

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, 6 June 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 Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

Department for Education: Report—2023

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

Statutory Reports regarding Dangerous Area Declarations

Statutory Reports regarding Road Blocks pursuant to Section 74B

Question Time

LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries on livestock health.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Yesterday in the chamber, when asked a supplementary question about whether the minister could provide the potential effects of the trial to release 50 gigalitres of water containing blue-green algae downstream on livestock, the minister replied, and I quote, 'I believe I have answered that, in terms of the impacts, in terms of it being a non-toxic species.' When further pressed on whether the minister could confirm that it was indeed entirely non-toxic the minister replied, and I quote, 'I have answered that.' On review of *Hansard*, the minister said in her answer to the question on blue-green algae sludge entering South Australia that, and I quote:

In recent months, the Lower Darling River, including upstream of Weir 32 and the Menindee Lakes, has been affected by a widespread bloom of predominantly non-toxic blue-green algae. To date, the bloom has posed no immediate threat to potable water supplies or fish health.

The minister spoke about the possible impacts from the movement of high volumes of blue-green algae into the Murray including odour issues and increased treatment load and associated costs, but did not touch on the potential impacts on livestock drinking non-potable water. So my questions to the minister are:

1. Can she update the council on the possible impacts of toxic blue-green algae on livestock that are drinking the non-potable water from the Murray here in South Australia?
2. Noting her comments about the bloom being predominantly non-toxic blue-green algae, can she guarantee farmers that the incoming flush will not contain toxic blue-green algae nor have a negative health impact on the livestock drinking the water?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:22): I thank the honourable member for her question, which she has answered in the preamble to her question.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Supplementary, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: I will listen to your supplementary—

The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: I will do my job. You do your job, alright? Just everyone stay calm. Supplementary question, the honourable Leader of the Opposition.

LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:22): This is how pathetic the mob opposite are.

The PRESIDENT: No. Ask—

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: When, if at all, was the minister's department notified of the trial to release the 40 gigalitres of water, and has it been communicated with the farming community?

The PRESIDENT: No, it is not from the original answer.

The Hon. N.J. Centofanti: She didn't even answer my original question.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: Point of order.

The PRESIDENT: What is your point of order?

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: Supplementary, I beg your pardon. Supplementary, let's go with that.

The PRESIDENT: Supplementary question.

Members interjecting:

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

LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (14:23): What part of the member's question answered her question?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:23): I thank the honourable member for his supplementary question. The part where she quoted that:

In recent months, the Lower Darling River, including upstream of Weir 32 and the Menindee Lakes, has been affected by a widespread bloom of predominantly non-toxic blue-green algae.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Supplementary, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: I will listen to your supplementary question arising from the original answer.

The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Attorney-General!

LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:23): Noting the minister's answer to the supplementary question, can she guarantee farmers that the incoming flush will only contain non-toxic blue-green algae?

The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! That does not come from the original answer.

The Hon. K.J. Maher: Only Dennis knows how to do it.

The PRESIDENT: Attorney! The Hon. Leader of the Opposition, ask your second question, please.

WINE INDUSTRY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:24): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries on the topic of the South Australian wine industry.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: As someone who lives in a South Australian wine region, I have encouraged action from the minister, her department and the federal Labor government to address what has clearly been a worsening crisis. The minister claimed credit for establishing a working group and for the federal Labor government working to reopen the Chinese wine market. The rekindling of the Chinese market was promoted by the Labor government as being the solution to the industry's needs.

When asked what the government was doing in preparation for the likely adjustment and to preserve the productivity of our regions, the minister said in this place on 1 May:

It is interesting that she says that vine pulls are inevitable: I think there is certainly some active and live debate around that.

In an article in *The Australian* newspaper on 16 May, Australia's First Families of Wine said the following:

To ensure long term sustainability, the sad reality is that inland and other regional red grape producing vineyards will need to be removed and the industry needs to be drastically downsized by twenty-five to thirty per cent...

Robert Hill-Smith of Yalumba is quoted as saying:

This current state of play is not a market cycle waiting for self-correction, it requires permanent restructuring of supply and capacity.

In relation to the reopening of the China wine market, he said:

The current surplus is approximately ten times the amount of wine sold to China at its pre-covid peak. Furthermore, the market has changed. Wine consumption in China is estimated at about half its pre-covid levels, and the absence of Australian imports has seen the void filled by other international winemakers such as South America and South Africa.

My question to the Minister for Primary Industries is: noting that the chamber has already heard about the wine industry working group, Ethephon trials and the reopening of the China market, all of which are tampering around the edges and not providing much-needed acute assistance, what additional tangible measures can industry expect from the state budget released today to support growers exiting the wine grape industry and ensuring that land is kept productive for the sustainability of our regional communities?

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. A couple of points to clarify some of the misinformation being provided there: first of all, I don't think there is any time that the member would be able to find on record where I have said that the reopening of the China market was the solution. In fact, on many occasions both in this place and in radio interviews and elsewhere I have said repeatedly that the reopening of China is a significant part of the solution but it is not a silver bullet, or words to that effect.

So that is an incredibly important part; however, the fact that the China market has reopened to South Australian and Australian bottled wine is a great testament to the hard work of both the federal Labor government and this state Labor government in terms of ensuring that the trade relationship with China is restabilised. Where were those opposite during 2020 when the various trade bans and the various tariffs on all sorts of products, all of which affected regional South Australia so strongly—where were they when all of those things were occurring?

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Point of order: I said in my question, 'noting that the chamber has already heard about the wine industry working group...and the reopening of the China market'. I would like the minister to answer my actual question.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! It is not a point of order. Minister, please conclude your remarks so we can move on to the next question.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Thank you, Mr President. I would also point out that she referred to the 'worsening crisis', which is certainly the case, but it also begs the question: what was done by the former government? Because this issue has been around for a number of years: it has not just arisen in the last six months, 12 months, 18 months or two years.

The Hon. N.J. Centofanti: Keep going, Clare, I am just going to send this to the wine grape industry in the Riverland and see how they like it.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I would certainly hope that the Leader of the Opposition in this place would send it to other places to acknowledge that their government did absolutely nothing, even though this crisis was emerging back in their time. In relation to the questions around vine pulls, I think what the Leader of the Opposition has said in terms of the debate actually demonstrates exactly what I have said: that there is active debate around the efficacy of vine pulls.

One of the things the national working group certainly reported back on was that they had heard a diversity of opinion amongst wine grapegrowers and winemakers around a vine pull scheme. Finally, the honourable member is asking me to talk about what is in the budget. There is less than an hour before that will be clear.

SHARK MANAGEMENT

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:30): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries regarding sharks. We will see whether she answers it.

Leave granted.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: In response to a number of shark attacks in South Australia, the Premier announced that, within the Department of Primary Industries and Regions, there had been a task force of key agencies established to review the state's shark mitigation measures. My questions to the minister are:

1. What is being considered within the scope of the shark task force?
2. When does the minister expect to receive a report and recommendations from the shark task force?
3. What funding has been put towards the work of the shark task force?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:30): I thank the honourable member for her question. It certainly is the case that a task force was established following a number of shark attacks; unfortunately and very sadly several of those were fatal. It is a concern of many, and we certainly send out our condolences again to all those affected, both the friends and families of the deceased and also the local communities because these sorts of tragedies affect entire communities.

The task force has held a number of meetings and reviewed a variety of mitigation strategies that are used in all other jurisdictions as well as internationally. The task force was comprised of members from the following state government agencies, all of which have a role in the state's shark incident response plan: PIRSA, South Australia Police, State Emergency Service and the Department for Environment and Water. They were also joined by Surf Life Saving South Australia.

The task force also heard from a variety of stakeholders, including Surfing SA, RecFish SA and the Abalone Industry Association of South Australia.

The task force has evaluated current and potential future mitigation measures, based on a review of the scientific information available, as well as information from other jurisdictions. The task force also presented at the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association meeting held at Wudinna, and information was provided to attendees on the role of the task force in light of the recent motion that had gone to that local government association regarding shark mitigation, which I understand was put forward to that LGA. I am expecting to have further information and we are of course working across agencies to consider next steps.

SHARK MANAGEMENT

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:32): Supplementary: will the report and recommendations be made public?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:33): I will certainly give consideration to that. It will be a whole-of-government response.

SHARK MANAGEMENT

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:33): Supplementary: will the task force take on board the Senate committee report that looked at shark mitigation and deterrent measures back in 2017?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:33): I understand the task force looked at a wide variety of information. The scientific information that may have been provided to that committee would have been made available also, I would expect, to this task force.

SHARK MANAGEMENT

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:33): Supplementary: will the task force take on board the Senate committee inquiry into shark mitigation and deterrent measures, recommendations and findings?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:33): I just answered that. It was the same question.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

WALK FOR JUSTICE

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI (14:33): My question is to the Attorney-General. Will the minister inform the council about this year's JusticeNet fundraiser event Walk for Justice?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:34): I thank the honourable member for her question and her interest in this area. It is always an honour to take part in JusticeNet's annual fundraising event, Walk for Justice. Each year, hundreds of walkers gather early in the morning, united by their determination not just for competitive fundraising but also for JusticeNet and to take a stroll along the River Torrens as part of the Walk for Justice. I know this year, as in previous years, members of parliament, including myself, took part in the walk. I spent some time walking with the Hon. Robert Simms, who was not dressed as splendidly as he is today because it was an early morning walk.

JusticeNet is a not-for-profit pro bono legal service that was founded in 2001 with the aim of providing access to justice for low income and disadvantaged South Australians. It's an organisation whose staff and leadership are steadfastly committed to promoting social justice, addressing systemic issues in the legal system and advocating for policy change to promote equal access to justice. JusticeNet SA provides free legal advice to individuals who cannot afford a lawyer and may also provide representation primarily in civil matters, such as family law, tenancy disputes, debt and credit issues, employment disputes, and discrimination. It also provides a pro bono referral service that connects eligible individuals with volunteer lawyers who can provide ongoing legal assistance.

Legal education is also a significant part of JusticeNet's service delivery, where community legal education sessions and workshops are held to increase legal literacy and to help people better navigate the justice system. These free services are able to be delivered to JusticeNet thanks to their dedicated staff and lawyers and the many volunteers and legal students, and with funding grants through the Attorney's-General's Department and generous donations from the community, as was seen through the Walk for Justice event again this year.

I am very pleased to be able to say that this year the collective efforts from the community saw, I am advised, in excess of \$160,000 being raised for Walk for Justice for JusticeNet, which surpassed the goal of \$150,000. These funds will mean that thousands of South Australians will have access to quality legal assistance when they may otherwise have gone without representation.

I am also pleased to be able to inform the chamber of a rule change that has recently come into effect that helps the services that JusticeNet provides. There was a rule change that came into effect back in 2001, meaning that public sector lawyers from the DPP and the Crown Solicitor's Office who wished to undertake pro bono work through JusticeNet needed to gain qualifications above and beyond those required for their day-to-day work.

Following discussions between the Crown and the Legal Practitioners Education and Admission Council, the changes that were made were wound back, allowing pro bono work referred from JusticeNet to resume within the rule change that came into effect last year. I am pleased that the government, through the Crown, was able to work with the Legal Practitioners Education and Admission Council to make sure that those who wished to continue this pro bono work were able to do so as public sector lawyers.

I want to pay tribute to JusticeNet's CEO, Rebecca Ross, and the whole JusticeNet team for all the work they do, not just in coordinating the fundraiser for this year but day in and day out in providing access to justice for people who might not otherwise get it.

PUBLIC SECTOR PROCUREMENT

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:37): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Public Sector and Industrial Relations and Attorney-General on the topic of the ICAC's 'Buying trust: corruption risks in public sector procurement' report tabled this week.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: The ICAC commissioner this week identified, in her report, a concern around what she has termed, and others have termed, 'black cladding', noting that the government's Aboriginal Economic Participation Strategy is intended to increase Aboriginal participation in the South Australian economy and that, for large projects, industry participation weighting is increased for contracts that will involve Aboriginal participation.

Black cladding is of course defined to be the practice of non-Indigenous business entities or individuals taking unfair advantage of an Indigenous business entity or individual for the purpose of gaining access to otherwise inaccessible Indigenous procurement policies or contracts. Unfair advantage involves practices and arrangements that result in disadvantage or detriment to an Indigenous business or that do not represent a genuine, demonstrated level of equitable partnership and benefit.

The ICAC commissioner identified the inclusion of an Aboriginal supplier to increase the chances of winning a tender and, in that situation, once the tender was successful the work was not allocated to that Aboriginal supplier and, indeed, also misrepresented labour hours performed by Aboriginal workers. My question to the minister is: what will the government do to respond to this?

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. The report that was tabled this week identifies that certainly that is a potential issue. I haven't had a particular instance brought to my attention, and I don't remember being written to by ICAC about actual instances of this occurring, but it certainly raises this. I think, from memory, the ICAC report talks about this being a concern in other jurisdictions as well.

I did read that with interest. We do have targets, which I am very proud of, for participation for Aboriginal-owned and controlled businesses in terms of government supply, and also targets in terms of employment on government projects for groups of people, such as Aboriginal people, who often have difficulty in accessing the workforce.

I know the Office of the Industry Advocate does a lot of work, and I have been very pleased over many years to work closely with the South Australian Office of the Industry Advocate in terms of helping Aboriginal owned and controlled companies getting more involved in government work. I know that there is a yearly function that is run that connects Aboriginal businesses with government agencies directly that I have had the privilege of being involved in.

Also, Supply Nation is an organisation that is a federal government initiative and on its list a company has to be majority Aboriginal owned to be a Supply Nation registered business. I certainly will raise the issues that the ICAC commissioner has raised with my ministerial colleagues. A lot of government procurement is done through Treasury but the transport department in particular is a major procurer of services in South Australia, and it is a particularly important issue.

A statistic that I can remember reading, I think from a Supply Nation report, is that an Aboriginal-owned business is a hundred times more likely to employ Aboriginal people within their business so, for very good reasons, we want to encourage Aboriginal businesses to partake in government supply chains.

PUBLIC SECTOR PROCUREMENT

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:41): Supplementary: will the government investigate acquittal reporting coming direct from Indigenous businesses that are included in tenders, and will the government also consider refusing the opportunity to tender to those businesses found to be engaged in black cladding?

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. That was the other part of the ICAC report that referred to Aboriginal businesses, and I certainly am intending to and can inform the member that I will be raising them with the Treasurer in particular.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:42): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General about AI-generated electoral disinformation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.S. LEE: On 20 May 2024, the Australian Electoral Commissioner, Tom Rogers, told the federal Senate Select Committee Inquiry into Adopting Artificial Intelligence that the commission does not have the tools or laws to tackle artificial disinformation online. AI-generated misinformation has been reported in recent election campaigns in the US, Indonesia, Pakistan and India, including deepfake videos pretending to deliver messages from candidates, and robocalls misleading voters about how to participate in elections.

While the Australian Electoral Commission expects that similar artificial disinformation will appear in the next federal election, the commissioner told the inquiry that:

The AEC does not possess the legislative tools or internal technical capability to deter, detect or then adequately deal with false AI-generated content concerning the election process, such as content that covers where to vote, how to cast a formal vote, and why the voting process may not be secure and trustworthy.

My questions to the Attorney-General are:

1. Does the Electoral Commission of South Australia have a strategy in place to deal with false AI-generated electoral content?
2. Can the Attorney-General outline what the state government would do to address AI-generated disinformation concerns in future state elections?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:44): I thank the honourable member for her question. They are important issues that the honourable member raises. I know that this is an area that has been tackled in a couple of jurisdictions, a couple of states in the US, in relation to regulating wholly artificially generated electoral content. As the honourable member points out, it has been an issue in recent elections, including the recently run and concluded election in India. I saw reports of people who had passed away six years ago actually purporting to have ads made for electoral candidates.

It certainly is something I am happy to inform the honourable member that we are actively considering in South Australia. The now Special Minister of State, the Hon. Dan Cregan, the member for Kavel, has carriage of the Electoral Act, but prior to that it sat with me as Attorney-General. It is certainly something we have been looking at.

There are already provisions within our electoral regime in South Australia that don't appear in the federal regime. I think section 113 of our South Australian Electoral Act covers misleading advertising. That is something that our Electoral Commissioner does, and has for some time, adjudicated on as part of electoral campaigns, the misleading advertising.

I would suspect there would be much that might be wholly artificially generated content that may well fall into the provisions that we already have in South Australia that are not replicated in federal legislation, but it is something we are keenly looking at given what seems to be the very rapid rise in, partly and in most cases, wholly artificially generated content that occurs in electoral campaigns.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:46): Supplementary. The Attorney-General mentioned that he had former ministerial responsibility, so my supplementary question is: did the Electoral Commission of South Australia raise the issues and provide a briefing to the Attorney-General when he had ministerial responsibility for the commission at the time?

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 don't recall specifically it being raised by the Electoral Commissioner in terms of artificially generated content. I think this is an area that is developing extraordinarily rapidly and at pace. As I said, it is certainly something we are looking at in terms of possible electoral reform, but also noting that there are already tools that our South Australian Electoral Commissioner has that aren't replicated federally in terms of misleading content.

THRIVING REGIONS FUND

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:47): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding the Thriving Regions Fund Enabling Infrastructure Program. Will the minister please inform the chamber about the purpose of her recent regional visit to Keith?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:47): I thank the honourable member for his question. Hopefully, everyone here is aware that Keith is a great town, one that of course I have had the pleasure of visiting many times before. It's in a well-established agricultural area that has proven to be a thriving community and district with effects that flow on throughout the entire Tatiara council area, often known as the gateway to the Limestone Coast.

The Malinauskas Labor government is committed to developing our state's regions and strongly supports the Thriving Regions Fund to enhance and support our resilient regional communities. I recently had the pleasure of visiting Keith once again, but on this occasion to announce funding to the Tatiara District Council of \$800,000 towards its Keith Industrial Estate Expansion project to help attract and grow businesses in the region.

I was joined by the Mayor of the Tatiara District Council, Liz Goossens, and councillors, and the hardworking Nick McBride MP, member for MacKillop, in Keith where it was evident that they were thrilled the state government is partnering with them to develop new industrial land in Keith. Ten serviced allotments will be developed within the Keith Industrial Estate, ranging from 4,000 to

6,000 square metres, with the funding supporting the construction of essential infrastructure, including stormwater drainage, road pavement, kerbing, sewerage and electrical and internet connections.

The estimated total project cost is \$3.3 million, with the investment also creating 46 local jobs and an estimated growth in GDP of \$8.2 million. These economic impacts will be further amplified by the ongoing operation of businesses moving into the estate and employment of staff in the region.

I was advised that industrial land in Keith is at a premium. There is simply nowhere else for businesses to go. Since 2018, there has been no land available for businesses to move into the area. These serviced allotments will provide the space and essential services to attract businesses to set up in the expanded industrial estate. The allotments are infrastructure that doesn't just benefit an individual business but has a widespread benefit overall and could lead to population growth within the area.

The location of the allotments is prime, as it is midway along the Melbourne to Adelaide freight route and at the junction of the road to Mount Gambier, which in turn creates further potential to bring other industries to the town. It is expected the project will go to tender within the next few months, with construction planned for late 2024. I certainly look forward to seeing this estate grow, and will be sure to visit again once it has been completed.

While we are on the topic of Keith, on this particular day we got there about 20 minutes earlier than we were needed and I had the great pleasure of visiting Beyond Words Bookshop and talking with Sally there. It is a wonderful, relatively new bookshop with new and used books, some wonderful comfy chairs, and they have some lovely local community events there, so I want to congratulate Sally on such a great local business in Keith as well.

REGIONAL BANK CLOSURES

The Hon. S.L. GAME (14:50): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding the digitalisation of money and the ensuing trend towards a cashless society and its effect on regional communities.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: A recent Senate inquiry into regional branch closures has recommended significant changes to the Banking Code of Conduct that will ensure access to financial services for all Australians. These recommendations were particularly aimed at ensuring financial accessibility to people in rural and remote areas. The findings of this inquiry, which were made public on 24 May, reiterated the concerns of a cashless society that I addressed with parliament on 1 May. These concerns focused on how the closure of hundreds of bank branches would disproportionately affect rural businesses and consumers who depend on conventional financing sources like cash.

The committee spearheading the report recommended that under the changes to the Banking Code of Conduct a regulator be given the authority to approve or defer closure requests, and that banks fund transition and ongoing services to maintain access to cash and essential banking services. Additionally, the report called for an expansion of the Bank@Post service, which is a joint initiative between Australia Post branches and participating banks to allow financial services like cash withdrawals, deposits and transactions to be facilitated at Australia Post branches.

Despite the shift towards online banking, the importance of maintaining access to physical banking services cannot be overstated. This is particularly true for the rural populace, the elderly, those without internet access and businesses that rely on cash transactions. My questions to the minister are:

1. Does the minister recognise that Australians are growing increasingly worried about the digitalisation of money and, if so, how does the minister intend to address these concerns?
2. Does the minister recognise the importance of cash to Australians?

3. Will the minister support the recommendations put forth by the transport reference committee for rural and regional affairs regarding bank closures in regional Australia, specifically the proposals that secure and improve the accessibility of cash?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:52): I thank the honourable member for her question. I did respond to a question earlier this week about that same inquiry in which I said that there were a number of recommendations that had been made, but the implementation had not been outlined. As I understand it, a number may be within the scope of government, but it is obviously far broader than that, given that we are talking about banks and all the associated matters to do with that. I do acknowledge there are a wide variety of views about, to use the honourable member's term, the digitalisation or less use of cash. There is a wide variety of views within the community.

I think it is probably most appropriate to wait for that implementation plan, or whatever else comes out of the federal government, and then, if there are any actions for the state government to take, they can be considered at that time.

AGE OF CONSENT

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (14:54): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General regarding the age of consent in South Australia.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: It has recently been reported that a South Australian woman known as Jenna, who was allegedly groomed by a former teacher, has approached the Attorney-General calling for changes to our state's consent laws. Jenna has told *The Advertiser* that years after her former teacher groomed her at the age of 17, she reported the incident but no charges could be laid as the alleged predator was no longer teaching at the school she was attending when the offence is said to have occurred.

In response to Jenna's correspondence raising her concerns, the Attorney-General conceded that under a 'strict interpretation' of the law, the conduct of sexual activity between a teacher and a former student who is 17 years of age may not be captured by the current provisions. The Attorney-General further stated:

Noting the concerns you have raised, I have instructed my department to consider this issue further as part of the review (of consent laws).

My question to the Attorney-General is: given the consultation on the state government's review of consent laws in South Australia closed on 12 February this year, what progress has the government made on fixing this loophole, and when can we expect to see something before the parliament?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:55): I thank the honourable member for his question. He is quite right that we have had a review into a number of issues that relate to laws of consent in South Australia. That has now closed. All the submissions are being assessed. I know that within my department, work has already started on the policy work as a result of those submissions. I would expect there would be more that I can say about any changes probably sometime later this year.

RECONCILIATION BREAKFAST

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (14:56): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Will the minister inform the council about South Australia's annual reconciliation breakfast for 2024?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:56): I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in this area. I know that many people in this chamber have been very interested in being attendees over many years, including yourself, sir, at Reconciliation South Australia's annual reconciliation breakfast.

I had the opportunity to talk to Karen Mundine, who is the head of Reconciliation Australia, who is a regular attendee at our breakfast, as she was again this year. She informed me it is by far the largest of its type of event anywhere in Australia. This year, I was advised that the breakfast was the highest attended that Reconciliation South Australia has ever put on. At 7am at the Convention Centre on the Monday of Reconciliation Week, in excess of 2,800 people attended the breakfast, quite a remarkable turnout.

The breakfast was formally opened with a welcome from Aunty Ros Coleman and had a very large array of talented First Nations speakers and performers. The event was MC'd again, as it was last year, by television and film actor Luke Carroll, whom many people would probably be more familiar with as a host of *Play School*, amongst many other things that Luke does. There was a powerful keynote address from the multitalented Yorta Yorta musician Adam Briggs, better known as the rapper Briggs.

The breakfast attendees were also treated to an amazing array of talented acts, like the dance group Of Desert and Sea, and the morning was finished out with the APY lands outfit Dem Mob who, if they are not already, will soon be on their way to North America to play, as I think I have mentioned before, in New York and Toronto, amongst other places.

This year's breakfast was the first we have had since the passing of Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue. With the help of her family, a short memorial clip was played to the audience with a live rendition by Aboriginal artist Rob Edwards of one of Lowitja's favourite songs, *We Shall Overcome*. It certainly was a fitting way to recognise such an instrumental South Australian leader who had a profound effect on our nation. I think Dr O'Donoghue was one of the first patrons of Reconciliation South Australia when it started.

It was a great pleasure once again to speak as part of that breakfast on behalf of the government, outlining some of the nation-leading initiatives we are taking in Aboriginal affairs. I would like, as I did on the day, to recognise the role of Reconciliation South Australia, particularly over the last six months, for its strong leadership, often having difficult and tough conversations and holding organisations accountable for attitudes and looking at ways to help change society for the better. The role of Reconciliation South Australia and Reconciliation Australia is just as important if not more important than it ever has been and is very fitting with this year's Reconciliation Week theme, 'Now more than ever'.

I would like to place on the record my very great thanks to Reconciliation South Australia and its CEO, Jason Downs, and its co-chairs, Helen and Jeremy, for all the great work that they do and the time that they give up for this important movement and organisation.

UNIVERSITY MERGER

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:00): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question without notice to the minister representing the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science on the topic of university rankings.

Leave granted.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Simms, just before you start, I noted your apology to me for your state of undress, and I know that it's not going to be a habit that we are going to have to put up with.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: Thank you, Mr President. I have made a rod for my own back, being such a fashion plate in this chamber.

The PRESIDENT: Well, that's the problem, isn't it?

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: I acknowledge that. When you set the bar high, it's very hard. It was reported yesterday that UniSA's rankings have dropped in the latest QS World University Rankings from 340 down to 326, putting the university now below Flinders University, which is sitting at 336. Last year, the Joint Committee on the Establishment of Adelaide University heard evidence from the Hon. Chris Schacht, a former federal Labor minister, that there may be a dip in ratings for a few years for the new university. My question therefore to the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science is:

1. Is the government concerned about the potential for a future fall in ratings for the new Adelaide University?

2. In particular, are they concerned about the impact this may have on the capacity of the new university to recruit international students?

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. I will be happy to pass it along to the Deputy Premier in another place and bring back a reply.

CASHLESS DEBIT CARD

The Hon. B.R. HOOD (15:02): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs regarding income management.

Leave granted.

The Hon. B.R. HOOD: The District Council of Ceduna at its ordinary council meeting on 15 May 2024 passed a motion that read as follows:

That the District Council of Ceduna advocates for mandatory Income Management for vulnerable and at risk persons.

This follows the previous month's council meeting carrying a motion acknowledging correspondence from businesses and residents expressing concerns over escalating levels of antisocial behaviour in the CBD and adjacent areas.

The minister, in previous answers during question time, said that Liberal members were misrepresenting the situation in Ceduna and suggested that many locals disagree that changes to the cashless debit card program have led to an increase in crime. My questions to the Aboriginal affairs minister are:

1. Does the minister support the motion passed by the District Council of Ceduna on 15 May, and will he join with them in advocating for changes to mandatory income management for vulnerable persons in Ceduna?

2. Given the minister's previous comments, what does he have to say to Ceduna residents, councillors and business owners who believe changes to the cashless debit card have in fact led to increased crime in their town?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:03): I thank the honourable member for his question. I haven't seen the motion the honourable member refers to. I'm happy to have a read of it. I'm not aware of evidence that has been tested and provides a direct link between the issues of income management and other issues in Ceduna. I know that from October 2022 participants in the cashless debit card in Ceduna were able to consider being—and I understand some have been—placed on voluntary income management.

I have outlined to this chamber before a great range of programs and responses that are being undertaken, including some of those in terms of alcohol restrictions, that are occurring in Ceduna. I know that changes in response to circumstances are requested by the local community. Certainly, though, I know, having spent some time on the Far West Coast, including Ceduna, earlier this year, that there are Aboriginal leaders who have been particularly distressed at some of the misrepresentations that they feel have been made of some of the community in relation to things that have gone on in Ceduna, that they feel are for political purposes from others.

KANGAROO ISLAND, FERAL PIGS

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:04): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister update the council about the surveillance work on Kangaroo Island to ensure feral pigs are eradicated?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:05): I thank the honourable member for his question. Members in this place would be aware that I have previously updated the council about the excellent work

being done by the staff of the Department of Primary Industries and others to eradicate feral pigs from Kangaroo Island. The Feral Pig Eradication Project started in the wake of the devastating 2019-20 Kangaroo Island bushfires that decimated feral pigs on the island and provided a real opportunity for a concerted effort that presented the opportunity to achieve complete eradication from the island.

Before the fires, it was estimated there were between 5,000 and 10,000 feral pigs which had been impacting farmers and the environment. The feral pigs were notorious for damaging pastures, grain and potato crops, fence lines and dams, as well as threatening native animals and vegetation. I am advised that there are now no known pigs remaining on the island; however, it is vital that surveillance work is undertaken to confirm this. The eradication program so far has used a range of tools to cull the feral pigs, including thermal-assisted aerial culling, detector dogs, ground shooting, ground baiting, and a network of over 500 monitoring cameras assisted by artificial intelligence.

Unlike members opposite, we are consistently supportive of the eradication of feral animals in this state. That is why I recently had the opportunity to announce what is hoped to be the final phase of the eradication program, which is a two-year surveillance program to ensure there are no feral pigs in any isolated areas on the island. I announced additional funding of \$367,000 from PIRSA, along with an additional \$230,000 from the local landscape board, to help underpin an extensive monitoring program which includes field staff running a network of 500 cameras and undertaking DNA analyses of waterways on the island to ensure there is no detection of feral pigs.

This additional funding is a great reflection of the partnership approach that has typified the eradication program, with agencies representing both natural landscapes and primary production working together to ensure eradication is achieved. This increase in resourcing will also provide additional capacity for an emergency response if any feral pigs are detected, which would see the swift return of a thermal-assisted helicopter at any point over the next two years.

I have spoken previously about the enormous economic benefits that the eradication of feral pigs provide primary producers. Removing all feral pigs from the island will save an estimated \$1 million a year in damage and other costs, as well as reducing impacts to Kangaroo Island's precious biodiversity. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Jamie Heinrich from AgKI for his continued advocacy for the continuation of this program. I have appreciated both his knowledge and perspective on this matter on the occasions when I have met with him.

COASTAL SAND EROSION

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:08): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the minister responsible for Adelaide's sand management.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: As the beaches in the Adelaide metropolitan area in some places are eroding, a new concern has come to the fore; that is, pieces of broken asbestos panels from long-demolished beach shacks and coastal shacks resurfacing and washing up on the shorelines, in particular identified at Henley and Henley South. My question to the minister is: what is the state government doing to address this issue?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:08): I thank the honourable member for her question. I am going to have to take that on notice. As the honourable member correctly pointed out, I think in yesterday's question time, I have ministerial responsibility in relation to a specific issue of the drift of sand in the northern beach cell that goes from around the West Beach area up to the Semaphore-Largs area.

I have read media reports, as the honourable member obviously has as well, about issues to do with asbestos. My guess is that regulation is largely to do with the EPA. SafeWork SA also has oversight, in terms of the asbestos removal, but I don't think that is the issue. I am happy to take it on notice and bring back a reply for the honourable member.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:09): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs about vulnerable children.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON: The Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, April Lawrie, has released the findings of an inquiry which reveals half of all Aboriginal children in South Australia are reported to the Department for Child Protection during their childhood. One of the recommendations to come out of that report is investing more in early support services and Aboriginal-run organisations. My questions to the minister are:

1. What services are currently being delivered to help reduce the rate of Indigenous children in care, and does the minister believe they are working sufficiently?
2. What is the minister doing in his capacity as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs to ensure fewer Indigenous children are ending up known to DCP?
3. Can the minister advise what new initiatives he has introduced as Aboriginal affairs minister since coming to government to work to tackle these unacceptably high rates?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:10): I thank the honourable member for her question. I can give some general comments and I can take much of that on notice. The minister responsible for child protection is the Hon. Katrine Hildyard, the member for Reynell, in another place. There was quite a lot that was said about the report that the honourable member mentions in a ministerial statement from Minister Hildyard that the Hon. Clare Scriven tabled yesterday.

As the honourable member alluded to her in the question, as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs I obviously take a keen interest in my colleague's area of child protection given the over-representation of Aboriginal children in the area. I know Minister Hildyard is very appreciative of the work that Commissioner Lawrie has done and for her dedication and commitment in providing the report. I know that Minister Hildyard is now having a look at that very thorough report and its recommendations and will respond accordingly.

In relation to some of the other aspects of the question, I am more than happy to take them on notice and bring back a reply about the various increased levels of funding, programs and specific actions.

KAURNA VOICES

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (15:12): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Will the minister please inform the council about the Kurna cultural map recently launched by the City of Adelaide?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:12): I would be more than happy to. I sincerely thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in this area.

Coinciding with this year's Reconciliation Week, which I spoke about earlier in question time, the City of Adelaide in partnership with the Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation, the prescribed body corporate for the Kurna native title holders, has launched Kurna Voices, an interactive website that maps significant Kurna sites and tells Kurna stories around the city.

The City of Adelaide has been building this project over the last two years and it has been an integral part of their reconciliation action plan. The result is a stunning and engaging piece of work that tells important and authentic Kurna stories through the voices of traditional owners. Users of the map can learn about culturally significant sites and cultural practices such as ancient Kurna burial rites and how these practices were carried out in locations across the city, as well as landmarks which represent the locations of some of the more difficult parts of our past, including atrocities committed against Kurna people by early settlers.

The map features many things, including Tarntanya, the summer resting place for kangaroos as told in the red kangaroo dreaming; popular swimming and bathing spots along Karrawirra Parri, the Torrens; and the locations of camps where Kurna people lived on the borders after European settlement, from which they were eventually removed by the then Chief Protector of Aborigines under the powers of the Aborigines Act.

The map also contains audio histories told by significant Kurna elders such as Yvonne Agius and Uncle Lewis O'Brien, which explain the significance of Kurna Yerta in their own words. Other very important contributions are from Auntie Rosalind Coleman, who I spoke about as giving the Welcome at the Reconciliation Week breakfast, about Tulya Wardli, or Bonython Park, and the special place that holds in her life.

Uncle Jeffrey Newchurch, as part of this project, tells listeners about the emotional significance of Tarntanya Wama, or Pinky Flat, as a social meeting place for Kurna people. Auntie Lynette Crocker recounts the cultural significance of Kainka Wirra, the Botanic Gardens, and the importance of preserving that space. As Uncle Jeffrey Newchurch describes, cultural mapping is a healing process. This map represents how the stories of Kurna Yerta, Kurna land, have across time and always will play a critical role in the identity and purpose of Kurna people.

I look forward to seeing the map grow over time as it captures more and more stories and, hopefully, seeing other councils follow suit with similar initiatives. For people interested, the map is available on the City of Adelaide website and I encourage people to have a good look and learn about the living history of Kurna Yerta.

FIRST HOME OWNER GRANT

The Hon. S.L. GAME (15:15): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing a question to the Attorney-General, representing the Treasurer, regarding the Labor government's policy for first-home buyers, specifically the removal of stamp duty for new buildings only.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: The recent announcement by the government to extend the first-home buyers grant and abolish stamp duty for first-home buyers is a positive step towards alleviating the financial burden on new home buyers. However, the catch is that these concessions are only applicable to new builds, off-the-plan purchases, house and land packages or vacant land intended for new construction.

For many first-home buyers this poses significant risks and uncertainties. Established properties offer the advantage of transparency and immediate occupancy, whereas new builds require trust in construction companies and patience through potential delays. Recent collapses of several construction companies have left some buyers in difficult situations, including unfinished homes and additional costs. My questions to the Attorney are:

1. Does the Attorney recognise the concerns of first-home buyers about the risks associated with new builds and, if so, how does the government intend to mitigate these risks?
2. Is the government considering extending the first-home buyers grant and stamp duty exemptions to include established properties to provide more options and security for first-home buyers?
3. Will the Treasurer support the abolition of stamp duty entirely as a means to make home ownership more accessible to all Australians, not just first-time buyers?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:17): I thank the honourable member for her question. I think I can provide some answers without having to refer them all to the Treasurer. Thousands of homes are built each year in South Australia.

Unfortunately, we do see with a very small percentage things that happen with companies involved in some parts or all of building those homes, as we do in all industries. As the honourable member will see very shortly when the budget papers are handed out, there are very significant concessions for cost-of-living pressures facing families, particularly lower income families, contained in this year's budget.

In relation to the First Home Owner Grant, of course I recognise the concerns the honourable member has raised about some of the risks inherent in any transaction, including the ones the honourable member has outlined. One of the other things that encouraging new builds does is

increase housing stock, which we know is critically important not just in Adelaide but right around South Australia and the country.

FIRST HOME OWNER GRANT

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (15:18): Supplementary arising from the original answer: will the Attorney care to reflect on the difference in providing concessions for new builds and how they impact on the economy in general and jobs, as opposed to providing concessions for existing housing stock?

The PRESIDENT: I'm not sure that is arising from the original answer. However, if the Attorney would like to answer, he can.

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 with his counterpart across the chamber, the Hon. Dennis Hood, you can certainly tell the members of this chamber who have been around here for some time and understand how to phrase questions and how this place works. I thank the honourable member for his question.

As I outlined to the Hon. Sarah Game in her question, sometimes policy initiatives have a number of different aims in what they seek to do. Certainly, for first-home owner concessions for new builds, it does help with cost-of-living pressures. It helps people getting into the housing market, but it also helps with increasing housing stock in South Australia.

The Hon. Ian Hunter has asked about what other benefits come from such policies. When you increase housing stock not only is there more housing for South Australians but it does tend to stimulate the economy. We see people in all sorts of professions who are involved in building houses employed in South Australia, so having first-home owner relief that is directed at new builds not only increases housing stock but has the great benefit of making sure that there are people employed in trades in the construction of houses, which helps with employment in the state.

Parliamentary Procedure

ANSWERS TABLED

The PRESIDENT: I direct that the written answers to questions be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

BUDGET PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

Budget Paper 1—Budget Overview 2024-25

Budget Paper 2—Budget Speech 2024-25

Budget Paper 3—Budget Statement 2024-25

Budget Paper 4—Agency Statements, Volumes 1,2,3 and 4 2024-25

Budget Paper 5—Budget Measures Statement 2024-25

Bills

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY (REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

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

CRIMINAL ASSETS CONFISCATION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

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

Second Reading

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

That this bill be now read a second time.

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

Leave granted.

Mr President, the Bill I introduce today is the Criminal Assets Confiscation (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024, amending the *Criminal Assets Confiscation Act 2005* (hereinafter referred to as the CAC Act).

There are a number of the amendments in the Bill that were recommendations from the 'Review of amendments to the *Criminal Assets Confiscation Act 2005* enacted by the *Criminal Assets Confiscation (Prescribed Drug Offenders) Amendment Act 2016*' (the Review). There are also additional amendments to the freezing order provisions of the CAC Act, and amendments relating to the use of the warrants under section 172.

The amendments contained in the Bill which arise from the recommendations of the Review are:

- an amendment that clarifies that the definition of government custody includes a period of home detention; and
- an amendment clarifying that property that is subject to a restraining order can still be under the effective control of a prescribed drug offender; and
- an amendment that clarifies that forfeited property can be dealt with in a manner that the Administrator thinks fit, including the destruction of the property.

Further amendments relate to the freezing order provisions of the Act. Freezing orders require financial institutions to freeze the specified accounts, not allowing deposits or withdrawals. A freezing order prevents monetary assets from being transferred and hidden prior to a restraining order or forfeiture order being made in relation to that asset.

The amendments in Bill will make freezing orders more effective by extending the time that they can apply from 72 hours to 7 days, allowing for a longer period for the South Australia Police and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to prepare an application for a restraining order or forfeiture order. Freezing orders will also be able to apply to classes of accounts, rather than having to specify an individual bank account.

An application for an extension to a freezing order will now be possible where a restraining order application will be made (but has not yet been made). The amendments also provide that that a Magistrate, when considering an application for a freezing order, may have regard to a series of factors including the amount held in the account or whether the account is held in joint names, rather than those factors requiring mandatory consideration.

In addition, a catch-all factor of 'any other relevant consideration' has been added to expand the scope of what a Magistrate may consider. A Magistrate will still be required to consider whether any hardship is reasonably expected to be caused as a result of the order.

Recent legal proceedings under the CAC Act have also brought to light an issue related to warrants issued pursuant to section 172 of the Act in respect to a type of property classified as a chose in action.

The amendments will validate any past seizures of choses in action pursuant to CAC Act warrants, validate any subsequent actions and orders made in those matters, and provide that no liability attaches to the Crown or other person as a result of any seizures.

Mr President, the amendments in this Bill will improve the operation and effectiveness of the CAC Act, enabling the South Australia Police to ensure that offenders do not profit from their crimes.

I commend the Bill to Members and seek leave to insert the explanation of clauses into *Hansard* without my reading it.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

This clause is formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Criminal Assets Confiscation Act 2005*

2—Amendment of section 6A—Meaning of prescribed drug offender

This clause amends the definition of *government custody* to include custody under a home detention order under Part 3 Division 7 Subdivision 1 of the *Sentencing Act 2017*.

3—Amendment of section 17—Authorised police officer may apply for freezing order

This clause broadens the power to make freezing orders (in particular by allowing a freezing order to be made in relation to a class of accounts).

4—Amendment of section 21—Duration of freezing order

This clause increases the maximum duration of a freezing order from 72 hours to 7 days, allows extension of a freezing order in circumstances where an application for a restraining order is yet to be made and makes a consequential amendment.

5—Amendment of section 56A—Prescribed drug offenders

This clause makes a clarifying amendment.

6—Amendment of section 93—How forfeited property must be dealt with

This clause provides a clarifying amendment making it clear that property may be disposed of under the section by selling the property, arranging for the destruction of the property or in any other manner the Administrator thinks appropriate.

7—Amendment of section 172—Warrants authorising seizure of property

This clause validates certain warrants issued before the commencement of this subsection authorising (or purporting to authorise) the seizure of money in a bank account held by a financial institution or any other thing as a chose in action.

Schedule 1—Transitional provisions

1—Application of amendments to section 21 of Act

This clause provides a transitional provision.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. D.G.E. Hood.

At 15:24 the council adjourned until Tuesday 18 June 2024 at 14:15.

*Answers to Questions***PARLIAMENTARY EXECUTIVE SALARY INCREASES**

In reply to **the Hon. C. BONAROS** (19 March 2024).

The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS: On 19 March the Hon. Connie Bonaros directed a question to me concerning the salaries of the Clerks and Deputy Clerks of both houses of this parliament. I provide an account of the processes involved in the determinations.

In 2022 the Clerks and Deputy Clerks prepared and presented a joint submission to the Presiding Officers of both Houses drawing our attention to, and requesting our consideration of, the then unsatisfactory position regarding the salaries and conditions of the executive officers of the two Houses of the South Australian parliament.

For more than 20 years the Clerks and Deputy Clerks of the two houses had been the lowest paid in Australia and were continuing to fall further behind all other jurisdictions.

The Clerks of the South Australian parliament were remunerated at a level below that of the Deputy Clerks of all other Australian jurisdictions except for Queensland and the ACT.

Similarly, the remuneration of the Deputy Clerks were by a significant margin, the lowest in the country.

The Speaker and I agreed that the situation placed this parliament in a vulnerable situation and needed redressing. The Speaker and I jointly made the decision to provide an offer to the Clerks and Deputy Clerks that sought to re-establish the three-state average (Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania) benchmarking that had been applied to the Clerks and Deputy Clerks salaries in the 1990s as a way of restoring the relativities and standing of the Clerks and Deputy Clerks of this parliament with their counterparts around the country. This process reflected the process that had been undertaken in the 1990s.

As the Clerks are officers of the houses, the JPSC did not and should not have any role in the determinations.

Previous setting and adjustments for remuneration of the Clerks and Deputy Clerks have not been reported to either house by the respective Presiding Officer and so there was no decision to initiate that practice.

While the initial offer to the Clerks and Deputy Clerks included the provision of annual reviews of the remuneration of the Clerks and Deputy Clerks to account for movements in the three-state average, no adjustments have been made since the initial offer. The Clerks and Deputy Clerks have stated that they welcome the referral of their remuneration to the Remuneration Tribunal.

STANDING ORDERS

In reply to **the Hon. T.A. FRANKS** (5 June 2024).

The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS: The Hon. T.A. Franks has asked me to advise the council on the operations of standing order 109.

Standing order 109 states:

In putting any Question, no argument, opinion or hypothetical case shall be offered, nor inference or imputation made, nor shall any facts be stated or quotations made including quotations from *Hansard* of the debates in the other House, except by leave of the Council and so far only as may be necessary to explain such Question.

Members often seek leave of the council to provide a brief explanation prior to directing their question. Leave may be granted by the council with the unanimous consent of members and is granted when no member present objects to the course of action for which leave is sought.

As Odgers states, 'Leave is restricted to the particular purpose for which it has been sought'. In relation to standing order 109, there are several restrictions when asking a question identified in the standing order, one of which is the inclusion of quotations from *Hansard* of the debates in the other house. The question as to whether the leave of the council to make a brief explanation provides leave for a member to include in that explanation all or any of the otherwise prohibited content may be subject to conjecture.

However, to give clarity to this issue from this point, when members seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question, I ask that they include that they are seeking leave to include quotations from *Hansard* of the debates in the other house, if that is necessary to explain such question.