellow ministers oversaw, we would have more money to plug the disappointment of the federal government's lack of commitment to regional freight routes in South Australia. If it was not for the budget blowouts, maybe we could put those funds towards actually fixing ramping.

Maybe, with some transparency from this government, and that includes the Auditor-General's office having access to what they require to do their job, things would be different. This is a government that is distracted and has the wrong priorities for those who live in South Australia and continue to be disappointed.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:52):** I rise to make a brief contribution to the budget measures bill. A government budget in surplus more often than not is actually a community in deficit. How the government can brag about a surplus when we are in a cost-of-living crisis, a housing crisis and a health crisis is unusual. There is a lot more that the government could be and should be doing to better our state.

However, the Greens certainly wish to highlight one positive step that we believe this budget could make today. I will be moving an amendment to the Emergency Services Funding Act, which will require the minister, as soon as practicable, to undertake an audit of all CFS facilities in our state to ensure their safety, ensure the availability of resources and ensure the safety and dignity of all CFS members and volunteers.

Right across South Australia we rely on the incredible generosity and bravery of hardworking CFS volunteers, yet the CFS itself has been continually underfunded and undersupported by successive governments for far too long. The least our state and our parliament can do is ensure that we are treating our CFS volunteers with dignity and respect and that we are bringing their long-term health and safety to the fore while they keep us safe.

As we approach an extended period of likely hot, dry and dangerous fire conditions, the state government must urgently ensure an audit of all CFS facilities right across our state and then provide whatever funds and support are necessary to ensure that those CFS volunteers are not only supported but retained and our CFS is prepared for this very cruel summer ahead.

I hope to see support from all parties in this place for that measure. For those who put their lives on the line to protect us, to protect people and place, it really is the least that we can do.

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (15:54):** The 2023-24 budget is one that reflects the Malinauskas Labor government's key priorities. The budget shows that we are focused on working towards a more sustainable, more efficient health system that better meets the needs of our community; making home ownership more accessible to South Australians, reforming our rental laws and increasing our state supply of public housing as well as affordable housing; and taking action to relieve the cost-of-living pressures that people across our state are feeling.

The bill proposes to amend various legislation to facilitate the implementation of measures that we announced in the 2023-24 budget, as well as to make other administrative amendments, namely the bill proposes to amend the First Home and Housing Construction Grants Act 2000, the Land Tax Act 1936, the Stamp Duties Act 1923 and the Emergency Services Funding Act 1998.

Amendments to the First Home and Housing Construction Grants Act 2000 will increase the property value cap for eligibility for the \$15,000 First Home Owner Grant. Currently, the grant is not payable if the property's market value exceeds \$575,000. This amendment will increase that threshold, such that the grant is not payable if the market value of the property exceeds \$650,000.

The bill proposes to amend the Land Tax Act 1936 to introduce a 50 per cent land tax discount for eligible new build-to-rent properties. The discount reduces the land value of the parcel of land being used as an eligible build-to-rent property by 50 per cent until the 2039-40 land tax year. The criteria for an eligible build-to-rent property includes that a minimum lease term of at least three years must be offered to tenants, which will support more secure agreements for tenants, a benefit this government is keenly focused on advancing through our policies around rental reform, as we have seen this week in parliament.

Further requirements to be deemed an eligible build-to-rent property can be outlined in regulations, including, but not limited to, the minimum number of build-to-rent dwellings or units within

a property and requirements to support the development of new affordable housing in build-to-rent properties. Build-to-rent projects where construction commences from 1 July 2023 will be able to apply for this relief.

The reduction in land tax for eligible build-to-rent properties is designed to support the uptake of investments in residential rental housing, increasing the supply of housing and creating more opportunities for renters. Of note, I point out that the amendments are largely consistent with those included as part of the budget measures 2021 bill, which at the time were ultimately not passed by the parliament.

This bill provides stamp duty relief for eligible first-home buyers who enter into a contract to purchase a new home or vacant land to build a new home on or after 15 June 2023. No stamp duty will be payable on the purchase of an eligible new home valued up to \$650,000, with relief phasing out for properties valued up to \$700,000. For the purchase of vacant land on which new homes will be built, no stamp duty will be payable for vacant land valued up to \$400,000, with relief phasing out for land valued up to \$450,000.

HomeStart is introducing a new home loan product that enables eligible first-home builders building a home to take out a loan with a deposit of as little as 2 per cent. This represents a further improvement on Labor's election commitment of 3 per cent. When you consider these various initiatives together, you can see how we are working from multiple angles to make home ownership easier for more people in our community. It is assistance that first-home buyers in particular need at this moment, given the very challenging conditions of our current housing market.

Prospective first-home buyers will also benefit from an increase in housing supply facilitated by the single largest residential land release in South Australia, with 25,000 new blocks of land being made available. We are also implementing a fast-track approval process for eligible first-home buyers to make it easier for them to get into their first home sooner.

The 2023-24 budget is a responsible budget focused on strengthening our health system, increasing the supply of affordable and appropriate housing, and alleviating cost-of-living pressures for our community. The measures contained in this bill support the efforts of the Malinauskas Labor government to ensure that South Australia remains an attractive and desirable place to live, to work and to do business. I commend the bill to the chamber.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (16:00):** I thank honourable members for their contributions to this bill which gives effect to measures in the 2023 state budget. I am excited about what we delivered to the South Australian people through this year's budget, and I look forward to these measures coming into effect as soon as practicable.

I understand the Hon. Tammy Franks has filed amendments to the bill which seek to further amend the Emergency Services Funding Act 1998. Those amendments would have required money from the emergency services fund to conduct an audit of the facilities and resources available to each South Australian CFS brigade, and require a report to be laid before both houses of parliament detailing the findings.

Under the Emergency Services Funding Act 1998, resourcing for the provision of emergency services in South Australia, including the South Australian CFS, is reported to and considered by the Economic and Finance Committee of parliament as part of the annual emergency services levy rate-setting process. The government proposes that instead, in the process of reporting to the Economic and Finance Committee, the CFS undertake to provide to the committee an audit and assessment of their current resources and facilities. The committee members also have the opportunity to directly question the Chief Officer of the CFS at the committee hearing as well.

We understand that, under these assurances by the Treasurer, the Hon. Tammy Franks MLC has agreed not to proceed with the amendment. We think this process will deliver what the amendment is looking to achieve without necessarily requiring the use of emergency services funds. Should the member find this process insufficient, the government is prepared to continue to improve reporting in the context of the Economic and Finance Committee of parliament as part of the annual emergency services levy rate-setting process. We thank the Hon. Tammy Franks for her constructive

consultation on this issue, and we fully acknowledge and understand that she is seeking to improve community outcomes.

Bill read a second time.

*Committee Stage*

In committee.

Clause 1.

**The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO:** Can the minister advise if amendments to this bill are to be deemed as money bill amendments?

**The CHAIR:** The Hon. Ms Franks.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** I was going to direct a question to you, Chair, actually. Would you give the council advice as to how these amendments will be handled should they be moved? I indicate that I am not proceeding with these amendments, I am satisfied with the words of the government today, but I have previously amended budget bills to allocate money, particularly in the Gamblers Rehabilitation Fund, I believe, that was already allocated. They go as a request to the other place, so while this house cannot initiate a money bill, we can request amendments—very politely or very forcefully—to those bills.

**The CHAIR:** So you are happy with that?

**The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO:** Yes.

Clause passed.

Clause 2 passed.

Remaining clauses (3 to 8) and title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (16:05):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

**WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY (INDUSTRIAL MANSLAUGHTER) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Final Stages*

Consideration in committee of message No. 105 from the House of Assembly.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** I move:

That the House of Assembly's amendments be agreed to.

Motion carried.

**ADVANCE CARE DIRECTIVES (REVIEW) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Final Stages*

Consideration in committee of message No. 106 from the House of Assembly.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** I move:

That the Legislative Council do not insist on its amendments.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** I rise to speak on behalf of the opposition. We are disappointed that the government has not supported this amendment, particularly given the potential for ramifications for rural and regional people. However we, the opposition, appreciate that what is more important is that, after significant delays by the current government, this piece of important

legislation is passed after what has been an incredibly comprehensive review of the Advance Care Directives Act, and therefore I indicate that the opposition will not be opposing the disagreement.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS:** I also indicate that the Greens will not be opposing the disagreement. Indeed, we originally supported the amendments advanced by the opposition but we have changed our position in that regard upon getting some advice from advocates in relation to the advance care directives. In particular, in terms of explaining the change of position of the Greens, the Lacey review in 2013, in its eighth finding, found:

There is no practical or legal basis for changing the order of signing with regard to ACDs.

We are concerned that the amendment moved by the Hon. Nicola Centofanti, whilst I recognise it is well-intentioned and indeed advanced by the Law Society, would revoke the order of signing and ensure that regulations do not dictate the order.

I think the Hon. Connie Bonaros made some strong arguments against that at the time so, upon reflection, the Greens have withdrawn our support for the Liberal Party's amendments and are now in favour of the government's position.

Motion carried.

#### *Motions*

#### **PNEVMATIKOS, HON. I.**

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. K.J. Maher:

That this council acknowledges the meritorious service to the parliament of the Hon. Irene Pnevmatikos since March 2018.

(Continued from 2 November 2023.)

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:12):** I rise to speak in support of the motion and lend my words to all the very good words that have been said in this place about the Hon. Irene Pnevmatikos and acknowledge her meritorious service to the parliament since being elected in 2018.

I have not really prepared much today because I have been thinking about all the things that Irene and I got up to in this place since she got here and the list is very extensive. But for people of Greek background, I will start with this: Oxi Day is one of the most significant days in our cultural calendar and, for me, it serves as my anniversary with Irene.

Shortly after being elected, we both diligently attended the memorial service to lay our wreaths and during the service I noticed her and thought, 'Ah ha, that's the new Labor MP.' Before I even had time to finish that thought, Irene approached me and introduced herself and the rest, as they say, is history.

Of course, Irene was much more than my Greek colleague and friend: she was my work mum. I have always told her—and this might delight some of you—that if she leaves this place I am going to follow and we will go out like Thelma and Louise. But that is not to be. We had that discussion in her office just before she left.

Honestly, I do not know what this place is going to be like without Irene, but there are a few things that I would like to say on the record. I think people have canvassed a lot of the stories around Irene well, but I want to share a few personal reflections that I have had with her.

People always ask me what Irene is like. I always get asked that question and my response has always been exactly the same. Firstly, she does not fit the mould of a traditional Greek woman and mum. Secondly, I always tell them—and the Hon. Tammy Franks is going to excuse me—that she makes the Hon. Tammy Franks look like a Liberal.

We would have coffee sessions in our kafenio. Whoever does not know where that was it was upstairs next to the Hon. Emily Bourke's office. I know Emily would sit and wonder what the hell it was that we did in that office, and I think everyone wondered what it was that we did in that office. We always saw people coming to have a look at those two who were in the office scheming and plotting and wondering what they were up to and in fact nothing could have been further from the truth. We did everything but scheme and plot in that office. We shared lots of laughs. There was lots

and lots of swearing, which I reckon the Hon. Emily Bourke probably did hear through the walls and sometimes she would join us for those coffees. Mainly it is where we went to vent and have a good laugh.

During one of those coffee sessions, I recall someone referring to me as a feminist and Irene laughed pretty hard at the notion that I could possibly be referred to as a feminist because we all know that Irene—and she would tell me as much—had been so active in this space before my parents even had the notion of conceiving me, that is how long she has been active in the areas that I was given this tiny little bit of credit for that day.

Her response was one that I will not forget. Irene is not someone who we know to have the attribute of mincing her words. Sometimes she is as subtle as a sledgehammer and most times she is as subtle as a sledgehammer. Some of our views are actually worlds apart and she never holds back in telling me so. She never holds back in telling me when I am just wrong, when I am just stupid or when what I am saying is pathetic, but by the same token she never held back in sharing all of her wisdom with me on the things that she thought we shared a common interest in and also the things that she thought she could convince me of otherwise.

As her Labor colleagues can attest to, when she does not agree with you she does not hesitate in telling you what for and that has become my favourite Irene saying: 'I gave him or her what for'. It is one that is now stuck in my vocabulary, so when we really have a crack—and I think we know who 'they' were—'They knew I gave them what for'. If you have ever been at the receiving end of one of those what fors, you know that anything I have ever said in this place pales into insignificance. I do not envy the people who are at the receiving end of one of those what fors.

I think the other thing about Irene that was a bit sneaky was that there was also method and a wickedness in fact to everything she did in this place. She would propose a motion and I would say, 'Good motion' and she would say to me, 'Don't be an idiot. I didn't do it for that reason. I did it for' and then she would tell me why she really did it and it would always just leave me blown away that she could be so wicked in terms of getting things done. Her motion on Nelson Mandela was no exception.

I do laugh at the fact that often Irene would be sent to talk to me about things and, while everyone else thought we were sitting there thrashing out what we were going to do on a piece of legislation, we would be sitting back, usually sipping coffees, sometimes an ouzo, and not doing much in terms of what was before us at all.

I feel sorry for the Hon. Reggie Martin, because one of our worst habits in this place and especially in this chamber—but one that came out of nothing but habit—was reverting back to our native tongue on every single given occasion. If the Hon. Justin Hanson thinks he heard some commentary that could not possibly be repeated in this place, he has not heard anything. I can assure everyone that 'colourful language' does not even begin to cover some of the discussions we would have—not about everybody but just colourful discussions we would have about things going on around us.

I think we both owe the Hon. Reggie Martin an apology, because we also had a bad habit of not talking over him but just talking through him. We banked on the fact that we said it went in one ear, his brain did not absorb it because he could not understand the language, it came out the other ear, it landed on Irene and it would be this vice versa exchange between us in this place.

Irene's work in this place has been spoken of by lots of members. I am exceptionally pleased that, together with Irene and other members in this place, we worked on the menstrual hygiene issue. I know that was something that meant so much to her. That is one of the wicked ways she managed to get her government, while in opposition, to support something that she knew, if they formed government, would form part of their policies going forward. She was a smart operator, and she was strategic in the way that she got results. I know that is very dear to her still.

One other thing I will reflect on is our trip together to Greece, where, finally, we both were able to leave the South Australian parliament behind and just be. We had lots of laughs, we made lots of memories, and it was nice to be with Irene away from here, just as a friend.

In my first speech I said I did not come to this place to make friends, and I did not make a friend when I met Irene, I gained a family member, and I found my work mama. My work mama has always treated me just like one of her girls, and over the past 5½ years there is nothing, absolutely nothing, that Irene has not stood by me on. She did not need to, but she stood by me in the most difficult of circumstances. She did not ask permission from her party to do that. She did not care what her party thought about that. She did it because that is who Irene is. If you know Irene, then that is hardly surprising.

Like many people, I do not know how you ever repay her for those things she did for us, not just on a professional level but on a personal level. I have no way of repaying her. I know when Irene first told me of her diagnosis I did not know how I was ever going to stand by her and provide her with the level of support that she provided to so many of us in here. I just did not think it was possible.

I am glad—I am glad—that she left, not because she did not do an exceptional job in this place but because she deserves to go and smell the roses and to be with her family and her loved ones and to look after herself and to tell the rest of us what for while she does that.

If you have ever met Irene it does not take much to realise what she stands for and who she is as a person, and her valedictory speech was no exception. Irene has always done what she did before she came into this place. This was just an extension of what she has done throughout her entire working career and throughout her entire personal life, and this parliament and our communities are all the better for having had her serve as a member of the Legislative Council. I think we are all better for having been able to work alongside her.

For all migrant women, and children of migrant parents out there especially, you could not have asked for a stronger ally and a more dedicated MP. There are a thousand other things I could say about her, but we always say that we are not going to say these things in here; we talk about them amongst ourselves.

I will say to my filenada, my work mama, my teacher and the leftist, leftist woman I know: thank you for making me a better person, Irene, Irini. Who knew that that tap on the shoulder on our anniversary would have led to this? I have no words for you other than thank you, a million times thank you for everything. You will never know what your support and friendship has meant to me. We did not come here to make friends, but I am eternally grateful to have found Irene. Enjoy your family, but expect the continued phone calls and the visits to the kafenio. My kafenio will always be open for our rants. You fight this like you fight for everything you believe in, because we are all counting on it. I love you, filenada.

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

### GROCERY PRICING

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (16:26):** I move:

1. That a select committee be established to inquire and report on grocery pricing in South Australia with particular reference to:
  - (a) the trends in grocery pricing in South Australia, compared to other states in Australia and internationally;
  - (b) the disparities in grocery pricing between metropolitan and regional areas;
  - (c) the impact of high grocery prices on consumers, particularly for those on low incomes;
  - (d) the relationship between wholesale prices paid to farmers and the retail price paid by consumers;
  - (e) the prevalence of food insecurity in South Australia;
  - (f) the prevalence of price gouging practices and anti-competitive behaviour among grocery retailers and the impact on consumers;
  - (g) factors contributing to high grocery prices;
  - (h) potential opportunities for further regulation of grocery retailers and opportunities for state government intervention; 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.

In moving for this inquiry, the Greens recognise the significant cost-of-living crisis that we are facing at the moment, and the impact that this is having on some of the most vulnerable people in our state. Since September of last year, we have seen a 4.8 per cent increase in food prices nationally and, in the previous year, there was a 9 per cent increase in food prices nationally. I understand that here in South Australia over the last five years, grocery prices have increased by 20 per cent.

Examples of some of the price increases over the last five years include the price of wholemeal sliced bread, which has gone up from \$1.80 to \$2.70; white sliced bread has gone up from \$1.50 to \$2.70; peanut butter was \$5.70 and is now \$6.40; white sugar has gone up from \$1.79 to \$2.20; and instant coffee has gone up from \$7.50 to \$11.50. Meanwhile, you have the large supermarkets making an absolute motza. Coles made a \$1.1 billion profit last financial year; that is an increase of 4.8 per cent. Woolworths made a \$1.6 billion profit, up by 4.6 per cent.

A report by UBS, an investment bank, has shown that prices have increased at Coles and Woolworths by 9.6 per cent between May 2022 and May 2023. I note that this is a figure that is disputed by Coles, but this is the assessment of the UBS. Let's consider the other cost-of-living pressures that people are facing. Indeed, Foodbank's 2023 Hunger Report found that:

- in the last year, 3.7 million Australian households experienced moderate to severe food insecurity;
- 48 per cent of the general population now feels anxious or struggles to consistently access food;
- 77 per cent of those households experiencing food insecurity did so for the first time this year;
- 56 per cent of food-insecure households did not get help in the past year; and
- high living expenses is the most common reason given for food insecurity.

The ABS data shows that households are cutting back on clothes, shoes, furnishing and household equipment due to cost-of-living pressures, and South Australian household spending has increased by 3.7 per cent.

We are seeing the cost of everything going up. The cost of electricity is skyrocketing, the cost of fuel is skyrocketing, interest rates are going up and up and up, rents are going up and up and up, and meanwhile we have big corporations making record profits. How can it be that we have South Australians who will struggle to put food on the table this Christmas while we have Coles and Woolies and the big food retailers making an absolute motza? How can that be right? Surely we have to do something. That is why the Greens are calling for this inquiry, because it is time for this parliament to step up and hold these big corporations to account and to see what can be done.

It is not right that we have families that will struggle to put food on the table this Christmas while Coles and Woolies make record profits—that is not right. We need to do something about it. I plan to bring this to a vote in the new year, and I urge all members of parliament to get on board and let's see what we can do.

New South Wales has had an inquiry into food prices. Victoria announced an inquiry into food prices earlier this week, and that was led by my Greens colleagues in that state. It is a key priority for us in the Greens, but it should be a key priority for everybody in this parliament, particularly as we head into the Christmas period.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:31):** I rise to support the motion moved by the Hon. Rob Simms. As we have heard, cost of living is the single biggest challenge facing Australians today. The cost of food, fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, poultry, fish and grocery items has risen dramatically since the pandemic. It is being attributed to many factors from the war in the Ukraine to floods, bushfires and other emergencies. So, too, the cost of production from the farm gate, where

primary producers have had to wear increased transport costs, along with those associated with production, including soaring energy bills and of course labour costs.

It has a domino effect on manufacturing by the time they hit the shelves, and it then impacts on the retailers with their margins. Supermarket prices for goods have jumped anywhere between 20 and 40 per cent, where the supermarkets are maximising their profits and the profits of the biggest and dominant retailers, Woolworths and Coles, but are these increases justified? Are retailers price gouging? Are primary producers and manufacturers getting short-changed and having their profit margins slashed?

Woolworths has 37 per cent share, while Coles has about 28 per cent, with Aldi and other independents making up the rest. The duopoly has enormous market power, and they can dictate their terms to the suppliers to get a prominent place on their shelves, which comes at a premium cost. In 2023, Woolworths reported a 5 per cent increase in food sales to \$50 billion, while Coles' revenue was \$38 billion.

Are their suppliers receiving a fair go? Are consumers paying too much? Many suppliers I have spoken to over the course of my time here say that their hands are being tied by the contracts they sign. They are virtually told that it is our way or the highway, it is their price or the highway. These areas I am sure will be explored by the Hon. Mr Simms with the committee. I applaud the initiative and look forward to being a member.

The topic is also one that has been undertaken by one of my parliamentary interns, Mahkaila Sansom, from Flinders University. She has just completed an excellent 31-page report, titled 'From Paddock to Plate: who profits the most?'

Mahkaila concludes that while consumers and growers might be paying and receiving fair prices in isolation, they are not doing as well as the supermarket and grocery stores in the broader economic context. She recommends that innovative and radical policy options be explored, and pointed out that there has been no action despite the outcry around the country. She rightly says that market regulation needs to be driven at the federal level rather than at the state level. Finally, she says support is needed for the regions and the foodbowl areas through policies that address education, infrastructure and energy. I commend the motion.

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

#### *Bills*

### **PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (16:35):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I rise to speak in relation to the Public Assemblies (Miscellaneous) Bill 2023. This bill comes in response to the antiprotest laws that were introduced by the Malinauskas government in partnership with the Liberal opposition earlier this year and rushed through as part of a pact between the two major parties. You will remember that I spoke at length on that bill, and I thought I might revisit that speech now. That was a joke, Mr President.

**The PRESIDENT:** Funny joke, the Hon. Mr Simms, very funny joke.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS:** Just testing, Mr President. I just wanted to see if everybody was listening. There was a look of great alarm that swept across everyone's faces. Don't worry, my speech will be very short.

Peaceful assembly is a key part of a democratic society. It is how citizens hold public institutions to account. When the Dunstan government introduced the Public Assemblies Act in 1972 it set South Australia apart as a best practice in protecting the right to protest. It came after a Vietnam moratorium protest was met with force and there was an attempt to manage that protest. A royal commission into the protest found that 130 protesters were arrested and dragged into paddy wagons. The Dunstan government moved swiftly to introduce an act to ensure that the right to protest was protected, and I commend them for doing so.

While the new obstruction laws did not technically touch the Public Assemblies Act, the influence of that change could have ripple effects, and there are potential unintended consequences that need to be addressed.

The Human Rights Law Centre has recently released the 'Declaration of our right to protest', which has already been signed by over 60 civil society organisations. These include Amnesty International, SACOSS, the Australian Democracy Network, the Conservation Council and many more. The declaration states, and I quote from the document:

The right to peaceful protest is a fundamental human right that allows us to express our views, shape our societies and press for social and legal change. Participating in peaceful protest is a way for all of us to have our voices heard and be active in public debate, no matter our bank balance or our political connections.

The declaration contains 10 fundamental principles for protecting protest in our democracy:

1. We must protect the right to protest.
2. Governments must accept that public protest involves some level of disruption.
3. Laws affecting the right to protest must be clear.
4. Limitations on the right to protest must be properly justified.
5. Protesters must have all their human rights protected.
6. Participating in a protest is not an invitation to surveillance.
7. Independent monitoring of protests must be facilitated.
8. Protests should not be restricted based on their message except where that message could harm others.
9. Police must not interfere with the right to protest unless it is absolutely necessary.
10. Giving prior notice to authorities about a protest must be optional.

The Greens believe that protecting protest is vital in a healthy democracy, and that is the genesis of this bill. This proposed legislation would provide clarity around the right to protest and clarity for organisers of peaceful protests and plug some of the gaping holes in the government's obstruction legislation that was rushed through this parliament with such poor consideration of the implications for our human rights.

Firstly, the Greens bill would insert a positive obligation to protect assemblies. That is a provision that already exists in other jurisdictions, places like Finland and New Zealand. In addition to the declaration, the United Nations has also issued 10 principles for proper management of assemblies. I quote from their document:

The State's obligation to facilitate and protect assemblies includes spontaneous assemblies, simultaneous assemblies and counter-protests. Assemblies, including spontaneous assemblies and counter-protests, should, as far as possible, be facilitated to take place within sight and sound of their target.

The State's obligation to facilitate extends to taking measures to protect those exercising their rights from violence or interference.

The Law Society has also indicated their support for this right and have considered this bill. As part of their consideration of the bill, they state:

The inclusion of this provision was welcomed by the Committee, which considered it to be more cognisant with international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Clause 4 of the bill reduces the time frame for giving notice of assembly from four days to 48 hours. That is consistent with the standard issued by the United Nations, which states that the ideal time for notification is 48 hours, allowing for assembly organisers to oppose issues in a timely manner. With modern methods of communication being more immediate, 48 hours is a reasonable time frame and much more workable in the modern age.

Clause 5 of the bill addresses a concern that was raised by a number of organisations during the passage of the new penalties for the obstruction offences back in May. Many organisations expressed concerns that even if they went through all of the required steps to have an approved

protest they may be held responsible for actions of their participants who stepped outside of the limits of the approved assembly. That is a concerning development for our democracy—a really concerning development—and it has the potential to have a chilling effect for protest in this state. That is why the Greens are seeking to clear up any ambiguity.

The provision in the Greens bill would provide absolute clarity that organisers are not liable for the acts of participants of their assembly if they act outside of the approved proposal. This will give comfort to many organisers who are currently unclear about how the new obstruction penalties interact with the Public Assemblies Act. Those interactions have not yet been tested by the courts, and we want to make sure that any loopholes are closed before we get to that point. This bill is in line with the international standards of protecting the right to protest. The least we can do is to provide clarity to protest organisers and protect the right to protest. This bill does just that and it would ensure that our democracy is protected and enhanced.

I know that we are at the time of year when people start to set New Year's resolutions and to think about the future. As our Premier prepares to sing *Auld Lang Syne* and celebrate the New Year and sets his New Year's resolutions, I hope that one that he sets is that he will never go down this path again, of working in lockstep with the opposition to rush through draconian laws such as this that so fundamentally infringe on South Australians' civil and political rights.

His New Year's resolution should be 'Don't go down that dark road again. Don't take your marching orders from David Speirs and the right wing Liberal Party. Listen to community organisations, civic and political groups. Listen to their collective wisdom rather than the talkback shock jocks and David Speirs and Alex Antic and others on the side of the Liberal Party.'

**The ACTING PRESIDENT (The Hon. T.A. Franks):** Member, it is the member for Black or the Leader of the Opposition.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS:** Apologies, Acting President.

**The ACTING PRESIDENT (The Hon. T.A. Franks):** The Liberal opposition was not going to do it; I have to.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS:** The Hon. David Speirs, Leader of the Opposition, and right wing shock jocks and others were really fanning the flames of division and disquiet, whipping up some sort of moral panic in relation to people who were belling the cat on the climate emergency. It was a dark chapter for our state. It was an embarrassing chapter for our state.

**The Hon. J.M.A. Lensink:** David Penberthy is so right wing, isn't he?

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS:** The Hon. Michelle Lensink says David Penberthy is right wing. I would argue he is—I would argue he is very right wing. I refer to the number of attacks that Mr Penberthy has made on me and the Greens over the years to prove my point.

This is a chance for a fresh start in the new year, for the government to turn over a new leaf and to positively embrace the opportunity that the Greens have presented to them with this bill. With that, I conclude my remarks.

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

#### *Motions*

### **ROTARY CLUB OF ADELAIDE**

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

That this council—

1. Acknowledges that 24 August 2023 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inaugural meeting to form the Rotary Club of Adelaide;
2. Recognises the Rotary Club of Adelaide's proud history of service to the South Australian, Australian and international communities; and
3. Congratulates the Rotary Club of Adelaide on its centenary.

(Continued from 18 October 2023.)

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (16:45):** I rise to support the Hon. Reggie Martin's motion and thank him for moving the motion to acknowledge that Thursday 24 August marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inaugural meeting leading to the formation of the Rotary Club of Adelaide.

Rotary Adelaide is the oldest club in South Australia, with its first meeting held at the old Grand Central Hotel located on the corner of Rundle and Pulteney streets. Since its formation, the club has accomplished a lot of outstanding work in the past 100 years. Some of its accomplishments include sponsoring more than 100 Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs, growing its membership from 23 in 1923 to 166 members in 2022-23. It has successfully raised funds and donated over \$5 million to a number of Rotary and community programs such as Rotary Health and the Rotary Foundation, which administers the polio eradication program.

It also sponsors youth programs such as the Youth Exchange youth leadership programs and it supported the formation of important community representation groups such as the Council on the Ageing (COTA) and Novita. It also ran the Nurture Kids campaign for healthcare workers. The Rotary Club have volunteered at the Hutt Street Centre and fundraised for so many homeless community members. They are just some of their achievements, to name a few.

As part of the centenary celebrations, Rotary Adelaide has commenced two community projects, staying true to its Rotary spirit amidst the celebratory milestone. The first project is the Aboriginal Chronic Disease Prevention Project with the aim of upskilling the Aboriginal healthcare workforce in chronic disease prevention.

The other project is the 100 Peace poles for 100 years of Rotary in South Australia, which involves the distribution of 100 poles across South Australia, symbolising peace in our hearts, our homes and our communities, a gesture and reminder that is all the more important with recent events and conflicts around the world.

Throughout my life, I have had the privilege of being involved across many Rotary Clubs in South Australia, particularly with the Rotary Club of Adelaide Central, about which I have made remarks and commentaries before. I have seen the immense contributions by Rotarians in South Australia, who devoted their time and energy selflessly to create lasting positive change in our local communities and across the world.

Rotarians are resourceful and have the uncanny ability to draw people towards them, working together for the betterment of people's lives, no matter their age, no matter their gender, no matter what social and cultural or economic background they come from. I have also had the pleasure of attending the Rotary Club of Gawler village fairs on a number of occasions, which allowed me to witness exceptional community organisations and locals coming together, volunteering to raise funds to support local projects for their community.

In recent times, in June 2023, I have also had the privilege to attend the inauguration of the charter of the newest Rotary club, which is the Rotary Club of Lightsview. Whether a Rotary club is 100 years old, like Rotary Adelaide, or in its infancy, like the Rotary Club of Lightsview, the dedication of individuals that spread the spirit of Rotary cannot be underestimated. Today, it is my pleasure to convey my sincere congratulations to the current President of Rotary Adelaide, Cam Pearce, as well as past presidents, founders, and current and past committees and volunteers of Adelaide Rotary for achieving an amazing 100 years of legacy.

Once again, I want to thank the honourable member for moving this important motion. A very happy centenary celebration to Rotary Adelaide. May there be another hundred and 200, and more hundreds of years to come. I commend the motion.

**The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:50):** I rise briefly to support the honourable member Reggie Martin's motion regarding the Rotary Club of Adelaide. I have long been aware of the outstanding work of Rotary, including in Australia, as my late dad was a member for many years. Earlier this year, I was fortunate to attend the Discover Rotary event at Adelaide Oval where I learned that the Rotary Foundation has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of charities, for 14 consecutive years, putting it in the top 1 per cent of all charities.

Worldwide, it has raised an incredible \$4 billion for worthwhile and often life-saving projects. Also, since becoming a member, I have been fortunate to travel to many rural and country areas across South Australia, and be made aware of the outstanding work these local Rotary clubs do in their local communities. With that in mind, I support the honourable member's three points regarding the Rotary Club of Adelaide, concluding with congratulating the club on its centenary.

**The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (16:51):** I will start by thanking the Hon. Jing Lee and the Hon. Sarah Game for their contributions and support for this motion. The work that Rotary does throughout the world is fantastic. Their guiding principles of doing good and helping people are good and generous and something that we all should be supportive of. I thank the members for their support of this motion, and I congratulate the Rotary Club of Adelaide for their 100 years of service to the community.

Motion carried.

### VIETNAM WAR ANNIVERSARY

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. T. T. Ngo:

That this council—

1. Notes that 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the proclamation to end Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War;
2. Recognises the service and the tremendous sacrifices made by South Australian veterans of the Vietnam War and their families;
3. Acknowledges the statement of the Prime Minister recognising and apologising for the prolonged suffering of many Vietnam War veterans;
4. Acknowledges the contributions made to Australian society by the Vietnamese veterans and their families, who fought alongside Australians during the Vietnam War and have since made Australia home; and
5. Expresses its genuine regret to veterans of the Vietnam War who had experiences upon returning to Australia that compounded and exacerbated the trauma they suffered in the conflict.

(Continued from 27 September 2023).

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (16:52):** I rise today to support the honourable member's motion, and thank the Hon. Tung Ngo for moving this very important motion. It is an honour to be able to pay respect and pay tribute, and to acknowledge that the year 2023 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation to end Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

Australia participated in the Vietnam War across the period from 1962 to 1973. During this very dark period, over 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam, with 2,400 listed as injured, and 523 losing their lives. Fifty-nine of the Australians killed were South Australians. Additionally, the 2,400 listed as injured do not account for the trauma and medical health issues being suffered by the veterans, which are directly attributable to their participation in the Vietnam War. Families of veterans who served in the war are also affected, and their sacrifices and resilience amidst uncertainty of the return of their loved ones must also be acknowledged and remembered.

While the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War was formally declared on 11 January 1973, it was only in 1987 that then Prime Minister Bob Hawke declared 18 August to be Vietnam Veterans' Day. The 18<sup>th</sup> of August was the day chosen to commemorate Vietnam veterans and it is the day that the battle of Long Tan occurred. The battle was a heroic feat and sacrifice by so many hundreds of service men and women. All of the Australians who have served in the war have made great sacrifices and we must pay respect to and honour those who have served our country.

Upon return of the approximately 60,000 Australians who served in Vietnam, there were some hostile receptions due to the brewing anti-war sentiment. Part of the general public, including neighbours, RSLs and employers, may have shown disdain to Vietnam veterans who returned at that time, as the country was swept into a divisive state with regard to Australia's participation in the Vietnam War.

Veterans also suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, with many choosing to hide their service in the war by bottling up their anxiety and the difficulties getting back into normal life. Many did not even realise that their mates who they had been socialising with and meeting with since their return to Australia were, in fact, servicemen who had served in the Vietnam War.

Family members of the Vietnam veterans who returned also had to assist and cope with the veteran's personality change and mental health issues. The initial reception of the Vietnam veterans upon their return was not pleasant at all and they suffered in the long term. All this was compounded and the trauma must be acknowledged based on the conflict that they suffered.

I also want to take this time to acknowledge that, since the end of the Vietnam War, Australia as a whole has changed completely because Australia has opened its doors to welcome so many South Vietnamese refugees to come to rebuild their lives upon arrival in Australia. It is without doubt that Vietnamese refugees have enriched the lives of Australians, making significant contributions to our country in every aspect of our society, including the Hon. Tung Ngo.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War gives us this opportunity to reflect on the bravery and courage of our Vietnam veterans and the sacrifices they made. We must also be thankful for and cherish the sacrifices and traumatic experience of the family members of veterans. It is important for us all to express our sincere gratitude to all the Vietnamese veterans and acknowledge those traumatic times that they experienced when they first returned home.

As the shadow minister for multicultural affairs, I have had the great honour of getting to know the Vietnam veterans as well as the Vietnamese veterans community over the years. I also want to pay tribute to Vietnamese veterans in South Australia for their work in acknowledging the sacrifice made by Australian veterans in the Vietnam War.

I want to thank them for organising commemoration events year after year to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice and to also acknowledge the friendship and longstanding commitment that Australia has. I know the Vietnamese veterans community has in every event acknowledged how grateful they are to the Australian Vietnam veterans as well as the support they have given to their community throughout the time.

My colleague Adrian Pederick, the shadow minister for veterans affairs, has attended numerous commemorative services throughout the year which allowed him to engage with Vietnam veterans as well as the Vietnamese veterans community and he also acknowledged that in his speech in the House of Assembly. I want to thank once again the Hon. Tung Ngo for moving this motion, and with those comments I commend the motion.

**The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:59):** I rise to support the motion of the Hon. Tung Ngo regarding Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. While all such conflict is inevitably tragic, I am sure all members present will acknowledge the particularly unique circumstances that faced Australian diggers both during and after Vietnam.

With regard to the Hon. Tung Ngo's worthy Vietnam War motion, the publicly unpopular nature of our involvement in the lengthy conflict created additional, often difficult, impacts for the approximately 60,000 Australian personnel called into duty. These Australians were serving their country earnestly and bravely and over the years the nation has thankfully gradually recognised that the treatment handed out to them, particularly upon their return, was unfair and, unfortunately in many cases, damaging.

As such, I endorse the honourable member's call for this council to note the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation to end Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War and likewise the recognition of the service and sacrifice made by South Australian veterans of the war and their families who have often been forgotten and similarly innocent victims of this conflict. I support the honourable member's plea to acknowledge the contributions to Australian society of Vietnam veterans during the war and in the years since and, as mentioned, share his regret for the negative experiences and trauma they suffered during and after the conflict.

Over 500 Australians, including many from South Australia, lost their lives during the Vietnam War and over 3,000 were wounded. We owe it to them and their families to support this motion and this respect was also reflected in my recent call to acknowledge veterans in parliament.

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (17:01):** I thank the Hon. Jing Lee and the Hon. Sarah Game for their contributions in support of this motion. This motion not only marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation to end Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War but it also acknowledges Australians from every background who served in this war along with Vietnamese veterans of the republic of Vietnam armed forces who after the war made Australia home. These veterans never deserved the scorn that too many of them were subjected to.

As I stated when presenting this motion in this chamber, we can now look and feel a great sense of regret about the way our Australian community treated Vietnam veterans. The respect, understanding and empathy they deserve took far too long to come. In carrying out the missions they were given, they gave so much of themselves. Too much was asked of them and too little was given in return.

I hope the growing recognition of the undeserved discrimination and the shameful treatment that many veterans faced when they returned home to Australia offers a small sense of justice to Vietnam veterans and their families. Today, to all South Australian veterans of the Vietnam War, I say thank you. This is a motion I am proud to commend to the council.

Motion carried.

### WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

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

That this council—

1. Notes that on Friday 27 October 2023, South Australia celebrates World Teachers' Day;
2. Acknowledges the central importance of teachers in our society; and
3. Congratulates all teachers for their hard work, dedication and tireless efforts.

(Continued from 1 November 2023.)

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:02):** I rise today to show my support for this motion and thank the Hon. Reggie Martin for bringing this motion to the chamber. It is great for South Australia to join the nation in celebrating World Teachers' Day on Friday 27 October to recognise the hard work, outstanding contributions and profound impact that teachers have in our society.

In my culture, my grandparents always said that there are two things that will change your life forever, the two things being the people you are going to meet, particularly teachers because anybody can be teachers if you meet the right people as they can change and shape your life, and books. Teachers really have a profound impact on their students and subsequently shape the future of their lives.

Internationally, World Teachers' Day is officially recognised on 5 October each year. This marks the anniversary of the signing of the recommendation concerning the status of teachers in 1966 by the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, commonly known as UNESCO. However, as 5 October falls in the middle of the school holidays here in Australia, a different day is adopted on our calendar to make sure that our teachers do not miss out on celebrating this special day. Therefore, Australia has celebrated the day on the last Friday of October since its inception in 1994.

This year, the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership set the theme for World Teachers' Day as 'Hats off to teachers'. Students, educators, parents and people around the world were encouraged to share their hats-off selfies and tell the world what teachers meant to them. Whether it was a baseball cap, beret, bucket hat, beanie or bowler, it was great to see so many people participate in this challenge and help to spread the word about how great our teachers are.



On behalf of the Liberal members, it is a great honour to salute all of our wonderful teachers across our state. South Australian teachers come from over 600 government schools, over 100 Catholic schools and a further 100 independent schools, according to the Australian Schools Directory. Close to 450 of these schools are in Adelaide, with the remaining spread out across our regional and rural areas. These numbers show how teachers represent an astoundingly large number of professionals in our state, and we must acknowledge and pay our respects to them.

I want to acknowledge also the outstanding work of my esteemed colleague, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. John Gardner, during his time as education minister in the Marshall Liberal Government and currently as the shadow minister for education, training and skills.

I also want to quote the Hon. John Gardner, because he made a speech recently—on 1 November—in the other place in which he mentioned:

The range of work that successive governments do seeks the best for our students, for our children, and every program of course has to be delivered, and the people who do that work are our teachers. We ask a lot of them.

That statement is so true. We do indeed ask a lot of our teachers. One group of teachers in particular that I would like to highlight today are our community language schoolteachers, who play a special and important role in our society, particularly within our multicultural communities.

These language teachers are volunteers, and they do not always have it easy. They are often not a permanent fixture of any schools. They have no dedicated teaching classroom, and sometimes they have to run their classes outside regular school hours and even on the weekend, which means they have to deal with very tired and distracted children.

However, their impact cannot be overstated, as they provide invaluable experiences and opportunities to our children. As well as the much documented developmental benefits that learning another language has on children, language teachers have to expose their children to many different cultures, acting the way they have acted with dedication and commitment.

In South Australia, the community language schools of South Australia support 95 separately incorporated ethnic school authorities, which teach a total of 47 languages. I want to give my thanks to the volunteer teachers in that regard as well in speaking to this motion.

Once again, I want to thank the honourable mover for moving the World Teachers' Day motion. With those words, I commend the motion.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:08):** I rise also to support the motion on behalf of the Greens and want to start by thanking the Hon. Reggie Martin for putting this forward and giving this chamber an opportunity to recognise the important role that teachers play in our society.

As has been observed by the Hon. Jing Lee, World Teachers' Day is held annually on 5 October, but it is observed here in South Australia on 27 October. It is held annually around the globe, and I quote from the UNESCO website:

It commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, which sets benchmarks regarding the rights and responsibilities of teachers, and standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, and teaching and learning conditions. The Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel was adopted in 1997 to complement the 1966 Recommendation by covering teaching personnel in higher education. World Teachers' Day has been celebrated since 1994.

UNESCO goes on to note that the day is a time to:

...celebrate how teachers are transforming education but also to reflect on the support they need to fully deploy their talent and vocation, and to rethink the way ahead for the profession globally.

I think we all had cause to reflect on the important role that teachers play in our society during the pandemic, when parents were forced to teach their children at home—or work with teachers, rather, in supporting them in the home environment. From the discussions I have had with many of my friends who had kids at home during the pandemic, I know how challenging that was, and the appreciation that that gave them for the remarkable work that teachers do and the vital role that they play in our society.

Given we are talking about the important role of teachers, I do want to use this opportunity also to urge the government to resolve the dispute with teachers. It is concerning that we have seen such significant underinvestment in the public education sector in our state over many years. I recognise that is not just a fault of this government; it has been a long-term challenge, and there has not been appropriate investment in public education from governments of either persuasion over the years. It is something I really urge the Malinauskas government to remedy.

I understand the Australian Education Union has revised its position for a salary increase of 8.64 per cent up-front and a 5.4 per cent increase in the following two years, down to 6 per cent in the first year followed by 5 per cent in the second year and 4 per cent in the third year. This would represent an increase of 15 per cent over three years, and would take SA educators from Australia's lowest paid to a level closer to the national midpoint. They are also requesting additional resources be made available to their schools so that they can better support students.

I urge the government to find a solution here. I know the Minister for Education, the Hon. Blair Boyer, is someone who is really passionate about education. In my dealings with him I have found him to be someone who really wants to deliver good outcomes for education in our state, but I really do urge the government to pay teachers what they are worth and to ensure that our public schools are appropriately resourced so that they can meet the needs of students, parents and our communities. With that, I conclude my remarks and indicate that the Greens will be supporting the motion.

**The Hon. S.L. GAME (17:12):** I rise to speak to the honourable member's motion regarding World Teachers' Day, acknowledged on Friday 27 October. The honourable member's motion acknowledges the importance of teachers. I proffer a more nuanced view on this topic but, nonetheless, begin by reiterating the importance of the role teachers play in society. I offer the following viewpoint in the context of recent South Australian teacher strikes that saw the Australian Education Union and educators calling for better pay and conditions statewide.

Firstly, I firmly believe that teachers who show they can make an impact are those who should be better rewarded, particularly those teachers working at what I would describe as challenging schools. In this context, my definition of impact is those who help students achieve good academic results and/or those who make a positive impact on students in other ways, such as engagement and behaviour. Fortunately, South Australia has plenty of teachers who fall into this category. Congratulations to them.

As a former teacher myself, I also want to see teachers return to their core job, and that is not acting as social workers, it is teaching. One Nation has been told of teachers basically being required to travel in pairs around to their students' homes looking for kids who are repeatedly absent from school. Teachers are required to follow up attendance, but these types of duties are taking them away from the classroom. The message is that teachers should be allowed to focus on making sure children can read and write.

Teachers are being forced to eject more and more students from classrooms because parents are setting poor examples at home. This is an increasing challenge for educators everywhere. However, this does not mean that all teachers should automatically receive a pay rise. Like private enterprise, reward the top performers and urge and help the poor performers to improve, but do not apply a blanket handout just for the sake of making their protestations go away. It is called incentivising, and it is a key platform for One Nation.

One Nation endorses calls for an overhaul of our national curriculum, which is increasingly to blame for students leaving school with subpar reading and writing levels. Employers across many professions that I speak to are increasingly frustrated that young people fresh out of schooling lack basic literacy and numeracy to carry out entry level positions. One in three students are now unable to meet NAPLAN's basic literacy standards, which is unacceptable.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (17:15):** I am pleased to rise in support of this motion. World Teachers' Day serves as a poignant reminder of the invaluable contribution educators make to society. This annual acknowledgment provides an opportunity to express gratitude for the teachers' unwavering commitment to nurturing minds and fostering a love of lifelong learning.

We know that education has the power to be transformative, it can end cycles of poverty and create new opportunities. World Teachers' Day also serves as a platform to raise awareness about the challenges educators face. My inbox is flooded with emails from teachers who feel their job is no longer just about teaching. They are being stretched every which way to support the young people in their classrooms.

Today, I want to shed light on a particular group of educators who play an absolute crucial role in shaping the future of our communities in regional South Australia, and that is our agricultural teachers. These dedicated professionals are the unsung heroes who sow the seeds of knowledge, cultivate the minds of our youth and harvest a future of prosperity for our regions.

In the heart of our rural landscapes, where the fields stretch as far as the eye can see, the livelihoods of many depend on the bounty of the land. The importance of ag teachers, as they colloquially refer to themselves, cannot be overstated. They bridge the gap between tradition and innovation, ensuring that the agricultural practices that have sustained us for generations are not only preserved but also adapted to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

One of the primary roles of agricultural teachers in regional South Australia is to instil a deep appreciation for the land and its resources in the hearts of our young people. Through hands-on experiences they teach the value of hard work, of patience and the core country value of giving everything a red hot go. These lessons extend far beyond the classroom, fostering a sense of responsibility and stewardship that is essential for the sustainability of our agricultural heritage.

Ag teachers build communities and forge connections between generations that is essential for the prosperity and succession of our region. Through agricultural programs, workshops and community events they create opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing and collective growth. In my time spent over the years at many country shows across the state, as well as the Junior Heifer Expo, the South Australian Sheep Expo and of course the famous Royal Adelaide Show, I have spoken with dozens of ag teachers about the programs they run with their students.

One of the things they all report being proud of is the student commitment to seeing something through. This is a life skill, a worked, learned and earned skill that students do not often receive otherwise in the classroom. Getting ready for an expo or for a show means students cover animal assessment and nutrition, commercial classing, knowledge of diseases and animal welfare, reproductive technologies, industry familiarisation, and of course stock handling and ring craft.

It is extraordinary what these young people are learning through their agricultural teachers, and as part of World Teachers' Day I am proud as a regional resident to recognise and celebrate the indispensable role of agricultural teachers in regional South Australia. We know that for every single agricultural graduate there are six well-paid secure jobs waiting for them in South Australia.

I was glad to utilise Friday 27 October to help spread the word about the importance of agricultural teachers in primary and high schools. They are the custodians of our agricultural heritage, the mentors of our youth and the architects of a sustainable and prosperous future. As a community, let us continue to support and appreciate these dedicated professionals who, through their passion and commitment, ensure that the fields of our regions remain fertile, not just in terms of crops but in the minds and hearts of the generations to come.

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD (17:19):** I rise to briefly speak to this motion. I thank the Hon. Reggie Martin for bringing it to the chamber. Much like being a farmer, being a teacher is something that you have to love. It is a passion that drives teachers. In my maiden speech, I spoke about one such lady who had a huge impact on my life, and that was Mrs Yvonne Hogarth, my teacher in year 7. She fostered my creative streak and she loved every single one of the kids who passed through her classroom. Mrs Hogarth is still with us and is still a teacher, even though she has retired.

I want to touch on a couple of other teachers who have not only touched my life but the lives of so many other people in Australia. One of those is my little brother, Liam Hay, who is a teacher at Scotch College, teaching maths and science, and he is also a student wellbeing leader. Liam loves the kids. Liam makes sure that they feel wanted and that when they have issues they know that they can go to Mr Hay and they will be heard.

I would also like to quickly touch on another teacher who I know is dearly loved in Mount Gambier, and that is Mrs Vicki Gleed, who has taught both my daughter, Piper, and my son, Arlo. Seeing young kids—reception-aged kids—walking into a classroom and just wanting to be at school because of the way that their teacher, Mrs Gleed, makes them feel, is so wonderful. It embeds in these very young children a love for school and a love of education, because of the love that is coming back from their teachers.

I hear from many teachers and principals from around South Australia, and indeed in the regions, that teachers are being asked to be so much more for their students. They need to be there for their wellbeing and the increased needs and behaviour issues that we see in our schools. Teachers are under pressure, and we are looking at a terrible situation where teachers are leaving the profession they love because they do not feel supported. I hope that we can support our teachers and we can ensure that those Mr Hays, those Mrs Hogarths and those Mrs Gleeds are still there for our children, instilling a love for education.

I thank every single one of the teachers we have in South Australia for the passion and dedication they show to our kids. They treat them like their own kids, and that is so important to ensure that our kids are well educated and well balanced and grow up to be great members of our fantastic state. Happy World Teachers' Day to all our wonderful teachers in this state. We love you, all the Mr Hays, Mrs Hogarths and Mrs Gleeds out there. Thank you.

**The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (17:22):** I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Hon. Ms Lee, the Hon. Mr Simms, the Hon. Ms Game, the Hon. Nicola Centofanti and the Hon. Ben Hood. It is clear that all those people who made a contribution have had someone in their schooling who has made an enormous impact. I am definitely in that category as well, with some amazing teachers who have helped me to get where I am today. Teachers make an enormous contribution to South Australia, when they choose that profession of teaching, helping people make the most of every opportunity, and for that we should all be very thankful.

I would like to use the opportunity the Hon. Sarah Game has given me through one of her comments. I might have misheard, but I think I heard that she was suggesting that teachers should stick to teaching and not the social stuff. While I appreciate and understand where she is coming from, I will use that as an opportunity to tell a bit of a story about my sister-in-law, who for quite some time was a teacher in one of the poorest and lowest socio-economic areas in our state.

She was an excellent teacher and changed the way that her school kept statistics on how they were performing. One of the things that she did was to not just concentrate on the teaching, she also spent many hundreds of dollars a year of her own money, as did other teachers in her school, to make sure that some of those kids who came to school had actually been fed, that they would get their breakfast, they would get something to eat. She bought many pairs of shoes for kids who were coming to school in winter without shoes, and she also would spend money, as did the other teachers at that school, on clothing.

While yes, it is important that teachers try to make sure that those kids have every opportunity in life, sometimes that means they have to do that little bit extra, or they choose to do that little bit extra. I for one wish they did not have to do that, to go into their own funds to provide those things for children, but it is the harsh reality that in some of those situations there are only those teachers who can do that. For them, I think that is an absolutely amazing thing, to step over and above their role of just teaching, and they should be commended for that.

Once again, I thank all the members for their contribution. I thank all those teachers who make an enormous impact to everybody's lives and I wish them all a very great and happy Christmas and festive season.

Motion carried.

#### **OVERLAND TELEGRAPH LINE**

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. E.S. Bourke:

That this council—

1. Recognises 15 November 2022 as the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the state celebration of the completion of the Overland Telegraph Line;
2. Acknowledges the important social, technological and economic contribution the creator of the Overland Telegraph Line, Sir Charles Todd and his team, have made connecting South Australia to the rest of the world through the creation of the Overland Telegraph Line;
3. Acknowledges there is an important First Nation's story to be told that will better enrich our understanding of this significant part of Australia's history; and
4. Recognises our great state's pioneering history in bold investments, from the Overland Telegraph Line, the world's largest battery to our future green hydrogen industry.

(Continued from 3 November 2022.)

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (17:25):** I move to amend the motion as follows:

Paragraph 3—Leave out 'First Nation's' and insert 'First Nations' '

Paragraph 4—Leave out paragraph 4 and insert:

4. Recognises our great state's pioneering history in connecting South Australia to the world from the Overland Telegraph Line to our emerging satellite communications industry.

I rise as the speaker for the opposition on the motion put forward by the honourable member. On 22 August 1872, the construction of the Overland Telegraph between Adelaide and Darwin was completed. It has been described as the greatest engineering feat carried out in 19<sup>th</sup> century Australia, according to the National Museum of Australia. The completion of the Overland Telegraph created history, with communication time between Europe and Australia reduced from months to hours.

The management of construction was conducted by South Australia's Superintendent of Telegraphs, Charles Todd, who divided the route into three sections, being the southern section, Port Augusta to Oodnadatta; the central section on to Pope River; and the northern section onwards to Darwin. While private contractors were tasked to build the northern and southern sections, the South Australian government was responsible for the remote 1,000-kilometre central stretch.

Running more than seven months behind schedule, the two lines were finally joined at Frew Ponds on Thursday 22 August 1872, and Todd was given the honour of sending the first message along the completed line, which read:

We have this day, within two years, completed a line of communications two thousand miles long through the very centre of Australia, until a few years ago a Terra Incognita believed to be a desert.

Those of us who live in country communities in particular understand the importance of connectivity, and the Overland Telegraph allowed just that. Not only did it connect regional communities, it connected cities, states and territories, and it connected Australia with the world.

It is important that we recognise the significance of this project at its time. It demonstrated the vision of our forbearers and, as Marcus Garvey once said, 'A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.'

The opposition wishes to highlight that the position of the apostrophe in the word 'Nation's' in paragraph 3 needs repositioning, as the word in this context should be a possessive plural as opposed to a singular plural. We propose an amendment to reflect this accordingly.

Paragraph 4 of the motion requests that this council 'Recognises our great state's pioneering history in bold investments, from the Overland Telegraph Line, the world's largest battery to our future green hydrogen industry'. The opposition's second amendment recommends that it instead reads 'Recognises our great state's pioneering history in connecting South Australia to the world from the Overland Telegraph Line to our emerging satellite communications industry'.

We appreciate the government's preference to grandstand about their pet projects. However, in the usual spirit of this chamber with regard to motions, we have brought forward our amendment to remove the political nature of the motion. I inform the chamber that the opposition supports the motion as per the aforementioned amendments.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (17:29):** I rise to say that I support the honourable member's motion in relation to the Overland Telegraph Line. I would like to add that it has to be recognised that this is probably one of the greatest feats of human endurance and exploration in Australia. You have to consider the conditions that Todd had to endure and also the fact that he managed to find assistance from First Nations people along the way.

They worked with him in getting this vital piece of infrastructure that started communications between the southern part of the continent and the northern part of the continent. It is incredible to think that it was just a simple piece of wire that led to this communication system being established in Australia using Morse code.

I would recommend that members, if they have not done so already—or when they take students through in parliamentary visits—visit the library where, in one corner, there is a desk that actually contains a Morse code set-up. It was put there by two aficionados of the Overland Telegraph, two elderly gentlemen who put the exhibition together. It is actually a working model of the telegraph. You can send messages across the desk in Morse code. It is a great learning tool, and a great reminder of this enormous feat that was carried out so long ago.

With that, I recommend the motion to the chamber and I indicate that I will not be supporting the Labor amendment but I will be supporting the Liberal amendment. I just want to point out that this sort of thing tends to happen when we do motions. I note that when the Liberals put up a motion and wish to either acknowledge the work that their previous government did, Labor are the first ones to get up and then scrub it out.

In this case, it is the same thing that has happened here, where Labor wants to put in, amongst other things, projects that are still yet to be fulfilled. I do not think it is necessary. The fact is that it is simply communication that celebrates what is happening in our communications industry, because this is what the Overland Telegraph was all about. It was all about establishing a vital line of communication.

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (17:32):** Sometimes we all go to a lot of events. You might be at Rotary or you might be talking in front of a school. A lot of people in that room might be thinking, 'Why is a politician here to talk about our school?' It is something I really enjoy going along to because it is always a good reminder of what the role of a politician is.

As politicians, we can make decisions about bold and innovative new legislation that can really change our state, and make our state the place to live and also a state that thrives. That is exactly what this motion is about. This motion came to life because of a vote that took place in our Old Chamber, behind the very tables that are in the Old Chamber today. It was a bold decision to pay for the infrastructure that would become one of the biggest engineering projects that our country had seen, building the Overland Telegraph line.

That was a decision voted on by our parliament, just as two weeks ago we made a very bold decision to create a new industry, the hydrogen industry. Again, it was a decision made by this parliament because that is what we are here to do: vote on and create bold investments that not only build a better state for our infrastructure but make a state where South Australians can thrive.

I realise this is the last motion of the day, but I find it very interesting that those opposite have taken this opportunity to say that by making these comments about the hydrogen power industry, and also about building the largest battery in the world, it is a political opportunity. The largest battery in the world is quite a big achievement, quite a big, bold piece of investment and infrastructure build in our state. That I would like to grandstand, and that is why I have put this motion forward.

It deliberately did not mention anywhere in this motion the state government. It did not mention anywhere the Malinauskas Labor government, for the very reason we are celebrating an incredible piece of infrastructure, an incredible bold decision made by this parliament, be that in the old parliament, in the lower house or in this chamber, because that is what this motion is celebrating. When we make a vote in a parliament we can make significant change with our built infrastructure and, most importantly, we can make change so that South Australians can thrive.

The battery is also mentioned because there is a really interesting connection about the battery in this story. Quite often there would be a break in the line for the Overland Telegraph Line.

They had to find a solution to be able to find this break in the line really quickly, so they created a battery. They had that battery connect to the line so that they could find that short very easily. It is quite a good story, connecting the battery story at the very beginning to where we are now with having the world's largest battery in Jamestown.

I will be supporting the Hon. Nicola Centofanti's change for paragraph 3, removing the apostrophe, but I will not be accepting the motion put forward to remove two pieces of significant investments for our state that will create a lasting change in our regions that will be able to benefit from the work that will be created from the hydrogen power plant, which is a significant change for our regional workers. I would hope those opposite would see that, and also the fact that the world's largest battery is also in our regions, in Jamestown. I think they should be recognised in this motion.

**The PRESIDENT:** The first question I am going to put is that the amendment to paragraph 3 as moved by the Hon. Ms Centofanti, which is basically a typo, be agreed to.

Question agreed to.

**The PRESIDENT:** The next question I am going to put is that we leave out paragraph 4.

Question resolved in the negative.

Motion as amended carried.

### *Bills*

#### **PUBLIC HOLIDAYS BILL**

##### *Final Stages*

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

#### **VETERINARY SERVICES BILL**

##### *Final Stages*

The House of Assembly agreed to the bill with the amendments indicated by the following schedule, to which amendments the House of Assembly desires the concurrence of the Legislative Council:

- substitute: No. 1. Clause 79, page 46, lines 20 to 29 [clause 79(1) and (2)]—Delete subclauses (1) and (2) and substitute:
- (1) For the purposes of section 22 of the *South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013*, there will be—
    - (a) a panel of assessors consisting of—
      - (i) veterinarians with primary registration or deemed registration; and
      - (ii) veterinarians (however described) registered under a corresponding law but who do not provide veterinary services or engage in other conduct as a veterinarian in this State; and
    - (b) a panel of assessors consisting of persons who have expertise that would be of value to the Tribunal in proceedings under this Act (being persons who are not veterinarians and who do not work in an area relating to, or have a material interest in, veterinary services).
  - (2) Subject to this Act, in exercising its powers for the purposes of this Act, the Tribunal will, unless the President of the Tribunal determines that the Tribunal is to be constituted by fewer than 3 members, be constituted by 3 members of whom—
    - (a) 2 will be selected from the panel of assessors referred to in subsection (1)(a); or
    - (b) —
      - (i) 1 will be selected from the panel of assessors referred to in subsection (1)(a); and
      - (ii) 1 will be selected from the panel of assessors referred to in subsection (1)(b).

Consideration in committee.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** I move:

That the House of Assembly's amendments be agreed to.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** I rise briefly on behalf of the opposition to say that we will be supporting the amendment. This amendment is a variation of the amendment by the opposition that was passed in this place. It is a somewhat watered-down version; however, I appreciate the government's willingness to take a position of compromise on this amendment and we are certainly happy to do the same.

It is incredibly important that this bill passes today not just for the confidence of the veterinary industry but for the confidence of the many pet owners in our state. It passed this chamber back in September and it is important that there is no further delay to ensure certainty for all of those involved.

Motion carried.

#### *Adjournment Debate*

#### **VALEDICTORIES**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (17:41):** I move:

That the council at its rising adjourn until Tuesday 6 February 2024.

Today, on the last day of sitting for the 2023 parliamentary year, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect quickly on the year that has been in this place and to thank all those who make what happens here possible.

It has been an honour to lead the government in this chamber through the second year of this term. The year has been many things—productive, often collaborative, occasionally combative, history-making, and occasionally record-breaking.

We have passed some 41 government bills in this place. As I did last year, it is pertinent to point out that over 28 per cent of the bills have been amended in some way, again highlighting the important scrutiny role that this place plays.

I think it is safe to say that this place is certainly not taken for granted and has come to be a formidable, mysterious, and even terrifying prospect for those in the other place putting up their legislation to the Legislative Council.

Indeed, while this council could hardly be said to be the place where legislators go to die, it does brook a fair comparison with the afterlife. Eight years can sometimes feel like forever. Depending on your religious inclinations, this could mean many things—for example, what sort of reincarnations the Hon. Ian Hunter or the Hon. Russell Wortley might be in this place.

It is hard to believe the long list of achievements and events that have taken place in just the last calendar year. Memorable events include at the start of the year the passage of an Australian-leading historic First Nations Voice to Parliament bill; a groundbreaking merger at the end of the year between South Australia's two largest universities; creating a hydrogen and renewable energy framework; passing crucial reforms to ensure better protections for tenants; bipartisan support for road safety reforms; the ongoing verbal tour of South Australia's regional flora and fauna courtesy of the Hon. Clare Scriven and the Hon. Nicola Centofanti, taking us from feral pigs, to feral goats, to feral deer, to feral fruit fly and all around again. There is almost nothing these two have not covered in painstaking detail that is feral of nature.

We learnt about goat-tagging, which I did not know was a thing quite frankly. I am not sure how the youth of today managed to capture the goats before graffitied them, but I am glad the government is being held to account on what must be disgusting behaviour that needs to be stamped out.

Three hundred and eighty six increasingly urgent phone calls were taken during question time by the Hon. Russell Wortley. On two of these occasions, his phone was on silent when the calls came through. And, of course, just this week we fulfilled our election commitment to make Christmas Day and Easter Sunday public holidays. We respect and are grateful to workers who spend their time away from families on special occasions to carry out their duties and we are ensuring that they are properly recognised for their sacrifice.



With the release of the latest books on the British royal family, I did wish to draw attention to the Hon. Frank Pangallo's amazing achievement of quoting Meghan Markle in the same breath as Queen Elizabeth I, a feat never before accomplished as far as I can determine in any Westminster parliament. Also, there were 19 times this year that the Hon. Frank Pangallo commenced contributions by saying, 'I will be brief'. Nineteen times he was not brief, I am afraid to report.

Unfortunately, this year we have not been blessed with any musical contributions, but it is not too late. I am reliably informed that the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development has an album out just in time for Christmas. On whatever day Christmas falls this year, it will be a public holiday, we can be assured. A song that I am told may be on there is *Clare's Fruit Fly Mince Pie*. The album also features hit singles such as *Giant Pine Scale on my Christmas Tree*, *Rudolph the Feral Reindeer*, and, in a duet with the Hon. Nicola Centofanti, *I'll Abalonely Christmas Without You*. It is available at all good retailers around the state. Do yourselves a favour.

We have had a couple of changes in our ranks this year, with the Hon. Stephen Wade leaving us for the greener pastures of retirement and the Hon. Irene Pnevmatikos recently moving to dedicate her time and energy to her health and the rest of her life. Like Demeter fleeing the underworld, we wish the very best for both of them. In their respective places, we have welcomed the Hon. Ben Hood and the Hon. Mira El Dannawi. In the short time since their arrivals, I think we can all agree that both have made excellent contributions to this place and will be great advocates for the people of South Australia.

There is a lot of unseen work that goes on in running this chamber that starts with the roles of the whips in keeping this place organised and at least giving the appearance that above the water it is all running mildly smoothly. Thank you to the Hon. Ian Hunter and the Hon. Laura Henderson and their staff.

I would like to thank the Hon. Nicola Centofanti for her work leading those opposite. It is not an easy job, and it requires a fierce advocate for the South Australian community to fill its shoes. I think the leader mostly fits the bill. I would like to thank her for her cooperation in times of urgency and for her work and good humour in keeping this place running.

I would like to thank members of the crossbench who we often have to thank more than we probably should to try to get them onside to pass what we need to in this chamber.

Sir, to you, of course, presiding wisely over us, to the Clerk and the Usher of the Black Rod, Chris and Guy, thank you for your sage advice and your breadth of knowledge of this place's procedure. Mr President, if you are Hades, ruler of this our underworld, Chris and Guy must be the ferryman of the River Styx. We are, as always, in safe hands with these two steering our ship.

To the other support staff in the Legislative Council, table staff, Leslie, Emma and Anthony, and also messengers, Kate, Mario, Todd, Karen and Charles, thank you for all the tireless work you do in supporting what happens here, especially when we are required to work into the very small hours, or as those small hours turn into the large hours of 6.58am on occasion. It is very much appreciated.

Thank you to the committee staff, to Andrew Cole and Hansard—that is Cole, C-o-l-e, for the benefit of Hansard—to John and the library staff, to the finance staff, to building services, including the building attendants, to the people and culture staff, PNSG, police security, cleaning staff and of course the real nucleus of this place, the people who keep this place running, those who feed us and give us energy, the Blue Room staff, particularly the warmth of Karen and the constant insults from Nicky, to Creon and Kasey for their assistance in arranging events, often with not much notice and of course to the one who probably does more to keep this place running than anyone else, Ben.

I look forward to another exciting year in 2024. There is much to achieve. I cannot wait to get on with achieving it and working productively together in this chamber for the best outcomes of South Australians. Before that, though, there is time for some rest, some rejuvenation and getting in contact with our electorate, which, unlike only 23,000 people, covers the whole state for members of this chamber. With that, I would like to wish all members and their staff a happy and festive season.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (17:49):** I apologise in advance, my speech today is going to be far less humorous than that of the Leader of the Government. In my

role as the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, as it was last year, it is my absolute pleasure to stand before this chamber and convey on behalf of my South Australian Liberal Party colleagues a bit of a quick Christmas message.

As we approach the holiday season, it is a time to reflect on the journey we have undertaken together in this chamber. Our accomplishments and sometimes our stonewalls are a testament to the strength of the collection of individuals represented here and elected by the people of South Australia in a democracy that is robust and commendable.

I acknowledge that we are here today without a number of colleagues who began this parliamentary session with us—the Hon. Stephen Wade, who retired from political life for other pursuits, and my colleague the Hon. Dennis Hood MLC, who is on a leave of absence while enduring a health battle. I sincerely wish him well in his journey to health.

The year 2023 also saw the retirement for health reasons of the Hon. Irene Pnevmatikos, and I understand her journey with cancer is an incredibly tough fight, and my thoughts, and I know the thoughts of everyone in this chamber, are with her and her family throughout this time.

We also welcomed two new members in this place, and with the appointments of the Hon. Ben Hood and the Hon. Mira El Dannawi we can feel a new energy. As the Leader of the Government has pointed out, they have already made great contributions in this place and will no doubt continue to make great contributions in this place.

Thank you to the staff of Parliament House: the messengers, Karen, Charles and Mario; our administrator, Todd; Kate, in the office of the Clerk; the table staff, Emma, Anthony and Leslie; the committee secretaries, who have fun working across both the upper and lower houses, thank you for all you do to keep both chambers on task; to Creon and his team from catering for ensuring there is always plenty of Golden North ice cream handy, particularly for myself—honey, with a bit of caramel sauce. I had that just last night, Mr President; it was delicious.

Thank you to Andrew Cole and the Hansard staff for their diligent work in this chamber and in the other house. Thanks to John and his team in the Parliamentary Research Library. John's team are an absolute joy to work with and we appreciate being able to lean on their experience.

I also want to acknowledge finance; building services, including the building attendants, switchboard operators and cleaners; the people and culture staff; and the newly included PNSG group for all of their hard work this year. In particular, I thank the parliament security team as well. This year has been a little bit rough, and I know that my staff and other staff were glad to know that they were watching and touching base when staff left the building in the evenings over winter.

To the Black Rod and the Clerk, thank you for continuing to make yourselves available to myself and my Legislative Council team and my staff whenever we need your guidance.

May this festive season bring us all joy, peace and moments of well-deserved relaxation with our loved ones. I acknowledge and appreciate the long hours and the time spent away from family that many in this building experience. There is an incredible amount of unseen work that I know all in this place put in.

To the government and the crossbench, I know that it is not just myself and my colleagues who have experienced sleepless nights wrestling with extremely complex and sensitive matters before the chamber, rolling endless debates, ideas and, on occasions, outright disagreements, but it is a testament to the strength of this chamber that despite those challenges we have continued to work towards the betterment of our constituents; that is, the people of South Australia.

I would like to acknowledge the whips, the Hon. Laura Henderson and the Hon. Ian Hunter. Suffice to say I think sometimes it is probably a little bit like trying to herd cats in this place. We appreciate all the work you do.

**The Hon. K.J. Maher:** Feral cats.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** Feral cats, absolutely. I would like to also acknowledge the Leader of the Government. I have enjoyed our humour across the chamber on occasions. Whilst we

might not necessarily always see eye to eye, I certainly appreciate the way that you lead your team so well.

To my Liberal Party colleagues: thank you for your teamwork, your energy, your conviction and your personal sacrifices made for the job. Thank you for your continued faith in me as your representative leader in this place. The weight you carry is not unnoticed. A tremendous thank you to all of our staffers, those who keep all our offices running: the diary, the correspondence, the research, the incredibly important work in communicating with industry and caring for our constituents.

I am proud of the Liberal staffers on level 2. Their can-do attitude has been a source of energy for me and my colleagues. Again, I want to thank them for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the noble cause of public service. I also want to commend the efforts of the staff of my colleagues from across the aisle. I know my own staff speak very highly of their interactions with staff from both the crossbench and the government offices. Thank you for your collaboration and communication.

Last, but not least, Mr President, I would like to thank you and acknowledge your efforts in presiding over this chamber. I think we can be a pretty ratty bunch at times, particularly the Hon. Russell Wortley, and we appreciate your leadership and patience.

Turning our attention to the festive season, I am mindful that not all South Australians experience the joy and celebration associated with Christmas. This year, my thoughts are with those who are feeling the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. There will be some challenges in the lead-up to Christmas for a number of households, with an additional number knowing that the credit card pain and the aftermath will be felt all too soon. In the face of that hardship, we remain thankful for the crucial role played by organisations such as Foodbank SA, The Smith Family, Salvation Army, Anglicare, Catherine House, Grandparents SA, St Vincent de Paul and countless others. Their tireless work supports the vulnerable not only during the holidays but throughout the year.

For my family, this Christmas and summer holidays will be spent enjoying the best the Riverland has to offer, in stark contrast to last year when we were experiencing record-level flooding. I trust the hot days and the long nights will bring peace and connection after such a busy year.

As the parliamentary year concludes, on behalf of the Liberal team I give a heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed their time, expertise and service to this institution we call the South Australian parliament. We are part of something greater than ourselves, and your support is both acknowledged and cherished. In conclusion, I extend warm wishes for a merry Christmas and a safe and joyous new year to all.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:57):** Briefly, on behalf of the Greens, I want to wish everybody a safe and happy Christmas. For me, Christmas has always been a time to celebrate the good things in life; that is, friends and family. As the Hon. Nicola Centofanti has alluded to, it can also be a very sad time for many in our community, particularly those who have lost loved ones during the year, and my thoughts are going to be with those South Australians who are struggling at the moment—those who are struggling with loneliness but also those who are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

I know I also speak for all of us in the chamber when I say that our thoughts will be with people in the Middle East as well, as they deal with the profound loss and sadness that comes from war and conflict at this time of year. It is certainly my hope that in the new year, we finally see some peace for our troubled world and, in particular, that troubled region where there is so much profound sadness.

Reflecting a bit on this year, there have been some pretty significant bills and reforms that have come to this parliament for consideration. Certainly, from a crossbench perspective, we have found ourselves often playing quite a key role, and that has led to sometimes moments of agreement and sometimes stoushes. One of the things that I really appreciate, however, about this parliament and in particular this chamber is the respectful and collegial way that we are able to work. Whilst we do have disagreements, I think it speaks to the strength of our democracy that we are able to come together and work together, and long may that tradition continue, particularly when one reflects on some of the terrible things that are unfolding around the world.

I sincerely thank all members of this place who we have had an opportunity to work with this year, and all the staff across the building who keep things moving. Thank you, Mr President, for your leadership and fair and balanced approach to adjudicating often some challenging debates, so thank you for that. I also in particular want to thank my staff. I often joke and say that as politicians we are the lead singers of the band, but it is the staff who do all the work in terms of writing the music and all the work behind the scenes.

I know everybody in this building works hard, but it is particularly true of crossbench staff, because often we have such a large legislative load, and our staff play a really important role in getting us across all the detail. With that, I wish everybody a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to working with you all next year in what I hope is a happy and productive year for the South Australian parliament.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (18:00):** I rise very briefly to echo all the sentiments that have just been expressed, especially those for our South Australians who are doing it tough. We know it has and will continue to be a tough time for many in our communities, and we have done and are trying to do our level best to ease that burden.

I have one wish for Christmas this year, and I am sure it is shared by all the many good people who make our working lives possible in this place and who I thank genuinely and sincerely for doing so, and that is an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, equal rights for the Palestinian people and a free Palestine. I wish everybody a safe and happy Christmas and may the new year be a peaceful one.

**The Hon. S.L. GAME (18:01):** I rise incredibly briefly to thank all the members of this place for your support at times and for the challenges you have given me at times, from which I feel I have grown. I thank you, Mr President, for keeping order here, and I thank all the parliamentary and support staff. I also echo the sentiment that it can be a very lonely time of year and a time of year when people need to look around and look to include people. I am particularly looking forward to spending time with my children, who tell me that they allow me to continue to work because they can see that I enjoy this job.

**The PRESIDENT (18:02):** To add a few remarks, I concur with the words that have been put out there today. One of the proudest moments I can remember in the Legislative Council was the President's dinner, the after bit of banter and the Hon. Ben Hood providing some wonderful entertainment.

We had had a particularly challenging week, and everybody came together and realised that we are all here to do the best we possibly can for the people of South Australia. We do not always agree on things, but I am incredibly proud of the Legislative Council team in here. I thank you for your cooperation. Not everything works smoothly, but we usually get there in the end.

I will not mention everybody, but Chris and Guy in particular and the table and chamber staff do an outstanding job for us and I thank them. Everybody else has already been thanked. I wish you all a happy, safe, peaceful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all back here bright-eyed and bushy-tailed in February.

At 18:04 the council adjourned until Tuesday 6 February 2024 at 14:15.