

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 15 May 2024

The PRESIDENT (Hon. T.J. Stephens) took the chair at 14:16 and read prayers.

The PRESIDENT: We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of this country throughout Australia, and their connection to the land and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to the elders both past and present.

Parliamentary Committees

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (14:17): I bring up the 45th report of the committee, 2022-24.
Report received.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following paper was laid on the table:

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

Regulations under Acts—

Education and Care Services National Law—Further Amendments

Answers to Questions

FRUIT FLY

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:20): I wish to provide answers to questions in regard to the time line of the interaction with the office of the Hon. Nicola Centofanti relating to briefing requests.

I am advised the following: on 22 January 2024, shadow minister Centofanti writes to Minister Scriven requesting a brief on the fruit fly eradication program and information relating to bee deaths that have occurred in the region. On 6 February, Minister Scriven's office responds to this request and advises the shadow minister that her office will be in touch to arrange the briefing. On 8 February, the shadow minister's office manager called and left a message for the minister's office manager to call back. On the same day, 8 February, the minister's office manager called back and left a message with the shadow minister's office manager's mobile to call back to arrange a time.

On 12 February, the minister's adviser messages the shadow minister's office manager requesting some proposed times for the briefing. Also on 12 February, the shadow minister's office manager responds and advises they would email some proposed times. On 28 February, the shadow minister's office manager emails the minister's office with a range of dates for the briefing. On 29 February, the minister's office manager responds and locks in the briefing for 8 March 2024 at 9.30am.

On 7 March, as a result of the declared metropolitan fruit fly outbreak in Salisbury North, the minister's office manager emailed the shadow minister's office manager to advise the briefing will need to be rescheduled. A reply from the shadow minister's office manager was received advising they understand. On 22 March, the minister's office manager emailed the shadow minister's office manager requesting some dates and times over the next two weeks so that a briefing could be organised. No response to this email was ever received.

On 13 May, the shadow minister's assistant calls Minister Scriven's office manager requesting a briefing. On 13 May, again pointing out that that is this week for both when the shadow minister's assistant calls and when my office manager schedules a time for the requested briefing on

12 June from 12.15pm to 1pm. As this provides the relevant information and it is now recorded in *Hansard* I suggest that a further formal tabling of documents is unnecessary.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: There is no additional reason to table this particular document that I just answered.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Question Time

WINE GRAPEGROWERS

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:23): I seek leave to make a brief explanation prior to addressing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development South Australia regarding the federal budget.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Many grape and wine industry leaders are incredibly disappointed this morning. They have not been able to identify one cent in the federal budget to combat the hardship being endured in that industry. The national peak body, Australian Grape & Wine, is on the record this morning criticising the omission of the industry's modest pre-budget submission request. To quote Mr McLean, who said:

We made it crystal clear—many in regional wine communities are on their knees and need urgent government action to stop a bad situation becoming a catastrophe. However, instead of support, all we got was a new tax in the form of a deeply flawed Biosecurity Protection Levy.

It's disappointing that despite our sector's \$45.5 billion economic contribution, the government has turned a blind eye to our pleas for assistance.

We will not let this go. This deliberate failure to help families in regional Australia jeopardises the viability of entire communities, and without help it is only going to get worse.

In the chamber last sitting week, the minister said, and I quote:

Members will recall that on my initiation there is now a federal working group looking at the national viticulture and wine sector, and that involves all the other states and territories that have an interest, as well as the commonwealth government.

As the state with the majority of the wine industry production, South Australia stands to be hit hardest by the federal government's lack of support for this sector in the budget. My questions to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, who represents the grape and wine industry in South Australia, are:

1. Since the minister has informed the chamber that this working group was her initiative, besides meetings, what is the federal working group actually doing to assist the sector?
2. Will the minister commit to an adequate and effective allocation within the state budget to make up for the utter lack of support from the federal Labor government?
3. Can she explain what information was reported back to the commonwealth from the working group that led to the total indifference to the plight of South Australian grapegrowers and winemakers?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:26): I thank the honourable member for her question. Similarly, I would have been very pleased if there had been some direct assistance in the federal budget. It certainly is disappointing that that has not occurred. To answer the specific questions of the honourable member, the working group comprises of representatives of the commonwealth, state and territory governments as well as relevant industry groups.

As I have already said in this place previously, members of the working group have visited the Riverland, the Riverina and Murray Darling/Swan Hill, as well as having, I believe, online meetings or other consultation with areas outside of those. The working group will propose to agricultural ministers actions to support improvement in the grape and wine sector and its long-term viability by July.

In terms of what will or won't be in the state budget, the honourable member would be aware that it's not common practice for any government to be ruling things in or ruling things out. What I can do is refer to comments that I have made in a number of forums, which apply to things such as major structural reforms that might involve wine pulls. I can certainly say that, as I have said on other occasions, something like that is not within the scope of the state government.

In terms of the third question on what information has been provided by the working group to the federal government, since I am not a member of the working group, that would not be across my line of sight.

WINE GRAPEGROWERS

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:27): Supplementary: is the minister committed to supporting South Australian grapegrowers and winemakers, or is she more interested in being seen to do so?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:28): I appreciate the opportunity to be able to outline some of the things that the state government has done. The China Re-Engagement Support Package, for example, provides \$1.85 million through a package for South Australian wine businesses. This announcement followed closely after China's decision to remove all trade barriers on Australian bottled wine because of concerted efforts by both federal and state governments to stabilise our trading relationship with China.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: That's an important part of strengthening the trade relationships with China following the deep damage done by the former federal Liberal government to that relationship.

The re-engagement package will be rolled out over the next two years to June 2026 and will provide the South Australian wine industry with in-market insights and capability building to effectively re-enter the China market in a risk-controlled manner. The package includes two-way market activation and immersion, promotional marketing and communications campaigns, a wine export adviser, technical cooperation and exporter capability building. To support the two-way market activation and immersion, the Department for Trade and Investment and its partners will facilitate opportunities for wine exporters to attend key in-market industry events in China in 2024 and 2025, as well as coordinate trade familiarisation visits for leading Chinese wine importers to experience South Australia's wine regions.

Our world-class wine offering will be promoted to trade and high-end consumers in China through multiplatform marketing and communication campaigns aligned to peak consumption periods, including key trade events and celebrations. The Department for Trade and Investment will also engage a Shanghai-based wine export adviser to support market activation and immersion programs over the next two years, with both an in-depth knowledge and connections with China's wine sector. Both China and South Australia share a long history of technical, scientific and research exchange in the wine sector, including through the work of PIRSA. Technical cooperation activities will be pursued to deepen this collaboration.

Market insight workshops will be delivered over the next two years to help build exporter capability and provide risk management advice. As part of the government's China re-engagement strategy, close to 200 businesses from South Australia's wine sector gained deep insights into the China market at workshops held in the Barossa, Adelaide Hills, Coonawarra and Riverland, from the end of January to early February. The workshops were facilitated by the Department for Trade and

Investment in partnership with the South Australian Wine Industry Association and the Department of Primary Industries and Regions.

Wine grapegrowers across the state who are experiencing challenges due to the current oversupply of red wine grapes are also now able to access additional support through a state government grant to rural business support. The Rural Business Support Relief Fund will assist by providing financial support to impacted red wine grapegrowers by making available immediate grants of up to \$1,500 to those eligible, to accommodate routine costs. The financial assistance will be provided in conjunction with business financial guidance. The support aims to alleviate stress for grapegrowers who have felt significant impacts owing to market disruption, severe weather events and natural disasters.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Further funds are also being provided to rural business support to increase rural financial counselling services for the wine and viticulture industry. The Vineyard Ethephon Trial Rebate has been extended, and it can be accessed by red grape growers, who can save up to \$2,000 per hectare in input water and management costs in their vineyards through a trial being undertaken across South Australia. Growers involved with the trial can apply for a rebate of \$40 per hectare sprayed, to cover the cost of ethephon for up to 1,000 hectares per ABN. The ethephon rebate will be available for up to a total of 5,000 hectares, representing 10 per cent of South Australia's red wine vines. The ethephon vineyard resting trial will also be extended to the next vintage to give growers time to make considered business decisions.

We will also continue to work with the industry associations, not only in the Riverland but across the state, and continue to support projects such as those under Project 250. I think it's important to note that the issue is, as we have said before in this place, not only a global issue but also a national issue, and that is why the national working group was important. We look forward to seeing what their recommendations are when they report back to ministers in July.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Final supplementary?

The PRESIDENT: No, sit down.

The Hon. N.J. Centofanti interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

TRURO BYPASS PROJECT

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (14:33): I seek leave to give a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Regional Development about regional road projects in South Australia.

Leave granted.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: In November last year, the Albanese federal government axed important regional road projects across the regions of South Australia, including the Truro freight route. Last night we learnt that the Truro freight route remains cancelled. This is a project that was previously committed to by both the former Coalition and the current Labor government, and in this parliament the Public Works Committee recommended this project. My question to the minister is: will the state government commit the required funding to complete this important freight route to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the Truro community and the regional community more broadly?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:34): The Minister for Transport in the other place has provided the following information that may be of assistance to the honourable member.

The Truro bypass project was jointly funded 80:20 for \$202 million to fund the design and construction of a bypass at Truro which would divert heavy traffic on the Sturt Highway out of Truro's main street, aiming to improve safety, amenity and freight efficiency. It is part of the South Australia high productivity vehicle network access initiative, listed as a priority initiative on Infrastructure Australia's priority list.

The current design for the Truro bypass provides for a single-lane bypass around both Truro and Accommodation Hill. It also includes three new overtaking lanes: two westbound and one eastbound. Of course, this is the project that Tony Pasin, Vincent Tarzia and Ashton Hurn have called to be a dual-lane carriageway. This is a quote from Mr Pasin:

It beggars belief that the South Australian Government would spend so much time consulting with community on a \$202 million project only to end up with such a short term vision.

He said:

If it's important to get the Torrens to Darlington section of the North South Corridor right the first time, then it's important to get any upgrades to Sturt Highway done right too.

Considering that the federal government—no doubt significantly because of the effective advocacy of the member for Mayo, as well as the advocacy of the state government—has now reinstated in this budget the funding for the Verdun and Mount Barker projects, perhaps it has a whole lot to do with the appropriateness and effectiveness of advocacy by federal members. Perhaps the member for Barker, instead of raising concerns and undermining the proposal as he did in the quote that I read out—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —should instead spend some time advocating for issues in his community. Perhaps if he was a more effective advocate—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —then the federal government would have actually funded the Truro bypass in this budget. However, this government's approach is to be responsible and to continue to advocate with the federal government for important projects for our state. We will continue to do that in regard to the Truro bypass and hope to see it funded in a future federal budget.

TRURO BYPASS PROJECT

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (14:36): Supplementary question.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Wortley, put a sock in it. The Hon. Ms Girolamo, I will listen to your supplementary. I don't know how you can ask a supplementary when you weren't listening to the answer, but I will listen to your supplementary.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: I was listening. She wasn't answering the question anyway.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: When was the last time the minister visited Truro, and what advocacy has she done for this project?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! I will rule. Minister, answer it how you see fit.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:37): I went to Truro. I will have to check my calendar, but it was maybe three or four weeks ago.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order, both sides!

TARRKARRI CENTRE FOR FIRST NATIONS CULTURES

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 Aboriginal Affairs about the Tarrkarri—Centre for First Nations Cultures.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.S. LEE: It has been reported that the Malinauskas Labor government requested the federal government to increase its \$85 million contribution to the Tarrkarri—Centre for First Nations Cultures. However, no additional funding has been allocated for the project in the federal budget handed down last night and it is clear that the Premier's request has been rejected. My questions to the minister are:

1. With the Premier stating in May last year that the project could cost up to \$600 million, how is the Malinauskas Labor government planning to complete the project without additional funding from the commonwealth?
2. Can the minister provide reassurance to the South Australian Aboriginal community that this important project will be going ahead?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:38): I thank the honourable member for her question. As I have stated in answers to questions in recent days, I am happy to give an almost identical answer again to what is an almost identical question.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: The money remains in the state budget for this project. We look forward to continued discussions with not just the federal government but other funding sources.

TARRKARRI CENTRE FOR FIRST NATIONS CULTURES

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:38): Supplementary: can the minister confirm when the project will go ahead?

The PRESIDENT: You can answer the question if you wish.

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS, UNION MOVEMENT

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI (14:39): My question is for the Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector. Will the minister inform the council about the relationship between the trade union movement and Aboriginal Australians?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:39): I thank the honourable member for her question and acknowledge the honourable member's long association with the trade union movement in Australia, particularly the United Workers Union.

I was recently delighted to receive an invitation from the Australian Council of Trade Unions Secretary, Sally McManus, and the ACTU Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee to speak at the upcoming ACTU Congress in June. The ACTU Congress is the highest decision-making body in the Australian trade union movement and will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre between 4 and 6 June. This is notable, as it's the first time the event has been held in person since pre-COVID—since 2018. It represents an opportunity for workers from every industry and unions to come together to set the movement's agenda for the next three years and determine policies and strategies for improving the lives of working people and making Australia fairer.

Having been invited to address the ACTU Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee, it is notable that throughout Australia's history there has been a remarkable solidarity between the trade union movement and Aboriginal Australians in overcoming both discrimination and disadvantage. One of the most well-known cases of this solidarity was the Wave Hill walk-off in 1966, which saw approximately 200 Gurindji stock men and women, domestic workers and their families

walk off the Wave Hill pastoral station in protest at poor working and living conditions, which included Aboriginal workers receiving only approximately a third of what their non-Aboriginal workers were receiving.

With the support of the trade union movement the Gurindji people were provided material and logistical support, transportation of supplies, raising funds for striking members and broader advocacy from union leaders across the nation. These actions, seeking fair wages—parity—and conditions, led to a decade-long struggle for land rights. From little things, big things grew in this endeavour, and the support and advocacy ultimately culminated in the historic handover of traditional lands to the Gurindji people by Gough Whitlam in 1975.

I also want to acknowledge the strong support the trade union movement has provided over the last couple of years, particularly in the lead-up to the referendum in Australia, in support of and in solidarity with Aboriginal people and, certainly in this state, the help and advice in relation to our First Nations Voice to our state parliament. I particularly want to acknowledge the First Nations workers from the Australian Services Union, who I have met with before, and also the First Nations workers from the United Workers Union in the gallery, who I had the pleasure of meeting here today, and who I know are supported by people like the Hon. Ms Mira El Dannawi in their endeavours.

I want to reiterate, and I have said in here a number of times before: I am a proud trade unionist. I am grateful for the decades of support that the trade union movement have stood in solidarity with and campaigned in support of Aboriginal people in this country.

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS, STOLEN WAGES

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:42): Supplementary: how will the government tackle the stolen wages of Aboriginal people in South Australia, given we are the last jurisdiction to take action on this matter?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:42): I thank the honourable member for her question. It's an issue that I know has been tackled. There have been legal decisions in other jurisdictions that have paved the way in a whole range of areas. We have led the nation in some areas: certainly in mainland Australia we were the first jurisdiction with a Stolen Generations Reparation Scheme, but we are always open to doing what we can further, including looking at stolen wages schemes.

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS, STATE ARCHIVES

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:43): Supplementary: will the government allow access to the state archives needed to address the stolen wages issue for redress and justice?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:43): I thank the honourable member for her question. The state archives question is a very good one and one that I have sought a quite a bit of information about. It often comes up in terms of reconnecting with families, members of stolen generations, probably more so than in terms of stolen wages.

It is something where I am interested in making sure that there is as much access as possible. The cultural complexities of the information that is held and making sure the access is not done in a way that communities wouldn't want it to be done is something that I didn't properly understand the complexities of, but it is an issue I'm aware of and certainly have asked to make it as easy as possible, bearing in mind the permission that is needed from communities and community leaders.

NATIVE BIRD HUNTING

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:44): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, on the topic of compliance of native bird hunting.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: A constituent has provided me with some correspondence that he received from the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water, Mr Ben Bruce, dated 16.4.24. In that correspondence, the chief executive of the department states:

I am advised there was a significant compliance operation undertaken over the 2024 opening weekend. Over those two days, 46 staff were on duty, patrolling across 17 hunting locations within the Riverland, Murraylands and Limestone Coast regions where duck hunting effort is concentrated.

My questions are:

1. What would these 46 Department for Environment and Water staff otherwise have been doing on the opening weekend of the duck hunting season?
2. What is the total cost to the department of employing 46 staff over the opening weekend to monitor duck hunters?
3. How many breaches were identified?
4. What monitoring equipment was used (for example, appropriate long-lens camera equipment)?
5. Is this good use of public money?
6. Does the permit fee paid by the hunters even go halfway to covering the cost of compliance of the duck hunting season?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:46): I thank the honourable member for her question. I would be most pleased to refer those to the minister in another place and bring back a reply for her.

FOOD PRODUCTION

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:46): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development on the topic of food production.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Over the past 18 months, we have seen policy decisions from both our state and federal Labor governments that have attacked our food producers here in South Australia. The federal government's industrial relations laws are a handbrake on all businesses, and agricultural businesses are by no means exempt, adding layers of complexity and creating disincentives to employ. The biosecurity levy is a tax on farmers and food producers.

The decision of the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for Environment and Water in this state to support mass buybacks of water out of the consumptive pool over water efficiency projects has prompted outrage and comments from South Australian food producers, such as Ben Haslett, who has said that removing that water removes the power to produce.

The lack of leadership by the minister on her government's own mandated sheep and goat eID rollout has left producers in the dark with regard to future investment and now we see the banning of live sheep exports, an industry worth \$143 million a year to our nation, which will have flow-on effects to the sheep industry here in South Australia.

So my question to the Minister for Primary Industries is: will the minister pull her support for these policies and condemn the actions of the federal government which continues to attack food producers here in South Australia and, if not, why not?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:48): I thank the honourable member for her question. Only two of the items that she mentioned refer to the state government and one of those is obviously a federal government initiative, being the water buybacks.

In terms of the water buybacks, as I have said in this place on previous occasions I believe, there is work being undertaken in terms of providing a business case to the federal government about

how those can most effectively be structured so that they provide a good outcome not only for the environment but also for areas such as the Riverland and for primary production.

In terms of eID, the improvement in traceability is incredibly important for primary producers because of the increased threats of diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease and others, that are close to our shores, although fortunately not currently within Australia. It is so important. Indeed, if those sorts of diseases got in, they would potentially destroy many of our primary production activities. That is continuing to roll out. We are working closely with industry, and the dates that have been originally announced for the first stage of implementation on 1 January next year, and then the second stage on 1 January 2027, are still on course.

FOOD PRODUCTION

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:49): Supplementary: should a ban be implemented, what investment is anticipated in the chilled meat export industry, and will this increase regional jobs in our state?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:49): I thank the honourable member for her supplementary question. I assume it was in relation to the live sheep export ban dates announced by the federal government earlier this week? Certainly, the federal government has indicated investment to assist producers here in Australia, and I would expect that some of that will go towards potentially—I am speculating, I will admit—increased processing capacity, which could have positive benefits for Australian jobs and for Australian producers.

FOOD PRODUCTION

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:50): Further supplementary: how will these increased jobs be filled given the current workforce shortage?

The PRESIDENT: You can answer it, minister, but that wasn't really arising from the original answer. That was from your second answer.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:50): I am happy to answer it. I must say I am surprised that those opposite—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —and specifically the Leader of the Opposition in this place, is arguing against Australian jobs. I would have thought we are always trying to increase jobs in Australia, and to be arguing against that is something that is incredibly disappointing, and I honestly think the leader should be ashamed.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Point of order: the minister is verbalising me, and I ask her to withdraw.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The PRESIDENT: Before I go to the Hon. Mr Wortley, can I acknowledge in the gallery the members of the South Australian Sikh Games committee.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

*Question Time***THRIVING REGIONS FUND**

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:51): My question is for the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding the Thriving Regions Fund Enabling Infrastructure Program. Will the minister update the chamber on the successful thriving regions enabling infrastructure application for additional short-term worker accommodation and services in Lock?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:51): I thank the honourable member for his question. It is particularly pertinent given that the provision of accommodation is, of course, most important for filling South Australian jobs, of which we want to see far more—both of the accommodation and of the jobs.

I am thrilled to announce that the District Council of Elliston has been granted \$665,000 to build short-term worker accommodation at Lock through the state government's Enabling Infrastructure Program. The \$665,000 is a significant contribution toward the project's overall cost of almost \$1 million.

The Enabling Infrastructure Program is a component of the \$15 million Thriving Regions Fund, aimed at providing support for the community and economic-enabling infrastructure projects. The Lock project will provide much-needed accommodation to support the needs of short-term workers who are hired for the T-Ports grain processing facility and Viterra during the harvest period. The project will combat long-distance travel for some workers to access their workplace with the project building two cabins: one two-bedroom cabin and one four-bedroom studio cabin.

Lock and the surrounding district are dependent on the income generated during the grain harvest, and having workers accommodated locally will boost local businesses such as the hotel, deli and supermarket, and increase the economic wellbeing of the community. Increased short-term housing will lead to additional people in town, supporting the entire district, not just the town itself. When the accommodation is not in use by short-term workers, tourists will be able to enjoy the accommodation, leading to a different type of visitor to town.

The Labor government has been diligent in understanding the needs of regional communities and has framed the Thriving Regions Fund Enabling Infrastructure Program to best focus on key regional initiatives. This project is a perfect example of what the Enabling Infrastructure Program sets out to achieve by supporting the development of infrastructure for the wider benefit of our regional communities.

Each application submitted through the Enabling Infrastructure Program has to demonstrate delivery against the majority of the following program objectives:

- value-added investment in priority community infrastructure that improves quality of life and/or attracts and retains people in our regions; and/or
- enabling infrastructure to attract and retain businesses (goods and services) in region and support a strong regional economy; and
- collaboration with other projects, programs or initiatives; and
- has broad regional community benefit; and
- has considered latent and future demand.

The Lock project will commence within six months, and I look forward to it demonstrating its success within the local community for many years to come.

ASPIRE PROGRAM

The Hon. S.L. GAME (14:54): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries, representing the Minister for Human Services, about the Aspire program.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: The Hutt St Centre runs Aspire, an amazing program fighting homelessness that has successfully secured housing for 81 per cent of its 575 clients since it began in 2017. However, it faces an uncertain future because the state government is yet to give assurance that it will keep funding the program. This is despite Treasury's own calculations estimating that it had saved almost \$13 million in avoiding hospitalisations, correctional services stays and emergency accommodation over the past six years.

With ongoing uncertainty the Hutt St Centre fears losing its outstanding social workers, who have no guarantee that their annual contracts will be renewed in June. Official figures calculated by Treasury and Deloitte indicate that the program saved the government almost \$33 million, comprising \$14.6 million in reduced hospital stays and criminal procedures and another \$18.1 million in future services. My questions to the minister are:

1. Will the government commit the \$15 million needed to keep the program running for the next seven years?
2. How will the government cover the estimated \$35 million return over seven years on this investment if it does not commit the \$15 million in funding?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:56): I thank the honourable member for her question. I am happy to refer it to the Minister for Human Services in the other place and bring back a response.

WINE INDUSTRY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:56): I seek leave to make a brief explanation prior to addressing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding the wine industry.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Last sitting week, in response to a question in this chamber on what the government is doing to support winegrowers to maintain production and diversify their land, the minister commented:

It is interesting that she (the honourable member) says that vine pulls are inevitable. I think there is certainly some active and live debate around that. One of the reasons for that live debate is the lack of data, particularly in other states around demand and supply....That means there is a lot of debate around the supply.

The oversupply of wine grapes used for commercial wine is a global issue and not confined to Australia. The excess production and declining market that is impacting the Australian wine sector is a global issue, and there is ample evidence of supply and demand imbalance both here and overseas and plenty of examples of how that oversupply is being addressed elsewhere. Just this morning, peak body Australian Grape & Wine's chief executive, Lee McLean, said on ABC radio that there is 'a crippling oversupply of red wine'.

I can quote other sources of data for the minister: the annual production sales and inventory report by Wine Australia; the Wine Australia Dashboard, which shows supply and demand data for inland wine-producing regions currently indicates a stock to sales ratio of 2.1—in other words, companies are holding an average of 2.1 times annual sales. For context, the long-term stock to sales ratio is 1.6. The Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Science report on wine production notes that:

The International Organisation of Wine and Vine estimates that between 1995 and 2022 annual global production averaged nearly 14 per cent higher than global consumption of wine.

Ciatti Global Market report for 2024 includes the quote:

The overall size of the 2024 crush is difficult to estimate as due to lack of demand a volume of red grapes has been left uncontracted and unmaintained.

Last but not certainly not least, the Wine Economics Centre at the University of Adelaide, a hugely respected source of information—Professor Kym Anderson from the centre gave a presentation on 23 April, entitled 'Crisis in Australia's wine industry: origins, hiccups and ways forward', which talks about a global surplus of reds. My questions to the minister are:

1. Was the minister unaware that there are numerous quality sources of wine sector data that all confirm the severity of the current oversupply situation?
2. Was the reason for the minister discounting the likelihood of vine removal and land diversification due to the lack of awareness of the severe and global nature of this trend?
3. Does the minister have a reason to downplay the high likelihood that there will be changes to the vineyard footprint in the Riverland?
4. Does the minister agree with the Liberal Party position that proactive planning and land diversification is required to preserve the agricultural production capacity of the Riverland region?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:59): I thank the honourable member for her question. I think she is either accidentally or deliberately misinterpreting my comments. They were said in the context—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Again, if they don't listen to the answer, it's probably not surprising that they often misinterpret things that have been said. The context of the comments, as I recall, was in regard to the difficulties of initiatives such as vine pulls when they may have unintended consequences; for example, if vine pulls on one side of the border are done but there is no similar program on the other side of the border, that doesn't improve the overall supply, particularly if the other region actually increases the number of vines and increases its plantings.

The level of detail that is required around the supply side is the question, and that is the information and the comments that have come from industry directly to me: that we need more information and that South Australia has very robust data, particularly through the vine health database, but that other states do not have that same level of data and the level of granularity in terms of the specifics.

To imply in her question that anyone who has been listening could not know that there is a global oversupply of red wine grapes is absolutely ridiculous. To suggest that anyone who has been listening here in Australia would contest that there is an oversupply of red wine is absolutely ridiculous. Again, she needs to really—instead of trying to score political points—listen to what the answers are, which she very rarely does.

The Hon. N.J. Centofanti interjecting:

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I can almost rest my case, given she is no longer listening but instead heckling as usual. In terms of the level of granularity, that is what industry has been asking for and that is what I was referring to.

ABORIGINAL LAW STUDENT MENTORING PROGRAM

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:01): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Will the minister inform the council about the recent launch event held for the Aboriginal Law Student Mentoring Program?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:01): I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in this area. The Aboriginal Law Student Mentoring Program is an excellent platform for Aboriginal people studying law at any of South Australia's universities to access support and mentorship, both in relation to their curriculum and their career aspirations and professional development.

Students are matched with experienced members of the legal profession who act as their mentor and give advice on navigating their studies, building a professional network and moving into the profession of their choosing. There is now a thriving cohort of high-calibre professionals who have offered up their guidance and expertise to the program, and it is warming to see the collective desire to see these exceptional students succeed. The program has five specific aims:

- to support Aboriginal students through a positive and individualised mentor relationship;
- to facilitate the transition of Aboriginal law students from their tertiary environment to legal practice;
- to provide an opportunity for legal practitioners in South Australia to participate in and contribute to the professional development of prospective practitioners;
- to increase awareness and broaden career options for Aboriginal law graduates; and
- to educate the legal profession generally, and the wider professional community, about the potential contribution of Aboriginal law graduates.

It was my great pleasure to join students, mentors and supporters of the program in the last couple of weeks for the launch of its 2024 program. Leata Clarke, from Wirringka Student Services at the University of South Australia, gave a very moving Welcome to Country before we heard from both the Law Society President and Judge Katrina Bochner about how they value the program and their hopes for its growth over the years to come.

The keynote speaker on the night was Ms Olivia Brownsey, an alumni of the program. Olivia spoke of the invaluable support she was provided with by her mentor while she was a student in the program and the confidence and opportunities she gained as a result, including travelling as part of a delegation to the United Nations while a student at the University of South Australia. Olivia currently works as an associate at Wallmans Lawyers, having worked at the Legal Services Commission and South Australian Native Title Services, and she is now a mentor to another student in the program, giving back to the program that helped her out.

I am sure that students on the night would have been inspired by Olivia's outstanding achievements and will be spreading the message to friends who might be interested in joining the program. I look forward to seeing the program continue to grow over the years to come and hearing all about the achievements of the students.

JUNK FOOD ADVERTISING

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:04): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question without notice to the minister representing the Minister for Health on the topic of junk food advertising.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: In a study by the Cancer Council, it was revealed that of the 253 advertisements related to food or drink on public transport assets within 500 metres of schools, almost 80 per cent were promoting junk food. Last year, I introduced a bill to restrict junk food advertising on public assets, public transport and within 500 metres of schools.

In February, a study published in the *British Medical Journal* found that high exposure to ultra processed food is associated with an increased risk of 32 health outcomes, including cancer. While the government opposed the bill, they did indicate, back on 14 September last year, that they would establish a working group to consider banning junk food advertising on public transport infrastructure. My question to the minister representing the Minister for Health therefore is: what is the status of that working group, when has it convened, and what action is the government taking on this issue?

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 his question and I will be sure to pass that on to the minister in another place and bring back a reply for him.

VICTIMS OF CRIME

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:05): My question is to the Attorney-General regarding victims of crime. How many recipients of victims of crime payments have been required to repay their compensation for any reason over the last two years?

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 will go and check but, as to actually repaying payments that have been made, I am not aware of any that have had to repay payments that they have received but, again, I will double-check that. The victims of crime compensation system is a scheme of last resort when there isn't another appropriate way to make a claim for the harm and suffering that has occurred as a result of being a victim of crime.

I know that on occasion there are payments made out of the scheme to someone who has suffered as a result of being a victim of crime, or a family member of a victim of crime, where civil action is then taken. Where civil action is taken as a result of some sort of failure of the South Australian government, I am advised, it is almost always the case that a deed of settlement will include whatever amount was paid by the government out of the Victims of Crime Fund being deducted from the amount that is paid.

So if a victims of crime compensation application has been successful and, for example, it was \$10,000, then later there was a civil action taken against the government and the government settles that for what would have been \$100,000, what I am advised is, almost always in that deed of settlement for that civil action, it will be that \$100,000 minus what has already been paid as victims of crime compensation, so that the amount that the deed of settlement would provide would be \$90,000.

When these civil actions generally occur, I am advised, usually the person making the claim is legally represented and those lawyers will negotiate that and advise their clients about the deed of settlement. Again, I will check for the honourable member, but I am not aware of money being sought to be paid back, but certainly where a victims of crime compensation amount has already been paid and there is a successful civil claim against the government, the deed of settlement generally with the people making the claims, getting legal advice, is offset by the amount that has already been paid out.

MARINE SCALEFISH FISHERY

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:08): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister tell the chamber about the announcement of the marine scalefish fishery blueprint to be funded by the Malinauskas government?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:08): I thank the honourable member for his question. I was very pleased, while I was in Port Lincoln last week for country cabinet, to announce that the government will fund the development of a marine scalefish fishery industry blueprint to be led by industry for industry. It will be an important piece of work for a sector that has undergone enormous change and its fair share of difficulty in recent times.

The former government's marine scalefish reform fundamentally changed the way the fishery operates, reducing the number of licences from over 300 to around 200 through a voluntary licence surrender program, and introducing individual transferrable quota for the remaining licence holders on the four key species, namely, King George whiting, snapper, southern calamari and southern garfish.

The aftermath of the reform has been difficult for many licence holders and made more difficult by the need for the snapper fishery to remain closed due to its depleted status. The Malinauskas government recognises these difficulties and has continued fee relief support for the sector upon the former government's four-year fee period of relief expiring in 2023-24, with an additional \$1.55 million over three years for quota holders in the fishery.

A further \$2.4 million in fee relief was provided as a result of the need to continue the closure of the snapper fishery. The fee relief for snapper quota holders will continue until the expiry of the current ban in mid-2026. There will be more to say about the future of the snapper fishery closer to 2026, when we see the results of the substantial research projects that were funded from the \$5 million Snapper Science Program that was announced at the time of the extended closure.

The industry blueprint steering committee will bring together key industry figures, chaired by the Hon. Pat Conlon, the former chair of the Marine Fishers Association, to map out the future of the fishery, develop a plan for sustainability and profitability of this hugely important sector, which is one

of the oldest industries in our state and one that continues to provide fresh seafood that generations of South Australians have enjoyed.

The scope of the proposed blueprint will be focused on high-level strategic issues to foster and progress the strategic development of South Australia's commercial MSF. It is anticipated that the blueprint will particularly focus on the next five years but also describe the longer term vision for the marine scalefish fishery. Feedback so far from the Marine Fishers Association and the South Australian Professional Fishers Association and other industry members who will be involved is positive, and I look forward to the development of the blueprint setting the course for the future of this important fishery.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:11): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Industrial Relations a question about the Whyalla steelworks.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: In the other place the Premier yesterday openly admitted his government was concerned about the recent revelations about the steelworks. It is actually grave. Liberty Steel, a subsidiary of Sanjeev Gupta's financially troubled GFG Alliance that owns the plant, has today confirmed the time line for steel production from the plant's proposed new electric arc furnace has blown out by two years to 2027, yet another broken promise from Mr Gupta.

This is a catastrophic kick in the guts for the good people of Whyalla and follows the revelation that the plant's coal-fired blast furnace has been offline for the past eight weeks and is not likely to be fully functioning and producing steel until sometime in July. That is if it has any coke to burn, because I am informed he was unable to pay for a recent shipment and it returned to India.

As the Premier articulated yesterday, the future of the steelworks is a matter of national concern, as it is the only producer of significant structural steel in the country, which needs to have a secure, sovereign supply of steel not only for our future economic growth but also for our national security. Coincidentally, the Minister for Energy and Mining is currently overseas.

It may well be an SOS (save our steelworks), with one of his meetings planned with Danieli, the private Italian-based company making the arc furnace. This is all happening as yet more serious questions are being raised about Mr Gupta's financially troubled global business empire, which saw UK police raid his offices earlier this week and seize documents as part of their fraud investigation. In further disturbing news, I have been informed that creditors in the Czech Republic are now chasing Mr Gupta for \$US350 million, hence why Danieli has held up delivering the furnace he has ordered in that country. My questions to the minister are:

1. Are the jobs of hundreds of workers at the steelworks now under threat, or do they face having their wages slashed further due to this delay?
2. When did the government become aware of the latest setback by Mr Gupta?
3. Is Danieli demanding, or is the government offering, a taxpayer bailout of Mr Gupta by providing financial undertakings for the cost of delivering the furnace, which is between €500 million and €700 million, close to a billion Australian dollars, money Mr Gupta doesn't appear to have? If not, why then is the minister visiting Danieli at all?
4. Is the government seeking advice on GFG Alliance's financial state?
5. Is the government planning to take an equity stake in the steelworks to secure its future?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:14): I thank the honourable member for his question. In relation to my role as Minister for Industrial Relations, as the honourable member is no doubt aware, the state has no role in private sector industrial relations, and hasn't for some time, around the country with referral of powers to the commonwealth government.

In relation to the steelworks in Whyalla, I want to make one thing absolutely clear: this government will stand behind Whyalla and its people. I recall, as a minister in the last government, when there were extremely serious concerns about the future of the steelworks and therefore the jobs of in excess of 1,000 workers directly, I think, in Whyalla, and many more indirectly, the then government, led by Jay Weatherill, stood steadfast behind Whyalla and its people and provided support in a whole range of areas, including providing support for contractors at the steelworks who needed help in terms of cash flow and in making sure that they stayed afloat.

The other thing that the City of Whyalla has in its favour is the member for Giles, Eddie Hughes. He is a fierce advocate for Whyalla and a former steelworker in the steelworks at Whyalla. With a Labor government and a member like Eddie Hughes, I think the people of Whyalla can be assured we will do everything in our power to make sure that that town sees its potential.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:16): Supplementary—and hear, hear, Attorney—has the government discussed the possibility of subsidising the cost of the electric arc furnace if Mr Gupta can't pay for it?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:16): That is not any discussion that I have been a part of or am aware of.

VICTIMS OF CRIME FUND

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:16): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking questions of the Attorney-General regarding victims of crime payments.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: It was reported yesterday, or in fact earlier this week, that the family of murdered children Amber Rose Rigney and Korey Lee Mitchell were required to repay the state government the \$40,000 they had received from the Victims of Crime Fund before receiving an out-of-court compensation settlement due to the failures of the Department for Child Protection in stopping the siblings' 'preventable' deaths.

Lawyers for Amber and Korey's grandparents, Steve Egberts and Jane Wells, have written to the Attorney, seeking his intervention to see the \$40,000 returned to them, arguing the payment was made because the perpetrator pleaded guilty and was not connected with the workings of the department in any way. A spokesman for the Attorney-General told *The Advertiser* that the government would 'carefully consider and take advice on any request that is received from the family'. My questions to the Attorney are simply:

1. Does the Attorney agree with the initial demand for the \$40,000 victims of crime payment to be returned to the state government?
2. When does the Attorney expect a decision will be made with respect to the request for the Victims of Crime Fund payment to be returned to Mr Egberts and Ms Wells?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:18): I thank the honourable member for his question. As I outlined in answer to a question earlier today, my advice is that money, in these sorts of circumstances, isn't being asked to be repaid.

When there is a successful application for a victims of crime payment—and the victims of crime payment is, as I outlined earlier, a scheme of last resort for providing some sort of compensation for someone or someone's family who has suffered as a result of a criminal offence—and where a payment has been made and there is a subsequent civil claim made against the state, my advice is that what typically happens is that that is negotiated or litigated in the usual manner that civil claims are negotiated and litigated. Once an agreement is reached, or through proceedings, I am advised that typically there is a deed of settlement that takes into account anything that is paid from the Victims of Crime Fund.

My advice is it isn't the case that someone is asked to repay money to the state, but typically in a deed of settlement. As I understand it, if there are legal practitioners involved, the legal practitioner will obviously give advice to their client about whether or not to enter into the deed of settlement. The deed of settlement, I am advised, typically provides that whatever the final amount reached is would be minus the victims of crime payment that has already been paid.

In the example I gave earlier, if there was a \$10,000 victims of crime payment and there are negotiations and it is decided in the negotiations that \$100,000 would be a fair and reasonable settlement for the claim, there would be further negotiations and a deed of settlement reached where the balance—that is, \$90,000—is paid. My advice is typically in these cases it is not that anything is sought to be recovered, but that further payments in a civil claim take into account any initial payment from that scheme of last resort.

VICTIMS OF CRIME FUND

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:20): Supplementary: in this particular case, Attorney, are you aware of the status of the situation? How long until an outcome?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:20): My understanding in this particular case is that the state has reached an agreement with the claimants involved, who were legally represented, and that a deed of settlement has been reached that in fact does take that into account. I am advised it takes into account a payment for the civil claim minus the original payment from the scheme of last resort.

ABORIGINAL LITERACY FOUNDATION

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (15:21): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Will the minister please inform the chamber about the work of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation and their recent success winning the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award for children's literature?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:21): I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in this area. The Indigenous Literacy Foundation began as the Riverbend Readers' Challenge in 2004 and launched with the goal to raise funds to promote and improve literacy outcomes in remote Australia. In 2007, the Readers' Challenge and the Fred Hollows Foundation partnered to become the Indigenous Literacy Project, which in 2011 became the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation runs programs that focus on encouraging children to read and write in their own language as well as English. The foundation does this through securing access to literature for remote communities, and in doing so they empower the community to take the lead in the process of these programs, promoting leadership and teaching amongst the community. Having the community take carriage of these programs ensures ownership and authenticity is upheld throughout the process with community elders and residents.

Working with many remote communities in South Australia as well as other jurisdictions, the Indigenous Literacy Foundation has, since 2011, provided over 750,000 books, supplied 100 playgroups with resources that promote early literacy—some written in English and some with Aboriginal language translations—and published 109 books highlighting 31 different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Earlier this month, the Indigenous Literacy Foundation was awarded the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. Created in 2002 by the Swedish government, the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award is awarded yearly to a person or organisation for their contribution to children's and young adults' literature. The aim of the award is to highlight the importance of reading in younger people and the ability literature has to bridge the gap of understanding and exchange between cultures and people.

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation was one of 245 candidates from 68 countries and regions to be nominated, taking out the top prize, which has a payment of \$A725,000, the largest award of its kind in the world. The jury for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award identified the

foundation's work in celebrating First Nations culture and language and highlighting the value of all people's own language and stories. To quote the jury:

By spreading books and stimulating reading, storytelling and creativity, the Indigenous Literacy Foundation builds on the desire to read and fosters pride, self-confidence and a sense of belonging. Every child has the right to their language and their stories.

I want to thank the Indigenous Literacy Foundation for the incredibly important work they have carried out in South Australia for over a decade and the way they have amplified the voices and stories that this country was built upon. I would also like to commend the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award for using their global platform to shine a light on the incredible work this foundation does, recognising the rich and important history our nation has.

Matters of Interest

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (15:25): National Volunteer Week is our nation's annual celebration of volunteering. This year, National Volunteer Week will be observed from 20 to 26 May. This celebration offers us the opportunity each year to honour the fundamentally important contribution that volunteers make across all of our community. It also aims to inspire people who are not currently volunteering to consider giving it a try.

This year's theme for National Volunteer Week is 'Something for everyone', highlighting not only the diverse passions and talents that our volunteers bring to their endeavours but also that there are so many different ways to volunteer one's time and skills. No matter your interests or what you might like to do, this year's message is that across all areas of our society there is a place for everyone in the world of volunteering.

The work of volunteers makes our communities better and more vibrant places. They are the heart and soul of so many communities and all would agree that we should never take their contributions for granted. Part of the reason that we mark National Volunteer Week each year is so that we can send our volunteers the very clear message that we recognise them, we appreciate them and we understand that we are richer for their many and varied contributions to our state and nation.

Volunteers make an immeasurable contribution to the wellbeing of our communities and, notably, they also make a very significant contribution to our economy. South Australian volunteers altogether contribute an estimated 1.7 million hours of unpaid work each year. The value of that unpaid work is estimated at almost \$5 billion. Volunteers certainly do not give their time with the goal in mind of saving our state money, but their efforts often do have that effect and this fact should be rightly recognised.

Another way that we recognise the very deserving volunteers across our community is with the South Australian Volunteer Awards, which this year will take place next week on Wednesday 22 May, coinciding with National Volunteer Week. Established by the South Australian government in 2005, these awards recognise the significant benefit that volunteers offer to our community across a number of categories, such as the Joy Noble Medal, our highest distinction for an individual volunteer; 'The Andamooka' Community Project Award, recognising a community or group volunteer project of significant community benefit; as well as the Young Volunteer Award, the Excellence in Volunteer Management Award and the Premier's Award for Corporate Social Responsibility. The awards are presented by Volunteering SA&NT and proudly supported by the South Australian Department of Human Services.

The tireless work of South Australian volunteers enables and supports many of our organisations to deliver crucially important services to our communities. Without the support of volunteers, these organisations simply would not be able to achieve the scale and reach that volunteers make possible.

It would be remiss of me not to make special mention of the volunteers who put their own safety on the line to preserve ours. Our CFS and SES volunteers willingly put themselves in danger to help others during bushfires, floods and other emergencies. These volunteers are very special people on whom we rely for our safety and, occasionally, for our very survival. We are so grateful for all that they do.

I also want to pay particular tribute to just a few of the volunteers and volunteer groups who I have had the privilege of knowing and engaging with: OzHarvest, the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Kensington Residents' Association and Monique Bareham, all of whom do extraordinary work in their respective areas of contribution, inspiring me and countless others in the process. I am grateful for the rich contributions you all make to our community.

More broadly, I commend the dedicated and critically important work of every South Australian volunteer. Giving freely of your time with no expectation of reward beyond the fulfillment that is found in helping others is a selfless and commendable act of generosity. South Australians are very fortunate that we can find such selflessness on display right across our society in the diverse contributions of our volunteers. I thank you for all that you do, and I know that all members here join me in wishing you the very best for National Volunteer Week 2024.

LGBTI DISCRIMINATION

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:30): In a liberal democracy such as ours, our laws should protect all of us equally. Most South Australians would recognise and support that principle. Yet LGBTI people are discriminated against by some religious educational institutions and faith-based service providers across the country every day. These organisations do so because our laws allow it.

A groundbreaking report by Equality Australia, entitled 'Dismissed, Denied and Demeaned: a national report on LGBTQ+ discrimination in faith-based schools and organisations', has found that LGBTI discrimination is endemic in religious schools and organisations across our country. According to Equality Australia, Australian LGBTI students are more likely to attend an independent school that discriminates against them than one that supports them. Indeed, one in three students and almost two in five staff are enrolled or employed in private schools, most of which are religiously affiliated.

More than 70,000 students and 10,000 staff in non-government schools are estimated to be LGBTI, according to the report, which includes 26 personal accounts of discrimination in these environments. Included in these accounts are stories about students who have been forced out of school or teachers who have been fired from their jobs or denied promotions simply for being who they are. In other cases, children have been told that they could go to hell.

The report also found that Catholic school authorities maintain a damaging and oppressive culture of silence, with nine out of 10 of those reviewed—educating 70 per cent of all students in Australian Catholic schools—publishing so little information about LGBTI inclusion that prospective parents, students or employees cannot tell whether they will be welcomed or whether they will face discrimination. This is also the case for one in three independent schools.

This points to a systemic suppression of LGBTI identities and lives. For young people coming of age and exploring who they are, the silence about LGBTI people is deafening. Silence says to these young people that they must remain hidden and ashamed of who they are if they want to keep their jobs or if they want to remain in school.

The report also found that almost one in 10 of Australia's largest faith-based service providers publicly discriminate against LGBTI people, while almost four in 10 are silent on their positions on LGBTI inclusion. Four in 10 people work for an organisation that has an unclear position or discriminates against LGBTI people.

The door should always be open—open to LGBTI people who need health care, housing or disability support no matter who is delivering that service. Sitting on the fence is no longer good enough. Services must be inclusive and say so to ensure equal access for everybody who needs support.

When introducing the report, the Hon. Michael Kirby AC, former justice of the High Court of Australia, described the broad-based religious exemptions and anti-discrimination laws as neither principled nor just. Justice Kirby states:

There is increasing understanding, and broad acceptance in Australia, that the past overly broad religious exemptions go beyond what is essential and sometimes diminish the enjoyment of the dignity and rights of others.

It is important to note that these organisations rely on billions and billions of dollars of public funding, but they are not required to comply with the same laws as other organisations when it comes to

employment, education and service delivery. It really is appalling that these organisations getting government funds are getting a 'get out of jail' card.

Successive federal governments have failed to address these gaps in the law, which directly impact on so many people in our community. Indeed, the law in Australia and at the commonwealth level—and in all states and territories—is out of step with 21st century community expectations. It needs to change. Everyone deserves the same protection from discrimination, and if you get public money like these schools do, like these organisations do, they do not have a right to deny service to people who need help. They do not have a right to threaten the employment of their staff in our 21st century Australia. It is appalling.

There was a push at a national level to reform this, but it seems to have stalled over in Canberra and the Albanese government has not taken the action needed. The Greens are calling for the Malinauskas Labor government to step up and change the law at a state level. Friday is International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia. What a powerful thing it would be if this state Labor government stepped up and said we are finally going to fix this problem with our law to ensure that all South Australians, irrespective of their sexuality or gender identity, are equal before the law and get the same protection under the laws of our state.

DRUG DECRIMINALISATION

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:35): I have always been of the opinion that decriminalising any illicit substance is not the approach governments should be taking when it comes to protecting the community from the harms of drug use. In very recent times, it has become increasingly evident that drug decriminalisation simply does not work, and I will give evidence of that in just a moment. Members may indeed be aware of recent reports that lawmakers in Oregon have been forced to walk back their decriminalisation policies due to the seriousness and destructive consequences of their legislation. These developments certainly serve as a precaution for other governments around the world, including our own.

Oregon's drug decriminalisation policy, known as Measure 110, was passed in November 2020. Its aim was to address drug addiction as a public health issue rather than a criminal one by decriminalising the possession of small amounts of drugs, including what we might consider the most serious ones like heroin, for example, methamphetamine, LSD, and others such as oxycodone, etc. Instead of facing criminal charges in the circumstances, individuals found to be in possession of the substances I have just listed, and others, would be subject to civil citations and required to attend a health assessment to determine if they needed treatment. I am not against the health assessment part; there is some merit in that.

While Oregon's decriminalisation experiment may have been touted as a bold and aggressive attempt to address drug addiction, it had unintended, yet I would argue certainly foreseeable, consequences that proved detrimental to the very community it was endeavouring to protect. Indeed, Portland Mayor, Ted Wheeler, stated:

Fentanyl—

He listed other drugs, but in this particular passage he is talking specifically about fentanyl, but he said similar things about other drugs—

wreaks havoc on the people in its grips, often rendering them lifeless on our sidewalks.

It also begets violence among those who bring this deadly poison into our city.

This devastation and trauma unfolds on the doorsteps of homes, businesses, and in the streets, impacting nearly everyone in some way.

Earlier this year, the Oregon state legislature vowed to repeal its three-year-old laws decriminalising drug possession for personal use, joining other cities, namely San Francisco and Washington DC, which are similarly adopting a tough on drugs stance having gone down the decriminalisation path and seeing it fail.

This reversion came after there was a significant surge in fatal overdoses and public drug use. The statistics are certainly concerning. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reveals that deaths from drug overdose surged by almost 50 per cent from 1,171 in 2021,

when possession of drugs for personal use was first decriminalised, to 1,683 in October 2023. According to the Oregon Health Authority, most of the deaths were caused by opioids, one of which of course is fentanyl, as well as others.

The number of homeless people in Portland, the state's largest city, also spiked to almost 6,300 in 2023, which was a 65 per cent increase since 2015. In response to the scourge in public drug use and associated antisocial behaviour, state and local leaders declared a 90-day emergency in January this year. The state's newly introduced legislation to combat the problems that arose from decriminalisation now intends to make Portland safer through cracking down on drug use in particular and granting police greater powers to intervene.

I would argue that a zero tolerance approach to drugs sends the clear message that drug use is detrimental and can be extremely harmful, not only to the individual but to those in their families, in their workplaces, etc. By creating and enforcing penalties for drug possession, and trafficking especially, a tough on drugs approach has a far better chance of deterring or preventing individuals from experimenting with drugs, and it has a more impactful consequence, if you like, than as we have seen in the US, where they were removing criminal sanctions.

Law enforcement agencies operating under this system can assist in combatting and reducing drug-related crime to foster a safer environment for residents, and healthcare systems and social services are less burdened with drug-related illnesses, although of course they have an important role to play.

I have no doubt the proponents of drug decriminalisation have the best intentions, but I believe it is clear from what is transpiring overseas that decriminalisation is ineffective in addressing drug use and addiction. It is my sincere hope that we will learn from the experience in Oregon, Washington, San Francisco and other cities around the world, including some European cities, that have walked back their decriminalisation position and now take a much harder line on illicit drug use.

DEMENTIA

The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:40): Today, I wish to speak about the correlation between dementia and loneliness. At the outset, I was prompted by a very thought-provoking Parliamentary Friends of Dementia event in the last sitting week, and would like to thank the Hon. Erin Thompson and the Hon. Penny Pratt for bringing that event to this place, where Dementia Australia presented a range of interactive experiences designed to convey what it is like to live with and to care for someone with dementia.

A lot of work went into that by Dementia Australia, and it was a great opportunity to see the extraordinary work they do on this front. The events themselves included participating in a virtual reality experience, the Enabling Education Dementia Immersive Experience. The objective was to attempt to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night and experience the challenges associated with that. I also attempted to persuade an AI simulation named Ted to shower for the day, which proved surprisingly difficult. Both tasks were confronting and difficult to achieve.

Dementia Australia curated these experiences by interviewing and drawing on the lived experiences of people and individuals in the early stages of dementia. The association works to improve the lives of those who care for or are suffering from this heartbreaking disease, and what they do is nothing short of remarkable. We know there is a clear link and correlation between loneliness and dementia, and it is one of the issues I spoke about to the organisers of the event.

According to the State of the Nation Report on Social Connection in Australia 2023, the risk of older adults developing dementia is increased by a staggering 50 per cent when they experience prolonged loneliness. They are extraordinary figures. As I have highlighted on several occasions in this place, loneliness impacts one in three Australians. We have figures that show that feeling lonely is one of the major risk factors for cognitive decline and dementia and Alzheimer's disease, amongst others. Studies have been published in the past that have shown the relationship between loneliness and subsequent brain changes. We know that researchers in the past have recorded the level of loneliness amongst dementia-free adults of the average age of 75, alongside cognitive tests and brain MRI scans, and we can see the correlation between these issues.

Over the next 10 years I am advised that something like 22 per cent of the lonely participants developed dementia compared with just 13 per cent of those not classified as lonely. There are obviously degrees of loneliness when we speak about it, but the evidence is overwhelming in terms of the impact it has, particularly in terms of increasing the risk of diseases across the board, and dementia more specifically. I know that this is something that is specifically on Dementia Australia's radar and is one of the issues that we discussed at length at that event.

We know also that the people most likely to experience dementia are older people. Yes, they can join social groups, but there is an extraordinary amount of work being done by groups like Dementia Australia to keep them more engaged, even at home where they may not have the benefits of being able to join those social groups. Carers who look after people with severe loneliness are also recorded as being 37 per cent more likely to experience loneliness themselves, compared with 30 per cent of non-carers.

I have said that the correlation between loneliness and dementia is just one part, but it is nonetheless an important one. I commend the organisers of this parliamentary friends group. I thank them especially for bringing this event to Parliament House. It was truly eye-opening. I would also like to acknowledge the very important work of the Hon. Sarah Game in terms of highlighting children's dementia. It is one thing to contemplate life with dementia; I think it is unfathomable to even contemplate the impact this would have on young children, so I do acknowledge the work that she has done and her advocacy in this space. With those words, I would like to give a huge shout-out to Hamish from Pembroke for helping me with today's MOI.

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (15:45): Today, I rise to highlight the horrific deficiencies in disability services in South Australia, particularly in relation to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the bureaucratic hurdles our most vulnerable people often have to leap through to get the support they need and deserve. As the shadow minister for disabilities, I receive numerous queries from constituents approaching me and my staff with complex disability inquiries. Whilst I take the opportunity whenever I can to listen, I can only do so much with the resources I have from opposition.

These constituents include mums who have children with complex needs who end up in hospital beds due to a breakdown with their support provider; terminally ill patients who choose to voluntarily end their lives after being kicked off the NDIS due to being palliative; schoolchildren and young adults waiting two years for assessments they desperately need relating to autism and ADHD diagnoses, delaying the support they need and deserve; and clients who have had changes in circumstances where their needs increase and their funds dwindle while they wait months and months to receive a response from the scheme.

Whilst the federal NDIS minister, Bill Shorten, holds the looming threat of NDIS cuts over the heads of clients, this state's human services minister, Nat Cook, stays quiet. Premier Peter Malinauskas and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese are taking their time to decide where the funding will come from for people who are struggling to get the basic care they need, let alone foundational supports, early interventions or simply just advocacy. The Labor governments are more concerned about negotiating GST top-ups, who is going to pay for what, and more or less responsibility, while clients sit in the dark.

On Wednesday 10 April this year, the human services minister played politics when the member for Flinders, Mr Sam Telfer MP, asked in the other place about the 134 patients who were supposed to be moved to permanent out-of-hospital disability housing under the department's Transition to Home scheme. I know of multiple children living with disabilities who have gone into hospital this year because there is nowhere else for them to go. At a time when South Australia is experiencing a health system in crisis under the pressure of unprecedented levels of ambulance ramping, a hospital bed should never be a replacement for a safe home in our community.

From the perspective of providers, they feel under-engaged and under-supported in having to meet the new guidelines such as the 1:3 ratio of clients to support workers for SIL accommodation. The shocking truth is that there are beds and vacancies that providers have, but there is no way to fill these vacancies due to the changes in the ratio.

Many properties do not accommodate the three-plus NDIS participants and are remaining vacant. This is also resulting in enormous delays from the NDIS, meaning clients are waiting for their packages instead of accessing the services they need. With a new Assistant Minister for Autism, an NDIS review, a royal commission and a federal NDIS minister, the South Australian Labor government have all the resources at hand to change and deliver.

In fact, over seven months ago now, the final report of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability was released and the state minister, Nat Cook, is yet to respond. Of the 222 recommendations for root-and-branch reforms on how education, health, housing, employment and legal systems are run for people with disability, not a single state Labor minister has responded let alone acted. Whilst the report recommended all governments must publish responses to the recommendations by 31 March this year, the Labor governments have put it into the too-hard basket.

From the all Labor Joint Statement on Australian State and Territory responses to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, I quote:

Given the scale and complexity of reform recommended, and the importance of consulting widely and understanding implications, all governments will formally respond to the Royal Commission's final report after 31 March 2024.

This is unacceptable. Four years of a national \$600 million investigation and report with almost 10,000 individuals sharing their experiences and Labor still wants more consultation; 222 recommendations and they still cannot understand what is being asked. Labor must listen, they must act and they must do it promptly.

OFFICE FOR MEN

The Hon. S.L. GAME (15:51): It is not surprising that close to 97 per cent of all workplace deaths are men. Men are more likely to work in essential labour employment that carries greater workplace risk. They work as road and rail drivers, fishermen, farmers, labourers, forestry workers, construction and mining machinery operators, and protective services such as firefighting, police and security.

We have an Office for Women but it is men who are more likely to face extreme challenges, yet the government refuses to fund a minister for men or an office for men. Our society has long expected men to go to war, be the main breadwinners, take on high pressure professions, be away from their children and never complain. I continue to advocate for creating an office and minister for men, mirroring the already established system for women.

The Office for Women is pivotal in empowering South Australian women, fostering gender equity and shaping policies via the Premier's Council for Women. This is done in collaboration with the Minister for Women, assimilating women's perspectives and gender equality into government policymaking. It is commendable. However, there is a distinct lack of transparency when it comes to deciphering how the funding is allocated for the Office for Women.

The glaring absence of an equivalent framework for men is both noticeable and unacceptable. The need for an office for men and a minister for men is palpable. Australian men live on average four years less than their female counterparts and have fewer healthy years of life compared with women. Three-quarters of Australian suicide victims are men, with many refraining from seeking help due to societal stigma, cost, or fear of being perceived as weak.

Men, although less recognised, can also be victims of domestic violence. Studies indicate that one in three men are victims of family violence and abuse in Australia. Yet funding often overlooks male victims, as seen in the 2022-23 federal budget when \$1.7 billion was allocated to address gender-based violence, yet the budget failed to recognise male domestic violence victims. Men face significant risks at work. As I mentioned before, data reveals that 97 per cent of workplace deaths in Australia involve men and they account for over 64 per cent of serious injury claims.

Men are especially vulnerable on our roads, with 70 per cent of car crash fatalities in South Australia being male. Men are more prone to substance abuse, partly reflected in these car crash fatality statistics, and yet over the last eight years the National Health and Medical Research

Council invested five times more funding in women's health compared with men's health: \$707.9 million and \$148.2 million respectively.

Overall, women's health received seven and a half times more investment than men's health: \$1.1 billion compared with less than \$150 million. The National Women's Health Strategy, launched by the federal government in April 2019, received three times more than the National Men's Health Strategy: \$52.2 million and \$17.9 million respectively. In May 2021, the National Women's Health Strategy received \$535.8 million, while the National Men's Health Strategy received no funding.

Disparities between men and women are significant when considering men are more likely to be homeless, have higher levels of loneliness and suicide, and boys often have poorer educational outcomes. The message that boys are receiving from elements of Western society about being a man or manhood is becoming increasingly confusing. This is affecting men's personal lives, including how they relate to women, work and society. There seems to be a backlash against masculinity and a sense that there is something toxic about masculinity.

It is important to understand that there is nothing wrong with showing masculinity and there are attributes associated with masculinity that hold great value. However, the confusion around masculinity stems from the word often being associated with toxic male traits. There are biological differences between men and women that express themselves in temperament and occupational choice. Fundamentally, masculinity is the qualities or attributes regarded as characteristic of men.

Feminists encourage strong female role models, referring to them as positive, encouraging and empowering. In our increasingly woke culture, men who have those same traits are often referred to as exhibiting toxic masculinity. They are being stigmatised because they are men and for no other reason. Establishing an office and minister for men will give Australian men the representation and support they deserve.

AL NAKBA ANNIVERSARY

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI (15:55): Today, 15 May, is an annual day of mourning for Palestinians, who will commemorate the anniversary of the 1948 Nakba, or 'the catastrophe' in English. The destruction of Palestinian society and homeland was carried out by Zionist forces on this day in 1948 in what would become the modern state of Israel. Around 750,000 Palestinians were either violently expelled or fled under the threat of violence from their homes, becoming permanently displaced with no right of return. At least 15,000 Palestinians were killed.

Today, I would like to share some stories. Eighteen-year-old Dima al-Lamdani recounts the day that her residential building was attacked by Israeli military forces. Of the nearly 50 people in the building, 17 were members of Dima's family. Only Dima, her brother and her two young cousins survived. When she was brought to identify the bodies of her loved ones, she could hardly recognise them as their features changed.

Samah Aladini lost her daughter, whose home was struck without warning. Now caring for her six-year-old granddaughter Nai'emah, who survived the air strike, Samah says, 'I remember my slain daughter. How can her little girl live without parents?' The air strike had killed Nai'emah's parents, paternal grandparents and her siblings. She recalls that her mother had been cooking, her grandfather listening to the radio and her grandmother praying.

Little Omar was only seven years old when his family home was hit. His mother, his father and his twin brother were all killed, leaving him in the care of his aunt. A doctor who treated him remembers trying to understand why he was repeatedly closing his eyes. Omar's aunt explained that Omar was so terrified that he would forget what his mother and father looked like. He closed his eyes because he could not bear the thought that not only had he lost them in this world but that he might also lose them in his imagination.

Tala Herzallah, a 21-year-old university student, recalls being trapped with her brother, his wife and his children, her mother and her father after her workplace was destroyed. There was blood everywhere and they were counting their days and their minutes until death. Nowhere was safe, and everything was scarce.

These stories are not from the Nakba 1948. These are all stories from civilians in Gaza throughout the last seven months. Their stories are not unique. If I stood for a week in this chamber, I still would not be able to tell them all. You may hear people today say that we are witnessing a second Nakba, but that is not the case. The Nakba never ended. The Nakba is not an isolated event in history. It has manifested itself into an ongoing system of oppression. It is a practice that both preceded and followed the establishment of the Israeli state.

Since 7 October 2023, the United Nations has reported over 35,000 fatalities in Gaza, with nearly 10,000 bodies still unidentified. Eighty thousand people have been maimed and two million displaced, there is a mass famine and everything has been destroyed. With 1.3 million Palestinians sheltering in Rafah, 600,000 of them being children, the Israeli state's latest ground invasion demonstrates, yet again, a blatant disregard for the basic principles of international humanitarian and human rights laws. To attack what is now the primary humanitarian hub in the Gaza Strip, where many are already injured, sick, malnourished, traumatised or living with disability, is land seizure through force. This is an attempt to erase an entire population, their culture and their personhood.

History has shown us that, once displaced, Palestinians are not allowed to return. So what will happen to those millions who remain displaced in Gaza? The difference between the 1948 Nakba and the catastrophe that we are seeing today is not the actions of the Israeli state but the fact that we in the West now have a front-row seat to the horror, thanks to social media and technology. To quote author William S. Burroughs, there are no innocent bystanders.

Motions

IRAN, HUMAN RIGHTS

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI (16:01): I move:

That this council—

1. Notes that 2024 marks 45 years since the Iranian Revolution of 1979, which dramatically altered the sociopolitical landscape of Iran;
2. Condemns the Iranian regime's systemic repression and violation of human rights, including through suppression of women's rights, religious persecution, the use of morality police, public executions, torture, and state-sponsored terrorism;
3. Notes the concern over Tehran's growing use of terrorism, espionage, cyber attacks and hostage-taking diplomacy to restrict and eliminate the Iranian democratic opposition;
4. Supports people in Iran in their demands for a just, democratic and secular Iran and urges the international community to do the same;
5. Endorses the United Nations' independent investigation into human rights violations and the commonwealth's targeted sanctions against individuals and entities found to be directly responsible for or complicit in these violations;
6. Calls on the state government to continue dialogue and engagement with Iranian community associations and diaspora communities to amplify their voices and support their efforts; and
7. Calls on the federal government to continue dialogue with Iran to address the human rights violations being perpetrated against people in Iran.

I rise today to shed light on the human rights situation in Iran and lend my voice to the people of Iran in their demand for a just, democratic and secular state. Forty-five years ago, the sociopolitical landscape of Iran was dramatically altered by the Iranian Revolution. The 1979 Iranian Revolution is one of the most important events of the late 20th century. It promised three goals: social justice, freedom and democracy, and independence from the ruling class. Instead, one dictatorship was replaced by another.

Today, the Iranian regime has systematically trampled upon the very freedoms and liberties that the revolution sought to gain. The voices of dissent are stifled, and the aspirations of the people in Iran for a better and more just society are met with brutality and intimidation. This alarming trend has only continued to escalate following the nationwide protests in September 2022, triggered by the death of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Jina Amini.

The Iranian regime's oppression of Jina was multidimensional, as is the experience for many people in Iran, especially Iranian ethnic and religious minorities. It constitutes a denial of political, cultural and physical rights. Her own name, Jina, was subject to the regime's authority, and Jina was forced to use the Persian name Mahsa in her dealings with the state. I respect her family, her memory and her autonomy in calling her by her real name.

Jina was arrested by the Guidance Patrol, also known as the morality police, on the grounds that she had worn tight pants and had worn her headscarf improperly. This is a law born out of the 1979 Islamic Revolution that made it mandatory for all women in Iran to wear hijabs that cover their head and neck and conceal their hair. This law is so integral to the regime's control over women that, in a three-month period in 2014, 220,000 women were taken to police stations to sign statements in which they promised to wear hijabs.

As reported by the United Nations Human Rights Office, women who fail to adhere to the law are subject to violent beatings and are pushed into police vans in which they are driven to a correctional facility or police station. They are lectured on how to dress, they have their photos taken by police and their personal information is recorded. Some are released but many are detained. Under Iran's Islamic Criminal Code the penalty for this consists of imprisonment from 10 days to two months and fines of 50,000 to 500,000 Iranian rials. Violators may also be lashed up to 74 times.

Those detained with Jina on that day witnessed her brutal physical and mental torture by police and she died as a result of her injuries just days later. Sadly, this is just one event within a long history of the Iranian regime's systematic violations against human rights. Nationwide protests began hours after Jina's death, beginning at the hospital in Tehran where she was treated and quickly spreading to other parts of the country. Since 2022, Iran has continued to witness a troubling pattern of humanitarian violations perpetrated by the government and its security operators.

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Javaid Rehman, released a report on 26 February 2024. The reporting period included continuing and considerable state-orchestrated human rights violations following the protest in September 2022. I would like to share with this chamber a number of findings made by Mr Rehman that shed light on the current human rights concerns in Iran.

Firstly, he observed that death penalty sentences and executions during the reporting period had greatly increased. According to information received, at least 834 people were executed in 2023, a 43 per cent increase compared with 2022 when at least 582 persons were executed. Those executed were tortured and ill treated and frequently denied access to a lawyer. Lawyers were not allowed to defend their clients. Those executed from ethnic and religious minorities remained disproportionately high. In relation to the protest, since September 2022 the Iranian authorities have executed at least eight protesters, including 20-year-old Milad Zohrevand, who was executed without a fair trial or due process.

Mr Rehman noted that within the Iranian criminal justice system the death penalty can be imposed for over 80 offences, including for overbroad and vague national security offences, spreading corruption on Earth, and other offences such as drug-related offences, adultery, homosexuality, apostasy, blasphemy and theft. Importantly, the charge of apostasy (abandonment of a religion) and its potential for the death penalty has widespread implications for the regime's targeted oppression of religious, ethnic and linguistic minorities. Mr Rehman stated that the authority executed two men in May 2023 for apostasy, solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of religion through social media activities.

He further explained that those belonging to minorities are subjected to institutionalised discrimination and frequently to systematic persecution, including arbitrary detention in connection with a range of peaceful activities such as advocating for linguistic freedom, organising or taking part in protest, being affiliated with opposition parties, campaigning against environmental degradation in their areas, or simply participating in religious or cultural activities.

Ahvazi Arabs, Baluchis, Kurds and Sunni Muslims in general also face systematic discrimination in regard to their enjoyment of cultural rights and access to public services. The Baluchis and the Kurds have been the targets of arbitrary deprivation of the right to life, namely executions and extrajudicial killings. The Baha'i community in particular have been targeted for their

religious beliefs, facing arbitrary arrests, imprisonment and denial of basic rights such as access to education and employment.

Arbitrary arrests, detention and violations of the right to a fair trial are commonplace in Iran, with reports of frequent use of torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment. Reports from human rights organisations and testimonies from survivors provide harrowing accounts of the torture inflicted upon political prisoners and detainees. Mr Rehman noted that he was especially concerned at the pattern of arbitrary detention of foreign and dual nationals and the use of them for leverage or prisoner swaps.

Significantly, the report goes into detail about the increasing limitation on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, in which Reporters Without Borders ranked the state 177th out of 180 countries. Authorities have censored all forms of media and jammed foreign satellite television channels and social media platforms, including WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, Telegram and Twitter, all of which remain blocked. The majority of people live in fear of speaking out or engaging in politics in any form. There is no opportunity for mobilisation.

On the situation of women and girls, the Special Rapporteur remains alarmed at the ongoing repression of women's and girls' rights. Brutal and repressive policing methods are used on women and girls who defy the compulsory veiling laws, with over one million SMS messages sent to women threatening that if they were found travelling unveiled their vehicles would be confiscated.

Mr Rehman reports that countless women have also been denied access to education, public transportation and banking services. Armita Geravand, aged 16, died on 28 October 2023 following an altercation for her failure to wear a hijab. This oppression is only set to escalate even further with the regime's introduction of a bill to support the family by promoting the culture of chastity and hijab. The Special Rapporteur states that this could be described as a form of 'gender apartheid' with the intention of 'suppressing women and girls into total submission'. These are just a few of the egregious human rights violations reported to the Human Rights Council by Special Rapporteur Javid Rehman. I encourage members in this place to read the full report.

The human rights situation in Iran is not new. In fact, as I mentioned earlier, this year marks the 45th year under the repressive Islamic regime. The events unfolding within Iran carry implications that stretch far beyond its geographical confines, impacting the stability and security of nations worldwide. The people in Iran and across countries have consistently demonstrated their yearning for change, bravely taking to the streets to demand accountability, justice and reform.

I recently met with an Iranian woman who told me that from the age of nine she knew that life in Iran was not the same for her as it was for her male relatives. She explained to me that as a woman in Iran you have to fight for basic human rights and that a woman has half of the rights and voice of a man in court. She was not allowed to ride a bike or choose what religion to believe in. Women have no right to divorce, no rights to custody and cannot even consent to their own child's school excursions. She said, 'As a woman, you feel miserable. It is a lifetime of trauma which follows you even to other countries.'

Tehran's growing reliance on terrorism, espionage, cyber attacks and hostage-taking diplomacy to silence its critics is deeply concerning, and Australia is not immune from this. The 2021 Census showed 70,899 people in Australia were born in Iran. In 2022, an Iranian surveillance operation was discovered which had been targeting a dual Iranian-Australian citizen who joined protests following the death of Jina Amini. Another woman reports to SBS that a decapitated animal had been delivered to her parents' home in Melbourne.

Concerningly, the mother of a leading Iranian-Australian protester was jailed in Tehran and interrogated about her Australian relatives in December 2022. It is clear that the regime's reach extends far beyond its borders, with increasing reports of protests being infiltrated and online threats sent to those who participate in them. I recognise the courage and the resilience of those within and outside of Iran who, despite facing immense challenges, continue to advocate for a future marked by freedom and justice.

It is imperative that we recognise and address the significance of what is happening in Iran for Australia and the international community alike. As representatives of our constituents and

advocates for justice and human rights, it is crucial that we stand in solidarity with the people of Iran in their struggle for freedom, democracy and dignity. Their struggles are our struggles, and their aspirations are our aspirations. By doing so, we uphold the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reaffirm our commitment to a world where every individual can live with dignity and autonomy.

The state government, in particular, has a crucial role to play in fostering dialogue and engagement with these communities. By listening to their concerns, understanding their aspirations and standing in solidarity with them we can help empower them to be agents of change and advocate for their rights.

I would like to acknowledge here the Iranian community in South Australia and in other states, which has reached out and shared their stories with me. Thank you to the Australian Iranian Community Alliance and the Australian Supporters of Democracy in Iran for your fierce advocacy.

I commend the commonwealth's targeted sanctions against individuals and entities found to be directly responsible for or complicit in these violations. It is important to continue dialogue with Iran, pressing for accountability and addressing the grave human rights violations that are being perpetrated against the people in Iran in hopes for a peaceful transition towards a more inclusive and democratic Iran. I affirm my unwavering solidarity with the people in Iran, especially the women and girls who are courageously fighting for their fundamental human rights. Women, life, freedom.

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

EUROVISION SONG CONTEST

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

That this council notes that South Australian band Electric Fields are the first duo to represent Australia at the Eurovision Song Contest and wishes them every success.

It is my absolute pleasure to move this motion today that this council notes that the South Australian band Electric Fields are the first duo to represent Australia at the Eurovision Song Contest and wishes them every success in Eurovision and beyond.

Earlier this year, SBS announced that South Australian electronic duo Electric Fields were the 2024 Australian representatives for the Eurovision Song Contest. That band is a duo of two wonderful South Australians, vocalist Zaachariaha Fielding and keyboard player and producer Michael Ross, who have been performing as Electric Fields since 2015 and are very well known to South Australian audiences and audiences across Australia and across the globe.

Mr President, I believe that you and I were once at an Aboriginal Lands Trust event where my squealing gave away my joy that Electric Fields were performing that night. The pair's eclectic music blends soulful pop and upbeat electronica and they have become known for their lively and visually vibrant live performances. Indeed, I think those who have seen Electric Fields live know it is where they shine, and it is absolutely engaging and inspiring to see them perform.

Zaachariaha Fielding grew up in the remote community of Mimili on the APY lands and Michael Ross, while he grew up in Logan, Queensland, has been a South Australian for many years now and the duo are based in Adelaide. The song they took to the Eurovision competition this year in Malmö is called *One Milkali*, which loosely translates to 'one blood'. Indeed, the song has some wonderful Yankunytjatjara culture being brought finally to the Eurovision stage and it featured a didgeridoo in the performance. As Zaachariaha Fielding told NITV, the national Indigenous television of our nation, the song is about all of us being together as one—a wonderful message from South Australia to the world.

At this point, I seek leave to conclude my comments. I intend to take this motion to a vote on the next Wednesday of sitting and note that myself and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs hope to co-host an event with Electric Fields coming to the Parliament of South Australia where the Parliament of South Australia can pay tribute to them and indeed come together as one on that day.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

*Parliamentary Committees***LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE: REPORT ON HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY PETITION NO. 50 OF 55/1 WESTERN HOSPITAL AT HENLEY BEACH**

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (16:19): I move:

That the report of the committee on House of Assembly petition No. 50 of 55/1, entitled 'Western Hospital at Henley Beach', be noted.

The Western Hospital at Henley Beach petition was signed by 11,134 residents of South Australia and tabled in the House of Assembly on 7 March 2024 by the member for Colton. In evidence before the committee, the member for Colton advised that subsequent to the petition being tabled additional community members have signed the petition, bringing the total number of signatures to well above 16,000. This number demonstrates the significance of the Western Hospital to South Australians—and, just for the record, I note that it is where I was born.

The petition was referred to the Legislative Review Committee pursuant to section 16B of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991. Section 12(ba) of that act requires the committee to inquire into, consider and report to parliament on any eligible petition referred to it. The Western Hospital petition requested that the House of Assembly:

...urge the Government to ensure the future of the Western Hospital at Henley Beach, and in particular, ensure that the land on which the hospital sits remains zoned for health care services into the future.

I am advised that the petition arose in response to the Western Hospital being placed into voluntary administration on 29 January 2024. The member for Colton advised the committee that the Western Hospital offers GP, cardiovascular, oncology, specialist, radiology, elective surgery and other important health services. The member for Colton advised that these services support residents of the western suburbs as well as other regions across South Australia. He emphasised that in providing these services the Western Hospital has also supported and eased pressure on the public health system.

The committee heard evidence on 10 April this year from the member for Colton, as well as Ms Colleen Billows OAM, who is an advocate for the Western Hospital, and Mr Angelo Piovesan, who is the Chairman of The Friends of Western Hospital Association Incorporated. This evidence supported the petitioners' claims that the Western Hospital is important to the community as well as to the public health system. The witnesses agreed that the government and relevant ministers are best placed to determine the most appropriate way of retaining the site for healthcare services into the future.

As a result of the evidence heard, the committee has made the following two recommendations: one, that the Minister for Planning receive the report and consider the petitioners' request that the minister ensure the future of the Western Hospital and, in particular, ensure that the land on which the Western Hospital sits remains zoned for healthcare services into the future; and, two, that the Minister for Health and Wellbeing receive this report and consider the impact on South Australia's healthcare system should the land on which the Western Hospital sits not remain zoned for healthcare services.

I would like to thank the other members of the Legislative Review Committee who were involved in this inquiry. In the House of Assembly they are Mr Michael Brown MP, Mr Sam Telfer MP, Mr Lee Odenwalder MP and previous committee member Mr John Fulbrook MP. In this place, I would like to thank the Hon. Connie Bonaros MLC and the Hon. Nicola Centofanti MLC. In addition, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the committee secretary, Mr Matt Balfour, and the research officer, Ms Maureen Affleck, for their assistance. I would also like to express the committee's gratitude to Mr Matt Cowdrey MP, member for Colton, for his contribution to the committee's inquiry into this petition.

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

*Motions***VETERINARY INDUSTRY**

The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:24): I move:

1. That in the opinion of this council a joint committee be appointed to inquire into and report on the effects of long hours, financial strain, high workload and high pressure on the poor mental health and wellbeing of veterinarians in South Australia, with particular reference to—
 - (a) quantifying the significant economic, social, and emotional benefits that veterinary industry brings to society and having this acknowledged by government and industry;
 - (b) measures that can be taken to improve veterinarian retention rates, including incentives for working in rural and regional areas;
 - (c) working conditions, including remuneration, unpaid hours, safe workplace culture and client conduct standards;
 - (d) measuring and identifying initiatives to prevent the high rates of suicide and burnout among veterinarians, particularly in regional and rural areas;
 - (e) the role played by veterinarians in providing care to lost, stray, and homeless animals and injured wildlife, dealing with emergency situations, and the financial burden incurred by veterinarians in these circumstances;
 - (f) reviewing the roles and responsibilities of veterinary nurses with a view to relieving pressure on veterinarians, as well as the training of veterinary nurses and the related workforce;
 - (g) regulation of veterinary practices, including compliance with psychosocial legislation for the workplace, maximum work hours and after-hours practices;
 - (h) strategies to improve access to veterinary care during a cost-of-living crisis, including pricing transparency, pet insurance, and other support for disadvantaged animal owners;
 - (i) the role of universities in preparing veterinarians for practice and the transition to the workforce; and
 - (j) any other related matter.
2. That, in the event of a joint committee being appointed, the Legislative Council be represented thereon by three members, of whom two shall form a quorum of council members necessary to be present at all sittings of the committee.
3. That members of the committee may participate in the proceedings by way of telephone or video conference or other electronic means and shall be deemed to be present and counted for purposes of a quorum, subject to such means of participation remaining effective and not disadvantaging any member.
4. That this council permits the joint committee to authorise the disclosure or publication, as it thinks fit, of any evidence or documents presented to the committee prior to such evidence being reported to the council.
5. That a message be sent to the House of Assembly transmitting the foregoing resolution and requesting its concurrence thereto.

Within few years of entering the veterinary profession I felt an absolute failure, my self-esteem at an all-time low and my anxiety through the roof. I cannot talk on behalf of all veterinarians, but I want to share some of my experience, and the facts and statistics back up that the people in this profession deserve a platform to share their experiences, their trauma and to have real change to a profession that has frankly been in crisis for too long.

Veterinarians are dying by suicide at a rate four times higher than the general population, and two times higher than other medical professions like doctors and dentists. Many remaining are depressed and anxious. Almost half at any one time are looking to get out. My question, though, is: do those staying know how tough they have it?

A 2020 Monash University study revealed that 70 per cent of veterinarians have lost a peer or colleague to suicide, six in 10 sought professional mental health care and, according to the Australian Veterinary Association, 88 per cent of veterinarians have poor mental health as a result of a toxic work environment resulting from consumer abuse and unreasonable expectations. There

have been reports that some veterinarians earn less per hour than someone at McDonald's. Veterinarians do not earn a lot of money. The median salary of a veterinarian in South Australia has been reported to be as low as \$75,000 a year.

I want to acknowledge right at the beginning Gary and Kate Putland who, in honour of their daughter Sophie, lost to this profession at the age of 33, established Sophie's Legacy. Sophie's Legacy to my knowledge has done more to help activate awareness and demand real change than has been seen before in this profession. Gary and Kate have a deep understanding of the challenges of this profession, and I have sought their advice and feedback on the terms of reference, as well as looking at interstate and federal examples.

I also want to acknowledge my veterinary colleagues. I have the utmost respect for anyone entering and working in this profession. How long can we hide behind the fake narrative that veterinary suicide is down to compassionate personalities and access to medications? When will the cover-up of the unacceptable working conditions and remuneration end? I am calling on this parliament to support an inquiry into the veterinary profession; this is to be no tick box exercise.

The people in this chamber speak often of caring for the mental wellbeing of the South Australians we represent. Yes, we come at it from different viewpoints and different angles, but I am sure we can agree: we love our pets and it is time we started loving our vets and understanding the true cost of veterinary care. I want to see real government investment in improving the lives of veterinarians as an outcome to this inquiry. The positive impact of veterinarians on the wider community cannot be underestimated: mental health and wellbeing, food production, wildlife, biosecurity, research.

I have spoken in this chamber before of my schooling difficulties, attending no less than five different high schools in different states, but after bringing myself back from the brink of academic disaster and achieving a university entrance score of 99.7, honoured with being dux of my school, I thought I had finally discovered my path to success: hard work, dedication, perseverance, believing in myself—I could do anything. Wrong! Like many others before and after me, after topping my studies and pursuing years of rigorous full-time study to obtain my first-class veterinary degree and with a disproportionately high HECS debt, I found myself disillusioned and depressed with this dream profession.

I have worked as a veterinarian, both in the United Kingdom and Australia. There seems to be a global problem with the veterinary industry, although I am aware of changes in the business model in the United States that show promise in improving the industry. I remember an experience where I was the only veterinarian at the practice for the weekend, living above the clinic. I had weekend consults and hospital patients.

One patient was a 60-kilogram bullmastiff, suffering with haemorrhagic gastroenteritis. This poor dog was regularly vomiting and producing voluminous bloody diarrhoea. All alone, I lifted the dog in and out of his cage, cleaned it, medicated him, put him back, but then this poor dog just started again—more blood, vomit and faeces. It was a seemingly endless physically and mentally distressing process. I repeatedly lifted this dog in and out alone, cleaning vomit, blood and faeces from the cage and my clothes for the entire weekend. I had other patients and duties. I felt I could not eat or hydrate myself properly. At the end, I almost physically collapsed. I know there are worse horror stories.

At one of my first practices, I was paid \$45,000 a year, and \$30 to take the phone for the night. I could work all night, but it was \$30 and back at 7.30am. One night, with a veterinary student in tow, I drove straight through a farmer's fence after doing a calving in the early hours of the morning. It was dangerous exhaustion, but there I was, straight back doing a full day of work. I remember doing my first gastric surgery on a puppy that had eaten a sock. I was alone with a veterinary nurse and a textbook out. It was Christmas Day. I went home and fell asleep in my bed in a soiled veterinary smock.

It is a tough profession and we do hear about the challenges with stress and dealing with sick animals, clients and emergencies, but we need to start recognising the high aptitude and resilience of veterinarians who are succumbing to unrealistic pressures. We also hear about the access to Lethabarb. We hear about the trauma of euthanasia and the subsequent desensitisation

to the process. Indeed, I remember my first animal euthanasia so clearly; after that it is a blur, as I tuned out to save my soul from it.

My first euthanasia was a German Shepherd with liver cancer. I had cared for him in hospital. He was utterly depressed. As the deeply loving family came to see him for the final consultation and agreed euthanasia, this dog looked so full of joy. With, in his mind, the relief of going home, he bounded around and wagged his tail, eyes fixed on his owners. Sure, it was fleeting vigour, but it was significantly moving. The family, understandably distressed, started instructing me to 'just do it now, do it quickly', and so I injected. The memory of the slowing down of the tail and the slumping of his body is totally vivid today, almost 20 years later.

I could not tell you how many animals I have put down since. You get desensitised. Unfortunately, many in the public would be shocked to know that the greatest stress is actually trying to manage a full day, with a euthanasia often booked in unexpectedly or squeezed into the schedule. Vets are so under the pump trying to care for a family's loss while themselves utterly exhausted. The greatest challenge can become just getting it done in time and surviving the pressure of the rest of the day.

It is a hard job and there is access to Lethobarb, but veterinarians are not, in my opinion, taking their lives because they put down a poodle, for example, and have access to drugs. I do not think many with children at home or a loving family end their life over a client's pet. That is not to say this does not affect them, but it is important to stop hiding behind this narrative, because it stops those responsible addressing the often barbaric working conditions with totally unacceptable remuneration.

In one of my attempted escapes from this profession, I obtained a postgraduate qualification from King's College London, topping my year and being awarded the Blackwell Prize for most promising teacher. Teaching was such a fantastic time in my life. If only the qualification was directly recognised here in Australia I would probably have continued with it. I have taught at the most disadvantaged schools overseas, closed by the government due to uncontrollable student behaviour. I remember my first day at a college in Kent, England. My car keys were stolen within five minutes and police were called to manage lunchtime violence. It was a relief from veterinary practice.

This is no slight on teachers; it is just that, for me, this is a factual statement. I support a significant pay rise for teachers who effectively increase engagement, attendance and academics, especially in challenging environments. At the closure of my first teaching placement, the principal gave a short speech on our contribution. On hearing the principal, Vincent O'Mara, say, 'Sarah, you won't be a good teacher, you will be an excellent one,' I thought this was a highlight of my life. I wish I had told this to Vincent, who put up with many occasions of his door being flung open as I wished to discuss ideas to turn the school around. Unfortunately, after being brought in as an excellent principal elsewhere to rescue this failing school, he passed away shortly after from cancer.

After embarking on this new teaching career, applying my well-trodden principles of hard work, dedication and perseverance, the feedback from the workplace seemed to shift to 'go home, look after yourself, good job'. What happened to 'be smarter, work harder, stay later'? That was all I understood from my veterinary career. Suddenly, I was finding myself being told to relax and not work so hard when I had never worked less. It was a challenge to my inner negative thinking.

This is no general attack on the teaching profession, it is just a factual statement of my experience. I was working less and being paid more. Many veterinarians earn less than teachers. It is one of the worst-paid professions. I found myself in my next college, a beacon college for other public schools, being praised again. Upon receiving a letter from the college to my home address, I had to read it twice to confirm that, no, I was not being let go. It read:

Dear Sarah,

I wanted to write in order to thank you for your exceptional teaching last year which resulted in so many youngsters in your care achieving brilliant exam results...your excellence as a teacher... inspirational delivery...means that the young people taught by you have had a major advantage...results in the bank which they would have been unlikely to have achieved had they been taught by anyone else.

I am so lucky to be able to stand here today having survived my experience in the veterinary profession and share some other successes I have had. Many have lost their lives, astounding potential within the profession and outside gone forever from the community.

In closing, I would say to our pet-loving nation, that the veterinarian you see in the morning is often the same veterinarian you see in the evening, maybe the same veterinarian who worked the weekend and who may have worked through that night. Client complaints can be a significant source of stress and worry for veterinarians. I have never met a veterinarian who was not an overachiever trying their absolute best. Better community understanding of pressure on veterinarians is needed.

Many veterinarians do not feel they have time to eat or hydrate properly in the day. People need to find out how long their consultation is, be on time, stick to the time, or book a double appointment if you need it. Do not be the reason your veterinarian does not have lunch that day. We need to get real about the cost of owning a pet and we need to reconsider current veterinary business models that are not cost-effective. Frankly, after having attempted to survive the veterinary profession myself, I am surprised there are any veterinarians left in the profession at all.

We associate veterinarians with compassion and love for animals, with intelligence and hard work. It is all true. What we do not hear so much is just how resilient and capable veterinarians are and yet they are topping the list for dying from suicide. Let's not keep asking veterinarians to be more resilient and manage stress better, while insisting that they work in toxic work environments so brutal almost no-one else could stand it. It is time for change. I commend the motion to the chamber

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

MOUSE CONTROL

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:37): I move:

That this council—

1. Notes that mouse baits currently permitted for use in South Australian cropping areas are not as effective as the double-strength mouse bait which has previously been available under an emergency permit;
2. Notes that an effective formulation was previously available under an emergency permit, but an application for a minor use permit was turned down;
3. Expresses its disappointment that a bait that has been confirmed as safe and effective by CSIRO research is not readily available to South Australian farmers without annually seeking an emergency permit; and
4. Calls on the Malinauskas Labor government, in collaboration with its federal colleagues, to address the obstacles to the recent unsuccessful application for the minor use permit, and work with peak industry bodies to ensure that the most effective and affordable mouse control options are available to South Australian farmers as soon as possible, noting that time is of the essence.

South Australian farmers are among some of the most efficient in the world in the driest state of the driest continent on Earth. We are at the time when the usual autumn break occurs and when the seeding of the next season of broadacre crops starts in earnest. As we await the season break, many farmers in the state are starting to dry sow, hoping for coming rains. The business of growing the crops that feed a hungry planet carries significant agricultural risk as changes in rainfall, heatwaves, diseases and pests can decimate crops and impact farmers' incomes. It is a difficult job, even in the best of times.

One problem that is of great concern when seasonal conditions align is the explosion of mice populations or mouse plagues. Recent improvements in farming including the adoption of no-till grain production methods have given benefits in soil conservation but can also create suitable conditions for a carryover mouse population that can rapidly develop into a mouse plague under suitable conditions. When strychnine was no longer approved for mouse control, a new product, zinc phosphide 25, was approved and showed some promise. The 25 refers to the concentration in the bait: 25 grams of zinc phosphide per kilogram of grain.

Although it showed some promise, farmers' initial suspicions that control was suboptimal were confirmed with research by the CSIRO in a paper published in *Pest Management Science* showing that the 25-gram dose was not always lethal. This creates several problems, including the

expense for farmers to bait multiple times, the fact that the mouse population can recover and expand in between suboptimal bait applications, and that affected mice that are not killed become bait averse, meaning they are unlikely to take bait a second time.

Subsequent research confirmed the need to ensure that all baited grain needed to be a lethal dose, and baiting with a double-strength preparation of zinc phosphide (or zinc phosphide 50) was shown to be very effective and very specific with no off-target damage. The CSIRO quotes GRDC pests manager Dr Leigh Nelson as saying that the three studies provide a solid body of evidence for the superior efficacy of the 50-gram zinc phosphide grain bait, which will give growers a more effective tool in managing mice to protect their crops.

As my federal colleague the member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey, has pointed out, during the 2021 mouse plague a temporary permit was granted for the use of the more effective formulation, zinc phosphide 50, which was renewed on an annual basis. This provided farmers with the confidence that there was an effective solution ready when required. The last permit to allow application of zinc phosphide 50 expired in November last year. However, despite the fact that CSIRO and GRDC research has confirmed the safety and effectiveness of this bait, the permit has not been renewed by the regulatory body, the APVMA.

Federal body Grain Producers Australia are the applicant for the permit, and they have reapplied to gain permission for Australian farmers to use the product, but there is no guarantee that they will be successful. The lack of efficacy over the single-strength bait, zinc phosphide 25, means that manufacturers and chemical suppliers lack confidence to stock the chemical. Lack of certainty about gaining approval of the effective double-strength bait means that suppliers are unable to make preparations for the coming grain season. This has created unacceptable uncertainty for South Australian grain growers and means that, should conditions arise for a mouse plague in the current season, it is highly likely our farmers will be left without effective control options.

A recent survey by Grain Producers South Australia shows strong support amongst South Australian farmers for the need and effectiveness of the double-strength bait. There has been some conjecture about why a permit has not been renewed, given the backing of research by Australia's pre-eminent research body and the grains industry research corporation. This conjecture is unhelpful. It has also been noted that the process for assessment and approval of control agents through the APVMA has been slow, with CropLife reporting that less than 79 per cent of assessments have been completed in the allotted time.

South Australian farmers need options, and they are needed now. Crops will be emerging and vulnerable to attack before long. Without correcting the status quo, our farmers and the entire state of South Australia will be worse off. It is imperative that we see leadership from the Malinauskas Labor government and from the primary industries minister on behalf of South Australian primary producers to ensure that our farmers are able to access the tools that they need to get on with the important job of growing crops, contributing to our state's economy and providing our state and nation with food into the future.

Whilst this issue may seem like a long way away from many of the folk here on North Terrace, I can absolutely guarantee that failure to address this need will leave our farmers vulnerable to avoidable loss and risk widespread crop loss and economic harm to the farming sector, damage to the state's economic viability and may well have an impact on food affordability into the future.

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

PAYROLL TAX

The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:44): I move:

That this council calls on the Premier to refer to the South Australian Productivity Commission the matter of payroll tax in South Australia and require the commission to report on the inquiry identifying further actions the South Australian government may take to improve the effectiveness of the current payroll tax system in promoting economic growth and job creation and its alignment with the overall economic goals of the state, and the inquiry should include evaluation of:

1. Payroll tax threshold and rates, including consideration of an annual review;
2. Incentives to promote regional employment and investment;

3. Opportunities for industry-specific incentives to support the growth and sustainability of key sectors;
4. The impact of recent payroll tax decisions on independent general practitioners and the general practice sector, including the exacerbation of workforce challenges and reduced access to health care;
5. The effect of grouping provisions on independently operated but co-branded businesses across various industry sectors;
6. Retrospective payroll tax liability determinations;
7. Compliance challenges faced by businesses;
8. Payroll tax systems in other jurisdictions to identify best practices and potential areas for reform and alignment; and
9. Any other related matters.

The motion that I am moving today calls on the Premier to refer to the South Australian Productivity Commission the issue of payroll tax in South Australia and, indeed, to inquire into and report on that. The terms of reference of this are not any different, or are only slightly different, to the previous terms of reference that I put up in this place and which the government, together with members of the crossbench, chose to oppose. I thank the opposition at that time for their support of that very important motion for an inquiry into payroll tax.

I like to keep good on my promises. I know there are rules around what we can and cannot do in this place in terms of issues being substantively the same, so I have a very creative list of very important and worthy bodies which are more than capable of inquiring into this important issue. If the Treasurer and the Premier think that we are not up to the task and that we do not have the expertise or nous to be able to consider the issues of payroll tax appropriately, then who better than the Productivity Commission to do just that? So that is what I am calling for this time: that the Premier—and the Treasurer, by extension—refer those terms of reference. Of course, I am more than open to considering the terms of reference being slightly altered if that is what the government needs to see this inquiry get off the ground. I am more than open to that concept.

As I said, we have a Productivity Commission here, and we have talked in the past about the importance of the Productivity Commission and the work that it does. It is well within the Premier's capabilities to refer this matter for inquiry to the Productivity Commission and get back some advice from them about the issues surrounding payroll tax: how that is impacting businesses in South Australia, how we fare compared to other jurisdictions, what things we could be doing to make payroll tax more equitable in this state, and how it is that we have retrospective determinations that can be made on the issue of taxation, and specifically payroll tax, that go back five years in this jurisdiction.

I have said previously in this place that I cannot think of any other law that allows a penalty to be imposed retrospectively for a period of five years, purely based on the determination of a commissioner and nothing else: no legislation required, no regulations required and no parliamentary oversight required. We have a commissioner, a determination is made, and they have the power to apply a determination retrospectively for up to five years, and businesses get to wear the costs of that retrospective determination.

We know that there are lots of businesses that are currently in the process of trying to deal with this issue with the government in terms of retrospective application determinations. We know that we have talked previously in this place about general practitioners who have one of these determinations that has been applied to them. We know that there have been discussions that have taken place around that determination. We know that dentists, surgeons, physios, chiropractors—the list goes on—everyone in the allied health professions have faced the same hurdle and the same obstacle and are continuing to face those challenges when it comes to those payroll tax determinations. We know that this is not limited but is having a particular impact on the allied health professions.

We know that doctors have warned us that the cost of visiting a local doctor will probably increase by something like \$12 if this were to go ahead. We know that the amnesty that was afforded during that period was not going to do anything for those doctors who had not signed up, and that is

just doctors—independent general practitioners. They are the only ones who have had the benefit of an amnesty. That is not a criticism of them; well done to them. But it does absolutely nothing to help the dentists, it does nothing to help the physios, it does nothing to help the psychologists, and it does nothing to help the chiropractors and the surgeons who are also impacted by the same determinations.

That is not all we are asking to look at in this inquiry. We know that regardless of those issues, or putting those issues to the side for a moment, as I have said in this place over and over, this government gets to reap the benefits of something like \$5 million a day from payroll tax. Businesses across the state, particularly today in this cost-of-living crisis, are pleading with the government for some relief, are pleading with the government for some assistance.

I know businesses that are cutting their wages in the month of May to make sure they stay under their thresholds before the end of the financial year. It is extraordinary that in the toughest economic times we can imagine, and a cost-of-living crisis, we have heard crickets in terms of helping businesses deal with their payroll tax debts.

We know also that there is a creep effect when it comes to payroll tax—that, yes, despite the fact that we had a threshold increase under the former government and a steady rate at 4.95 per cent, more and more businesses are falling into the higher payroll tax bracket than ever before. That is as a result of the creep effect, and they simply cannot sustain it. Their choices are to shut up shop, to employ fewer people, to be less economically viable as a business, or to do the work themselves. They are trying all manner of things to keep their heads above water in the hope that the government will consider some payroll tax initiatives relief and reform.

There has not been any appetite whatsoever. There has been absolutely zero appetite up until this point from the government to examine this issue, because we also know that that revenue stream is critical to their coffers and one that they have become so reliant on that they cannot wean themselves from that reliance. Anything extra they are getting from those sorts of determinations that I pointed to earlier is a windfall gain for the government that they just cannot say no to.

I bet you if you went to businesses today and said to them, 'In the forward estimates there's going to be an extra \$20 million or \$30 million in surplus gains for the government that they never anticipated as a result of payroll tax', and asked them whether they would prefer that money to go into general revenue or provide some relief, albeit little, across the board to all businesses, I am sure they would take the latter, because that is how desperate businesses in this state are today.

We know that our regional towns are the lifeblood of our communities. If you went to businesses and said to them, 'Do you think we should look at the sorts of incentives that exist interstate like Victoria, where there is a 50 per cent reduction for our regional towns? If we considered that sort of incentive in South Australia, would you support it?' I am absolutely sure businesses across the state would say, 'Yes, let's do that.' That is something that Business SA—and I forget the new name, the Business Chamber—in South Australia has called for in the lead-up to the state government.

I could go on and on and on, because everyone knows that I have pages of this stuff, but we are talking, ultimately, about a government collecting over \$100 million in payroll tax from businesses in South Australia each and every year, purely by virtue of the fact that they are employing people to work. That is what they are doing. They are not doing anything else. Businesses are generating jobs and they are generating incomes for families and they are generating economic activity, and they are being penalised severely as a result of payroll tax.

Any business in the state would tell you the impacts that this is having on them. We have \$1.7 billion (\$5 million per day) coming into government coffers from payroll tax. We have additional revenue in the order of about \$100 million that the government never anticipated to be getting. If we went back to those same businesses and said, 'How about we look at incentives about how we can put that back in your pockets instead of our pockets', I reckon we would not be standing here all the time talking about payroll tax.

I am not going to repeat everything I have said previously on this issue, because I have spoken about it several times now, but I do remind the Premier and the Treasurer that those same

concerned business groups that raised this issue initially remain concerned. They remain extremely concerned, especially in the lead-up to the budget, and they will take any sort of inquiry the Premier and the Treasurer are willing to give, because all they are asking for is genuine engagement with the government to find a better way of doing business in this state, and that is all I am asking for on their behalf.

If the government, if the Premier, if the Treasurer think that we are too politically motivated in this place and we cannot have an unbiased and impartial inquiry process to deliver that result, then here is a perfect alternative. Let the Productivity Commission have that inquiry. Let them consider the impacts payroll tax is having, let them consider the sorts of changes that have been implemented in other states, let them do those comparisons and let them come up with some recommendations, genuine recommendations, about what this government could be doing—in my view should be doing—to make payroll tax less of a burden on businesses, which we know are doing it tough across the board. With those words, I seek leave to conclude my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (16:56): I move:

That this council—

1. Notes with concern that the number of hours patients spent ramped in ambulances, awaiting transfer to hospital emergency departments, has risen from 328 per month in July 2017 to 4,095 per month in March 2024.
2. Notes with concern that South Australians are struggling to access a GP, with only 11 per cent of GP clinics offering bulk-billing in regular business hours.
3. Calls on the Malinauskas government to tackle the ramping crisis by:
 - (a) fully subsidising 200 new free GPs for people with a health care card;
 - (b) establishing special 'transit wards' at major Adelaide hospitals to expedite ambulance patient transfers;
 - (c) establishing a statewide bed manager to oversee all patient transfers and ensure prearranged bed availability for admitted patients and avoiding ramping of interhospital transfers going to an ED; and
 - (d) establishing rapid off-load procedures for transferring patient care within 30 minutes of arrival at emergency departments.

This motion notes with concern the number of hours that patients are spending ramping in ambulances waiting for transfer to hospital emergency departments. It also notes the concerns of South Australians in terms of being able to access a GP—at the moment in our state only 11 per cent of GP clinics offer bulk-billing in regular business hours—and it calls on the Malinauskas government to tackle the ramping crisis by implementing the recommendations of the Ambulance Employees Association but also fully subsidising 200 new free GPs for people who have a health care card.

The ramping crisis continues in our state. We have heard both sides of politics battle it out for years now. What people want are solutions that can actually be implemented. We know, of course, that the Malinauskas government, as part of their election pledge, made a commitment to fix the ramping crisis. We know that there are no easy solutions, but I would have thought the best starting point is to listen to the recommendations of the Ambulance Employees Association.

The number of hours patients have spent ramped in ambulances awaiting transfer to our hospital emergency departments has risen from 328 hours per month in 2017 to a colossal 4,095 hours per month in March. That is a slight decrease from the record high of 4,285 lost hours in November of last year, so it is nothing to celebrate. It is out of control.

What this tells us is that there are system wide issues that go beyond politics and who is in charge, because the reality is that neither Labor nor the Liberal Party have been able to get this under control. The crisis has reached a critical tipping point, and we need to look at all options. We need to look at what we can do to improve our healthcare system—that is, reduce the need for people

to seek emergency support but also to improve the processes that are undertaken when dealing with emergency situations.

The ramping crisis in South Australia is compounded by the reality that people in our state are continuing to struggle to access even the most basic primary care services. According to the Cleanbill 2024 Blue Report, only 11 per cent of South Australian GP clinics are bulk-billing for standard consultations during regular weekly business hours. The same report shows that the average out-of-pocket cost has increased by 7.2 per cent in South Australia over the last 12 months. I am concerned that that is going to increase further as a result of the end of the amnesty period for payroll tax and that is why the Greens were pleased to work with the Hon. Connie Bonaros to pass a motion calling on the government to remedy that.

This could be addressed also by subsidising 200 new GP positions specifically designated for people who have a health care card. This investment will ensure equal access to quality primary care and will provide the first line of defence against further strain on our emergency departments.

No South Australian should be forced to forgo seeing a doctor due to their financial circumstances. It is a right of every citizen in our community to be able to access the health care that they need. In the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, we need to ensure people can access the fundamental human right of affordable health care. This is not the United States where people are priced out of going to see a doctor. It is not how we do things here in Australia. It is not how we do things here in South Australia.

In April last year, the Ambulance Employees' Association issued a media release that outlined some key solutions to the ramping crisis. These are not new ideas. The AEA has stated that these proposals were sent to all political parties ahead of the 2022 election. Two years on, we still have not seen these recommendations being implemented.

The first suggestion is to establish transit wards at our major hospitals across the Adelaide metropolitan area. These dedicated wards would serve the crucial function of expediting the transfer of patients who need to be moved from an ambulance or discharged. According to the AEA, currently in most metropolitan hospitals in Adelaide when a patient is ready to be discharged and requires ambulance transport, e.g. to a RACF or to a disability facility, they remain in their ward awaiting a transfer ambulance to arrive. As this is not an urgent ambulance attendance, these transfers can be significantly delayed for many hours. During this time, the bed is unable to be utilised by a patient awaiting admission from the ED.

Further delays occur when an ambulance arrives and the patient is not ready to be discharged, despite being booked in by the hospital in advance. Delays of medication dispensation by pharmacy or discharge paperwork yet to be completed could all contribute to delays in the patient's discharge, leading to the ward bed remaining occupied and not being able to receive the next patient. That is the advice of the AEA. It is not me saying it. These are the experts who work in this field. Transit wards could alleviate the current strain on beds, ambulances and emergency departments by ensuring that there is a more efficient system in place.

Secondly, a statewide bed manager could be established to oversee all patient transfers and guarantee that hospital beds are available and ready at the time of transfer. A centralised and coordinated approach is required to address the occurrence where transfers arrive at hospitals without a bed being available on the ward. A statewide bed manager could coordinate the available beds to ensure that people can be transferred directly to the relevant ward or unit rather than clogging up emergency departments and potentially duplicating diagnostics.

Lastly, we need to implement rapid off-load procedures to transfer patient care from ambulance to hospital staff within a maximum of 30 minutes of arrival at the emergency department. The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine position statement on ambulance ramping has stated that:

Within 30 minutes of arriving at an ED, 100 per cent of patients should have their handover completed.

The AEA have stated that:

Current policies and procedures within SA Health are demonstrably inadequate at mitigating this practice.

They advocate that rapid off-load procedures could free up ambulance availability and would also improve patient safety.

We have clear guidance from people on the frontline of this crisis. These are reforms that are proposed by the AEA. They are supported by the Greens. They are the ones who are witnessing the impacts of this ramping crisis firsthand. They know the solutions. This really calls on the Malinauskas government to listen to the experts and to take the steps necessary to get this crisis under control.

I know people will ask, 'How could the government fund this?' Well, budgets—and we will have a state budget handed down very soon—are about priorities. This Labor government gives over \$100 million of subsidies to the fossil fuel industry, an industry which we know promotes adverse health outcomes for our community. They could cut those subsidies and put that money into our health system. Indeed, the Greens have done the math, and we have worked out that cutting those subsidies would be more than enough to fund what is being advocated for by the AEA, as well as hiring these 200 GPs to provide support for South Australians who are doing it tough.

The Malinauskas government has been in power for two years now. They need to step up and get this health crisis under control, and listen to the experts in this field. I will say, it is not just the fault of the Malinauskas government, albeit the Labor Party has been in power for 18 of the last 30 years in this state. They must shoulder a lion's share of the blame, but neither side of politics has been able to get this crisis under control. I think the community is sick of the bickering, and they actually want to see some real solutions here.

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

CIGARETTE WASTE

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:06): I move:

That this council—

1. Notes that:
 - (a) of the 17.75 billion cigarettes estimated to be consumed in Australia each year, between 30 per cent to 75 per cent end up as litter;
 - (b) cigarette waste makes up to 14 per cent of total waste items found during Clean Up Australia Day;
 - (c) 34 per cent of total litter counted by KESAB is cigarette waste; and
 - (d) at the Conference of Parties (COP10) in February 2024, the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control has resolved to urge signatories to take action on the environmental impact of cigarette waste.
2. Acknowledges that littered cigarette butts:
 - (a) contain cellulose acetate and can take 15 years to break down in sea water;
 - (b) create plastic microfibres as they degrade; and
 - (c) contain over 7,000 chemicals and one butt can contaminate 40 litres of water.
3. Recognises that:
 - (a) Spain has introduced regulations to require tobacco companies to pay for the clean-up of cigarettes;
 - (b) San Francisco collects litter tax from retailers and charges tobacco companies for the cost of cleaning up; and
 - (c) the NSW Environment Protection Authority has initiated consultation on cigarette butts through introducing design standards to design out plastic tobacco filters.
4. Calls on the Malinauskas government to:
 - (a) take any possible action to ensure the tobacco industry is kept accountable for the waste they produce; and
 - (b) raise the matter with the national environment ministers at their next meeting.

This motion notes the huge amount of cigarette waste that is consumed in Australia each year. It notes the number of cigarettes that are consumed. People are not necessarily consuming the cigarette waste, although cigarettes are adverse to their health. This motion notes that of the 17.75 billion cigarettes estimated to be consumed in Australia each year, between 30 to 75 per cent of those end up as litter. Indeed, cigarette waste makes up 14 per cent of total waste items found during Clean Up Australia Day, and 34 per cent of total litter that is counted by KESAB is cigarette waste.

There have been efforts around the world to make cigarette companies responsible for the waste that they produce. Indeed, early last year I introduced a bill that would have set up a mechanism whereby these cigarette companies could be taken to task for the waste that they produce. In Spain, they have introduced regulations to require tobacco companies to do that. San Francisco now collects litter waste from retailers and charges tobacco companies for the cost associated with cleaning up, and the New South Wales Environment Protection Authority has initiated consultation on cigarette butts through introducing design standards to design out plastic tobacco filters.

This is calling on the Malinauskas government to take any action possible to ensure the tobacco industry is kept accountable for the waste they produce and, critically, to raise the matter with the national environment ministers at their next meeting to see if there can be a national coordinated approach to this issue.

Cigarette butt waste is terrible for our environment. Some interesting statistics for you: cigarette butts contain over 7,000 toxic chemicals, including arsenic, lead and nicotine. When these butts are littered, they leach these harmful substances into our waterways and soils. It is estimated that each cigarette butt can contaminate up to 40 litres of water. Water in South Australia, as we all know too well, is a precious resource, and it is not acceptable for that level of pollution to be in what little we have.

Beyond the leaching of chemicals, cigarette butts are also slow to degrade in the environment, and they release microplastics; that is, tiny plastic fibres that are almost impossible to remove once they are dispersed. These microplastics are ingested by our marine life, they work their way up the food chain, and they expose humans also to these harmful effects.

Cigarettes are not just terrible for community health. I know the Hon. Frank Pangallo is passionate about that issue and is raising that with some law reform ideas, and I am certainly very interested to learn more about that. As well as cracking down on the impact of cigarettes on community health, we also need to look at what we can do to make these big companies responsible for the terrible effect they have on the environment.

Just two years ago, *The Guardian* reported that microplastics had been found in human blood for the first time, with almost 80 per cent of people tested showing that microplastics were present. I find that startling. There are concerns that microplastics can lodge in human organs and other body systems, and we do not yet fully understand the health implications of that.

The environmental impact of cigarette waste is a problem that is only getting worse. However, as I indicated in my introductory remarks, some jurisdictions around the world are taking action. In Spain, regulations have now been developed that require cigarette companies to pay for the clean-up of the litter, and in San Francisco retailers are charging what is known as a litter tax, with the proceeds going towards the cost of collecting and disposing of cigarette waste. Here in Australia action is being taken on this in New South Wales.

We in the Greens would like to see the Malinauskas government follow the lead of these other jurisdictions and take action on this to ensure that we hold the feet of these big tobacco companies to the fire to ensure they take responsibility for the waste they produce.

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

SASANELLI, DR N.

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. F. Pangallo:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges the outstanding contribution Dr Nicola Sasanelli AM has made to:
 - (a) the establishment of the South Australian Space Industry Centre;
 - (b) supporting and promoting the development and growth of South Australia's space industry sector;
 - (c) developing international strategies, policies and agreements for government agencies, universities, industry and research institutions in the fields of space, science and technology;
 - (d) the formation of the Andy Thomas Space Foundation and his leadership as chief executive officer; and
 - (e) strengthening bilateral relations between Australia and Italy.
2. Congratulates Dr Sasanelli on his distinguished public service and career achievements in Italy and in Australia and extends to him the best wishes in retirement.

(Continued from 22 February 2023.)

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (17:12): I stand in the chamber today to support this motion. Adjunct Professor Nicola Sasanelli AM joined Defence SA in April 2016 as director of the Space Industry and Research and Development Collaborations project. In 2009, he joined the South Australian government as a special envoy for higher education, research and technology transfer to Europe with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and later joined the Department of State Development as director of international R&D collaborations.

From 2003 to 2013, he was appointed Adjunct Professor of Science and Technology at the University of Canberra, and in 2007 he became an honorary member of the Order of Australia. In 2016, Nicola developed the concept for a South Australian space forum, with the first forum held attracting 80 attendees. The success of this event saw the South Australian Space Industry Centre host an annual space forum, now the high-profile, internationally recognised Australian Space Forum, hosting more than 1,000 delegates and over 80 exhibitors, managed by the Andy Thomas Space Foundation.

In September 2017, the South Australian Space Industry Centre was created, with Nicola appointed as director. His focus was to support space industry growth and increase international research and development collaborations in South Australia's space sector. Nicola was instrumental in Adelaide's successful bid to secure the 68th International Astronautical Congress, which accelerated the growth of the Australian space sector.

International relationships and knowledge transfer were a high priority for Nicola during his time with the South Australian government, with many MOUs—memorandum of understanding—signed internationally, raising the profile of the state in the global space sector. Nicola initiated a jointly sponsored internship program with Bocconi University in Milan to assist in developing strategies for cultivating the space ecosystem. Three-month placements in the South Australian SIC office for Bocconi University students occurred, to conduct research and analysis of the international and local space sectors from a socio-economic and political perspective as they relate to enriching the South Australian space economy.

In 2018, Nicola was appointed adjunct professor at the University of South Australia Division of Information Technology, Engineering and the Environment. In the same year, he was appointed to the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic by the Italian government for promoting high-tech industry and R&D collaborations between Italy and Australia.

In 2019, Nicola was instrumental in establishing the SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre, a consortium of universities and other research organisations partnered with industry that has been funded by the Australian government to develop know-how and technologies in advanced telecommunications, intelligent satellite systems and earth observation next-generation data services. He was seconded by the South Australian government to the SmartSat CRC as director of communications and outreach.

In 2020, Nicola founded and was CEO of the Andy Thomas Space Foundation. Their mission is to promote social wellbeing and overcome disadvantage in Australia through advancing space

education, raising space awareness and contributing to the national space community through events and other educational initiatives.

In January 2023, Nicola retired from the South Australian government. Nicola's passion and ambition has been a key driver for South Australia's emergence as a centre of gravity for space in Australia. With those words, the government supports the motion.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (17:16): I am pleased to speak today on the motion of the Hon. Frank Pangallo and to recognise the service of Dr Nicola Sasanelli AM. Space is an important emergent industry for South Australia, and we cannot understate the contribution that Dr Sasanelli has made and his contribution to our success.

We all know that the first South Australian astronaut—although under the United States flag—was Dr Andy Thomas, and South Australia's legacy has been further cemented in the world's eyes by Dr Sasanelli. In 2009, he joined the South Australian government as a special envoy for higher education research and technology transfer to Europe with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and later joined the Department of State Development as director of international R&D collaborations. From 2003 to 2013, he was appointed as adjunct professor of science and technology at the University of Canberra, Australia, and in 2007 he became an honorary Member of the Order of Australia.

In 2016, Dr Sasanelli joined Defence SA as director of the space industry and R&D collaborations project. In September 2017, the South Australian Space Industry Centre was created with Dr Sasanelli as director. His focus was to support space industry growth and increase international R&D collaborations in South Australia's space sector. In 2018, Dr Sasanelli was appointed adjunct professor at the University of South Australia and was appointed to the board of the Space Industry Association of Australia. In the same year, he was also appointed to the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic by the Italian government, a worthy recognition of his contribution to Australian-Italian relations and the pursuit of space.

The South Australian Space Industry Centre was established in 2017. In December 2018, former Prime Minister Scott Morrison, along with former Premier Steven Marshall, announced that the Australian Space Agency would be based in Adelaide at Lot Fourteen. These headquarters opened in February 2020.

The growth of the space industry in South Australia continues to contribute to the key economic drivers of the defence sector. As well as defence, space complements priority sectors for South Australia, including agriculture, mining and tourism, as well as services for the community such as health and education.

I had the pleasure of meeting Dr Sasanelli shortly after being elected to this place. I spoke to the Premier at the time—Premier Marshall—about my interest in the activities occurring in Lot Fourteen and had a tour of the South Australian Space Industry Centre with Dr Sasanelli, and I very much appreciated his time.

I spoke earlier about Dr Andy Thomas. The Andy Thomas Space Foundation is named after this great Australian astronaut. He successfully completed four space flights and logged over 177 days in space. The foundation named after him seeks to promote innovation and social wellbeing in Australia by advancing the cause of space and increasing awareness of its benefits to our nation. I hope the good work of the foundation continues for a long time to come.

In 2022, the former federal government committed \$20 million towards an expanded \$66 million space park through the Modern Manufacturing Initiative fund, with the remaining funds to be provided through industry investment from four companies, with Fleet Space Technologies being the lead partner. All of these great advancing scientific endeavours to the edge of space might not occur because the future of the nation's leading Australian space park as well as hundreds of South Australian jobs is now in doubt after revelations the current federal Labor government is withdrawing its \$20 million contribution to the park.

Despite previous commitments to the project, Premier Malinauskas and Deputy Premier Close redirected the state's contribution to a smaller common facility back at Lot Fourteen. This state Labor government does not care about the space industry in South Australia, recently shown again

by taking the space and defence portfolios away from the Deputy Premier and handing it to Stephen Mullighan.

Despite all the success of the space agency at Lot Fourteen, it is a shame that the current governments at both state and federal levels do not place the same priority on this industry. I do hope that this changes soon and I do thank Dr Sasanelli for his outstanding contribution to space and to our state, and I thank the Hon. Frank Pangallo for bringing the motion to this place.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The PRESIDENT: Before I call the Hon. Frank Pangallo to conclude the debate, can I acknowledge in the gallery Adjunct Professor Nicola Sasanelli AM, Ms Maria Dipalo and, of course, Cavalieri Steve Maglieri AM. Welcome.

Motions

SASANELLI, DR N.

Debate resumed.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (17:22): I wish to thank my honourable colleagues for their words about Nicola Sasanelli: the Hon. Russell Wortley and the Hon. Heidi Girolamo. Just briefly, since leaving the space centre at Lot Fourteen, Nicola is now with a new research firm, Agora, and only yesterday his third book, *A dynamic and synergistic environment where STEM knowledge flourishes*, was released with co-authors Elisabetta Dalfino and Brenan Dew. That book—and I have a copy of it here and I have started to read it—is all about thinking big, thinking creatively, thinking smart in developing a science, technology, engineering and maths culture.

Nicola and his fellow authors are striving to rekindle STEM interest in South Australia as the state tackles big projects in defence and also, his passion, space. Everything about Nicola is passion. It is in his Italian DNA but, of course, he is now a proud and most distinguished Australian and we are lucky to have him here in South Australia.

We also share a common interest, apart from our Italian heritage, in high-speed rail, especially connecting Adelaide with Melbourne. I had a coffee with Nicola at the weekend and we spoke about his plan, his vision, for South Australia to actually have a high-speed rail that will connect the South-East of the state along with the eastern seaboard of South Australia.

The Hon. C.M. Scriven: Hear, hear!

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Yes, exactly, we want to see those regions expanded and the economy boom over there. Nicola is very confident that, if this project ever goes ahead, it will have enormous economic benefits for this state, increase interest in our regions and also develop those regions just like it has in other countries overseas. He has discussed it with the Premier, and I do not think the Premier was all that convinced by it because of the cost, but with the endorsements that the Hon. Robert Simms and I have been pushing for the state to start seriously considering high-speed rail, I hope this dream will become a reality. I totally agree with Nicola in that regard. I think you just need to be a big lateral thinker. Nicola Sasanelli is a big lateral thinker, and we need more people like that. I commend the motion to the chamber.

Motion carried.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE MIDWIFE

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

That this council—

1. Recognises that 5 May 2024 is International Day of the Midwife;
2. Celebrates the invaluable service that South Australian midwives provide throughout our state, especially in the regions;
3. Commends midwives' commitment, dedication and compassion in delivering outstanding service to South Australian women and their families;

4. Notes, with great concern, the recent loss of midwifery services in regional areas including Waikerie, Kangaroo Island, Kapunda, Gawler and Whyalla; and
5. Calls on the Malinauskas government to invest more seriously in regional birthing services.

(Continued from 1 May 2024.)

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (17:26): I rise to speak in support of the motion put forward by my honourable colleague, and I would like to congratulate him on this important motion. In doing so, I would like to acknowledge his wife and perhaps better half, Elle, who is a wonderful midwife down in the South-East.

The 2024 International Day of the Midwife celebrates midwives' crucial role in maternal and newborn health. It recognises the profession's dedication, expertise and compassionate care in improving outcomes for mothers and babies globally. Midwives are trained health professionals who support women during pregnancy, childbirth and through the important postpartum period. They provide comprehensive care, prenatal visits, labour and delivery assistance and postnatal support. They focus on both the physical and emotional wellbeing of mother and baby.

The midwives that I know exemplify commitment, dedication and compassion in their service to women and families. Their commitment is evident in their tireless efforts to provide highly personalised care. There is an industry adherence to best practice which aims to ensure the health and wellbeing of both mother and child. But it is compassion at the heart of midwifery. The offer of emotional support, comfort and understanding builds trust. That trust empowers women during one of life's most significant events.

I would like to speak for a short moment about the importance of midwifery in a regional context and perhaps also in a personal context for me and my experience in South Australia. Midwives in the regions in particular I think are a little bit like extended family, because you do not just see them in the hospital, you see them at the local football or netball club, you see them at the local shopping centre, you see them at the local school. They truly are a huge and incredibly important part of the community.

I often still bump into the midwives who assisted my son's delivery around my hometown. Whilst I was unable to have my twin daughters, Anna and Lucia, in the region because they were a higher risk pregnancy, the midwives at the Riverland regional hospital were still a very big part of my support network during that time. I would like to take the opportunity to personally thank them again for being so kind, so thoughtful, so warm and so professional.

Midwives are absolutely crucial in rural and regional areas outside of the metropolitan zone, because they provide essential maternal and newborn care where access to specialist and specialised services are limited. The presence of a midwife helps to ensure women receive skilled care during pregnancy and childbirth, improving health outcomes in our country towns and reducing maternal and infant mortality rates in these, sadly, unserved regions.

I note the proposed amendments put forward by the Hon. Mr Ngo, and I also note that these are sensible and add to the debate and will be accepted by my colleague the Hon. Mr Ben Hood. With that, and in celebrating midwives not just today but every day, I conclude my remarks and commend the motion to the chamber.

The Hon. T.T. NGO (17:30): As mentioned by the Hon. Ms Centofanti, I would like to move an amendment:

Leave out paragraphs 4 and 5 and insert new paragraphs as follows:

4. Notes, with great concern, the loss of midwifery services in Waikerie and the ongoing suspension in Whyalla; and
5. Calls on the Malinauskas government to invest in regional birthing services and to implement all recommendations of the Whyalla Birthing Services Review.

I rise to speak in support of the commitment and dedicated service that Australia's midwives provide through our communities. I thank the Hon. Ben Hood for moving this motion.

The word 'midwife' means 'with women' and, according to what I have been told, midwives take their role with women very seriously. In 2017, 98.55 per cent of Australia's midwifery workforce was female. As of June 2023, according to the Nursing and Midwifery Board, 99.4 per cent of the midwifery workforce with scheduled medicine endorsements was female.

As we know, a midwife is an important maternity care specialist with the knowledge and expertise to make sure that the best health outcomes are achieved for a mother and her baby. Midwives in Australia are educated and professionally accountable in working in partnership with child-bearing women and their families in offering support and advice during pregnancy, labour and birth.

Those of us who are parents will know firsthand how important it is for a woman to feel empowered in the care that she and her newborn are receiving. I think that is what makes a midwife's role especially important, as they keep the mum fully informed and tailor her care according to what each woman's individual and unique situation needs.

When I think back to witnessing the birth of my three children, I recall the gentle reassurance that helped guide my wife through each stage of labour, the calm, and the reassuring sense of stability offered by the midwife during the whirlwind of emotions. The value of the unwavering support and words of encouragement that our midwives give to women as they bravely face each contraction can never be underestimated.

Australia's midwifery service, as the Hon. Ben Hood mentions in his motion, is a greater challenge in our regions and rural areas. A significant reason for this, one which my government has acted on, is the challenge of recruiting and retaining midwives in rural and remote communities. With fewer births occurring in these areas, it is economically challenging to maintain full-time midwifery staff and facilities.

Large numbers of our midwives prefer to work in urban settings where they can access more job opportunities and professional development and also be close to amenities for their families. As we have learned over time, during the lives of many governments, the decline in midwifery services in regional areas cannot be blamed on the government of the day. It is a problem caused by many factors and is one that requires a long-term multifaceted approach.

As time has shown us, populations in our rural areas are generally inclined to decline as younger generations move on for study or work. However, it is imperative we continue to implement initiatives that do better at attracting and retaining midwives and look at how we can provide additional support for expectant mothers in rural communities.

Often, the midwife in a small community will wear many hats and fulfil other roles as needed. There is no question that midwives working in these areas are doing amazing work with whatever resources and infrastructure they have to support them. With that, on behalf of the government I commend each and every one of them and fully support this motion, with some minor amendments, to celebrate their commitment and recognise 5 May every year as the International Day of the Midwife.

The Hon. B.R. HOOD (17:36): I thank the Hon. Tung Ngo and the Hon. Nicola Centofanti for their contributions to this important motion. It is important that in this place we do acknowledge the amazing work of midwives around the state, and importantly in the regions. As I have mentioned many times before, and as the Hon. Nicola Centofanti just mentioned then, my wife is a midwife. Elle was inspired to become a midwife by another midwife when she gave birth to our daughter, Neave, in Naracoorte, but increasingly since that time in 2006 we have seen birthing services in the regions get smaller and smaller.

We see in Kapunda and Gawler, which my original motion mentioned, frequent diversions from Kapunda to Gawler and Gawler to the Lyell McEwin. These are very vulnerable regional areas and we need to ensure that mums and their expected bubs have every chance to be looked after as close to home as possible.

As the Liberal Party, we certainly will not be opposing the amendments put forward by the Hon. Tung Ngo. We are glad that the guts of the motion are still maintained, in that it calls on the

Malinauskas government to invest in regional birthing services and to implement all the recommendations of the Whyalla birthing services review.

Again, it is important that we do acknowledge the amazing work that our midwives do. A relation of mine just texted me only a few minutes ago. I would like to just put on record quickly, before summing-up, the name Harriet Eliza Hood. She was born in 1852 and died in 1919. She herself was a midwife and I did not know this, actually, until only a few minutes ago. At 1am in the driving rain, Harriet would be picked up by a horseman who came galloping up to her house. Harriet would go out into the regions and ride for miles to deliver babies. That was way back then.

That is how it used to happen in the regions, and I certainly hope that we do not have to have a situation in which women in South Australia have to jump on horseback and go for miles on end in pouring rain just to have their baby in relative safety. Good on Harriet for doing that, but I am certainly glad that we have midwives like my wife, Elle, and so many others in this state.

I thank them for their absolute commitment. I thank them for their humour—a midwife's humour is quite amazing—and how they still just push through. They come up against some pretty adverse situations but they always keep their cool. They always do right by the new and expectant mums, and I am so proud of Elle and all of the midwives here in South Australia. With that, I commend this motion and, again, wish every midwife in South Australia a very happy International Day of the Midwife back on 5 May.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

Bills

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (GREYHOUND RACING) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 1 May 2024.)

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (17:40): I rise on behalf of the opposition to speak on the Freedom of Information (Greyhound Racing) Amendment Bill, which has been brought forth by the honourable member in her longstanding campaign against the greyhound racing industry. I note that the honourable member has made a significant contribution, across her 14 years here in the state parliament, to bring change to the industry and improve standards and outcomes.

I suspect that this bill may be inspired perhaps somewhat as a result of the honourable member being refused access to documents by Greyhound Racing SA on the grounds that the agency is exempt. Whether or not that is correct might be contestable, as it appears that section 4(1)(f)(iii) of the act, that being the interpretation of 'agency', meaning an incorporated or unincorporated body 'subject to control or direction by the Governor, a Minister of the Crown or other instrumentality or agency of the Crown or a council (whether or not the body is established or continued in existence by or under an Act)', would cover Greyhound Racing SA.

Moreover, a statutory interpretation problem might also rise by only specifying section 6(1)(c) of the Authorised Betting Operations Act, excluding racing and harness racing from mention in the act, which are 6(1)(a) and 6(1)(b).

I note that this bill was brought to this chamber when it was because the government had been dragging its heels on implementing the recommendations the Premier and the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing publicly promised resulting from the Ashton review last December, that being in reference to the Independent Inquiry into the Governance of the Greyhound Racing Industry in South Australia released in December 2023.

The government had promised action by Easter this year and when the bill was introduced on Wednesday 1 May they had, indeed, broken that promise. However, after this bill was introduced, the government appointed a new Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector. That inspector was appointed on 8 May, with their role being to review and implement the remaining recommendations handed down by the independent Ashton review.

The opposition believes it is of best interest to allow the Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector to methodically work through these recommendations rather than have each item brought through as a private member's bill individually. As such, we will not be supporting the honourable member's bill today.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (17:43): I rise today to speak briefly on behalf of the government in relation to this bill introduced by the Hon. Tammy Franks. While the government has accepted in principle all recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into the Governance of the Greyhound Racing Industry in South Australia, and I acknowledge the steadfast commitment to the issue of the honourable member who has brought this bill, the government cannot support this bill—and I will go into that—and the precedent that it would set for the freedom of information scheme.

The objectives of the Freedom of Information Act are centred around the accountability and openness of ministers of the Crown and government agencies. The act does not contemplate having its provisions apply to non-government bodies, and simply inserting Greyhound Racing SA into the act's definition of 'agency', as this bill proposes to do, does not avoid the issues that would accompany, I am informed, imposing freedom of information obligations on a third party.

The precedent that this would set for the potential expansion into other non-government entities is undesirable. The openness and accessibility of information in relation to greyhound welfare remains critically important and it is a central recommendation of the independent inquiry that I mentioned earlier.

Recommendation 33 of the inquiry suggested that amendments to the Animal Welfare Act 1985 should be considered as part of the broader review of that act to mandate Greyhound Racing SA's reporting of suspected breaches of the act to the minister. An amendment to that effect has been included in the draft animal welfare bill, which is currently out for public consultation. Documentation relating to these mandatory reports would then be subject to the Freedom of Information Act, given that they are made to the minister via, I think, the RSPCA.

The government looks forward to receiving feedback on the draft bill and its eventual introduction to parliament. To oversee the implementation of recommendations, on Wednesday 8 May the government confirmed Mr Sal Perna AM as Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector. Mr Perna's career spans five decades of fighting corruption and, indeed, criminal behaviour. He was appointed as Victoria's inaugural Racing Integrity Commissioner in 2010 and provided independent oversight of integrity in the state's multibillion-dollar racing industry, including a 2015 inquiry into live baiting in greyhound racing in Victoria. Mr Perna will commence the role in the coming months. He will regularly report to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing, with a final report due two years after his term officially commences.

On behalf of the government, I can honestly say that the government thanks Ms Franks for her continued advocacy in this area. We look forward to working with her and continuing to work with her as we deliver overdue reform in this area.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (17:46): I thank the contributors today, the Hon. Nicola Centofanti on behalf of the Liberal opposition and the Hon. Justin Hanson on behalf of the Labor government. I remind the council that AJP Recommendation 13, which is one of the 86 recommendations of the Ashton review from the independent inquiry undertaken by Graham Ashton AM APM, who was the lead reviewer, and Zoe Thomas, the review director, and given to the minister in November last year and accepted, reads:

Amend freedom of information legislation to ensure there are no exemptions applicable to the racing industry.

This bill here today would ensure that it was clear that freedom of information requests to Greyhound Racing SA were to be complied with. I note that this has been a longstanding issue that I have raised many times in this place. I have been raising it for somewhere near a decade and I note that it was sparked by a 2016 freedom of information request, which I have tabled in this place before and raised in this place before, where I simply asked for statistics of greyhound racing in South Australia. Matt Corby, the then chief executive of Greyhound Racing SA, replied on 27 June 2016:

We refer to your letters of 27 April, 28 April, 29 April, 2 May, 3 May, 4 May, 5 May and 6 May 2016 by way of purported applications under the Freedom of Information Act 1991 (the Act).

It appears that the abovementioned applications are misconceived as the Act applies only to the 'agencies' as defined in the Act. Greyhound Racing SA Pty Ltd is not an 'agency' within the meaning of the Act and the Act has no application in respect to it.

At that time in July 2016, I was afforded some legal advice via Shaw & Henderson, who are criminal and commercial lawyers. I note that that legal advice responded to my email that posed two questions, and I quote:

1. Is GRSA an agency liable to the provisions of the FOI Act? and
2. If GRSA is not accountable under the FOI Act, which Minister or Department should questions relating to GRSA be directed?

To save time, I seek leave to simply table this document so that next time we have this debate, both the government and the opposition are able to digest it.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: In summary, at the time I received the advice, it did contend that GRSA should in fact be complying with the Freedom of Information Act. This bill would have simply clarified that. It was also, as I said, recommended by the Ashton review, a groundbreaking review which indeed found that the very things that animal advocates have long argued were happening here in South Australia in greyhound racing are indeed happening here in South Australia in greyhound racing.

By resisting this very simple bill to allow freedom of information requests and to ensure that they are complied with by Greyhound Racing SA, we are simply allowing the industry to carry on as they have done now for decades. I note that speakers have pointed to the appointment of Mr Ashton. Indeed, he does come with an outstanding record, but I would also note that, until the *Four Corners* exposé, he had been the commissioner in Victoria for five years and had no idea that live baiting existed in that state, so we cannot rely on one person to do this job. Indeed, it is a job that the parliament should be doing, and that the government has committed to do.

Mr Ashton, on ABC radio in the afternoon last week, in fact said that his job was not to implement the recommendations but to report on the implementations and progress of the recommendations. Mr Ashton is not a member of parliament. Mr Ashton does not have a vote in parliament. The Labor government and the Liberal opposition do have votes in parliament. They are, in fact, the only ones that can implement a change to our laws to ensure that recommendation that freedom of information apply to Greyhound Racing SA is in fact put into law, and that recommendation is able to be achieved.

I also note that Mr Ashton has now been announced, despite the government last December promising that there would be someone in place by Easter this year. It was far beyond Easter this year that the announcement of Mr Ashton was made and then, in the fine detail, we find that he does not actually start for some months to come; in fact, not until the second half of this year. He has no enabling legislation at this stage. He has no powers of inquiry bestowed upon him, and I note that in Victoria, while he was charged and given quite significant powers to undertake his job there within integrity and ensuring integrity in the racing industry in that state, he indeed asked for more powers because the ones he had conferred on him by Victorian legislation were not enough to do his job.

I find it extraordinary that the South Australian government has now announced the appointment of an eminent Australian to do an important job but has not given him the powers to do that job. I look forward to working with the government, who say that today they cannot support this legislation. I would say they will not support this legislation, but if they are willing to continue to work toward the goal of achieving all 86 recommendations being implemented within the time frame given, I do look forward to working with them further on this.

I will be pursuing the issue raised within the legal advice that I have now tabled, and seeking both Ombudsman and other adjudication of whether or not in fact Greyhound Racing SA should have always been subject to freedom of information requests. What this parliament does with its inaction today—for anyone who wants to know what is actually going on in the industry, as opposed to the very small reports that they might provide to the Minister for Racing—is it keeps the veil of secrecy over this industry that has been exposed by the Ashton report to be behaving inappropriately.

It does not reflect the expectations of the South Australian community in general and, more specifically, the pledge that they believe the Premier and the Minister for Racing made in December last year. It does not hold that pledge to the standard it should be. It is incredibly disappointing for those in the Animal Justice Party who worked in good faith with this Ashton review. It is incredibly disappointing to the RSPCA and the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds, who, again, worked in good faith to see the Ashton review expose what it did and to be an appropriate, independent and robust report.

It is a betrayal of all the work that went into that report to not enact the simplest recommendations that would provide proper and appropriate accountability and scrutiny over an industry that is predicated on gambling on animals, that has been exposed time and time again as behaving in inappropriate ways and that has shown that it cannot be trusted to govern itself.

It is an understatement to say that I am disappointed in the Malinauskas government today and I am very disappointed in the Minister for Racing, who has some idea that by opening up the Freedom of Information Act we somehow open a Pandora's box of unanticipated outcomes. Greyhound Racing SA should be subject to freedom of information, the government has agreed that it should be subject to freedom of information. They have said they accept the recommendation that Greyhound Racing SA should be compliant with freedom of information, but here we are, in a vote in parliament, where the government will not, because they say they cannot, support Greyhound Racing SA very clearly and explicitly being subjected to freedom of information requests.

I note that we have very small organisations in this state that are subjected to freedom of information requests; we have seen many in the APY Executive, for example, and that is a tiny organisation that does not make money out of gambling on animals, yet they are required to comply with freedom of information requirements, as they should. This idea that some mythical Pandora's box will somehow be unleashed and every tiny NGO might suddenly have to comply with a freedom of information request, which is something I have been told outside of this chamber but that was not made explicit in this chamber, seems to be one of the bogeymen being presented here.

I acknowledge that at least the Liberal opposition is open to having a discussion and open to voting for this measure and this recommendation being implemented in the future. If the Malinauskas government continues to obfuscate and resort to rhetoric rather than real action on cleaning up the greyhound racing industry, the Minister for Racing will only have herself to blame for any cruelty, illegality and corruption that may continue under her watch.

The council divided on the second reading:

Ayes4
 Noes.....16
 Majority12

AYES

Bonaros, C.	Franks, T.A. (teller)	Pangallo, F.
Simms, R.A.		

NOES

Bourke, E.S.	Centofanti, N.J.	El Dannawi, M.
Game, S.L.	Girolamo, H.M.	Hanson, J.E. (teller)
Henderson, L.A.	Hood, B.R.	Hood, D.G.E.
Hunter, I.K.	Lee, J.S.	Maher, K.J.
Martin, R.B.	Ngo, T.T.	Scriven, C.M.
Wortley, R.P.		

Second reading thus negatived.

*Motions***SINGAPORE AIRLINES**

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (18:01): I move:

That this council—

1. Congratulates Singapore Airlines for 40 years of successful operation in Adelaide;
2. Acknowledges Singapore Airlines as Adelaide's longest serving international airline;
3. Recognises the significant impact Singapore Airlines has on the visitor economy, international students market, international trade and exports sector over the last 40 years;
4. Notes Singapore Airlines has played a pivotal role in South Australia's COVID pandemic recovery and was one of the first international airlines to reintroduce flights in mid-2020 to help repatriate South Australians and to also transport South Australian exports to global markets; and
5. Commends Singapore Airlines for its long-term commitment to work in partnership with Adelaide Airport and recognises the airline's important contributions to the tourism, transport and aviation sectors in South Australia.

As shadow minister for tourism, hospitality and multicultural South Australia, it is a great honour to congratulate Singapore Airlines for reaching 40 years of outstanding service in Adelaide this year. This anniversary is a significant milestone, not only for Singapore Airlines but also for South Australia because it demonstrates that our state is competitive on the global stage, having an international airline committed to transporting passengers and commodities in and out of Adelaide and making us better connected with the rest of the world.

Singapore Airlines flies to 76 international destinations in 32 countries on five continents from its primary hub at Singapore Changi Airport. Widely renowned as one of the world's best carriers, the airline is ranked as a five-star airline by Skytrax and has also been ranked as the world's best airline five times. In 2023, Singapore Airlines was named the world's best airline at the 2023 World Airline Awards. Naturally, Singapore Airlines prides itself on the attentiveness and high service levels offered by all its staff to every single traveller, no matter their class of travel. This is one of Singapore's key cultural strengths and is a matter of huge pride.

I believe some of us who have previously had the pleasure of flying with Singapore Airlines may have a unique experience or a special Singapore Airlines story to share. Today, I would like to highlight one of my memorable trips with Singapore Airlines. Honourable members may recall there was a devastating earthquake in Nepal back in April 2015. The Nepalese community in South Australia informed me that the economic and social conditions in Nepal had not fully recovered after the earthquake. Many travellers were concerned about safety and uncertainty in the affected areas of Nepal.

With the valuable advice of the Honorary Consul General of Nepal in Adelaide and many Nepalese community leaders, I made a decision to embark on a study tour, with the aim to help rebuild Nepal, by visiting Nepal in 2016. I was very grateful that 12 delegates from various businesses and professional backgrounds joined me on that mission. One of the delegates was Yean-Nee Shortland, who works for Singapore Airlines.

When Singapore Airlines found out that our delegation would be making humanitarian visits to disadvantaged schools, charity groups and orphanages, they generously provided additional luggage space for the delegation so we could take blankets, stationery and useful items from Adelaide to Nepal. I want to place on record my very sincere thanks to Singapore Airlines for their outstanding support and generous services.

Singapore Airlines is one of the premier international airlines operating in Adelaide, and its presence here has had a longstanding and significant positive impact on our economy, tourism industry, export sector, international students market and South Australian community. Not only is it South Australia's largest carrier of South Australians and international visitors, Singapore Airlines provides essential logistic management services, transporting precious cargoes of fresh produce and consumer products in and out of South Australia.

Singapore Airlines has a long history dating back to 1941 when it operated as Malayan Airways Limited and then as Malaysia-Singapore Airlines from 1966. In 1972, Malaysia-Singapore Airlines decided to have its own identity and branched into two separate airlines: Malaysian Airline System and Singapore Airlines as we know it today.

Forty years ago, Singapore Airlines' inaugural service landed in Adelaide on 31 March 1984, less than 18 months after the opening of Adelaide Airport's international terminal. This makes Singapore Airlines Adelaide's longest serving international airline. Since 1984, Singapore Airlines has strongly supported the South Australian market and was a ground breaker when it introduced one-stop connections to Europe and the UK from Adelaide, removing the need to travel interstate to Sydney or Melbourne before flying internationally. In December 2018, Singapore Airlines chose Adelaide as its global launch port for its brand-new aircraft with the inaugural flight of the Airbus A350-900 from Singapore to Adelaide.

Singapore Airlines has strongly supported the South Australian market for four decades and has operated continuously, other than for a short period at the height of the COVID pandemic in 2020. We were incredibly grateful that Singapore Airlines was one of the first international airlines to reintroduce flights in mid-2020 and helped repatriate many South Australians who had been stranded overseas and were desperate to return home during the pandemic. It also played a pivotal role in supporting exporters to maintain a reliable supply for overseas markets during the pandemic.

As I am out and about in our community, members have shared their delight with me that Singapore Airlines has increased its services over the last few years to meet the growing demand, with passenger capacity continuing to expand as we welcome more and more international visitors and tourists back to our state. Singapore Airlines, while already operating seven weekly departures from Adelaide to Singapore, will be increasing this service to 10 flights per week from October 2024.

Singapore Airlines has continued to push for increased capacity into Adelaide and has seen the largest change in seat capacity of all major Australian destinations. By November of this year, Singapore Airlines estimates that the seat capacity will rise to 159 per cent of pre-COVID levels in Adelaide, while all other major cities will only just rebound to pre-COVID levels. There is no doubt that Singapore continues to be a vital market for South Australian tourism and exports.

Data from Tourism Research Australia shows that South Australia welcomed 15,000 visitors from Singapore in the year ending December 2023, representing 32 per cent of all international visitors into South Australia. This makes Singapore South Australia's fourth largest market in terms of visitor expenditure.

The South Australian Tourism Commission reported that the tourism expenditure of daily direct Singapore Airlines flights is estimated to generate \$96 million for the state per year. Data from the Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics shows that 6,186 tonnes of freight travelled between Adelaide and Singapore in 2022, representing 54 per cent of all freight in and out of South Australia. This is a great way to support our exporters in South Australia. Additionally, Singapore has ranked consistently in the top 20 countries of origin for international students in South Australia, contributing to a growing Singaporean community in our state.

Since 2015, Singapore Airlines has partnered with the South Australian Tourism Commission and the Tour Down Under to enable SATC to offer the participating teams and support crews a seamless flying experience to travel across the globe and into Adelaide to compete in Australia's premier cycling event. In 2024, Singapore Airlines brought 297 cyclists and accompanying support crew to Adelaide to participate in the Tour Down Under. The airline has also been a partner for Tasting Australia, showcasing their commitment to grow inbound and outbound travel into South Australia.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Singapore Airlines for its commitment and long-term contribution to the South Australian economy, our community and also for their great work, working in partnership with Adelaide Airport to support our transport and aviation sectors. With those remarks, once again, congratulations to Singapore Airlines for reaching a milestone 40th anniversary in Adelaide, and sincere thanks to all the management and staff of Singapore Airlines in Adelaide for their dedication and outstanding service.

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

Bills

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES (REFERRAL OF PETITIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

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

No. 1, page 4, line 24 [Schedule 1, clause 1(2), definition of *relevant petition*]—

Delete '5 May 2023' and substitute '1 May 2023'

SUPPLY BILL 2024

Introduction and First Reading

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

At 18:14 the council adjourned until Thursday 16 May 2024 at 14:15.