

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

### Wednesday, 11 September 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 (14:18):** I bring up the 49<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, 2022-24.  
Report received.

#### *Ministerial Statement*

#### H5N1 HIGH PATHOGENICITY AVIAN INFLUENZA, WILDLIFE PREPAREDNESS

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:18):** I table a copy of a ministerial statement relating to H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza wildlife preparedness made earlier today in another place by my colleague the Hon. Susan Close.

#### *Question Time*

#### WINE INDUSTRY

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:23):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries about addressing the wine grape oversupply.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** The minister reported the formation of the Viticulture and Wine Sector Working Group following a combined meeting of agriculture ministers earlier in the year. The working group was due to report back in late July this year. So far, the working group has only issued an infographic titled 'National Viticulture and Wine Sector Working Group—What we have heard'.

In addition to this, an excellent report from Professor Kym Anderson at the University of Adelaide titled 'The current wine crisis: Ways forward in Australia's wine regions' has apparently been, and I quote, 'delivered to agriculture ministers and released publicly to assist industry in future planning'. This report offered economic analysis of the contributing factors to the impacts of the oversupply but its intent is not to provide a specific list of options, merely to offer important factors for consideration. My questions to the minister are:

1. Where is the final report from the working group that links the economic analysis, what the group has heard, and providing the guidance that the viticulture and wine sector has been waiting for?
2. Will she make the final report from the working group public?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:25):** I thank the honourable member for her question and in particular her acknowledgement that there has been both an interim report or statement which outlined the extensive consultation and what the major themes and feedback received were, as well as the release of the Anderson report.

My understanding is that due to the change of federal minister, the final report has been delayed in its being distributed to all ministers. In terms of whether the report will be made public,

that is not a decision of mine. This is a national agriculture minister's resolution to have the group set up and that would similarly be the resolution, I would expect, of the agriculture minister.

#### WINE INDUSTRY

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:26):** Supplementary: will the minister be advocating to her federal colleagues for the public release of that final report?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:26):** I would expect so. Obviously, I haven't seen that final report yet, as we have just alluded to. I would expect in a general sense that it would be useful to release it potentially with a government response, but at the moment really that is speculation given that it is not my report to release, and I look forward to seeing what is contained within it.

#### WINE INDUSTRY

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:26):** Further supplementary: does the minister agree that the delay in the report is contributing to further anxiety within the industry?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:27):** I think there have been a number of outcomes of not only the working group but also the work that we have been doing as a government here in South Australia. I think there is a general acknowledgement that when there is a change of minister that will have some consequences because obviously the new minister will want to be up to speed on the matters that are of relevance to her portfolio, and of course wine is a significant industry both in our state and in our nation, and I am sure she is doing that in the lead-up to the next meetings or out-of-session papers that we might receive.

#### WINE INDUSTRY

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:27):** Final supplementary: the minister referred to outcomes from the working group. What outcomes have actually come from the working group itself?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:27):** That wasn't from the original answer.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Enough! That is not a supplementary question. The honourable Leader of the Opposition, your second question.

#### ROCK LOBSTER INDUSTRY

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

**The Hon. C.M. Scriven:** Of what?

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** Cost recovery.

**The Hon. C.M. Scriven:** Of what?

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** Rock lobster.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** In 2022, the Premier wrote to key stakeholders reinforcing his government's commitment to reduce licence fees by 50 per cent for fishers in the northern and southern rock lobster fisheries. He wrote, and I quote:

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

My questions to the minister are:

1. Have rock lobster licence fees reduced over the last two years?
2. If not, when can rock lobster fishers expect to see the 50 per cent reduction in licence fees promised over two years ago by this state government?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:29):** I thank the honourable member for her question, but I think she is quite confused. The 50 per cent reduction in rock lobster licence fees was an election commitment for the first year of this government. That was delivered.

#### SHEEP AND GOAT ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:29):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries about sheep and goat eID.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI:** The eID is expected to start on 1 January 2025 for producers and on 1 July 2025 for saleyards, but the saleyards in the South-East are calling the rollout nonsensical, with infrastructure inadequate and the financial aid short.

Mount Gambier saleyards, which processes some 150,000 to 200,000 sheep per year, is expected to use four scanners, while Naracoorte, which currently does close to 500,000 through nine drafting races, is expected to do their numbers through only five scanners or only five drafting races. This discrepancy goes to the heart of the many complaints that the opposition is hearing from those on the ground; that is, that again it is nonsensical and inadequate.

There is a real issue that, due to the increased costs and delays expected, producers will take their mobs across the border to Hamilton in Victoria, which has already rolled out its eID infrastructure. My question to the minister is: will the government provide more funding for the saleyards to appropriately build the infrastructure and meet the deadlines so that farmers can farm without any more bureaucratic delays?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:31):** I thank the honourable member for her question—noting, however, it is extremely similar to multiple questions that have been asked in this place, which I have answered at length in this place.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** However, if those opposite are not interested in traceability and they don't think it is an important part of supporting our livestock industries—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** —not just our livestock industries but more broadly across biosecurity challenges then I guess that is something they will need to speak to their constituencies about.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** Back when we first made our first—I am glad the Hon. Ben Hood says that he is talking to his constituency about not supporting traceability, which is what I said.

**The Hon. B.R. Hood:** We are talking to the councils, Clare.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** About not supporting traceability.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** When I made the announcement several years ago in regard to eID, I announced back then that there would be a 75 per cent subsidy from state government in terms of essential infrastructure. I might note that many of the other jurisdictions have not offered such a significant rebate.

The process for the saleyards was that, based on some national modelling and national work that was being done in terms of eID across the country, there would be guidelines issued—which was done—that would indicate what was expected to be the appropriate essential infrastructure for saleyards, based on the size of the saleyard, their throughput.

What I did build into that was for those saleyards who considered that this was not appropriate for their particular saleyard and their particular circumstances, they could put in a needs analysis request. That has happened for a number of saleyards here in South Australia. Those requests were then looked at by independent assessors, separate to the department of PIRSA. That has occurred.

Some of the saleyards have come back to say that they still don't consider that that is appropriate. I have reiterated that the policy throughout has been that it will be a 75 per cent subsidy of essential infrastructure only. However, I have continued to meet, as has my department, with those who are involved in the rollout, and continue to have discussions.

Very recently both myself and the chief executive of my department met with a number of saleyards. We mapped out some next steps, which include some of those saleyards having a visit arranged by PIRSA to look at some of the saleyards interstate—in Victoria specifically—that have already rolled out eID to see how those saleyards have been structured to make that most efficient and effective while still maintaining and supporting their business. I understand that several have taken up that option, and that will be happening in the near future.

We also facilitated the opportunity for saleyards to speak directly to the assessors to understand better the rationale for the decisions that have been made, but I continue to emphasise that we have ongoing dialogue and, depending on any additional evidence that is provided, if there is anything further to say then I will be able to say that in the near future.

#### **SHEEP AND GOAT ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM**

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:34):** Supplementary: based on the size of the saleyard, does the minister believe that five scanners is sufficient for a throughput of 50,000 head, and is she concerned about worker safety through excessive movement of sheep with limited races?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:35):** Again, the Leader of the Opposition in this place is under a slight misapprehension. The original guidelines that were issued nationally—

**The Hon. N.J. Centofanti:** No, it's not, because I'm getting told this by the saleyards.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** If the Leader of the Opposition doesn't want to listen to the answer then that would explain why she is confused.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. I.K. Hunter:** She's talking. She's talking now.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! And so are you, the Hon. Mr Hunter.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** And so is the Attorney-General. Minister, please continue.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** So the guidelines that were issued in general for those who did not want to seek the needs analysis assessment were based on the size of the saleyards in terms of categories or a size range of what would be considered appropriate. The independent assessor didn't directly refer to that aspect when looking at the individual needs analysis, so he was able to look at each—there were two assessors, in fact, and they were able to look at each of the saleyards who had put in their needs analysis and make recommendations from there.

**SHEEP AND GOAT ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM**

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD (14:36):** Supplementary: can the minister inform the chamber which saleyards have questioned the independent needs assessment?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:36):** I am not sure that that's necessarily appropriate. Some have already spoken out in media, so I would imagine that the honourable member would be aware of those.

**SHEEP AND GOAT ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM**

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD (14:36):** Supplementary.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD:** It's from the original. Thank you, Kyam.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Would it be okay if I did that?

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD:** That's right: the Hoods know.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Would it be okay if I did that?

**The Hon. K.J. Maher:** I'm trying to help, sir.

**The PRESIDENT:** You are not helping.

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD:** Will the minister inform how many saleyards—

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Ben Hood has a supplementary question. You have the call, the Hon. Ben Hood.

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD:** Thank you, Mr President.

*The Hon. T.A. Franks interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

*The Hon. T.A. Franks interjecting:*

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD:** It's not on the public—

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Hon. Ben Hood will ask his supplementary.

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD:** Will the minister inform how many saleyards have questioned the independent needs assessment?

**The Hon. K.J. Maher:** I think that came from the supplementary.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, Attorney!

*The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Minister, answer the question how you see fit, and we will move on.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:37):** I don't have in front of me how many submitted the needs analysis—I can't remember that off the top of my head—but then I would expect that some of those, and I know that some of those, then wanted some further information and discussion.

### UMOONA ART CENTRE

**The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:37):** My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in regard to the Umoona Art Centre opening. Will the minister inform the council on his attendance at the recent opening of the Umoona arts gallery in Coober Pedy?

**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 the question. It was a privilege to be able to attend and be part of the official opening of the Umoona Art Centre very recently in Coober Pedy. Over many years I have met with Aboriginal leaders from the Umoona Aboriginal community just outside Coober Pedy, leaders such as George Cooley, Joanne O'Toole and Deano Walker, to name a few, who have regularly advocated for the community's desire for a purpose-built arts centre.

In 2020, through the drive of local Aboriginal leadership at Umoona, an art centre was established. Up until now the centre was unfortunately limited to artists working in workspaces in a run-down basketball court which in the summer was unbearably hot and often in the winter in that part of the world unbearably cold. Before 2022, and from opposition, my support for this project was unfortunately limited to an advocacy role. However, soon after the election I was very pleased to announce that this state government would fund in partnership with the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation a total of approximately \$1 million to make a purpose-built Umoona Art Centre a reality.

The building has separate indoor spaces for women and men and a central collaborative area with views of the surrounding country. It is worth highlighting that Umoona arts has made an extraordinary impact on the contemporary arts industry in Australia and abroad just in the mere two years that it has already been in operation. There has been a very significant uptake of local Aboriginal artists participating in honing their skills. I am advised that there are somewhere between 45 and 55 artists from the Greater Coober Pedy Aboriginal community.

Some artists have already begun to make quite a significant presence on the national stage. George Cooley has twice been a finalist in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Awards (NATSIAA) along with Keith Minunga. Myra Kunatjayi and Jeannie Minunga, Kay Kay Finn and George Cooley have also been finalists in the prestigious Wynne Landscape Award prize awarded by the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

I have seen the progress of the build over the past couple of years, as I visit Coober Pedy many times, often on the way to the APY lands, and it is a pleasure now to see a fully functioning, purpose-built arts centre for local artists to paint, record and share thousands of years of culture, whilst also enabling a pathway for economic participation. I am very proud to have been a small part of that journey with many locals.

It was a pleasure recently to be accompanied at the official opening by the then Minister for Indigenous Australians, Linda Burney, and the member for Giles, Eddie Hughes. It was also a great pleasure for so many locals who played a big role in my life: ngayuku tjamuku, ngayuku pupri, godfathers and members of the family, by ceremony.

I want to congratulate all who are involved and give a special acknowledgement to the community leaders for their years of advocacy. I look forward to continuing paying close attention. I commend any colleagues from this chamber or the other travelling through Coober Pedy to spend some time and drop into the new purpose-built Umoona Art Centre.

### FARMING CHEMICALS

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:41):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question without notice to the Minister for Primary Industries on the topic of chemicals linked to Parkinson's disease.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS:** It was recently reported on ABC's *Landline* program that a cluster of Parkinson's disease cases in a Victorian farming community could be linked to the use of paraquat, a broad-spectrum herbicide that allows farmers to target weeds that are resistant to other pesticides, like glyphosate.

The chemical is banned in countries around the world, including the United Kingdom and China, but is still widely used here in Australia. Farmers in the US and Canada are suing the company who owns the patent to paraquat, claiming that they have developed Parkinson's disease as a result of exposure.

My question to the minister therefore is: is the minister concerned about the potential risk of Parkinson's disease from exposure to the chemical paraquat, and what action is the government taking to protect South Australians from exposure to this potentially dangerous herbicide?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:42):** I thank the honourable member for his question. The chemical use is governed by the APVMA, a federal body, which makes decisions on these matters based on the most up-to-date research and science that might be around it. I am aware of some of the controversies around paraquat. I have had a very high-level briefing which also referred, if I remember correctly, to the way that different chemicals will behave in different environments and climates. However, the APVMA is the body that has control over the licensing of chemicals.

#### FARMING CHEMICALS

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:43):** Supplementary: is the minister satisfied that South Australian farmers are safe in terms of their potential exposure to this chemical? Is the minister aware of any clusters of Parkinson's disease associated with exposure to the chemical in South Australia?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:43):** In regard to the second question, no, I am not. In regard to the first, we need to defer to those bodies that have the expertise and, in this case, the APVMA is that body.

#### FARMING CHEMICALS

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:43):** Further supplementary arising from the original answer: has the minister sought advice from the relevant federal authority in relation to this?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:44):** I can't recall whether the briefing that I alluded to included discussion at a departmental level or there being correspondence, but I am happy to check that and take it on notice and bring back an answer.

#### CARP HARVESTING

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:44):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding carp harvesting.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.S. LEE:** Carp is considered an invasive species in the River Murray. The federal government has spent more than \$15 million on a plan to control carp involving research to explore the effects of releasing a herpes virus on other fish species. However, as reported by *ABC News* on 29 August 2024, scientists and industry experts are calling on alternative plans to reduce carp numbers.

Advocates, such as Africola chef Duncan Welgemoed, suggest utilising carp as a source of collagen for use in the cosmetic and health industries, which is backed by other industry professionals. Mr Welgemoed further said:

We need to get as much carp out of the Murray River as possible and we are presented with all these awesome solutions that create industry, create jobs and minimise the impact of the invasive species.

Additionally, the opposition has received correspondence from other South Australian farming stakeholders advocating for the harvesting of carp from the River Murray in the use of other commercially viable businesses. My questions to the minister are:

1. Is the minister aware of the ecological impact of the current plan to release the herpes virus to kill off carp?
2. Has the minister explored alternative solutions for harvesting carp?
3. Has the minister received any correspondence from stakeholders regarding the harvesting of carp from the River Murray?
4. Has the minister consulted with stakeholders on alternative solutions for harvesting carp, including potential investment to utilise carp in health and cosmetic industries?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:46):** I thank the honourable member for her question. The first question was whether I am aware of the impact of the herpes virus, should it be released on carp. The national report that was released essentially said that we need more research to be able to understand those impacts. The second question was in relation to alternative uses, and certainly I am aware of some of the alternative uses that are either already in place in different areas of the world or potentially could be adopted. I am certainly happy, if anyone has proposals to bring to government for investment in any particular projects that might relate to this matter, for those proposals to be considered.

#### CARP HARVESTING

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:47):** Supplementary: with the further research to be done, is PIRSA involved in any shape or form in that research?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Minister, you did mention the research component.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:47):** I am happy to take that on notice and bring back a response.

#### CARP HARVESTING

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:47):** Supplementary arising from the original answer: is the minister aware of any individuals or bodies approaching her office or the department in regard to alternative solutions for harvesting carp?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:48):** I remember receiving one piece of correspondence—I can't remember off the top of my head those details.

#### CARP HARVESTING

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:48):** Supplementary: can the minister take that on notice and bring back a reply?

**The PRESIDENT:** That is not really from the original answer.

#### RURAL AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

**The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI (14:48):** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister inform the chamber about the winner of the 2024 Rural Ambassador of the Year Award?

**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. This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Young Rural Ambassador of the Year Award. It is with great pleasure that I inform the chamber that the winner of the 2024 Rural Ambassador of the Year Award is Ms Kayla Starkey. Representing the Mount Pleasant show, Kayla was named the winner of the prestigious award at this year's Rural Ambassador Award dinner, held at the Royal Adelaide Showgrounds during Show week, and I was delighted to be able to attend and present the award to Kayla.



Kayla is an agricultural science teacher at Murray Bridge High School and is passionate about educating youth about the agricultural sector. She is dedicated to her local community, serving as chairperson of the Mount Pleasant Community Association Incorporated and president of the Mount Pleasant Tennis Club. Kayla has apparently been around country and royal shows since before she could walk due to her family's rich involvement with stud merino, Polwarth sheep and wool. Kayla enjoys running her family's fifth-generation property in the Mount Pleasant area, all the while finding time somehow to convene and steward at multiple country shows in her area in sheep, wool and cookery.

The government of South Australia through my department, PIRSA, has been a proud sponsor of the Rural Ambassador Award program, delivered by the Agricultural Societies Council of South Australia (Country Shows SA) for more than 20 years. The Rural Ambassador Award program aims to highlight the importance of young people in rural South Australia, and in particular the agricultural show movement. The program is open to 20 to 30 year olds.

Among other assessment activities, entrants are interviewed at the awards dinner about their involvement in country shows, their community participation, ambitions, goals and interests. They receive points for their responses, presentation, enthusiasm and knowledge about rural life and agricultural shows. This year, there were seven Rural Ambassador Award state finalists. In listening to the finalists speak, and reading their bios, I was struck by the talent and accomplishments they all share in the country shows arena and the diversity of interests, study and work. Through sharing their stories and ideas for agricultural shows in our state, they will inspire and motivate change and no doubt encourage other young people to join and make a contribution in their own way.

Indeed, I have seen a number of changes in recent years at a number of country shows and have had the pleasure of catching up with finalists and winners of those awards. They have been able to talk about the changes that they have made and the things that have worked well and those that perhaps still need further refinement. It is great to see the innovation and enthusiasm that is evident.

As sponsor, PIRSA supports the involvement of young people in rural communities and also provides educational opportunities by exposing finalists to the roles and functions within the agency. Through the Rural Ambassador Program, PIRSA works alongside Country Shows SA to develop a platform on which young people can build on their local community involvement, which has positive flow-on effects for regional communities and facilitates the growth of the next generation of community leaders. As the winner of the state final, Kayla will represent South Australia at the national Rural Ambassadors award final next year. I wish her all the best at this event, and I have no doubt that she will do South Australia proud. Well done Kayla.

#### WHYALLA STEELWORKS

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (14:52):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, representing the Minister for Energy and Mining in the other place, a question about the Whyalla Steelworks.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** Perhaps for the first time in his two-and-a-bit-years premiership, the Premier has a crisis of national proportions on his hands. As revealed yesterday, the future of the Whyalla Steelworks again appears to be under threat. Contractors are owed more than \$100 million. A global laboratory testing company has stopped undertaking quality control testing of the iron ore for SIMEC and onsite testing for GFG due to not being paid since March. About 50 white-collar workers have been stood down and workers have been forced to bring their own toilet paper from home as it is not being provided. Just this morning, I have been told that the steelwork's arc furnace is about to be shut down again for another six months—the reasons unknown.

Whyalla relies heavily on the steelworks. It's the town's biggest single employer and many other businesses survive by supplying to it. Without it, Whyalla is at grave risk. So, too, is one of the Premier's biggest election promises, the overhyped world-first green hydrogen power plant proposed for Whyalla, because without the steelworks there won't be any need for the hydrogen plant to service it. My questions to the minister are:

1. Given the urgency of the matter, and knowing how much the Premier doesn't like criticism of himself and his government, will he and the minister demand an urgent meeting with Mr Gupta and his senior executives?

2. When will the Premier and the minister travel to Whyalla to meet with locals and give a guarantee that, despite what might happen to Sanjeev Gupta and his trouble-plagued global empire, the future of the steelworks is guaranteed?

3. Considering it can't pay its biggest bills, will the government now investigate whether GFG is solvent?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:54):** I will refer the honourable member's question to the relevant minister in the other place and bring back a response.

#### NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

**The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (14:55):** My questions are to the parliamentary secretary to the Premier in her capacity as Assistant Minister for Autism:

1. What engagement has the parliamentary secretary conducted with the autism community and stakeholders in regard to the NDIS review?

2. What counsel has the parliamentary secretary provided to the Minister for Human Services and the Premier in regard to the state government's response to the NDIS review?

3. What counsel has the parliamentary secretary provided to the Minister for Education regarding foundational support services in schools?

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:55):** I thank the honourable member for her question. As she knows, this falls under the leadership of the Minister for Human Services. I work closely with both those officers that have been mentioned, the Minister for Education and the Minister for Human Services.

#### NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

**The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (14:55):** Supplementary: what specific conversations have you had with these ministers in regard to this incredibly important area, such as around foundational supports or other areas of the NDIS review?

**The PRESIDENT:** I do not think it is a supplementary question.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

#### CHARTER AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

**The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (14:56):** My question is to the Attorney-General. Will the Attorney please inform the council about recently addressing students as part of the Charter Ambassador Program?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** The Attorney-General will ignore the Hon. Mr Hunter and he will ignore the Hon. Mr Wortley. The opposition will listen to the answer in silence.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:57):** I thank the honourable member for a good question. The Charter for Children and Young People—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** The Charter for Children and Young People, developed by the Child Development Council, is a guide for the South Australian government to consider when making

decisions that affect the lives of children and young people. It sets out 20 aspirational conditions of living that are necessary for young people in South Australia to thrive.

The Charter Ambassador Program is designed as an opportunity for young South Australians to learn about this chamber, the house and the parliament's workings and promote it amongst their peers to discover ways that they can make a change in their communities to see the aims of the charter delivered. Students who are assessed by their school as respectful and who support their own and others' wellbeing can be appointed as ambassadors.

It was a great pleasure recently to join with my colleague from the other place the member for King, Mrs Rhiannon Pearce MP, to meet with student ambassadors who were visiting Parliament House for the day as part of the program to talk about what we do in the Legislative Council chamber, to talk about the role of parliament in society and to answer questions about our roles and how people can get involved in the world of making change in this state.

Students asked excellent questions about the challenges that are faced by young people and the challenges governments face in improving the lives and wellbeing of young people, including questions about the various ways that we are representatives for our communities. It was a pleasure to be able to speak about the diversity that we see not just in this chamber but increasingly across our parliament that we hope to continue to see flourishing in the years to come and the excellent representation and ability of a strong female leader in the member for King, who reflected on her role in government and what she brings to her chamber of parliament.

It is crucial for the future of our democracy that the next generations of leaders are able to learn about and engage with the role of decision-makers in our local and broader communities. It was inspiring to see young people come into parliament to learn about that. I think that is precisely one of the reasons why this government has recently announced policy to create a new civics program in South Australian schools. This is so important, and I am keen to see how this investment in our future generations delivers positive outcomes for young people and for the future of our democracy.

### NEO-NAZI SYMBOLS

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:59):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Attorney-General on the topic of Neo-Nazi symbols.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** As the Attorney would be well aware, in June this year this parliament passed laws providing for penalties of up to a year in prison or fines of up to \$20,000 for the display of Nazi symbols. This week, as reported in InDaily on Sunday 8 September, in Flinders Street a masked group of men, or people, marched past a city refugee protest, carrying a banner proclaiming 'Australia for the white man' as well as the flag of the Neo-Nazi organisation National Socialist Network, a far-right group that is reportedly Australia's largest white supremacist organisation.

In a statement, SAPOL said it monitored the protest activity in Adelaide but 'did not observe the commission of offences'. My question, therefore, to the Attorney-General is: will regulations be made to cover the National Socialist Network flag, which is a Neo-Nazi symbol, under the prohibition of Nazi symbols?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:00):** I thank the honourable member for her question. That certainly will be looked at. The laws that we have passed in this parliament that are now in effect have regulation-making power, so we can include symbols that are not the Nazi Hakenkreuz, the swastika or the Nazi salute but are other symbols that are used as outward signs of hate and division in the community. I will certainly be asking the police whether the symbols that have been most recently used, as we saw in Adelaide, as the honourable member has pointed out, fall into that category. If so, that is something we will absolutely look at doing.

I have made a statement about this in the last couple of days, and the scenes on the streets of Adelaide on the weekend that the Hon. Tammy Franks has referred to were frankly disgraceful

and cowardly and are not reflective of the broader South Australian community. I want to be very clear that it is our view, and I think it would be everyone's view in this parliament, that this sort of hateful, racist behaviour has no place in our city, in our state or in our country. South Australia has a proud reputation of being a community that is safe and welcoming, embracing diversity and differences—and this is not us.

### REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD (15:02):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding regional public transport.

**The Hon. R.A. Simms:** Good luck getting an answer on that.

**The PRESIDENT:** Perhaps, the Hon. Ben Hood, you would like to ask the Hon. Mr Simms. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD:** Thank you, sir, and thank you, Rob.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD:** In response to my question on 31 October 2023, the minister told the parliament, and I quote, 'there is a review underway [into] regional public transport'. Clearly that was not the case, after a number of delays have meant that this review is not anticipated to begin until the end of this year. The minister confirmed to *The SE Voice* that the tender was released on 5 August this year and the review would take many months to complete. City of Mount Gambier Mayor Lynette Martin has described the delay as very disappointing, while Deputy Mayor Max Bruins has described the recent minor change to their public bus contract as 'akin to putting lipstick on a pig'. My questions to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development are:

1. When will the review of the regional public transport services finally begin?
2. What is the deadline for completion of this review?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:03):** I thank the honourable member for his question. First of all, if I recall correctly, back in October 2023 there was the topic of both the review of the contracts and the overall review. I think that even at that time the honourable member was getting confused between the two in his questioning and in the answers that I gave.

I think it's important to note that the changes to the contract that have been made in recent months, while small, are nonetheless important. If I remember correctly, they enable their bus service to go to Foodbank, which is a particularly important location, obviously, in Mount Gambier. Whilst the individual change is quite small, what it does demonstrate is the sort of misinformation that is being put about by those opposite—that because the contracts were re-signed, therefore there couldn't be any changes made to them—is totally inaccurate. In terms of the timing, that is obviously with the Minister for Transport. I am happy to get an update from him and provide a response.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

### REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD (15:04):** Supplementary: why has the minister not sought information from the transport minister on the review's deadline, given her commitment to ABC North and West on 1 August that she would bring back an answer to that question?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:04):** I think we probably did bring back an answer of whatever information was available—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** —to those radio stations.

### RECREATIONAL ROCK LOBSTER FISHING

**The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:05):** My question is also to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

*The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Attorney! Can we just listen to the Hon. Mr Hanson, please?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. J.E. HANSON:** Hear, hear, Mr President. Will the minister inform the chamber about the changes to the way recreationally caught rock lobster are marked and identified?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**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. I am very pleased that so many on this side of the chamber are so interested in primary industries.

**The PRESIDENT:** And lobster.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN:** Rock lobster is an iconic and sought-after species which has a passionate following amongst a section of recreational anglers who register their rock lobster pots each year and access this incredible fishery. Marking of recreationally caught rock lobster is incredibly important to differentiate from those that are commercially caught and thereby protects the integrity of the rock lobster that end up for purchase in markets and restaurants across the state and around the world.

The way that current regulations require recreationally caught rock lobster to be marked is by clipping the middle tail fan in half horizontally across the tail and removing it before the lobster is brought ashore or landed. Earlier this year, PIRSA received correspondence from the Kingston South-East Recreational Fishers Association Incorporated raising concerns that the practice of clipping the middle tail fan in half, which has been a requirement for many years, may cause discomfort and blood loss for the rock lobster and may impact on its eating quality.

Previous studies have indicated that cutting the middle tail fan does not cause any pain or physical distress to the lobster as there is no major nervous tissue in the first half of the middle tail fan. The South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) indicated there was no data on the blood loss due to a 50 per cent tail fan cut compared to a 20 per cent cut; however, suggested that they thought the difference would be negligible.

RecFish had also raised this issue with PIRSA, and I am pleased that PIRSA has acted on the calls from the association and from RecFish SA to make changes to the way rock lobster can be marked and identified as being recreationally caught. It's important to note that this is not adopting the original suggestion but is actually a third option that has been identified through that important consultation and communication process.

Anglers who catch rock lobster in registered rock lobster pots will now be able to punch a hole in the middle tail fan of not less than 10 millimetres or, alternatively, can clip the tail as they currently do. These changes will be made by ministerial exemption and we will consider permanent changes to the Fisheries Management Act.

In addition, a section 79 declaration has been made which allows for the same tail-marking arrangements to be extended to other rock lobster species, which, I am advised, are becoming more

prevalent in our waters. Since coming to government and reinstating RecFish SA as the independent peak body for recreational fishing in line with an election commitment to do so, we have worked closely to deliver a range of outcomes for recreational fishers across the state, most recently announcing a further \$200,000 in 2024-25 for RecFish SA to run programs that will increase participation in recreational fishing among women and children.

I am pleased that we have been able to make these sensible changes and, as a resident of regions synonymous with rock lobster, look forward to seeing people enjoying getting out and taking part in the upcoming rock lobster season starting next month.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Do we want to chat or do we want to have question time?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The two from the South-East can go out the back and chat if you want.

### WOMEN'S HEALTH

**The Hon. S.L. GAME (15:09):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing a question to the Attorney-General, representing the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, regarding South Australia's health initiatives, inquiries and programs for women.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. S.L. GAME:** Victoria's health department recently invited biological males who identify as women to take part in a study into women's pain as part of a \$153 million taxpayer-funded initiative. The Victorian government said the decision to include males was made in order to be inclusive. South Australia currently has a Select Committee on Endometriosis and a select committee on urinary tract infections, which affect women 30 times more than men. My question to the Attorney-General, representing the minister, is: will the minister reassure the South Australian public that taxpayer funds set aside for these matters targeting women are spent exclusively on biological women and not on men identifying as women, as is the case in Victoria?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:10):** I will refer the question to the minister in the other place and bring back a reply.

### WIND FARMS

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:10):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation prior to asking the Minister for Industrial Relations a question regarding energy production workplace safety.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD:** Members would no doubt be aware that several news reports have noted that the newly completed and French-owned Golden Plains Wind Farm in Victoria is actually falling apart, with dozens of pieces of serrated turbine edges flying as far as 750 metres from the site onto neighbouring properties and roadways, and causing significant safety concerns. No injuries or damage to property have been recorded to date but the size, weight and sharpness of the serrated pieces collected, which have been stuck onto the turbine blades with glue apparently, are currently forming part of the WorkSafe Victoria investigation, which is ongoing. My questions to the Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector are:

1. How often are South Australian wind turbine farms audited for workplace safety?
2. Are previous audits publicly available?
3. Are such audits at the expense of the South Australian taxpayer or are they at the cost of the international companies raking in hundreds of millions of dollars in subsidies and energy sales and putting their workers at risk?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:11):** For a start, I think many South Australians are

rightly proud of our leading role that we have played in renewable energy production and storage over many years in South Australia. In relation to workplace health and safety, there is a positive obligation on any one PCBU, a person conducting a business or undertaking, to provide a safe workplace. That is whether you were running the old coal-fired power station in Port Augusta or you're a PCBU running a wind farm operation, or any sort of other business undertaking anywhere.

*The Hon. I.K. Hunter interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** Cooking sausage rolls in a bakery, as the Hon. Ian Hunter says. There is that positive obligation to provide a safe workplace under our work health and safety rules. SafeWork SA is the regulator and has a dual function. It provides an education function for businesses but it also provides that inspectorate, that is the regulator that inspects, can issue improvement notices and can launch prosecutions if there is that breach of that duty to provide a safe workplace.

In relation to the education function, I know SafeWork do that across a whole range of industries, which I am sure touches upon in some ways the renewable energy area, providing guidance about how you provide safe workplaces. But, of course, it is the obligation on that person, the person with the business or undertaking, to make sure that they are providing the safe workplace. That is their obligation under our law, as is the law in every state and jurisdiction around Australia, to provide a safe workplace. In relation to breaches of that duty, there are a range of sanctions, as I say, from the issuing of improvement notices, and that is not just about the physical aspects of work but is about processes in your workplace as well.

We see thousands of these improvement notices issued by SafeWork every single year to the tens of thousands of businesses that we see in South Australia. But where there is a breach, and particularly where there is a worker who is injured, there are prosecutions that take place. I guess in answer to the question, it is the role of SafeWork SA in many respects to provide that guidance, to provide that education, but there is a positive duty on any PCBU, a person conducting a business or undertaking, to provide a safe workplace and when it is breached, it is right that a notice is issued to correct it, and in some cases a prosecution is launched.

#### WIND FARMS

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:14):** Supplementary: is the minister aware of SafeWork SA conducting any specific investigations into wind turbines in South Australia and, if so, have any breaches been issued and is that information publicly available?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:14):** I am happy to go away and find out. I don't think it is always the case that every single infringement notice—as I said, there are many thousands of those every single year—is on a public register, but I am happy to find out in relation to wind farms, which the honourable member was particularly asking about. If that data can be found, I am happy to find it. I am not certain it will be disaggregated specifically into wind farms, but if it is I will see what can be found to bring back.

#### WIND FARMS

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:15):** Supplementary: can the minister also collect data on the number of birds that have been killed or found to be injured as a result of wind farms?

**The PRESIDENT:** You can answer it, Attorney.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:15):** I thank the honourable member for his question. As Minister for Industrial Relations and having the ministerial responsibility to do with workplace safety, I would be very surprised if the workplace safety regulator, SafeWork SA, keeps any sort of statistics on the safety of birds. I am happy to ask and see if they do.

### TANDANYA

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:16):** My question is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney-General tell the council about the Labor government's investment in Aboriginal cultural institutions such as Tandanya?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:16):** I thank the honourable member for his question and his longstanding interest in Aboriginal affairs, and his long time involvement—often as chair, particularly of the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee. The honourable member is well known to many in the Aboriginal community for the roles he has played and the help and advice he has given over a long period of time.

Tandanya, officially named the National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, has long been recognised as one of Australia's leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural venues that promotes reconciliation and fosters understanding of Aboriginal culture through immersive exhibitions and performances.

Established in 1989 and named Tandanya, or 'the place of the red kangaroo', Tandanya has nurtured and promoted generations, now, of artists, giving them a platform and a place to share culture and talent with the community. Tandanya has been a culturally safe space for exhibitions and shows across its lifetime, including regularly as a venue for the South Australian Living Artists Festival and also, as I have been very happy to partake in a number of times, for various performances and collaborations as part of the Adelaide Fringe.

The venue recently hosted exhibits by up-and-coming artists such as Mali Isabel and Reilly O'Loughlin, as well as being part of the 2022 Illuminate festival, with the immersive *Wild Dog* installation that saw Indigenous artists from parts of Australia right up to places like Taiwan as part of that installation.

As time has passed and Tandanya's legacy has grown, its home on Grenfell Street has faced a number of structural issues due to its age. Last year these issues unfortunately saw Tandanya close its doors temporarily to the public for fear of safety concerns. The board of directors at Tandanya and its administration have worked closely with the government to identify and address some of these infrastructure issues that have temporarily prevented Tandanya's doors being open to the public.

As a result, the government worked collaboratively—particularly the Minister for the Arts in the other place—and we were pleased to announce that the government will provide a grant of \$780,000 to rectify structural issues to enable the venue to reopen. This includes electrical work, repair of deteriorating internal walls and doors, painting, and replacement of flooring. With this funding secured and work soon to be underway, it is anticipated that Tandanya will reopen to the public in the very first part of 2025. I am very much looking forward to this important hub continuing to thrive and sharing culture with this state, the nation and the world for many years to come.

### TANDANYA

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:19):** Supplementary: is the Malinauskas government concerned that more money seems to be going to make arts buildings work health and safety compliant than actually going to support the arts in this state at the moment?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:19):** I thank the honourable member for her question. I think the answer is, unfortunately, it is impossible to have one without the other. If you don't have art spaces that are safe and able to be open to the public it is very difficult, then, to have the programs within those buildings.

### REGIONAL BUSINESS ENERGY COSTS

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:19):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question without notice to Minister for Regional Development on the topic of regional businesses and power.



Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS:** As has been noted in this chamber this week, regional businesses such as Nippy's are reporting that their energy prices are crippling their operations. The Dairyfarmers' Association have also claimed that the average rise in electricity costs is 38 per cent, while an Australian Almond Board member, Brendan Sidhu, claimed that his business has seen a 60 per cent increase in energy bills. My question to the Minister for Regional Development, therefore, is:

1. What action is the Malinauskas Labor government taking to support regional businesses with soaring energy prices?
2. Will the government commit to a commission of inquiry to consider bringing our state's energy back into public hands, and, if not, why not?

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:20):** I thank the honourable member for his question. I think the topic of a potential commission of inquiry would probably sit, perhaps, with the Treasurer in the other place. I am certainly happy to refer that and bring back a response.

#### REGIONAL BUSINESS ENERGY COSTS

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:21):** Supplementary: with respect—

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Simms, I will listen to it, but come on.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS:** With respect, Mr President, the minister didn't even attempt to answer the first part of the question, which was in relation—

**The PRESIDENT:** That's commentary. That's not a question.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS:** I did ask the minister what action the government has taken to support regional businesses with their energy prices. I assume no response means—

**The PRESIDENT:** Sit. No. The Hon. Mr Simms, that was an appalling—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Alright!

#### REGIONAL BUSINESS ENERGY COSTS

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:21):** Supplementary: does the minister's failure to respond to the first premise of the question mean that she does not care about the first part of the question?

**The PRESIDENT:** It's a long bow. Do you care to answer it? I call the Hon. Mrs Henderson.

#### CHARACTER REFERENCES IN CHILD SEX OFFENCE CASES

**The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:21):** My question is to the Attorney-General regarding good character references. Attorney-General, how many child sex offenders have used good character references as a mitigating factor in sentencing since March of 2022?

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:22):** I thank the honourable member for her question. I am happy to take that on notice and see if there are any statistics in relation to that. I am guessing what references are used for particular offences is unlikely to have statistics recorded, but as I said I am very happy to take that on notice and see if statistics are recorded. As we have traversed in this chamber before, this is an issue that is being looked at federally. It has been raised at the Standing Council of Attorneys-General (SCAG), where all jurisdictions are now contributing and looking at the issue of character references in the case of such offences.

I think, as we have talked about in this chamber before, I have had the very interesting pleasure of benefiting from meeting with advocates who are victim survivors of childhood sexual offenders and who are pushing for these reforms. I think it is an area that, as I have said, I am keen to see if there can be national consistency on. I think that is the better way to go in these sorts of areas, but as I told advocates for this reform and as I am happy to inform the chamber, if there is not

a national approach it is something where in South Australia we will certainly look at going alone. It was very much impressed upon me that having an offender—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** You can interject when I am talking about the experiences of survivors of child sexual offending, but I don't think it's a particularly good look, but I will leave that for you and your judgement about whether you think that's appropriate or not. As I was saying, the victims of childhood sexual offending are often retraumatised by someone who attempts to use the fact that someone thought they are a good bloke notwithstanding the terrible thing these vile monsters have done to children, so it is something we are absolutely taking very seriously.

*Matters of Interest*

### **GRANNY FLATS**

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:24):** I rise to speak about the dwelling or flat often referred to as the granny flat at a time when so many people are struggling to find somewhere to live. Most South Australians are conscious of the massive housing shortage and the granny flat has the potential to provide affordable housing in a quicker timeframe than other solutions.

A granny flat is generally a one-bedroom living space. Interestingly, there has been a significant change in the proportion of one-bedroom dwellings that have been rented in Adelaide. In 2021, one-bedroom flats and apartments made up 40 per cent of the rental market; however, in the first quarter of 2024, 81 per cent of dwellings rented in the suburb of Adelaide were one bedroom.

PropTrack data in 2024 shows that available rental properties under \$400 per week have halved since April 2023. The average rent for a granny flat is likely to be around \$400 or less per week and has the potential to increase the number of rental properties available in this price range, which data indicates has reduced by 50 per cent since 2023.

In the past, many councils have consistently added restrictions to development approval for granny flats by stipulating that kitchens and laundries need to be shared with the main house. This has prevented property owners from renting out granny flats to non-family members. In October 2023, the Labor Malinauskas government announced changes to help in this space by giving greater powers to councils to approve self-contained accommodation by removing technical definitions and reducing red tape.

In fact, Labor is doing much more than removing the red tape and improving the planning and approval process for granny flats. Apart from granny flats being a potential quick fix to diversify the affordable housing market, our government is looking at a new trial scheme which is developing a concept of co-located homes on the same block. Currently, planning laws do not allow multiple households to occupy a single block, so existing homes with large, established trees and gardens are being bulldozed for subdivision.

The draft code trials will take place in well-established areas such as Unley, Burnside and Prospect. Larger homes in these suburbs could be expanded to become three homes with a shared garden for three households who want to downsize and remain in the same area. This concept and trial is building on what we know as the granny flat, which has a long history in many parts of the world albeit under different names and contexts. Throughout Asia, the historical evolution of granny flats reflects a cultural emphasis on the extended family living together. Such dwellings provide an opportunity for ageing relatives or adult children to remain in the community they want to live in.

Research tells us that where and how we live impacts on our wellbeing, sense of community and belonging. Both the granny flat and Labor's co-located housing trial can reduce the strain on infrastructure, health care and social and community services. Both can contribute to how our city manages the future of urban sprawl.

None of us want to walk along our streets and see people curled up and sleeping on pavements, nor do we want our children or elderly relatives struggling to find a home. While we wait for more affordable homes to be built, Labor's plan to change the code so that a granny flat can be a fully self-contained place to live means that property owners could rent their granny flat to whoever they want and, by doing so, they will be contributing to our stock of available housing.

## COST OF LIVING

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:29):** I rise today to speak on the cost-of-living crisis in South Australia. The question really needs to be: are you better off today than you were two years ago? Historically, living in Adelaide has had many advantages, and one of those advantages is that it was traditionally a lower-cost city in which to live. Unfortunately, we are losing our unique position as the cost-of-living pressures are increasing in this state.

While we need to acknowledge that this is a team effort between the federal and state Labor teams, evidence shows that South Australians are suffering at the hands of the Malinauskas Labor government. It was reported earlier this year by the ABC that South Australia was battling the highest inflation rate in the country, and it is now evident that families are around \$20,000 worse off since Labor resumed office.

The ABC has reported that Adelaide has recorded the highest increase in food prices, with some food items doubling. The ABC quoted cumulative price increases of 16.4 per cent in Adelaide, compared with 16 per cent in Melbourne and 15 per cent in Sydney. When there is a 35 per cent increase in people looking for cheaper food sources, and food relief organisations such as Foodbank reporting a 57 per cent increase in demand, things are indeed grim. When people are having trouble buying basic foods, the government of the day has failed them. This hits people on low incomes hardest.

The state government has tacitly admitting this by including \$266 million in the recent state budget for 'relief for the cost-of-living for South Australians'. How ironic that the government wants to portray themselves as the saviour for South Australians battling financial pressures when they have created these problems in the first place. This is like a firebug who starts a wildfire and plays the hero by helping the firefighters. This is the government playing good cop, bad cop with itself.

The cost-of-living pressures are a result of poor Labor policies, yet the government's solution is to throw taxpayer money at those affected. This ignores the truism that every added dollar that the government spends must first come either from an increased tax or from borrowing, which must be repaid from increased tax. Ultimately, the end result is more tax and less money in the pockets of South Australians.

According to the most recent comparison of state power prices, published in April this year, South Australia has the most expensive electricity in the nation. Whilst other states are paying between 23.67¢ and 33.84¢ per kilowatt hour, South Australians pay an average of 45.54¢ per kilowatt hour. Anyone hoping for Labor showing common sense and leadership in developing policy that will actually reduce the long-term cost of energy will be disappointed. They are instead throwing around taxpayers' money to offset the pain. This is a classic case of treating the symptoms of the problem and not the cause.

The increase in the costs of doing business feeds to consumers, whether it is in the manufacturing, servicing, or farming sectors. The higher costs of employment and government red tape act as disincentives to employment, and are a burden to business. A more responsible approach to reducing the cost of living is to reduce the burden on businesses. This includes having cheap, reliable baseload power, removing red tape and unnecessary expenses to business, and reforming regressive taxes that punish the businesses that feed the state's economy.

Supporting policies that encourage rather than punish businesses will free them to grow, enable them to employ people and encourage the supply of affordable goods and services to the people of South Australia. This will help us rebuild the conditions that make our state such a wonderfully unique and affordable place to live.

The answer to my initial question as to whether households and individuals are better off under a Labor government is a resounding no, and South Australians are rightfully fed up. They deserve a government that works for them, not against them. They deserve a government that serves their interests, not undermines them. They require a leadership that advances their welfare, not one that works against it, and they need a government that enhances their prospects, not one that obstructs them. They deserve a Liberal government, and that is what we will be working hard to achieve in 2026.

### **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (SAFETY AND SUPPORT) BILL**

**The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:34):** I rise today to call on the government to extend the consultation period for the Children and Young People (Safety and Support) Bill. Following immense pressure from the opposition, the crossbench and the community, struggling child protection minister Katrine Hildyard finally, after more than two years, released the Children and Young People (Safety and Support) Bill. The minister had left the report for the review of the act to collect dust on her desk for around 18 months, despite the child protection system being in crisis. Coincidentally, when facing the prospect of a censure motion, the minister has pulled a rabbit out of a hat and released the draft bill for consultation.

Despite Katrine Hildyard having worked towards this crucial legislative reform since 2022, she is only allowing stakeholders one month—one month—to review the proposed changes, a move by the minister that shows she is out of touch with the reality of the large workload faced by so many in the child protection sector, many of whom are volunteers.

Having spoken with stakeholders, it is clear that the timeline that has been set by this government for consultation is not sufficient to consider this crucial legislation. Many in the child protection space are already stretched thin, especially carers. It is not realistic or reasonable to expect them to digest this draft bill, to consult with their stakeholders and to provide a response to the minister within a month on top of their existing workload.

It is not every day that the parliament and the community have the opportunity to re-evaluate the legislative framework for the in-crisis child protection system. It is vital that we get right the foundation for the child protection system charged with protecting our most vulnerable. We cannot afford to get this wrong. It is the opposition's view that, if the government does not give the community sufficient time, we risk missing key feedback to the minister and her department. The minister has taken her time in bringing the draft bill, yet has only given the community a month. She has not given them the due time to consider the government's proposal.

The opposition has listened to those who have raised concerns with us about the lack of time for consultation, and so today the opposition calls on the government to extend the consultation for the Children and Young People (Safety and Support) Bill by four weeks to give the child protection community the opportunity to provide their feedback, who otherwise may not be able to put in a submission due to the tight deadline.

It is our view that four weeks is a modest and reasonable request, particularly in circumstances where the child protection system is in crisis. The government should demonstrate, at the very least, good faith. This will still enable ample opportunity following the finalisation of the extended consultation period for the government to consider this feedback and to introduce the legislation to the parliament by the end of the year. The ball is squarely in the government's court to get this legislation right. The best way to do this is by listening to the organisations within the child protection system, by listening to carers and by listening to those with lived experience. But to do that, the government needs to give them a fighting chance to be able to get their submissions in.

### **DEMOCRACY**

**The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (15:37):** The United Nations has named 15 September the International Day of Democracy, and it seems we need the annual reminder based on what we are seeing around the world today. Some countries around the world have never really subscribed to the democratic system. Countries such as China, Russia and North Korea are the most obvious cases, and then there is the United States, the country which is supposed to be the bastion of democracy and a model for other countries to emulate. In recent years, though, it has been anything but a model of democracy.

Every country will have challenges to its system. We had it on Remembrance Day in 1975, when the Australian federal government was replaced undemocratically by our Governor-General. But even that dark day in Australia's political history does not compare to what happened in the United States on 6 January 2021. That was when an outgoing President rallied his supporters to reject the results of an election and tried to overthrow a fairly elected government.

To see that former President somehow a serious contender for this year's presidency brings into question the strength of the US political system. In most democratic countries, that person would probably be in prison for their role in inciting an insurrection. At the very least, they would never be allowed to run for office again. Yet somehow former President Trump has been able to sidestep a series of very serious criminal charges, to be involved in a presidential debate only just hours ago.

We can be proud that in Australia we have a more mature and fair response to elections. On both sides of this house, we have all been winners and losers, and we accept the voice of the people. That is what democracy is. Many democracies around the world are less than a century old, but the concept of democracy itself dates back to the fifth century in Greece, perhaps even earlier according to some scholars. Whenever it was first practised, it has stood up to the face of tyrants, and we have had to accept the decision of the people, even when we believe they are simply wrong.

Even in the case of the undemocratically removed federal government of 1975, Labor leader Gough Whitlam accepted the result of the election that followed. He eventually even broke bread with the man who beat him, Malcolm Fraser, and that is how democracy works—not by having your supporters act unlawfully on your behalf, not by rejecting the results of a fair election, and certainly not by resorting to violence that led to the deaths of nine people and threatened the foundations of the American democracy.

Fortunately, the world still has more than 30 nations that are rated as strong working democracies. The US, frighteningly, is not one of them. It is now considered a 'deficient democracy'. Led by the usual suspects of Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand and placing Australia high up on the list created by the democracy matrix, democracy is the best system we have when it is properly run.

When you look at the list of world democracies, it proves that change can be made for the better and, sadly, for the worse. Germany, the country that once had the worst political regime in history and inflicted hideous war crimes on innocent people, has turned out to be one of our great democracies. It is listed at No. 5, while the US has slipped to No. 36. On recent form, that nation has a tenuous hold even on that position.

If this day, 15 September, does anything, it reminds us to cherish our political system. Australia is one of the great democracies, but as the country rated the 13<sup>th</sup> best democracy in the world, there is room for improvement. In our democracy, the average person can actually phone up and speak to their political representatives. We have to keep working to ensure that we maintain one of the world's greatest democracies.

#### **WHYALLA STEELWORKS**

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:42):** For the first time in his two-and-a-bit-years premiership, the Premier has a crisis of national proportions on his hands. It is an issue that strikes at the heart of our national security, our sovereignty, the country's ability to make our own steel and, critically, the state's economy. Storm clouds are hovering over the future of the Whyalla Steelworks, and I implore the Premier to personally intervene. I urge him and his energy and mining minister to immediately head to Whyalla to meet with and to give an ironclad guarantee to the good folk of Whyalla that, whatever happens to Sanjeev Gupta and his trouble-plagued global empire, the future of the steelworks is guaranteed.

I also implore the high-flying Mr Gupta to do likewise. The hardworking employees at his plant and their families deserve more than the silence and uncertainty they are getting from him currently. It is imperative the Premier contact Mr Gupta as a matter of urgency and organise to meet in person to get to the crux of the problems plaguing the steelworks and whether Mr Gupta has the means to keep his doors open. Nothing less will suffice.

The steelworks is in the middle of a perfect storm, and the Premier and his government need to ensure the steelworks has the means to navigate through it. Some of this is being caused by low global iron ore prices and China flooding the market with cheap low-grade steel, but most of it is being caused by Mr Gupta's burgeoning financial woes. He currently owes contractors to the steelworks more than \$100 million, including Golding Contractors, which is owed more than

\$70 million; waste company giant Veolia, which is owed around \$11 million; and Aurizon, the rail company, which is owed about \$14 million.

I have also been informed by anxious people on the ground in Whyalla that a major laboratory testing company, part of a global giant with an operation based in Whyalla that undertakes the quality control testing for the iron ore for SIMEC and onsite testing for GFG, has not been paid since March. As such, the company has stopped all testing of SIMEC's iron ore and GFG's onsite operations, preventing Liberty from selling or exporting any of its steel as it is unable to qualify the purity and grade of the steel.

About 50 workers have been stood down, and I am also told that toilets and other common areas of the steelworks are not being regularly cleaned, with workers even having to bring their toilet paper from home, as it is not being provided. Just this morning I was told the steelworks arc furnace is about to be shut down again for six months, for reasons unknown.

All of this is happening while the flamboyant Mr Gupta continues to buy up luxury harbourside properties in Sydney, this time shelling out more than \$12.5 million to buy a harbourside Sydney apartment from radio identity John Laws, while he continues not to pay contractors at the steelworks. This new purchase adds to the \$34 million he paid for the eight-bedroom, five-bathroom Potts Point mansion, *Bomera*, which overlooks Sydney Harbour, and the \$82 million mansion in London's exclusive Belgravia, purchased in 2020. The nerve of the man.

If there is one positive to come out of this, it is that the situation is so grave that local member Eddie Hughes has finally had the courage to raise his head above the parapet, taking to social media to publicly criticise Mr Gupta. It is about time, Eddie.

The most disturbing part of all this has been revealed by a freedom of information application my office submitted through FOI expert and transparency warrior Rex Patrick, seeking all correspondence from the state government's Steel Task Force that relates to current and future steelmaking in Whyalla. To my utter dismay, no documents exist: no minutes, no notes—nothing. What does that tell you? I, for one, do not know. We know that the task force has met with GFG and Liberty executives; Minister Koutsantonis has told us so. So where are the documents, the agreed commitments, the minutes?

Whyalla relies heavily on the steelworks. It is the town's biggest single employer and many other businesses survive by supplying to it. Without it, Whyalla is at grave risk and so too one of the Premier's biggest election promises, the overhyped world-first green hydrogen power plant proposed for Whyalla, because without the steelworks there may not be any hydrogen plant. Knowing how much populist Pete hates criticism of him and his government, he has only one option, and that is to act.

### INCLUSIVE WORKPLACES

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (15:46):** Today, I would like to highlight the importance of inclusive workplaces and the positive impact they can have on individuals and our wider community.

Foodbank, at its core, is an enabler of building resilience. Every day, volunteers are packing supplies that will enable someone to move through and keep going, despite their challenges. But Foodbank is also providing opportunity for a cohort of people before the supplies even leave the delivery gate.

While in Renmark earlier this year, I heard a story of how the inclusive and supportive environment of Foodbank had changed the life of an autistic Berri local, Zach. Zach is 23 years old, and prior to November last year he would spend his day at home, playing video games. As much as he wanted to be part of something that would enable him to find friends, to not be judged and to help others, he did not know how to go about it. He felt that he did not have the confidence to leave his safe place, that being his home.

Zach described how he felt flat and that he was missing out on being part of his community. As the beneficiary of others giving him support throughout his life, he was motivated to take on the opportunity to pay it forward and give back to others in need. He decided to pay it forward by

answering the call-out for more volunteers to support the Berri Foodbank Christmas rush. It was the perfect Christmas present to give back to his community.

Zach's first day was a big step for him and his family, especially his mum, Tegan, who is also a tireless advocate for the autistic and autism communities. They arrived early to settle their nerves, and Zach went from volunteer to volunteer, introducing himself. Thirty minutes in, Zach was getting hugs from his fellow volunteers. He felt, and I quote:

I was with a group of people where I was having fun, but also helping my community. I felt like I [finally] belonged.

While Zach is one of the younger volunteers at the Berri Foodbank warehouse, his fellow volunteers have described him as a strong young buck, making him the perfect person to help restock the delivery truck with bundles of toilet paper and fruit and veg boxes. Previously, getting through a day where Zach did not feel challenged by his surrounding environment had been a barrier for him to participate in work. The understanding of these barriers was not recognised by previous organisations he had hoped to be part of.

Zach is not alone in experiencing this barrier. If you are autistic, you are three times more likely to be unemployed than someone else with another disability. This barrier is more often than not due to a lack of knowledge in how to create an inclusive working environment. But there was a rock star at the Berri Foodbank who enabled Zach to build his resilience by creating an inclusive and positive environment for Zach—his team leader, Evelyn. As Zach said:

Evelyn has empowered me—she has enabled me to push my boundaries and provided a foundation for positive change in my life. I now feel happy. I'm now driven to do more.

To Evelyn: thank you for being Zach's rock star by building his resilience so he can now enjoy a sense of belonging in his community. Zach's life has been transformed because of an inclusive workplace in Berri at the Foodbank workplace.

I look forward to continuing to work with organisations to create inclusive and supportive working environments so that people like Zach have an opportunity to enter the workforce, benefit his community and also transform their lives.

### *Motions*

#### **CITY TO BAY FUN RUN**

**The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (15:51):** I move:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges that this year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> running of the City to Bay race;
2. Commends the City to Bay for promoting good health and the enjoyment of fitness, supporting athletics communities in South Australia and for providing a platform for fundraising activities by race participants; and
3. Recognises the dedicated efforts of City to Bay staff and volunteers in ensuring that the event is successful each year.

In just a few days' time, on Sunday 15 September, we will mark a major occasion: the 50<sup>th</sup> running of the City to Bay Fun Run. The City to Bay is one of the most popular and beloved events on South Australia's annual calendar and a wonderful celebration of the fun to be had in fitness and community. It is not only Adelaide's largest running event, I understand it is also Adelaide's largest mass-participation event. If you have witnessed the throng of people each year waiting at the starting line for the race to begin, this is not at all hard to believe.

This iconic race hosts tens of thousands of runners every September. It attracts a number of very serious athletes and elite runners from all over Australia, but the majority of the entrants are participating just for fun and, in many cases, also to support good causes that are meaningful to them. Many runners and walkers choose to support charities with their participation and some people choose to dress up.

The eclectic mix of people involved, from the serious to the silly, brings levity and enjoyment to the day. Quite rightly, to encourage and support the diversity of participation that makes the City

to Bay so special, there are options to suit all abilities, with three kilometres, six kilometres and the traditional 12 kilometres all available to registrants, as well as a half marathon distance of 21.1 kilometres, which was introduced in 2018 for those who are extra keen. The half marathon course starts at 6am at Glenelg and joins with the 12-k start point before ending up at the same spot in Moseley Square.

One well-loved feature of the race is the entertainment on the sidelines along the course, which can be appreciated by race participants and spectators alike. Then there are the post race festivities at the event village, where participants, family and friends can enjoy a range of activities like food and drink stalls, live entertainment by local artists and the award ceremony, through which are celebrated not only the winners of the day but the phenomenal community spirit that characterises the whole event.

Of course, as with any good contest, there are prizes and awards for place winners. The prizes are awarded in various categories, including overall winners, age group categories, best dressed, highest fundraising individuals and teams, and the largest team. Because it is the case that every entrant who finishes the race deserves recognition and commendation, all participants who succeed in crossing the finish line receive a finisher's medal and a race pack with various goodies from sponsors. Anyone who has ever run or walked to the City to Bay will tell you that it truly is a fantastic event. With its warm, celebratory and inclusive atmosphere, it creates a real sense of togetherness for the community of people who gather to complete the course together.

Compared to the spectacular event of today, the City to Bay began much more unassumingly in 1973. Running was nowhere near the popular exercise or pastime in the late 1960s and early 1970s that it has been in more recent decades. Bob Clarke, the race's founder, gathered an organising committee and only 11 weeks after he decided it would be a good idea, the first City to Bay was run in November 1973.

The first race started outside Adelaide Town Hall and included about 1,600 runners who had paid an entry price of just 50 cents each to compete in the 11.5-kilometre run. Bob Clarke, to open the race, addressed the starting runners from the Adelaide Town Hall balcony by microphone before rushing down with just 30 seconds to spare, joining the group of runners just ahead of the starting gun.

The race since then has grown enormously in size and scale, although not necessarily in a linear way. During the acute phase of the pandemic, the City to Bay race was not able to be run in person which forced the committee to think outside the square in an attempt to keep the race going. True to athletic form, the organisers showed remarkable agility in pivoting, successfully running a virtual race for two years until the in-person race made its much anticipated return in 2022.

The City to Bay Fun Run gives our community much more than the good times we had on the day itself. In fact, the main objective of the City to Bay is to raise funds to support athletics in South Australia. Profits from the race are used to assist athletes and clubs within the athletics community. They have previously sponsored promising athletes to get to the Olympics and have purchased new equipment for clubs.

The race also supports local service clubs as well as the athletic community, with donations based on the amount of volunteer help they provide, both on race day and for pre-race administration. Add to this the good that can be done by the individual and team fundraising efforts of race participants and you have significant momentum in raising funds for worthy causes across our state and our community.

Of course, the City to Bay does not happen on its own. It is the beneficiary of the tireless efforts of a great many people, beginning with its excellent and highly accomplished race director. I pay tribute to Joe Stevens OAM, who in 2021 was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for his contribution to athletics. Joe is known to all who have been involved in sport and athletics in South Australia. He is currently a board member of Athletics SA as well as past president and life member of both Athletics SA and Athletics Australia.

Although not related, I do enjoy calling him Uncle Joe and he plays a vital role working with Athletics Australia as an official, specialising in the technical aspects of competition. Joe works with



a number of other organisations, such as Sport SA, the South Australian Olympic Council and the Australian Commonwealth Games Association. I extend my recognition and my thanks to Joe for the care and the work that he puts into sport for our state and our community.

The City to Bay website says that the event 'promotes fitness, community and all things good about South Australia', But the fact is that the City to Bay itself is one of the good things about South Australia: an inclusive, welcoming, community-minded event that gives people a good reason and an enjoyable opportunity to come together and do something for a good cause, or merely just to come together and enjoy the day.

To give an idea of just how special this annual event is to our community, as at last year's running there were not only entrants competing who ran in the first City to Bay race in 1973, there were entrants who have run every single race since. I trust these incredible individuals will be out on Sunday, enjoying their 50<sup>th</sup> City to Bay in the same spirit as they enjoyed their first. A more lovely tradition is genuinely hard to imagine.

This year, for the 50<sup>th</sup> running, there will also be a lovely tribute to the man who started it all. Bob Clarke was 73 when he ran his last City to Bay, which he completed in only 59 minutes. He passed in 2016 at the age of 91. On Sunday, about 25 family members will don commemorative T-shirts and participate in the event's six-kilometre walk, a fitting tribute to a person who began a great legacy with this wonderful event, and he would be so gratified to see it continue.

I commend everyone who makes the race possible each year, including Uncle Joe and the race organisers, its many, many volunteers, each and every participant who dons a bib and completes the course, and the many members of the community who contribute to the event by cheering from the sidelines, offering support, encouragement and entertainment. It is a wonderful and special thing for our community to come together and share. I convey my wishes to everyone for an enjoyable and memorable 50<sup>th</sup> event on Sunday—at this stage the weather looks perfect—and all the best for many, many more City to Bay fun runs to follow.

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

#### *Bills*

### **INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (ICAC RECOMMENDATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:59):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012. Read a first time.

#### *Motions*

### **PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES**

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (16:00):** I move:

That this council:

1. Notes that in 2022 this council passed a motion recognising the ongoing resourcing issues within the current committee system of the Legislative Council, especially select committees, and requesting that the Clerk of the Legislative Council commence implementation of the formal recommendations contained in the Report of the Select Committee on the Effectiveness of the Current System of Parliamentary Committees to the current committee structure; and
2. Seeks a report from the Clerk on the implementation of this February 2022 motion's request.

My speech is short. In the last parliament this council moved a motion, it was passed, it asked the Clerk to prepare some work to ensure that we have effective committees. We currently do not have effective committees. I now hope that this council will seek that report so we can continue to work towards having better committees. With that, I commend the motion and note that I will be taking it to a vote on the next Wednesday of sitting.

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

*Bills***PUBLIC FINANCE AND AUDIT (CASH PAYMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL***Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:02):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987. Read a first time.

*Second Reading*

**The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:03):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I rise to speak in defence of all South Australians who carry, use and prefer cash. The scope of the Public Finance and Audit (Cash Payments) Amendment Bill 2024 is necessarily specific, but make no mistake: it strikes a blow against government control and aims to restore freedoms being quickly and worryingly lost to overreach. These are simple freedoms we took for granted not that long ago, like the freedom to keep our money where we want to and to use cash as legal tender.

My office has been inundated with responses since this campaign to defend our right to use cash gained publicity. That campaign, which has turned into this bill, was sparked by a string of troubling and alarming examples put to me and my office staff of cash being refused as legal tender right here in South Australia.

Earlier this year, I alerted the honourable Minister for Infrastructure via written account about a consumer who attempted to pay for their vehicle registration with cash at the Service SA outlet in Mount Barker but was turned away. This case is an example of which practices would be outlawed by this bill, but it also goes to the broader picture of what I consider an insidious trend of government bullying, monitoring and ultimately control, and it all starts with cash.

Why? Because cash remains the most practical and important peer-to-peer monetary vehicle, and cash does not discriminate, unlike, it seems, government agencies. This bill would compel designated authorities, including our 68 councils, to accept payments of legal tender in the form of cash for any transaction under \$10,000.

The best way to explain the outcome of this bill is to give some practical examples and extrapolate the possibilities of life without cash, possibilities that without action currently appear inevitable, given the rapid rate at which cash is being pushed out the door and wholly electronic personal banking, purchasing and selling is being pushed down our throats.

These examples—derived, unfortunately, from that feedback I referenced earlier—include councils shunning cash from their local ratepayers for things like paying their parking or paying their library fees. Imagine that: digging deep into your pockets to pay your ever-ballooning council rates each quarter and then getting told to take a hike when you attempt to pay one of that very same council's other charges with cash.

I make an effort to visit South Australia's rural and regional areas regularly, and on these trips and in subsequent communications with community members I have been advised that some residents still prefer to pay their council rates in cash. In an effort to make their \$2,000 or \$3,000 or more annual rate charges more manageable on their tight personal budgets they squirrel away a certain amount of cash per week or fortnight and they keep it in a safe place. Why should they not be allowed to pay cash?

In the Service SA example, preventing people from renewing their driver's licence because their cash was not accepted could lead to motorists driving around the streets unlicensed and, worse, uninsured. If allowed to continue and expand, this no-cash trend could and would be wide reaching, given Service SA undertakes millions and millions of critical and, in fact, compulsory transactions every year.

Why is legislating to protect the right of South Australians to pay in cash a big deal? It is because right now government authorities and service providers could go cashless overnight. There is no legislation to stop it; it is that simple. My feeling is that if these authorities and bureaucracies are given a chance to eliminate cash, they will. They see it as part of their job.

My bill is spelt out in black and white, and I am seeking the support of fellow members to make the stated amendments in order to ensure that government authorities must accept cash payments under \$10,000. But let's be clear: I believe cash should be even more widely accepted. Cash should be accepted for amounts over \$10,000 in government agencies.

I believe the onus is on banks and private businesses to ensure that cash does not die. Firstly, with reference to banks, it is widely recognised that the transition to a digital economy is disproportionately affecting rural communities. This phenomenon led to the 'Bank closures in regional Australia' report, which followed the closure of 700 bank-owned ATMs and 400 branches in 2023 alone and which referenced the economic and social impact of bank branch closures, including the removal of face-to-face cash services.

I believe banks have an obligation to provide services to their communities, including and especially rural communities. Due to the closure of more bank branches, rural customers are being forced to travel further to banks to access their own money. To add insult to injury, people are being forced to use other banks' ATMs because their bank has left town and are also getting charged for the privilege of accessing their own money—but they have no choice. So not only do we support the right of people to use cash, we support their right to access their own cash without being expected to travel unreasonable distances to do so. If banks stop people from accessing their own cash they effectively stop people from using cash.

One Nation does not trust the government to make decisions on what method people use to spend their money, nor do we trust banks to make decisions on what method people use to spend their money. There is a relentless drive towards a cashless society, but we are pushing back against this. This bill can accurately be interpreted as drawing a line in the sand. We are prepared to fight for people's right to use cash.

In introducing this bill, I am also urging private businesses to seriously consider their position on cash. One Nation encourages all South Australian businesses to accept cash where and wherever possible. I believe accepting cash can be an appreciable advantage for many businesses and, in fact, some have actually gone cash-only because they have had so many problems with digital payments.

At this point we have not yet been able to legislate to protect people's right to use cash when dealing with private businesses. That is more difficult and less straightforward, but be in no doubt: that is a battle we are willing to fight too. Our position is that at the end of the day this is about consumer choice, and introducing this bill is a clear signal that we will do what we can to protect the choice and defend society against the creeping attack on our freedom.

In aiming to preserve that freedom to use cash, I also remind members present of the need to protect ourselves from the vulnerability of IT systems going down, as illustrated by the 19 July CrowdStrike incident that temporarily brought the working economy to a screeching halt. For example, the outage caused Coles supermarkets in Rundle Mall to only accept cash payments, while Woolworths closed their self-serve checkouts. Many people who do their grocery shopping after work were unable to pay for their goods due to the worldwide outage.

Government services, including SA Power Networks and SA Water, were also significantly impacted by the CrowdStrike outage. I have previously used this chamber to flag the war against cash and have warned of a government goal to eliminate cash and replace it with central bank digital currencies.

We live in an age of ever-expanding data collection, much of this harvested without our meaningful and explicit consent. We are monitored more now than ever, and even the topics of casual conversations somehow pop up moments later on our social media feeds. It is time to start taking back our privacy and freedom of choice, and introducing this bill to the house is a first meaningful step towards that aspiration.

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

**GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 28 August 2024.)

**The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:12):** I rise to support the honourable member's Government Advertising Bill. I will always oppose the misuse of taxpayer money, and this bill introduces legitimate measures to prevent the government of the day from using taxpayer dollars to fund campaigns that promote a political agenda.

I also welcome the inclusion of money spent on social media advertising as there has been a marked increase in the use of these platforms to influence public opinion. The coordination between social media platforms and political parties to advance a political agenda continues to raise concerns within the community, and I support the use of legislation to enhance government accountability in this significant and constantly changing space.

I note that the honourable member has included a provision that will prevent government advertising related to legislation before the parliament, and I quote:

Under our bill it would not be possible for the government to start advertising a budget that had not even passed the parliament.

Whilst I fully support such measures and commend the member for calling for government accountability, I would hope that these stringent calls to prohibit government advertising will extend equally across all political agendas, including those that the honourable member might support.

Serious concerns were raised by several Independents and minority parties about the excessive government funding of the yes campaign, as opposed to the limited government funds given to the no campaign, and I report that the honourable member was silent on that significant disparity in government funding for the different campaigns. So while I welcome additional measures to scrutinise and restrict government advertising, I also acknowledge the need to be vigilant to ensure that these measures are applied equally and fairly across political spectrums.

I do note that similar measures exist in New South Wales and Victoria, and while there has been an increasing scrutiny of government spending on advertising, the accountability and enforcement of these measures has not always been effective. It is a concern that, while the intent of such measures may be to improve government accountability in advertising, ultimately it may only provide us with another layer of toothless bureaucracy.

It is also important to note that both major parties have previously breached section 113 of the South Australian Electoral Act for publishing misleading content and, more importantly, under the act the Court of Disputed Returns can invalidate the results of an election on the grounds of misleading advertising if that advertising affected the election result. We already have significant legislation in South Australia to address truth in political advertising. Much like the honourable member's proposal here today, these laws need to be applied and enforced.

**The Hon. B.R. HOOD (16:15):** I rise to speak on the Hon. Mr Simms' bill and indicate that I will be the lead speaker for the opposition. I thank him for bringing this bill to the chamber as it builds upon previous reforms proposed by the Hon. Vickie Chapman in 2019, before parliament was prorogued. The Liberal opposition is willing to support this bill, although I will flag a couple of questions, which I will outline shortly.

This bill is timely in South Australia, which is in the midst of an electoral and political reform discussion. The Hon. Mr Simms' bill is a fine attempt at improving transparency, accountability and creating clear guidelines for government advertising. I understand this bill incorporates elements from the Hon. Vickie Chapman's government bill in 2019 and the Hon. Stephen Mullighan's 2021 bill when Labor was in opposition.

It is worth reflecting on the latest iteration of this bill, as proposed by the member for Lee just three years ago. When introducing the Public Finance and Audit (Government Advertising) Amendment Bill, the Hon. Mr Mullighan described it as the most important and urgent piece of

legislation. This naturally leaves us then to wonder why, 2½ years since they won the election, Labor still has not got around to introducing these most important and urgent reforms. I will explore this anomaly in short time.

It is remarkable to observe that the spending has nearly doubled under this government when compared with the 2019-20 financial year. In his second reading explanation the Hon. Mr Simms notes that \$47.6 million was spent on advertising by the Malinauskas government in 2022-23—a record amount and up \$6 million on the previous year, which follows a trend of record-setting spending on government advertising since the election. Let's go through just a few examples of this government's splurge on advertising:

- almost \$2.4 million was spent on promoting the government's technical college election commitment, at least half of which came from Gonski education funding, a decision described by the education department's chief executive as 'unusual';
- almost \$7.5 million to promote the Adelaide 500 over three years;
- more than \$1.6 million spent spruiking the government's experimental hydrogen plant at the centre of the state's Prosperity Project;
- \$1.15 million to advertise the government's housing road map, which outlines actions that will supposedly deliver more homes faster, rather than actually speeding up their delivery;
- over \$1.1 million on the 2024 AFL Gather Round, excluding commercial-in-confidence arrangements;
- almost \$200,000 promoting the special Sunday sitting of parliament to pass the state's First Nations Voice; and
- a raft of other unknown commercial-in-confidence arrangements for the likes of promoting the Santos Tour Down Under, LIV Golf and the Bush Summit partnership.

This is just a snapshot of what the Malinauskas government has proactively disclosed and, given the Labor Party's well-known disdain for transparency, and of the Auditor-General, one can only speculate what else they might be hiding.

It is worth reflecting on the member for Lee's views on these matters. I lost count of the number of times the Hon. Mr Mullighan accused the Liberal Party of blatantly using taxpayer funds to bolster our political stocks, and it is galling in its hypocrisy when you consider the list of recent government advertising campaigns that the Labor government he is now a part of has undertaken.

As the Hon. Mr Simms has observed, almost \$750,000 was spent to promote just one of their state budgets in a display of self-congratulation, at the expense of the South Australian taxpayer. In response, the bill before us today has a range of elements, including:

- the requirement that the minister publish guidelines around government advertising and communications;
- barring ministers and members of parliament from appearing in government advertising;
- excluding bills and legislative proposals within bills from being communicated at taxpayers' expense;
- enabling the Auditor-General to conduct an audit of government advertising, and for members of parliament to request that one be undertaken;
- the Auditor-General could also determine breaches of the proposed act and must prepare reports; and
- requiring approval from the Auditor-General for advertising expenditure over \$10,000 during an election period or, alternatively, by resolution of both houses.

The bill does prompt some questions as I outlined, however, of some practical elements and how some of those parts are to be interpreted. While the Hon. Vickie Chapman's proposed ban on

ministers and MPs is retained in part 3, section 5, section 6 is a new and welcome addition that prohibits advertising on bills and amendments that are before the house.

I think I can speak for everyone in this place, Labor members included, when I say that we do not want a repeat of the Transforming Health campaign that saw politicians' faces plastered all over government advertising promoting that awful policy. We view the extension of the ban to include legislative proposals contained within the bill as a sensible solution. We did, however, have a couple of questions with regard to the section that permits the advertising of government ministers and MPs, so long as a recording of their voice and image was taken while they were not a minister or an MP.

In discussion with the Hon. Mr Simms, I understand that if he was in a video about regional public transport before he was an MP and there was then an amazing bill to promote regional public transport and Mr Simms appeared in it before he was an MP, he could not get into trouble. So we certainly appreciate the intent there that Mr Simms was bringing in this amendment.

We are supportive of this bill. I would just like to end by echoing the words of the member for Lee from way back when the Labor Party were once supportive of this kind of political reform in the following direct quote from the now Treasurer as he concluded his speech just three short years ago, aside from one small detail that I am sure you will be able to pick up on. He said:

We bring this bill to this place with the intention of refocusing this government and future governments on spending taxpayers' money on advertising where it should be, and that is in promoting the proper functions of government in the public interest, not promoting the flagging political fortunes of the South Australian Labor Party...I commend the bill to all those in the house.

Well said, Mr Mullighan, member for Lee. I certainly hope the government on the other side of this house supports this bill—I am not sure they will.

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (16:22):** I rise today to speak on behalf of the government, which will not be supporting this bill.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Hon. Mr Ngo has the floor.

**The Hon. T.T. NGO:** My explanation will be brief because we do not need to support a bill that outlines much of what is already in place and is, in fact, standard practice. Reasons for this include impartiality in advertising and prohibiting ministers and members of parliament appearing in advertising—that already exists. The Hon. Robert Simms has mentioned that the Malinauskas Labor government has already published guidelines, and that a government advisory committee reviews all expenditure over \$50,000 for any government advertising. This government already publishes advertising costs and contractors, which are included in annual reports and other methods.

Labor already balances the need for transparency and accountability in the use of taxpayer funding for advertising. Obviously, the government of the day needs to communicate to South Australians about new incentives and programs that will have some sort of impact on their lives. Often, media reports focus on what is not being done rather than the solutions governments may implement to alleviate difficulties and reduce negative impacts.

This is a government that has already established guidelines for the purchase and purpose of government advertising that is published on the DPC website. Consequently, once again, we will not be supporting a bill that seeks to legislate practice that is already in practice.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (16:24):** I thank the honourable members for their contributions: the Hon. Sarah Game, the Hon. Ben Hood and the Hon. Tung Ngo. I thank the opposition and the Hon. Ms Game for their support of this bill. I do want to express my empathy with the position that the Hon. Tung Ngo is in. He is often wheeled out to sell the unsellable, and I feel sorry for him because, really, no amount of government advertising can make that position look good. It is pretty shameless. They really have more front than John Martin's to undertake this Olympic-style backflip.

Let us not forget that when the Labor Party were in opposition they were very happy to impose these rules on the then Marshall government. Indeed, in the upper house, I moved a private member's bill, or an amendment to a government bill at the time, which the Labor Party was enthusiastically supportive of. In the other place, they advanced a private member's bill. Now they

are in government, they have an opportunity to actually put their money where their mouth is, and what do they do? They squib at the opportunity.

I cannot understand why that would be. What would lead to that about-face? When they were in opposition, they were very vocal on this. Why would they change their position now, I ask you? It is really an embarrassing about-face and very disappointing because this bill actually draws on ideas that have been proposed by both sides of politics, as the Hon. Ben Hood noted in his remarks. The bill draws on a proposal from the then minister, the Hon. Vickie Chapman. It also draws on the very sensible ideas of the Hon. Stephen Mullighan. It puts them all together, and it also introduces a few new elements that had been proposed by the Grattan Institute. So I am very disappointed that the Labor Party have adopted such an inconsistent approach on this.

The Hon. Ben Hood raised a question of clarification. To save time in the committee stage, assuming that this bill passes this stage, I might respond to a few of those points now. The honourable member raised a question about what would happen for a member of parliament who was inadvertently captured in advertising. There is a provision in the bill that makes it clear that it is not a breach if the photo or the use of their image occurred while they were not an MP or if they could not reasonably have known that they were going to be in the advertising.

For instance, if you had a scenario where a member of parliament was a community advocate or whatever, they were featured in some government advertising or stock photos and they did not know that they were going to be used in an upcoming campaign, then there would not be consequences that would flow to that member. I think the other question that was asked was around the \$10,000 limit. Under the proposal, any proposal from a government department to expend more than \$10,000 in the lead-up to an election would need to be approved by the Auditor-General.

I understand the opposition was interested in how the \$10,000 figure was arrived at. It was the figure that was in the Labor Party's original proposal and, indeed, the one that I advanced back in 2021, I believe it was. The reason that quantum was arrived at, from my perspective, and why I continue to use that quantum, is that there was consistency with the proposal previously advanced by the then Labor opposition, but also it does set a very low threshold, which I think is appropriate, only in the lead-up to the election when we want to ensure that, if lines between government advertising and political party advertising are potentially blurred, there is a high level of scrutiny. That is what the bill proposes, but only in that lead-up period.

If this bill passes the upper house it would send a very clear message to the Malinauskas government that they need to lift their game in this regard. I think it puts them on notice that this chamber is watching what they are doing with government advertising and watching what they are doing in terms of spending government money on promoting themselves and on backslapping exercises, and that it really urges them to adopt a better standard.

The Hon. Mr Ngo says that the government is already doing it. Well, if they are already doing it, why would they not support enshrining these principles in legislation? The reality is that they know they are not meeting the expectations of the people of South Australia in this regard. I commend the bill.

Bill read a second time.

*Committee Stage*

Bill taken through committee without amendment.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (16:34):** I move:

The bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (RELIGIOUS BODIES) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 28 August 2024.)

**The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:35):** I rise briefly to oppose the honourable member's bill. I will continue to stand with all faith-based organisations and oppose this proposal to remove the right of religious schools and organisations to determine their own employment policies in accordance with their own religious beliefs and values. It is important to note, however, that the religious exemptions for schools do not apply unless a school has either (a) a written policy stating its position, or (b) the policy has been given to all prospective employees.

This is a fair and proportionate approach as it requires educational institutions to provide a copy of their employment policy to any person being interviewed or offered employment. This means that any religious school wanting to be exempt from antidiscrimination laws must inform prospective employees of the school's position on the employment of LGBTI people. Through this transparent process, both employer and employee can be confident that both parties are aware of their rights and responsibilities and both parties are free to accept or reject any offer based on their own values and beliefs.

My concern is that the removal of religious exemptions is a disproportionate and unjustified measure, which conflates the elevation of LGBTI rights with the demise of religious freedom. This does not need to be the case. Both rights can coexist in a balanced and proportional way and any proposal which purports to protect the rights of one group by removing the long-held rights of another group is misconceived.

Religious freedom is a fundamental human right enshrined in international law and ratified and recognised here in Australia, along with the explicit constitutional right to freedom of religion. Under article 18.4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, all parents have the right to ensure their children are educated in accordance with their own religious and moral convictions.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, a growing number of parents in South Australia continue to exercise this fundamental right by choosing non-government schools to educate their children, with 37.9 per cent of enrolments or 104,911 students attending non-government schools in South Australia in 2023, a higher proportion than in any other state.

Out of these thousands of students and teachers in non-government schools across South Australia, I would suggest there are many who identify as LGBTI. While I share the honourable member's concern about bigotry, I would argue that, given the current diversity in staff and students across South Australia, our non-government schools should be commended for their inclusivity and not chastised for holding religious beliefs and values which some may perceive as outdated and irrelevant.

In a recent article in the CathNews, the current director of the National Catholic Education Commission, former Labor Senator Jacinta Collins, expressed her concern about the growing perception in contemporary Australia that making choices based on religious beliefs and values is somehow discriminatory or at odds with modern society. I note that, when presenting this bill before the chamber, the Hon. Robert Simms described opponents to this bill as crazy and he cautioned the Premier and members from choosing to side with what he labelled 'wacky stuff'.

I have no doubt that many members in both chambers of this parliament would have attended non-government schools, and no doubt many members also send their children to non-government schools. Choosing to enrol your child in a religious school that is consistent with your own morals and values is not wacky or crazy; it is a thoughtful and considered choice based on many different factors. As stated by Jacinta Collins, for parents:

Choosing a faith-based school is not an act of exclusion or discrimination; rather, it is a deeply personal decision for parents driven by their desire to raise children in an environment that nurtures not only their academic and cultural development, but also their spiritual formation, understanding of religious teachings, and eternal relationship with God.

The current religious exemptions under the Equal Opportunity Act ensure that faith-based schools will continue to offer parents a choice about the role of religious values in their child's education.



Additionally, LGBTI teachers, students and parents will continue to have the right to make an informed choice when choosing a school that reflects their own values and beliefs.

Under the current laws, schools will continue to be required to show prospective employees their policies, and parents and students can request to see a school's enrolment policy. The current laws are fair and proportionate, providing all parties with a transparent legal framework that allows schools, parents, teachers and students to act in accordance with their own beliefs and values without any need to infringe on the rights or freedoms of others. The religious exemptions do not need to be removed. We just need to acknowledge and respect the values and beliefs of others.

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

### *Motions*

#### **AFL ADMINISTRATION**

**The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:40):** I move:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges that the significant public money spent on assisting our two AFL clubs by redeveloping Adelaide Oval should have resulted in South Australians benefiting ahead of the AFL when it comes to the autonomy of our South Australian AFL clubs;
2. Recognises that due to the investment of the government in both AFL clubs it is in the state's interests that both AFL clubs operate independently of AFL control as do all Victorian-based AFL clubs;
3. Acknowledges that successive governments have failed to release the SafeWork SA report into the January 2018 Adelaide Football Club training camp despite the AFL apologising for the damage caused to individuals by what happened on the camp and calls for the release of the report;
4. Recognises that we should have a South Australian with our state's interests at heart appointed to the position of CEO of the Adelaide Football Club, instead of an AFL administrator operating with his wings clipped at the whim of the AFL; and
5. Calls on the government to establish an inquiry to investigate how the AFL has taken control of both AFL clubs in South Australia and to adopt measures to ensure that members of both clubs are given control of the club including the right to democratically appoint all board members.

South Australia is a proud sporting state and beyond that, a state that always strives to showcase its independence and many wonderful standalone qualities. Unfortunately, the current governance of South Australia's biggest two sporting clubs, the Adelaide Crows and Port Adelaide Power, flies in the face of that popular belief in aspiration and instead brings into question the clubs' autonomy. The facts are that seven of the nine board members at each club are appointed by the AFL. Just two people on the board are appointed by members.

AFL is always a hot topic and the 2024 season and which clubs will make the top eight and which clubs will not has been no exception. But I have some bad news for our two AFL clubs: both Adelaide and Port Adelaide sit well outside the top eight on the inaugural AFL Corporate Governance Ladder compiled recently by the Governance Institute of Australia. In a report authored by the organisation's Nathan Bartrop, I can reveal that the Crows sit in 14<sup>th</sup> position and Port Adelaide in 15<sup>th</sup> position. Only competition newcomers, GWS and Gold Coast, along with the Western Australian Football Commission-owned West Coast Eagles sit below our two SA clubs.

This is unacceptable. I believe in accountability, transparency, and giving back power to the people of South Australia. Given the significant taxpayer funds ploughed into our two AFL teams, including for the Adelaide Oval rebuild, I believe members should have a much bigger say on who is appointed to the respective boards. A greater proportion of the Adelaide Crows and Port Adelaide Power board members need to be elected by members rather than appointed by the Victorian-centric AFL.

I am calling on the state government to help enforce a change in the constitution to restore more power to club members and, by extension, make the boards accountable to the members and the South Australian taxpayers who funded these facilities. Sporting clubs that are part publicly funded need to be run as a democracy, rather than be controlled by an interstate entity, like the AFL. Mr Bartrop has told my office that if a similar governance model was in place at AFL clubs like

Geelong, Western Bulldogs, Melbourne or Hawthorn, the members would be, to quote Mr Bartrop, 'pretty horrified'.

Further, Mr Bartrop described the governance systems in place at Adelaide and Port Adelaide as 'not really accountable to anyone' and 'lacking transparency'. He told my office that it was difficult to see why some of the board members were appointed by the AFL. Under the democratic system, members could judge for themselves the qualities and qualifications of all candidates, then make informed decisions that are best for their club.

It is for these reasons that I am calling for a parliamentary inquiry to investigate the AFL's control of both AFL clubs in South Australia and to adopt measures to ensure both clubs regain control of the right to appoint their board members. Striving for the installation of this democracy links to my desire to recognise that successive state governments have failed to release a SafeWork SA report on the Adelaide Crows' notorious pre-season training camp run by Collective Mind.

Had the club's governance been more accountable and autonomous, the best disinfectant, sunlight, may have been shone on this messy, drawn-out and ugly chapter in the club's history. Public apologies to ex-Crow Eddie Betts and others highlight that, despite assurances to the contrary, the camp was problematic. Again, given the public funds directed towards our AFL clubs, I believe the public has a right to know the contents of SafeWork SA's report.

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

*Parliamentary Committees*

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON RECYCLING OF SOFT PLASTICS AND OTHER RECYCLABLE MATERIAL**

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

That the report of the select committee be noted.

(Continued from 28 August 2024.)

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (16:44):** As a member of the Select Committee on Recycling of Soft Plastics and Other Recyclable Material, I would like to endorse the final report our Presiding Member, the Hon. Heidi Girolamo, tabled in this place recently. I thank the Hon. Heidi Girolamo for moving a motion that resulted in the formation of this committee, a committee that was established to explore the impacts of human use and reliance on soft plastics and the effects this reliance on plastics has had, and continues to have, on our environment, lifestyles and the choices we make.

As the honourable member outlined when tabling the final report, the committee focused considerable time on the findings outlined in the report of the National Plastics Plan 2021. One extremely alarming fact this plan presented was that in Australia 70 billion pieces of soft plastics are used annually every year in Australia. Australia has a plan to reduce plastic waste and increase recycling rates. In South Australia the phasing out of additional plastic products commenced on 1 September 2024.

As we move towards finding alternative products to replace plastics, there are some critical reasons for providing alternative choices to the soft plastic shopping bags we have been using for decades. I do want to stress that providing alternative options is absolutely essential.

During a committee hearing, representatives from Woolworths and Coles reported that they were providing customers with the option to purchase paper bags for 25¢ as an alternative to a plastic bag. During this presentation I raised my concern about a couple of issues, the first being that originally, a few years ago, these paper bags were offered at a cost of 15¢ to encourage people to use paper bags. Now, the cost of these bags has increased to 25¢ each, which is an increase of 60 per cent.

When I studied economics at high school, I learned that a product becomes cheaper when you produce more of it; it is called economy of scale. The fact is that a lot of people are purchasing these paper bags today compared with a few years ago when they were first introduced, therefore the price and cost of these should reduce, not increase. With many of us struggling to afford the

rising cost of everyday living, paying 60 per cent more for a paper bag when we do a bit of shopping adds further stress for people on tight budgets.

The other issue that I raised was about the paper bags being sold in our supermarkets tearing easily—often immediately when anything is placed inside them. That fact has been experienced by many people I have spoken to, who have confirmed shopping bags tearing easily at the shops. When I presented this problem to Woolies and Coles, little interest was shown.

I also mentioned the concerns about how easily the paper shopping bags tear when the independent supermarkets gave evidence to the committee inquiry. The independent supermarket industry told us that the paper shopping bags are made in South Australia. On hearing this I hoped the committee would get an answer as to whether a small adjustment could be made to prevent them from ripping so easily, but none of the supermarkets seemed to have an answer to this design fault.

I suggested how the bag could be redesigned with a double fold of paper at the top to reinforce and strengthen the bag. I have used paper bags from other retail outlets, such as Cotton On Kids, Supre and Typo; these bags are strong and have a double fold at the top that helps to reduce tearing.

I feel disappointed that our supermarkets are reluctant to put a bit of effort in to provide paper shopping bags that customers can carry their shopping in without the bag tearing before they get home. With the current focus on recycling we need to provide people with something they can reuse. However, due to the limited weight bearing capacity of the current paper bags supermarkets offer customers, we are actually encouraging people to buy, use and throw out rather than reuse.

Although paper bags may not be as sustainable or eco-friendly as other available options, we do need to offer people steps and short-term options as our society moves towards achieving the outcome of living with a greatly reduced reliance on plastic products. As we know, other strong recycled shopping bag options are the calico bag and those made from hemp or jute. Although more expensive, hemp and jute fibres are naturally eco-friendly and will break down over time.

As was discovered by our select committee, the best way to reduce the use and impact of soft plastic is to decrease our use of it. By drastically cutting back on the amount of plastics society uses it will follow that the challenges of how best to recycle soft plastics and the how and what in the manufacturing of recycled soft plastics will become less daunting.

It has been mentioned that the committee findings outlined in the report of the June 2021 National Plastics Plan steered the path of our focus. Another frightening fact outlined in this paper was that 130,000 tonnes of Australian plastic leaks into the marine environment. If we do not continue to make strides to reduce our use of soft plastics then by 2050, which is not very far off, it is estimated that plastic in the oceans will outweigh fish, a terrifying reality for sure.

In closing, I want to stress that in order to reduce our use of soft plastics we must provide accessible recyclable, affordable and durable alternatives. We also need to work together to help all Australian communities improve on their recycling efforts.

A special thankyou to my committee colleagues the Hon. Justin Hanson, the Hon. Michelle Lensink and the Hon. Robert Simms. I appreciate your collaborative approaches and input. Once again, thank you to our Presiding Member, the Hon. Heidi Girolamo, and to our committee secretary, Robyn Schutte, for all her hard work and to the committee's research officer, Ms Mary-Ann Bloomfield. I can only encourage us all to take heed of the importance of what this final report details.

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (16:54):** I also rise to speak on this committee report. Like the Hon. Tung Ngo, I want to acknowledge the work of my colleagues on the committee. In particular, I want to commend the leadership of the Hon. Heidi Girolamo, who moved to establish this committee. The honourable member moved to establish this committee because of the failure of some of our big corporations to deal with this matter, and so it was very useful and informative from my perspective. I also acknowledge the work of the other members on the committee, the Hon. Tung Ngo, the Hon. Justin Hanson and the Hon. Michelle Lensink.

I will make some brief remarks. As other members have noted, soft plastics are the fastest growing plastic packaging category and are almost always single use. According to research by the

Minderoo Foundation, Australians generate more single-use plastic waste per capita than any other country in the world, about 60 kilograms a year. I find that staggering. According to the government's National Plastics Plan, Australia goes through 70 billion pieces of soft plastics each year which translates to almost 3,000 pieces of plastic per person.

The collapse of REDcycle in November 2022 was a shock for many South Australians, who had been diligently separating their soft plastics to return to their local supermarket for collection. The abrupt halt to the scheme left many South Australians bitterly disappointed. One of the elements that did disappoint me, in terms of the evidence that we heard from some of the supermarkets, was that they were still advertising things as being recyclable when that was not the case. It is frustrating that some of these large corporations and big food retailers are not taking responsibility for ensuring that there is appropriate packaging.

Soft plastics contribute significantly to landfill waste in Australia making up a large portion of the plastic waste generated in the country. They also considerably impact ocean pollution, as was noted by the Hon. Tung Ngo, as they can be easily transported by wind and water, ending up in waterways and eventually reaching the ocean. Moreover, the production and disposal of soft plastics generates greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change.

The effects of soft plastic waste on wildlife and natural ecosystems are devastating, resulting in decreased biodiversity, destruction of habitats and interference with natural processes. Minimising these effects and safeguarding our environment necessitates appropriate waste management and recycling. Fortunately, South Australians will again be able to recycle their soft plastics thanks to a partnership between the state and federal governments. We welcome that news. It happened whilst the committee was in train.

Recycling Plastics Australia has received a \$20 million federal grant to set up advanced recycling technology at its Kilburn centre, which now allows soft plastics to be recycled. I understand this will divert more than 14,000 tonnes of soft plastics from South Australian landfills every year. That is a good outcome. Soft plastics, including shopping bags, chip packets and food wrappers, will be cleaned and purified to create feedstock for new plastic packaging.

Like the Hon. Tung Ngo, I was interested to hear about the issue regarding paper bags. I agree that there is work for big supermarket chains to do there to make that more accessible for consumers. One thing worth noting about this committee was that we reached a cross-party consensus on the recommendations. There are some really sensible suggestions for the state government to take up, and I look forward to their response.

One of the issues I am particularly passionate about, and it is included in the recommendations, is looking at this issue of government procurement. I will particularly draw the chamber's attention to that recommendation because I think this is one of those areas where government can really show some leadership.

One of the recommendations is that Green Industries SA partner with Procurement Services SA to update the procurement governance policy, the Green procurement guideline and other relevant procurement policies or guidelines to require South Australian government agencies to procure goods and services that, where applicable, incorporate no less than 50 per cent recycled soft plastics or replacements with a compostable alternative, and eliminate soft plastic waste in the delivery of goods and services by 2026.

It is also recommended that Green Industries SA partner with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport to set targets for the use of recycled soft plastics in construction projects to drive demand, that Green Industries SA partner with the Local Government Association to set targets for the use of recycled soft plastics in council projects, and that Green Industries SA partner with the Local Government Association to do terminative changes required to the Local Government Act to require councils to incorporate no less than 50 per cent recycled soft plastics.

The reason for this is that a lot of these soft plastics can be converted into materials that we can use. I have read before, and I am aware of projects on the city council, of involving the use of plastics for bitumen. There are examples of this in other jurisdictions. I understand that it can be used

for making things like park benches. I have heard of it being used in construction materials. That is a really good outcome.

There is an industry here in South Australia that could be supported. One way to do that is for the government itself to set very clear procurement requirements, and for local councils in particular, so that when they are undertaking roadworks and the like they can have regard to that. I thank the Hon. Heidi Girolamo for proposing this, and all other committee members for their work and the work of the secretariat in compiling a very thorough report.

**The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (17:00):** I thank all members involved in the committee: the Hon. Tung Ngo, the Hon. Michelle Lensink, the Hon. Robert Simms and the Hon. Justin Hanson. It was a great collaborative committee. We have come up with excellent recommendations that I really hope the minister takes on board. These recommendations balance our economic viability and are environmentally responsible recommendations, and they will go a long way to being able to support soft plastics recycling being reintroduced in South Australia.

I know we all hope that one day we will have a world of strong paper bags, Mr Ngo. It is really important that this is taken on board by Woolworths, Coles and particularly Aldi. I thought of Mr Ngo the other day when I was at Aldi and my paper bag broke with three bottles of soft drink in it. It is a key issue that needs to be sorted. I hope the minister is able to take on board this feedback from Mr Ngo and from the committee as well. These recommendations are very practical and should be taken on board by both government and the major two players in this country.

I hope all committees continue to be this productive; it has been really invaluable. I have written to the minister personally to encourage that cross-dialogue to make sure we are working together to see these recommendations being implemented. With that, I hope the report is taken on board.

Motion carried.

### WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (17:02):** I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises the crucial role whistleblowers play in identifying and calling out misconduct and breaches of the law;
2. Acknowledges whistleblowers can find themselves in difficult and stressful circumstances which have the potential to damage their reputations, risk their careers and impact their personal health and safety;
3. Commends whistleblowers who report potential misconduct or breaches of the law;
4. Notes more needs to be done to protect whistleblowers when they do come forward and report misconduct or breaches of the law which harm consumers and the community; and
5. Calls on the state government to strengthen legislation that facilitates and protects whistleblowers and the appropriate disclosure of public interest information to further protect whistleblowers.

Whistleblowing should be recognised and protected for what it does to promote and enhance integrity and accountability in the government and private sector through disclosure of often sensitive and protected information. Whistleblowers themselves should be shielded from retaliation and retribution. In truth, we know they are not. Whistleblowers often find themselves the hunted.

It has been most disturbing to see in recent days that in Queensland a whistleblower, who exposed Australia's worst paedophile, Ashley Griffith, after complaints against him to police and the Uniting Church were dismissed, is now herself being prosecuted. Yolanda Borucki, who worked for the childcare centre operated by the church where Griffith was employed, revealed the incompetence and cover-up on Channel 9's *A Current Affair*. She was made redundant the day before Griffith was arrested.

Following that exposé, she was arrested when a complaint was made against her by the church for unlawfully accessing confidential information, which confirmed there was a cover-up by authorities. As for Griffith, images and videos that led to his arrest were first discovered in 2014 by a

specialist task force that caught notorious South Australian government childcare worker and paedophile Shannon McCooile.

Governments and politicians tend to beat their chest about encouraging whistleblowers to come forward to report corruption and misconduct. There are laws in place to protect whistleblowers, but are they serious about it or is it merely lip-service? I think it is the latter if you consider the fate now facing Ms Borucki and others like her who were brave enough to come forward. This only acts as a disincentive to whistleblowers who courageously disclose wrongdoing and harm.

Protections for whistleblowers had looked like making some progress after a federal parliamentary report, which made sweeping recommendations in 2017, had strong bipartisan support but typically, after all the hot air dissipated, that went nowhere. Whistleblowing is defined as 'the disclosure by organisation members (former or current) of illegal, immoral, or illegitimate practices under the control of their employers, to persons or organisations that may be able to effect action'.

In recent years, whistleblowers have outed banks and financial institutions, leading to a royal commission. They have exposed malpractice and abuse in aged care, abuse in the ADF, there was the Robodebt scandal, alleged war crimes by Australian Special Forces in Afghanistan, the bugging of the offices of another government and exposing deceitful practices of the Australian Taxation Office. But in doing so, whistleblowers can also go to jail. Take military lawyer David McBride, who has already served more than 100 days in jail as part of a five-year sentence for passing on classified documents about war crimes to the ABC yet, ironically, nobody has yet been convicted and jailed for these war crimes—only the person who exposed them.

Julian Assange spent years locked away or locked up for releasing thousands of classified US defence documents that showed war crimes being committed. Richard Boyle is facing jail for his exposure of the ATO's indiscriminate use of garnishee notices. He thought he was covered by the Public Interest Disclosure Act—after all, much of it was found to be true. His crime, so to speak, was to steal that supporting information, the hard evidence, and then pass it on. It is doubtful whether any media outlet would have run the risk of going with a sensational exposé like that without it being corroborated. A gross miscarriage of justice looms here. Kieran Pender of the Human Rights Law Centre says there is no public interest in prosecuting Boyle, and the resulting outcome will only undermine whistleblower protections in this country.

Australia's foremost expert on whistleblowing, Professor A.J. Brown from Griffith University, says our whistleblowing laws do not provide sufficient protection, nor do they provide a safe culture to raise concerns but, should someone like Boyle end up behind bars, there will be a great reluctance and disincentive for other whistleblowers to stand up and call out any wrongdoing. Professor Brown and Kieran Pender urge an overhaul of existing laws to prevent harm and provide legal remedies to whistleblowers. Professor Brown says detriment to whistleblowers from reprisal continues to go unremedied in the public and private sectors, even in deserving cases.

That brings me to a matter I am interested in exploring further: the thuggish bullying, dishonest and deceitful conduct of a powerful local trade union, the Police Association of South Australia, whose tentacles of influence reach the highest offices in this state. They represent close to 5,000 members of the police force—good men and women upholding the law and protecting the community—but this organisation hides behind the trust and high regard South Australians have for our police officers and a belief that, because of its links, it feels it can carry on as if it is an untouchable creature.

As for the union itself, there has been some disturbing disquiet about its administration under current and previous executive staff, all of whom are still serving police officers. Whistleblowers who have experienced and complained about appalling misogynist behaviour, bullying, intimidation and harassment have been silenced through the threat of costly legal action or having their membership cancelled by a stacked committee of management that behaves like a law unto itself and will not hesitate in expelling anyone challenging its authority, including its own union delegates.

On the Nine Network's *A Current Affair*, I described this toxic culture and conduct as 'mafia style', behaving like ruthless enforcers abusing their authority, striking fear into female colleagues and former staff who have had legitimate complaints about their conduct smothered in ongoing legal

action that is estimated to have topped more than \$1 million. Union members have been unable and prevented from examining the books forensically to see how and where their money is spent.

The union's deputy president, Daryl Mundy, has declared me public enemy No. 1 since I blew the whistle in this place that its new president, inspector Wade Burns, had made admissions to an alleged sexual assault of a civilian female SAPOL staff member at the Distill nightclub on the evening of 30 June and 1 July 2017. Three months on, Mr Burns has still not denied the allegations because he cannot. He misled members and the public when he made a statement about that. He was stripped of two ranks, from chief inspector to senior sergeant. The reasons were never disclosed by Burns, nor did Burns bother to explain this to members during his run for presidency, where he campaigned on openness and transparency.

I did so because I believe strongly that it was in the public's and the members of the association's interest not to have someone conveniently hide their corrupt conduct under the veil of secrecy provided by the PCDA. An alleged sexual predator is not a fit and proper person to be a police officer, let alone to head one of the most influential police unions in the country. He should have been sacked. Why that did not happen should raise more questions about the internal disciplinary processes within SAPOL.

When Mr Burns chose to step down from positions with Basketball SA and a school board after my revelations, why did he not also remove himself from the role of the Police Association? Power and money, I would say. Now, he is being protected by the executive committee of PASA and its mad as hell deputy president, Daryl Mundy, who has been very active on social media whipping up defamatory attacks against me and hysterically accusing me of trying to dismantle the Police Complaints and Discipline Act. That is simply a lie, although the act does need to be reviewed and to bring proceedings against guilty police in line with other states.

I have the greatest respect for our police force. I have close friends who are serving police officers. I have advocated for police officers thrown on the scrap heap with post-traumatic stress disorder when not even PASA wanted to help them or those falsely accused of corruption and acquitted by the courts. Let me remind Mr Mundy that my bill giving police officers and other first responders more rights, recognition and assistance in making claims for post-traumatic stress disorder passed in the Legislative Council this year and now sits in the House of Assembly. When it passes into law, it will greatly benefit Mr Mundy and his members.

I find it reprehensible when a mad Mr Mundy writes to police officers accusing me of waging a relentless war against his union and not caring about the physical safety or mental wellbeing of police officers. It is an outrageous lie, and he knows it, accusing me of being anti police. I am anti bad police; 99.9 per cent are good police officers. When three union delegates wrote to the union, voicing their displeasure at the union's tactics, they were expelled, not because they had a right to make their point but because their letter was also addressed to me and the police minister.

On 9 August, Mr Mundy wrote to Chief Inspector Darren Cornell, telling him that the committee of management—which included members who openly canvassed votes for Mr Burns and who had not recused themselves from the vote, with three others absent—had expelled him on the grounds that he had brought discredit to the association and its members. It begs the question: did Mr Burns not do that, too, in 2017? False accusations against Chief Inspector Cornell were also levelled by PASA to SAPOL's Ethical and Professional Standards Branch. Those vindictive complaints were thrown out.

I now seek leave to table those documents from the police Ethical and Professional Standards Branch that were sent to Chief Inspector Darren Cornell. They were sent on 11 July 2024, and both of them show that the assessment of complaints by IIS has been conducted and that both complaints have now been filed and that that there was no substance to them.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** Mr Mundy, not Mr Burns, had written to Mr Cornell, accusing him, among other things, of being involved in a sustained attack on Mr Burns. They accused him of inflammatory and borderline criminal comments, being in breach of the PCDA, colluding with journalists and bringing PASA into disrepute.

On 5 August, Mr Cornell replied, calling it a kangaroo court process—that he was denied procedural fairness. He named committee members he believed were unable to vote on a matter due to real or perceived conflicts of interest. Some of them had openly campaigned for Mr Burns. He asked for details on the outrageous claims made against him but got nothing.

For the record, I had never met or ever spoken to Mr Cornell prior to my revelations in this place. I was tipped off about the Burns nightclub incident while I was still working at Channel 7 and before I entered parliament. I know that other members of the media in South Australia were also aware of it. As I said, it was SAPOL's worst kept secret.

Expelling Mr Cornell from the union was an act of bastardry. He loses a \$300,000 death cover and the ability to be covered for legal expenses, and of course he will not be able to challenge Mr Burns in the coming presidential election. You might recall that Mr Cornell missed out on winning that by just 49 votes. Mr Cornell was trying to appeal the decision, but that will be hard with a committee that is stacked in favour of Mr Burns and his lackey Mr Mundy.

Mr Mundy has been a busy man with all his PASA responsibilities. It is a wonder how he can fit it all in with his obligations to his actual job as a police officer. As for PASA's Facebook page, it is a pile on, full of bile against me, as Mr Mundy, Mr Burns and their sycophants would prefer. I would like to take the time here to read some of those comments about me that have been posted publicly on Facebook. This one here is from Robin Zowski:

Pangallo is nothing more than a dodgy second-hand car salesman. Whoever used him for their agenda should be ashamed of themselves.

Nils Uellendahl wrote:

Headline seeking wannabe. He should be focusing on everyone's real issues: power bills, food bills, ambulance ramping, etc., etc. Why aren't you focusing on those? Don't you have any of those issues in your electorate?

Chris Grim wrote, 'Sounds like he's representing criminals, not police and the general public.' Judy Hibberd wrote, 'Wait til he needs you then tell him where to go.' Janis Turner wrote, 'Come on, Pangallo, we would all like to know.' Mick Joseph posted:

He's always been a dickhead. I caught him stalking a house once and he refused to give his name. I used the RTA powers and threatened to arrest him. I got his name and I moved him on.

For the record, I have no idea who Mick Joseph is nor can I ever recall that incident taking place, but it is easy for keyboard warriors just to throw that on a Facebook page thinking that no-one is going to see it. Graham Jones described me in one word in his post, 'Scum'. Glenn Gibson wrote:

Pangallo was a bottom feeder when he was a reporter, he's a bottom feeder as a politician. If he was smart enough to earn a law degree, he'd be flinging business cards into the back of ramped ambulances.

Aaron Saad wrote, 'Typical pissweak politician', and Andy Roux wrote, 'He's a muppet. Always has been. Some say he's grumpy smurf. Poor little fella lol.' I will not need to table those. There were many more, some that you could not even recite in this place.

It was quite odd, from all the ones that I had read, there is not one comment there from a curious and concerned member about the suitability of Mr Burns to be their president, especially considering how serious those allegations are. There was nothing positive about what I had done, but here are some that were sent personally to me. I will read this one:

Thank you for everything you have done for the former and current female staff at the Police Association. Words can't describe our deep gratitude for your courage and efforts to report the truth.

And this one:

Hi Frank. Firstly, I applaud the way you have championed the cause against the inappropriate behaviour of SA Police Association president, Mr Wade Burns. Firstly, I have no skin in the game, hence no axe to grind with Burns or any SAPOL member. I reach out to you as the person mentioned in my account below did not wish to do so personally. Allow me to share a story that reflects the inconsistent approach of SAPOL in dealing with matters of members' bad behaviour—in some cases outright criminal behaviour. This scenario below actually happened.

Then there are a series of dot points:

- Subject is a male police cadet in the last three months of his training at Fort Largs Police Academy.



- Rated number two academically and practically during his training.
- Highly praised as an excellent recruit by senior operational police and academy staff.
- Attended SAPOL course party outside of working hours (a weekend), and outside of police premises.
- Participates in a game known as spin the bottle.
- All bar one of the course members participate.
- Male police cadet gets to the point in the game where he is required to briefly remove his underwear.
- Offended one female police cadet in attendance.
- Female police cadet reported the male to the academy staff the following Monday.
- The male cadet was immediately suspended without notice or without the opportunity to defend the matter.
- The male cadet was issued with a show cause notice to put his case forward as to why he should be able to remain a police cadet.
- The male police cadet approach the Police Association as a paid member to be told 'We can't help you in matters of inappropriate behaviour.'

I will repeat that. This is what PASA told him, a young man who innocently made a mistake, looks for assistance from his union as a paid member only to be told, 'We can't help you in matters of inappropriate behaviour.' It just highlights the double standards. I will go on:

- Male cadet provided SAPOL with exactly what transpired, it was a game and nothing more. He was 100% open and frank about the matter.
- SAPOL assistant commissioner Linda Fellows dismisses male...cadet for his actions without allowing him any redress.

What a waste of taxpayers' money in a time where police are failing to retain their own.

Compare this with the... Burns accusations and it is clear SAPOL are very inconsistent and "choosey" with their disciplinary decisions.

Shame on the senior executives of SAPOL for not calling this out as the highest level of inappropriate behaviour, instead the Commissioner approves his secondment to the Police Association. Problem solved!!

Thanks for your time.

Sadly for that recruit, he was not the son of a former commissioner of police or well connected. There has not been a murmur from the man Burns replaced, Mark Carroll, who has gone to extraordinary lengths to suppress complaints from the former PASA committee of management and several staff who worked in a horrid environment they have described as being unsafe. Central to those complaints was Mr Carroll's brutal and ruthless management style. He has so far spent over a million dollars in legal fees trying to keep allegations against him a secret, even from curious members themselves.

Mr Mundy and vice-president Samanda Brain, not Mr Carroll nor Mr Burns, have been firing all the bullets since the *A Current Affair* story which, incidentally, was viewed by 1.1 million people and has had more than 70,000 views on YouTube. In a blistering email to PASA members, entitled 'Setting the record straight: A Current Affair inaccuracies', Mr Mundy accuses the program of telling lies and inaccuracies although he does not detail them. He is not telling the truth either, as I will explain shortly.

He also deliberately sidesteps and ignores the whole point of the program—the behaviour of Mr Burns. No mention at all except that he is miffed that the dirty linen they thought would never emerge about their new president was disclosed by me under privilege. He attacks me for trying to tear down the draconian PCDA, which also censors details of guilty and corrupt police officers, something that is unique to South Australia.

My views align with those of Magistrate Simon Smart, who told the Crime and Public Integrity Policy Committee that the public should have a right to know when a police officer is found guilty of serious misconduct by the Police Disciplinary Tribunal and that it should be an open hearing.

Suppression should apply during the proceedings and on the identities of police officers who were found not guilty, so they are protected and they should be protected.

Dilettante Mundy then takes a cowardly swipe at Mr Cornell because he supported a former member, Samantha Strange, at court hearings in a civil case involving Mr Carroll. Mundy and Brain, in an email to PASA delegates defending their decision to expel three of their delegates who challenged the union's authority, claim there was no place in the Police Association for individuals who: work to undermine confidentiality provisions of the PCDA; collude with media; collude with politicians, especially those who have active agendas against serving police officers, under the guise of external oversight. No politician, they say, has any oversight over the Police Association. In addition: agitate to have elections overturned; or using social media to bring the association or any of its members into disrepute.

It is obvious who they are aiming their taser at: *The Advertiser's* excellent investigative reporter Kathryn Bermingham and little old me, that dastardly former foot-in-the-door investigative journalist from the tabloid media and his anti-cop campaign.

Allow me to correct those vapid insinuations from Mundy. If it was a campaign, it is an anti-corrupt cop campaign. Furthermore, let me dissect some of those collusion statements. PASA under Mr Carroll had no qualms in colluding with various media outlets and journalists in leaking stories about SAPOL. I know several journalists who were recipients of his largesse.

During the recent elections, and a week before the allegations about Mr Burns were made public, *The Advertiser* ran a story about Chief Inspector Cornell resigning from the union in 2013 during an internal union investigation for an alleged code of conduct breach while he was running for the job of secretary. There was no unlawful activity uncovered. This was clearly a hatchet job done in collusion with *The Advertiser's* then police reporter to smear Mr Cornell's reputation and affect his chances of winning the president's job. The detail in that information could only have come from one source: someone within PASA leaking it.

As for colluding with politicians, well, if Mr Carroll did not do that, he was not doing his job. Collusion is much like lobbying, and he was quite good at that. He colluded with me when I was seeking justice for those acquitted Operation Bandicoot Sturt Mantle officers whose careers and lives were destroyed by a bungled joint SAPOL-ICAC investigation, and advocating to PASA for the reinforcement of more than \$2 million in legal costs, which they eventually received from the current government.

Mr Carroll colluded with me when he and I ran a public campaign against SAPOL and Assistant Commissioner Linda Fellows for allowing alcohol cans to be sold at the Adelaide Oval. Carroll colluded with me to develop my PTSD bill, which has passed the Legislative Council. During that process I met with many police officers, families of those who lost their lives or took their own lives, officers who were harmed in their line of work, and female officers who have been sexually harassed, assaulted and bullied. And ignorant Mundy has the gall to call me anti-police!

I have never suggested that politicians should have oversight of the union. It is a ludicrous and haughty fabrication by Mundy to incite hatred from his members towards me and my parliamentary colleagues. As I have come to learn, nobody can tell them what to do, not even their own members and delegates. They are a law unto themselves, untouchable dependent on who has the numbers on the committee of management. Getting quorums for special general meetings to challenge their authoritarian rule is virtually impossible because it is extremely difficult to get the 400 to 500 police officers required in one place at a given time, simply because of their conflicting duties and shifts.

The belittling intimidation and bullying of former staff members who have had an issue with them and Mr Carroll continues. In his 'setting the record straight' email, Mundy refers to three members who lodged Fair Work complaints against the association. He states that they, quoting him, 'categorically withdrew them after the veracity of the complaints was tested'. That is an outright lie. Their complaints were never tested in the Fair Work Commission because, for reasons I will explain, they chose to withdraw them. It also flies in the face of a letter written by Mundy to PASA delegates on 26 July in which he states categorically that, and I quote him:

A committee of management also determined that it will not comment upon matters initiated and discontinued in the Fair Work Commission by former association employees and which are maintained as confidential by the commission.

In light of that, he still makes a comment about those three members in an email to members, so he basically ignores that advice. To be quite clear, those complaints were never heard by the Fair Work Commission—they were never tested—yet Mundy says they were in making his improper and false comments.

I have been provided with information that was provided to the Fair Work Commission. It was also circulated to the current President Burns and the PASA Secretary Bernadette Zimmermann. This letter gives an insight not only into the conduct that was happening in PASA but the fear and intimidation these women endured in the process of trying to get a fair hearing of their complaints. The enormous mental stress and the prospect of being deep-pocketed through protracted legal proceedings proved too much, and they withdrew their claims. The veracity of their complaints was never tested by the Fair Work Commission, as Mundy claimed.

I understand that the Fair Work Commission was sent to emails explaining the reasons the actions had to be withdrawn. The women were intimidated by the legal muscle that PASA put on show each time there was a preliminary hearing. They were also in fear of repercussions from President Mark Carroll, so much so that two of the female staff sought advice and reassurance from SAPOL following a meeting with Assistant Commissioner Simon Watkins and other senior SAPOL staff. That is how frightened those women were of any retribution from PASA: they actually had to go to senior SAPOL officers expressing their concerns.

The women were adamant the statements they had provided were honest and truthful. They had real concerns that they would have been financially disadvantaged, ripped to pieces giving evidence and accused of being vexatious. Without naming her, a gutless Mr Mundy states that one of those three now works in my office. It is a veiled attack on the integrity of my office manager, Kim York, and is recurring bullying of Ms York that she experienced when she worked under former President Mark Carroll at PASA.

Mundy does not explain the devious reference, but the inference he makes is clear: she is somehow participating in and influencing what I am doing here. For Mr Mundy's benefit, I had been made aware of toxic issues in PASA long before Ms York went there to work and subsequently joined me.

I have known Ms York for several years and worked alongside her when she was the office manager of senators Xenophon and Patrick. I cannot speak more highly of Ms York's abilities, professionalism and character. She is honest and truthful. She was well liked by all in those offices and was a highly valued member of the staff. She now brings that organisational expertise to my office, and we are fortunate to have her.

Ms York is the widow of a police officer who tragically took his life. She went to PASA with high hopes of being involved in an organisation that cared for members affected by PTSD, but she left extremely disappointed and disillusioned. Ms York was extremely hurt by those references by Mr Mundy. She has since provided me with this statement of her harrowing ordeal:

Dear Mr Pangallo

I write to seek your assistance with a matter that has caused me great distress since June 2023. I am hopeful that you can assist and do something to change a dangerous, powerful workplace and provide protection for female employees of the Police Association of South Australia.

For background purposes, my late husband was a serving South Australian Police Officer. He committed suicide in 1992 following a motor vehicle accident whilst performing his duties as a police constable. He sustained a major brain injury as a result of the accident resulting in severe mood swings and erratic behaviour. The brain trauma ultimately led to his suicide. SAPOL were very supportive of me and my two young children throughout this time.

Please refer to the information below:

1. I commenced employment with the Police Association of South Australia on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 as the Executive Secretary to the President, Mark Carroll (now resigned from role). I remained in this role until early September 2023 when I tendered my resignations for the reasons listed below. As noted above I had a connection with SAPOL owing to my late husband being a police officer. When I got the job with PASA I felt really happy, and

believed that I could contribute and assist active police officers. I believed that I would have empathy with them and their families. I was full of hope for my new role which came after 5 years working for the federal government in an administrative support role for two South Australian Senators.

2. During the almost 14 months I was employed in the Executive Secretary to the President role, I witnessed and experienced numerous verbal exchanges against staff on a daily basis which would make me feel anxious and scared. The office environment was such that the female staff were powerless to retaliate without fear of repercussion. All of the administrative staff in the office had to witness the ongoing, planned bullying of Ms Bernadette Zimmermann, Secretary of the Association by the President and the Assistant Secretary Steven Whetton. This caused me much anxiety because I didn't know what to do to help her.

3. I repeatedly heard comments that were derogatory against fellow staff members, particularly by Member Liaison Office (Assistant Secretary) Steven Whetton, and also against the members of the Association (serving SA Police Officers who pay union fees each fortnight from their salary). Comments such as—

and if you will excuse the language, Acting Madam President, I think it is important that I use them in this context.

**The ACTING PRESIDENT (The Hon. T.A. Franks):** You can test my parliamentary knowledge there, the Hon. Mr Pangallo. We will find out.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** Okay:

Comments such as 'fucking maggots' 'broken biscuits' (a term applied to Members suffering from PTSD issues) and 'fucktards'. Female officers of SAPOL were also denigrated on a regular basis. For example, I took a call from a member who was suffering from PTSD. After placing him on hold I asked Assistant Secretary/Member Liaison Officer Steven Whetton if he could take the call. Steven responded that he didn't want to speak to that 'fuckwit', that the caller—

**The Hon. R.A. SIMMS:** Point of order, Acting President: I certainly respect the right of the Hon. Frank Pangallo to express his views but some of the language is inappropriate for this chamber.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** Very well, I will refrain from that now:

...the caller was a 'broken biscuit' and a 'time waster'. I ended up advising the caller that Steve was in a meeting, took his details and had the female member liaison officer call him back. She was able to assist him.

4. In December 2022, Messrs Carroll, Whetton and Heffernan went out for a Christmas lunch. In their absence a very distressed member called needing help. The admin staff had been instructed to text the three lunching men if needed. A text message was sent asking for a return call to be made to the member. Approximately one hour later the member's wife phoned the office. She was very upset and said she believed her husband was suicidal. She said no-one had called him. Further contact was made with the lunching gentlemen, this time by phone. The response received was that the wife had no right to call the Association as she wasn't a member and that they had just opened another bottle of red. As I had personal history with a suicidal husband, I had grave concerns re the member's welfare and also for his wife. I called Ms Zimmermann, who was on annual leave, and asked if she could contact the member which she did. I have never forgotten this incident as the complete lack of concern for a distressed member was over-ridden by the need to consume a bottle of wine.

5. The admin staff were described as 'old, fat and ugly' by Mark Carroll and Steve Whetton. This remark was made on occasions when they believed the admin staff couldn't hear their conversation.

6. The culture of PASA was, and I believe still is, one of fear. There is no Human Resources Department or WHS Officer for PASA staff to use as an avenue for complaint. If you have a grievance you are instructed to lodge same with the President but, if your complaint is against the President or one of his 'boys club' members, your complaint is ignored. This results in staff feeling intimidated and unable to raise concerns for fear of repercussions. In fact, the suggestion box located in the main office was removed by the President as he was unhappy with an anonymous suggestion that was placed in it. At a staff meeting, when he read out the unacceptable (to him) suggestion he then stated that the suggestion box would be removed and that the person who had placed it in the box could come and see him in his office if they wished to discuss it further. This was not said in a friendly manner but in a threatening tone. He then advised that the suggestion box would be removed, and any suggestions should be made verbally to him.

7. I was afraid to speak up about the treatment of staff and atmosphere at PASA, as were other female staff.

8. An incident involving a staff member (SS for the sake of this email) occurred on 14 June 2023. SS had an emotional, verbally loud meltdown early one morning and left the office. This was as a result of an excessive workload that had been placed upon her. Later that morning each admin person was called into a meeting room, one by one, and in the presence of Mark Carroll and In House Counsel Craig Stevens, were questioned, with the conversation being recorded on Mark's iPhone while Craig took notes. At no time were we offered a support person to be present or asked if we had objections to the conversation being recorded. In fact, we were told the conversation

was being recorded. The tone of the questions was all along the lines of any witnessed harassment or bullying of SS by management, none were related to her welfare. This process upset many of my co-workers to the point of tears whilst being questioned. Private consultation with friends who work in HR roles confirmed that this 'interview' process was incorrect and should not have occurred. It is my belief that Mr Carroll was worried that SS may lodge a WorkCover claim for bullying and harassment. Interestingly, later the same day Mr Carroll called me into his office and asked my opinion re the atmosphere and working conditions at PASA. I asked him if I could speak freely, and he said I could. I told him exactly what was wrong with the office environment, how the constant verbal attacks on Ms Zimmermann and others in the office were damaging and resulted in a fearful environment. He was not happy with my comments and appeared to be quite angry. The conversation came to a halt when Craig Stevens (who shared office space with Mr Carroll) entered the room. I knew from that day on that I had no option but to resign as Mr Carroll was not happy with my comments.

9. Following the 'interviews' and as she was aware of the distress of the admin staff, PASA Secretary, Bernadette Zimmermann, contacted the Committee of Management members via email and advised the admin staff had been traumatised by the interviews and she was concerned for our welfare. This action by her, done with concern, resulted in a backlash from Mr Carroll against Ms Zimmermann.

10. As a result of the email to the Committee the admin staff were subsequently contacted by two members of the Committee of Management who asked that we each submit a statement of our concerns re the incident. The statements were submitted as requested, mainly anonymously as most of the admin staff did not want to put their name to anything for fear of repercussions. I put my name to the statement provided to the Committee and once that had been submitted, and the President was aware of same, I felt I had nowhere else to go and resigning was the only option. Please refer to the statement I made to the committee of management which is shown below.

#### STATEMENT FOR COMMITTEE

I wish to provide the Committee with a statement to support those which I believe have been provided by other staff members.

This statement is submitted without malice but with the hope for change.

The culture for female staff, at PASA is quite sad. The environment within which we work is very male centric, basically a 'boys club' mentality. As females we often feel second class and unworthy. We are aware that we are considered to be histrionic or menopausal if we raise concerns. Unfortunately, this sentiment is often also placed on our female SAPOL members. Do we equal or are we as valued as our male co-workers? Definitely No.

As the Committee is aware there was an incident on Wednesday 14/6/23 where one of the admin staff had an emotional breakdown early in the morning (around 8.30am) resulting in her having to leave the office and go home. Following her departure from the office the admin staff were called in one by one and interviewed by Mark Carroll, in the presence of In-House Counsel Craig Stevens who took notes. The interview was also recorded. I was the first person called in for the interview. Upon entering the room currently utilized as a temporary lunchroom, and seeing Craig there with his notepad, I actually thought I was about to be officially warned for something or have my employment terminated. I note this happened within the first 1.5 hours of my first day back at work after an annual leave absence. I was told that the interview would be recorded but I was not asked if I consented. I was not offered the opportunity to have a witness/support person present. I was then asked to give my account of what had happened that morning with the staff member that had had the emotional outburst. I was questioned re whether I had heard anyone bully her or speak offensively to her. I felt at the time that there was more concern re who may be responsible for her outburst (and the ramifications of same if she chose to pursue a bullying claim) than there was for the staff member who was obviously in a state of distress. At no time did I feel that there was any actual concern for the staff member and her current state of mind. I supplied my version of what I'd heard and seen, was asked to provide a written statement (which I have not done, nor have I been asked for again) at a later point. I was then asked to send Person X\* in to be interviewed. Person X was on the phone at that point. Once she was free, I was able to advise her that she was to be interviewed and that Craig was present, and that she would be recorded. Unlike me, I did not want a co-worker entering the room and being surprised or concerned re the presence of the In-House Legal Counsel.

I spoke with a Human Resources person (an ex-government co-worker) that evening and she advised that the above scenario was totally incorrect and should never have happened. She was surprised that the In-House Counsel had not advised against one-on-one interviews, that no support person had been offered and that the interviews had been recorded as the situation did not warrant that procedure. She advised me not to provide a written statement. To date my statement has not been requested again.

Following all the interviews conducted with the administration staff it was apparent that several of my co-workers were quite distressed re the fact that they had been questioned re the morning's events. I have since become aware that two of my co-workers are on medically prescribed anti-depressants and one has had to have her blood pressure medication increased. All of these medical interventions are as a result of work pressures—whether it be increased workload (which can be supported by documented evidence) or other factors which I'm sure the staff involved can share with the Committee.

I feel it important to strongly impress on the Committee that every single staff member that is providing a statement at this time is doing so in fear. Fear of repercussion within the workplace for speaking out. I am aware that some staff have opted not to put their names to their statements for this reason and I hope this does not prevent you

from accepting their comments. I have chosen to own my statement as I wasn't able to make non-identifying comments. I have only 12 months service at PASA so, compared to the majority of my co-workers, have only experienced/witnessed a small fragment of the culture within this office environment. I can say that it appears to me that certain staff members are being bullied in a planned and calculated fashion with little regard to the impact that may have on others within the office.

I previously worked at a federal politics level and participated in the Jenkins Review established to ensure all Commonwealth Parliamentary workplaces are safe and respectful. Events at Parliament House that led to the enquiry have been extensively covered by the media. I can honestly say that I felt more valued and respected within the walls of Parliament House than I do at PASA. I don't feel confident that if I had a grievance with a male co-worker at PASA that I would be taken seriously, that my concerns would be dismissed, that I would be labelled as a 'silly cow' (a term I have heard on numerous occasions when female SAPOL members in distress have called the Association for assistance). I also believe, from my observations over the past 12 months, that anyone (whether it be a staff member or a SAPOL Member) who has any mental health issue is not respected. The term 'broken biscuit' was used to describe a member during my first few months of employment. I took this statement quite hard as my late husband (a SAPOL member who committed suicide after a departmental motor vehicle accident) would have been one of those so called 'broken biscuits'.

I believed when I accepted the role with PASA that I would be part of a system that was there to help and support police officers in need. I felt that I would be performing a worthy and important function. In the 12 months I have been employed I have changed my view of the role PASA performs. It seems that if you are a male and have an issue that doesn't involve any form of mental health then you are worthy of help. If there is a PTSD type issue, or if you are female, then you fall into the [f-tard] or [f-wit] category. These are terms often used in our office to describe SAPOL members—quite often when passing on phone messages for assistance i.e. 'I'm not calling that [f-tard]'. Unfortunately, these terms were also used to describe certain members that attended Darren Mead's funeral. I have personally found this very distressing based on my personal history and on one occasion I did have tears in the ladies toilet.

I wish to add that I really enjoy the work that I do, the support of my fellow administrative staff members and the support given by Bernadette Zimmermann. She does everything she can to keep the status quo within the office space under very trying circumstances. I would also like it noted that Bernadette is completely unaware that these statements are being tabled. As a group we chose to keep her out of this as we didn't want any ramifications directed at her. PASA is not an easy environment to work in. In fact, it can be described as toxic. We (Admin Staff) feel that we walk on eggshells, daily. Never knowing what the atmosphere will be like. At times it is very intense, and the animosity being directed at certain staff is very evident.

As I stated earlier, we provide these statements in fear and have limited the amount of detail provided because of that fear. We are all very concerned re the fallout on us following this Committee meeting and firmly believe that our statements/comments, (although tabled we believe 'in camera' and in confidence), will be fed back to management by some members. I hope that as a committee you can be mindful [of that]...

Again, my statement is not written with malice but with genuine concern for my co-workers who aren't part of the 'in crowd' and for the serving members whose contributions fund this Association and believe that they have someone to turn too if the need arises. I also believe in the power of a governing committee to bring about change and I thank you for hearing us at this time...

11. Following submission of the statements from staff which were presented at the committee meeting held in July 2023, the Committee agreed to conduct an internal investigation under the control of Michael Kent and Leonie Schulz...The investigation never eventuated

12. As it was obvious that there would not be any changes made at PASA and the behaviour of certain male staff members would continue to be toxic and intimidating, I made the decision to resign whilst on 4 weeks annual leave to be taken in August 2023. I firmly believe that I had no other option because of the toxic, misogynistic environment led by a narcissistic manager as it was affecting my mental health to the extent that I was very distressed at the thought of returning to work when my leave period ended. I realised that I was in a toxic workplace environment that was so insular that I did not feel safe enough in to complain.

13. On a daily basis I had to hear members spoken about extremely badly. As an example, Joe McDonald who was a delegate of the Association (recently expelled) had been calling to ask questions about the new proposed changes that have been put forward to members. Steven Whetton referred to him as the '[effing] maggot' and instructed staff in the office that no matter how many times Joe called he (Steve) would not return calls to the '[effing] maggot'. This put the admin staff who were 100% responsible for answering the phones under so much stress as they then had to field calls from members who knew that they were being lied too.

14. I am one of three that resigned from PASA between August and September 2023 because of the bullying and toxic environment. After my resignation the two other staff, one with over 16 years of service, resigned. Following the revelation of our statements to the Committee the situation only worsened. We believe Mr Carroll was excused from the committee meeting while the submissions were discussed but as he had many supporters on the committee the admin staff were fairly confident that everything discussed would have been relayed to him. He would have been aware who had spoken against him.

15. If a SAPOL member calling PASA was a Mark Carroll supporter their call would be accepted by the male member liaison officers...If a member particularly wanted one of the male Liaison Officers and realized that their call was not going to be taken, they tended to take their frustration out on the admin staff. This resulted in an incredibly stressful environment.

16. There are many other staff members, both current and resigned/retired, who are electing to remain silent as they are fearful of the repercussions.

17. I believe that two other administrative persons have resigned from PASA in the past two months and a third is currently on leave with a stress related work cover situation in existence.

18. I have watched in disbelief the recent election of Wade Burns to the role of President of PASA. Within the first few days of my employment at PASA I was warned by other female staff members to watch myself around him as he had history of alleged sexual assault against a female employee of SAPOL. It was a well-known and discussed matter. I was also told that he had been protected by his father who was an ex-Police Commissioner who had pulled strings to ensure that he was never brought in front of a criminal court for the alleged behaviour. I believe that the victim chose not to go ahead with criminal proceedings. In my opinion if the female concerned was bullied by senior officers either involved with the activities that occurred on the night, or who she reported in her role at SAPOL in the same manner as the female staff at PASA were, I completely understand her reluctance to take the matter further. I feel that had the matter gone to court there may have been a very different outcome...

19. The culture within PASA is such that female staff believe they are untouchable. They are unanswerable to SAPOL. There are no internal human resource controls or disrespectful behaviour guidelines. They were led by a powerful person and whilst he has now resigned, I believe his influence is still very much in play [at] PASA. The public image Mr Carroll portrayed via the media is very different to the man who controlled not only the [Police] Association but also the committee and his devotees/employees. The recent actions of the committee expelling three long term members of PASA who had questioned their activities is abhorrent and certainly won't encourage anyone else to speak up against anything they believe 'smells' within PASA.

20. PASA have recently stated, in communiqué to members, that the claims lodged by me and two other ex-PASA staff members to the Fair Work Commission were withdrawn as the 'veracity of the complaints were tested'. This is totally untrue. Our claims were withdrawn following the systematic bullying of the highly paid King's Counsel lawyers employed by PASA to represent them at the FWC and ongoing intimidation via a barrage of emails and attempts to stop our action. One ex staff member was even phoned by Mark Carroll whilst FWC considerations were in place—obviously, she didn't answer the call and when questioned Mr Carroll said it was accidental. There is only so much that people can mentally stand and after having worked in an extremely toxic and dangerous environment it was more than myself and my co-workers could bear to continue with the claims. The comments made in our claims were never heard by the FWC let alone 'tested' and we all completely stand by the submission made to the Fair Work Commission.

21. I have also been targeted by PASA Deputy President Daryl Mundy who has inserted a one-line comment, completely out of context to the rest of his commentary, in PASA communiqué to members stating that an ex-staff member of PASA now works for Frank Pangallo. This infers that I have been spreading malicious commentary about PASA which is completely inaccurate. I believe this comment has been made to incite members to believe that I'm stirring a non-existent pot and that there is 'nothing to see here', just another 'silly cow' female spouting off.

22. I have been in the workforce for over 45 years. I have never experienced a toxic environment such as PASA ever in my working life. I worked during the eighties and nineties before the #metoo and as a female I have experienced and been subjected to sexual banter. The treatment of females in PASA is very much an eighties environment. I am concerned that they have employed much younger female staff to replace the outgoing experienced admin assistants and I am fearful for them, especially with the incumbent president and his alleged history. In closing, Frank, as a private constituent I seek your help. I am tired of feeling helpless.

Sincerely, Kim York

This appalling behaviour and brutish conduct should not be tolerated in any workplace, let alone one that is run by police officers for the benefit of police officers. You can see what has befallen those female employees who found the enormous courage to try to blow the whistle. Everywhere they turn, they were let down, but they refused to be bludgeoned into total surrender.

I can just see Mr Mundy with Mr Burns, Mr Carroll, Ms Brain, Mr Whetton, and their expensive lawyers in support preparing their next salvo against me and these brave whistleblowers to protect themselves from the ire of the majority of PASA members who are still totally in the dark about these matters. We will be accused of lying, being vexatious, and that we are attacking the integrity of police and their union with baseless and unsubstantiated allegations, that they had an axe to grind, etc., etc. Well, let's just see who is lying and who is being untruthful.

I have also been provided with two damning emails written by the current secretary of PASA, Bernadette Zimmermann, who has also been on the receiving end of bullying and verbal abuse.

Ms Zimmermann happens to be the sister of Mr Carroll; however, the best way to describe their relationship is glacial. This one was written to Mr Carroll on Monday 22 June at 12.33pm and let me read from it:

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

To Mark Carroll, President PASA

I write this letter to you regarding your relentless abuse of me and my position as secretary of PASA.

I write following the latest incident during the afternoon of 15 June 2020. This has concerned me greatly as staff could hear the abuse from your office. It necessitated a staff member coming from the reception area, where a member was waiting at the front counter to have a meeting with me, to close your door, even though there is another door between the reception area and your office.

That afternoon, after this had occurred, you advised me that I would not be working at PASA for much longer. You said you would be making sure of it.

I have since become aware that you may have contacted staff member/s after hours that night and required them to provide you with a statement about what they might have seen or heard that afternoon. The very disturbing feature of this is that, given your role in the incident, and the fact that you are the person responsible for hiring and dismissing administrative staff, this should not have been orchestrated by you. This is a terrible position to place staff in. Given your extensive knowledge and experience of workplace issues such as these, an independent and external party should have been utilised if you believed the matter warranted an investigation, to the point that statements were required.

When you arrived at work the following morning your tirade of abuse of me continued, to the point I had to close my door because I could not physically listen to that again. There was no other person in the block of nearby offices when you did this.

That same morning a staff member came into my office and told me they were worried about having to put in a statement after you had directed them to do so. That person advised me they were 'worried about their job' if they told the truth. This is deeply concerning, especially as you have on several occasions recently, openly proclaimed in the workplace, that you have sacked ten people so far in your position. The impression you gave was that it was something you were proud of. There can be no other reason for you to be making such proclamations in the workplace.

Recently you denigrated and belittled me in front of industrial staff when you told everyone at a meeting that I had made the association look stupid while you were away. I explained to you that the matter you were referring to was not a decision I made—it was the result of legal advice, culminating in a letter to SAPOL which was written strictly in compliance with that advice. Even so, you still repeated that in another forum after I had explained it to you.

I am also managing the effect of being systematically excluded from industrial and political meetings as the elected secretary of PASA. This has undermined the role and function of the secretary. This has been noticed by the board and was raised by board members in a board meeting late last year. As a result, the board directed you to include me in these meetings but you have disregarded that direction by continuing to hold such meetings without my knowledge and without my attendance.

I ask that you stop your abuse of me as I am feeling the effect of it and I am very tired. I have had to seek counselling because of it, which I commenced last year but has ceased at this point in time due to the pandemic crisis. I have attended these appointments during my lunch period. Unfortunately, I have been made aware by administrative staff that you have asked them on occasions what time I have left the office and to report to you when I return. Your monitoring of me has not been for the purpose of seeking meetings with me upon my return.

On most days of the week I am still at work well past your own departure. As I have explained to you before, I am employed under the same conditions as you are. I am not in a clerical position and I should not be compared or aligned to the employment conditions of office assistants. I am not employed by you. I am elected by the membership via the Constitution of PASA.

The fact that administrative staff have been asked to effectively monitor my absence from the office and report it to you is oppressive and undermines my role as secretary of PASA. It has had a detrimental effect on my health.

I have also had to deal with the shame and embarrassment that follows when incidents such as those listed above occur. There are other instances that have been witnessed and heard by staff and board members of your abuse of me which I do not list here.

These incidents, amongst others, have caused me great shame and anguish and I ask that you stop the relentless abuse of me and my position in PASA. I advise you of this as I believe your abuses of me are escalating.

I am very concerned that should your behaviour against me continue, it will damage the reputation of PASA. I was concerned about this when a Board member resigned recently, citing your behaviour and treatment of other Board members as the primary reason for their early resignation from the Committee of Management earlier this year.



That member did not convey his reasons for resignation to the Registered Organisations Commission but published them far and wide to employees of the association and Police Club. This was very damaging to the PASA ethos.

It is important that you are aware that in all the years I have worked in SAPOL, in excess of 32 years, in the rough and tumble of general duties policing and its associated stresses, I have never before had to seek counselling. I wish to make you aware of the gravity of the abuses you continue against me—especially the relentless nature of them. It is also to reaffirm my well-established resilience in managing workplace crises.

I have always maintained my support for mediation and resolution of these serious issues, noting that currently, even with your constant abuse of me, I continue to perform the tasks required of my position.

I advise that this letter to you has not been copied or 'blind-copied' to any other person or organisation. This is due to my concern for the reputation of PASA. The hypocrisy of what is occurring in the PASA office is palpable, given that PASA so strongly condemns the same behaviour in SAPOL.

Bernadette Zimmermann

Secretary...

Police Association of South Australia

Then there was this one, on Wednesday 27 January 2021. This was sent to the following members: Trevor Milne, Allan Cannon, Christopher Walkley, Julian Snowden, Samantha Strange, Michael Kent, Brett Gibbons, Daryl Mundy and Michael Casey. It reads:

Subject: Urgent assistance required

Dear Committee

Following the last meeting of the committee, I unfortunately am required to bring to your attention an incident that just occurred in the President's office.

About a week ago, a staffing issue arose as a result of which I sought a meeting with the President so as to maturely and non-emotionally discuss a way forward, due to the negative impact it was having on staff.

I set a meeting which at the last minute was aborted due to the President leaving early and not advising me, even though he walked past me in my office.

I then made another time and the meeting was rescheduled at 1500hrs today.

Just before the meeting was to commence, I said to the President we could have the meeting in the boardroom.

He said it was to occur in his office.

I returned to his office. He then told me he would be recording the meeting and activated his phone.

This is wholly inappropriate and needs to be dealt with promptly.

You, as a committee, are going to have to deal with this. I have complained to you about the serious bullying and the relentless nature of it since I raised an issue about a contract that necessitated legal advice in August 2019. In my absence in September 2019, the President put through a contract listing the name of Darryl Milliken as one of the directors of the company to which the contract applied. The contract is worth a lot of money. Daryl Milliken is a close personal friend of the President's. The conflict of interest was obvious and extreme and was never declared.

Since that time, I have endured serious bullying, the likes of which I have never endured before.

The President is now resorting to this means of bullying—to tape record conversations in the office. If I don't abide, he will not speak to me. As a result of his extreme action, I had to leave his office, as he had started recording.

You have no choice but to take action. The President is now recording workplace conversations.

You have all been advised and I am seeking your urgent assistance. I presume tape recording is not legal in the work construct, or at least, it is completely unprofessional and childlike in the extreme.

I am seeking your assistance as a matter of urgency.

Bernadette Zimmermann

Secretary.

I seek leave to conclude.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

*Bills***ABORIGINAL HERITAGE (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL***Final Stages*

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

No. 1. Clause 3, page 3, line 11—Delete '*Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000*' and substitute '*Energy Resources Act 2000*'

No. 2. Clause 3, page 3, after line 11—Insert:

- (2) Section 3, definition of *owner*—delete 'a reference to the owner of the land extends to the holder of the tenement' and substitute:
- , or a licence or permit under the *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023*, a reference to the owner of the land extends to the holder of the tenement, licence or permit
- (3) Section 3, definition of *private land*, (c)—after 'tenement' insert:
- , or a licence or permit under the *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023*

No. 3. Clause 6, page 3, line 23 [clause 6, inserted paragraph (d)]—Delete paragraph (d)

No. 4. Clause 6, page 3, lines 25 to 27 [clause 6, inserted paragraph (e)]—

Delete 'authorising the uncovering, damage to, disturbing of, interference with or removal of additional Aboriginal sites, objects or remains' and substitute:

authorising 1 or more of the following:

- (i) excavation for the purposes of uncovering additional Aboriginal sites, objects or remains;
- (ii) damaging or disturbing additional Aboriginal sites, objects or remains;
- (iii) interference with or removal of additional Aboriginal sites, objects or remains; or

No. 5. New clauses, page 4, after line 3—Insert:

7A—Amendment of section 17—Powers

- (1) Section 17(1)—after paragraph (ba) insert:
- (bb) in the following circumstances, use reasonable force to break into or open any part of, or anything in or on, any land, premises, vehicle or place:
- (i) with the authority of a warrant issued under section 17A;
- (ii) if the inspector reasonably believes that immediate action is required;
- (iii) with the permission of the owner of the land, premises, vehicle or place;
- (2) Section 17(1)(c)(ii)—delete 'that affords evidence of an offence against' and substitute:
- used in, or that affords evidence of, a contravention of
- (3) Section 17(1)—after paragraph (f) insert:
- (g) require any person to produce any documents, including a written record that reproduces in an understandable form information stored by computer, microfilm or other process, as reasonably required in connection with the administration or enforcement of this Act;
- (h) examine, copy or take extracts from any documents or information so produced or require a person to provide a copy of any such document or information;
- (i) take photographs, films, audio, video or other recordings as reasonably required in connection with the administration or enforcement of this Act;
- (j) take onto or into any land, premises, vehicle or place, and use, any equipment or apparatus (including, for example, ground penetrating radar, audio visual recording equipment or other measuring or

recording apparatus) as reasonably required in connection with the administration or enforcement of this Act;

- (k) require a person who the inspector reasonably suspects has knowledge of matters in respect of which information is reasonably required for the administration or enforcement of this Act to answer questions in relation to those matters, to state the person's full name and usual place of residence and to produce evidence of the person's identity;
- (l) give any directions reasonably required in connection with the exercise of a power conferred by a preceding paragraph.

#### 7B—Insertion of sections 17A and 17B

After section 17 insert:

##### 17A—Warrants

- (1) Where, on the application of an inspector, a magistrate is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe—
  - (a) that a contravention of this Act has been, is being, or is about to be, committed in or on specified land, premises, a vehicle or place; or
  - (b) that something may be found in or on specified land, premises, vehicle or place that has been used in, or constitutes evidence of, a contravention of this Act,

the magistrate may issue a warrant in respect of the land, premises, vehicle or place authorising an inspector, with such assistants as the inspector considers necessary, to use reasonable force to break into or open any part of, or anything in or on, the land, premises, vehicle or place specified in the warrant.
- (2) An application for the issue of a warrant may be made either personally or by telephone.
- (3) The grounds of an application for a warrant must be verified by affidavit.
- (4) An application for the issue of a warrant may not be made by telephone unless in the opinion of the applicant a warrant is urgently required and there is insufficient time to make the application personally.
- (5) Where an application for the issue of a warrant is made by telephone, the following provisions apply:
  - (a) the applicant must inform the magistrate of their name and identify themselves as an inspector, and the magistrate, on receiving that information, is entitled to assume, without further inquiry, that the applicant is an inspector;
  - (b) the applicant must inform the magistrate of the grounds on which they seek the issue of the warrant;
  - (c) if it appears to the magistrate from the information furnished by the applicant that there are proper grounds for the issue of a warrant, the magistrate must inform the applicant of the facts on which they relied as grounds for the issue of the warrant, and must not proceed to issue the warrant unless the applicant undertakes to make an affidavit verifying those facts;
  - (d) if the applicant gives such an undertaking, the magistrate may then make out and sign a warrant, noting on the warrant the facts on which they relied as grounds for the issue of the warrant;
  - (e) the warrant will be taken to have been issued, and will come into force, when signed by the magistrate;
  - (f) the magistrate must inform the applicant of the terms of the warrant;
  - (g) the applicant must, as soon as practicable after the issue of the warrant, forward to the magistrate an affidavit verifying the facts referred to in paragraph (c).

- (6) An inspector who executes a warrant must, as soon as practicable after execution of the warrant—
- (a) prepare a notice in the prescribed form containing—
    - (i) their name and a statement that they are an inspector under this Act; and
    - (ii) the name of the magistrate who issued the warrant and the date and time of its issue; and
    - (iii) a description of the land, premises, vehicle or place to which the warrant relates and of the authority conferred by the warrant; and
  - (b) give the notice to the occupier or person apparently in charge of the land, premises, vehicle or place in respect of which the warrant was issued or leave it for them in a prominent position on the land, premises, vehicle or place.
- (7) A warrant, if not executed at the expiration of 1 month from the date of its issue, then expires.

#### 17B—Self-incrimination

- (1) It is not a reasonable excuse for a person to fail to answer a question or to produce, or provide a copy of, a document or information as required under this Act on the ground that to do so might tend to incriminate the person or make the person liable to a penalty.
- (2) If compliance by a natural person with a requirement under this Act might tend to incriminate the person or make the person liable to a penalty, then—
  - (a) in the case of a person who is required to produce, or provide a copy of, a document or information—the fact of production, or provision of a copy of, the document or the information (as distinct from the contents of the document or the information); or
  - (b) in any other case—the answer given in compliance with the requirement,

is not admissible in evidence against the person in proceedings for an offence or for the imposition of a penalty (other than proceedings in respect of the making of a false or misleading statement).

No. 6. Clause 8, page 4, after line 4—Insert:

- (1) Section 18(b) and (c)—delete paragraphs (b) and (c) and substitute:
  - (b) contravene a requirement or reasonable instruction of an inspector under this Act, or a direction of an inspector under section 17.

No. 7. Clause 12, page 4, after line 29—Insert:

- (3a) Section 20(2)—after 'traditional owner' second occurring insert:
 

(other than where the traditional owner is an employee or agent of, or is otherwise acting for or on behalf of, persons engaged in commercial activities on the land where the discovery is made)

No. 8. Clause 12, page 5, line 6 [clause 12(6), inserted subsection (5)(a)]—Delete 'under section 20B' and substitute 'in accordance with section 20A'

No. 9. Clause 13, page 5, line 9 to page 8, line 19—Delete clause 13 and substitute:

#### 13—Insertion of section 20A

After section 20 insert:

- 20A—Cessation of activity and reporting to Minister on discovery etc of certain sites, objects or remains while acting under authorisation
- (1) A prescribed person who, while acting, or purportedly acting, pursuant to an authorisation given by the Minister under section 21 or 23 or both after the commencement of this section (the *relevant authorisation*)—
    - (a) discovers an Aboriginal site, object or remains; or

- (b) discovers a site, object or remains that the person suspects, or ought reasonably to suspect, may be an Aboriginal site, object or remains; or
  - (c) becomes aware of new information relating to an Aboriginal site or remains,
- must, in accordance with the requirements set out in the relevant authorisation—
- (d) in the case of an Aboriginal site or remains—cease undertaking activity within the prescribed distance of the site or remains; and
  - (e) in any case—report the discovery or new information to the Minister.
- (2) A prescribed person who, while acting, or purportedly acting, pursuant to an authorisation given by the Minister under section 21 or 23 or both before the commencement of this section (the *relevant authorisation*)—
- (a) discovers an Aboriginal site, object or remains; or
  - (b) discovers a site, object or remains that the person suspects, or ought reasonably to suspect, may be an Aboriginal site, object or remains; or
  - (c) becomes aware of new information relating to an Aboriginal site or remains,
- must—
- (d) in the case of an Aboriginal site or remains—
    - (i) cease undertaking activity within the prescribed distance of the site or remains for such period as may be reasonably necessary to allow the Minister a reasonable opportunity to take action under this Act in respect of the site or remains; and
    - (ii) as soon as is reasonably practicable after the discovery, or after becoming aware of the new information, report the discovery or new information to the Minister; or
  - (e) in the case of an Aboriginal object—manage the object, and report the discovery of the object to the Minister, in accordance with the requirements set out in the relevant authorisation.
- (3) To avoid doubt, subsection (2)(d) applies despite a provision of an authorisation to the contrary.
- (4) A prescribed person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) is guilty of an offence.
- Maximum penalty:
- (a) in the case of a body corporate—\$500,000;
  - (b) in any other case—\$250,000 or imprisonment for 2 years or both.
- (5) Except as is contemplated by subsection (6), subsections (1) and (2) do not apply in relation to the following Aboriginal sites, objects or remains:
- (a) Aboriginal sites, objects or remains that are known to the Minister and disclosed to the applicant in the course of their application for the relevant authorisation (whether or not the discovery of the sites, objects or remains has previously been reported under this Act);
  - (b) Aboriginal sites, objects or remains the discovery of which is reported under section 20;
  - (c) Aboriginal sites, objects or remains that are the subject of a management methodology approved by the Minister for the purposes of this section;
  - (d) Aboriginal sites, objects or remains that are the subject of a local heritage agreement;
  - (e) any other Aboriginal site, objects or remains, or Aboriginal sites, objects or remains of a kind, prescribed by the regulations.

- (6) Despite subsection (5), subsections (1) and (2) continue to apply in relation to new information relating to an Aboriginal site or remains of which a prescribed person becomes aware (whether or not the site or remains themselves are referred to in subsection (5)).
- (7) Before approving a management methodology for the purposes of this section, the Minister must be satisfied that—
- (a) consultation with traditional owners, and other Aboriginal persons or Aboriginal organisations that have a particular interest in the matter, was carried out in accordance with any requirements set out in the regulations or guidelines in the development of the management methodology; and
  - (b) the management methodology includes provisions requiring consultation with traditional owners, and other Aboriginal persons or Aboriginal organisations that have a particular interest in the matter, in relation to sites, objects or remains discovered in the course of undertaking an activity pursuant to the relevant authorisation; and
  - (c) the management methodology includes provisions that provide the Minister with a reasonable opportunity to take action under this Act in respect of sites or remains discovered in the course of undertaking an activity pursuant to the relevant authorisation, or where new information relating to a site or remains becomes known; and
  - (d) a condition is imposed on the relevant authorisation requiring the person to whom the authorisation is given to comply with the management methodology in relation to sites, objects and remains discovered in the course of undertaking an activity pursuant to the authorisation; and
  - (e) the management methodology complies with any other requirements set out in the regulations or guidelines.
- (8) Nothing in this section limits a direction that may be given by the Minister or an inspector under this Act (and, in particular, nothing in this section authorises a person to contravene such a direction).
- (9) In this section—
- prescribed distance*, in relation to a site or remains, means—
- (a) if the regulations prescribe a distance for the purposes of this section—that distance; or
  - (b) if the site or remains are discovered in the course of undertaking an activity pursuant to an authorisation of the Minister under section 21 or 23, and that authorisation specifies a distance for the purposes of this section—that distance; or
  - (c) in any other case—
    - (i) in the case of a site—3 metres; or
    - (ii) in the case of remains—5 metres.
- prescribed person*, in relation to a relevant authorisation, means—
- (a) the person to whom the relevant authorisation is given; and
  - (b) a traditional owner of the site or remains to the extent that the traditional owner is an employee or agent of, or is otherwise acting for or on behalf of, a person to whom the relevant authorisation is given; and
  - (c) an employee or agent of, or a person otherwise acting for or on behalf of, a person referred to in a preceding paragraph; and
  - (d) any other person prescribed by the regulations.

No. 10. Clause 14, page 8, after line 28 [clause 14(4)]—Before inserted subsection (2) insert:

- (1a) Without limiting any other condition that may be imposed on an authorisation, the Minister must not give an authorisation for the purposes of this section unless the authorisation contains the following conditions:
- (a) a condition requiring that where—
    - (i) a site or remains are discovered in the course of undertaking activities pursuant to the authorisation; or
    - (ii) new information relating to a site or remains becomes known to a person undertaking activities pursuant to the authorisation,such activity must immediately cease within a specified distance of the site or remains (which must not be less than the prescribed distance within the meaning of section 20A); and
  - (b) a condition requiring that a specified person or body must, as soon as is reasonably practicable, report a discovery or new information referred to in paragraph (a) to the Minister; and
  - (c) a condition that prevents the resumption of activities pursuant to the authorisation during the period specified in the condition (being a period that is sufficient to allow the Minister a reasonable opportunity to take action under this Act in respect of the site or remains); and
  - (d) any other condition required by the regulations.

No. 11. Clause 14, page 9, lines 5 and 6 [clause 14(4), note to inserted subsection (4)]—Delete 'under section 20B' and substitute 'in accordance with section 20A'

No. 12. Clause 17, page 9, after line 33 [clause 17, inserted section 23]—After inserted subsection (2) insert:

- (2a) Without limiting any other condition that may be imposed on an authorisation, the Minister must not give an authorisation for the purposes of this section unless the authorisation contains the following conditions:
- (a) a condition requiring that where—
    - (i) a site or remains are discovered in the course of undertaking activities pursuant to the authorisation; or
    - (ii) new information relating to a site or remains becomes known to a person undertaking activities pursuant to the authorisation,such activities must immediately cease within a specified distance of the site or remains (which must not be less than the prescribed distance within the meaning of section 20A); and
  - (b) a condition requiring that a specified person or body must, as soon as is reasonably practicable, report a discovery or new information referred to in paragraph (a) to the Minister; and
  - (c) a condition that prevents the resumption of activities pursuant to the authorisation during the period specified in the condition (being a period that is sufficient to allow the Minister a reasonable opportunity to take action under this Act in respect of the site or remains); and
  - (d) any other condition required by the regulations.

No. 13. Clause 17, page 10, lines 14 and 15 [clause 17, note to inserted section 23(6)]—Delete 'under section 20B' and substitute 'in accordance with section 20A'

No. 14. Clause 18, page 11, line 10 [clause 18(6), inserted subsection (1b)(b)]—Delete 'section 20A(3)(d)' and substitute 'section 20A'

No. 15. Clause 18, page 11, lines 15 to 17 [clause 18(7)]—Delete subclause (7) and substitute:

- (7) Section 24(2)—delete 'under subsection (1)(c)' and substitute:  
(other than a direction given in the circumstances contemplated by subsection (1a)) under subsection (1)(c) that have the effect of prohibiting or restricting access for a period of more than 3 months

No. 16. Clause 18, page 11, line 25 [clause 18(8), inserted subsection (2a)(b)]—Delete 'section 20A(3)(d)' and substitute 'of section 20A'

No. 17. Clause 19, page 12, line 33 [clause 19(6), inserted subsection (1ab)(b)]—Delete 'section 20A(3)(d)' and substitute 'section 20A'

No. 18. New clause, page 15, after line 19—Insert:

30—Amendment of section 46—Regulations

Section 46—after subsection (2) insert:

- (3) The regulations may—
- (a) be of general or limited application; and
  - (b) make different provision according to the matters or circumstances to which they are expressed to apply; and
  - (c) make provisions of a saving or transitional nature consequent on the amendment of this Act or the regulations; and
  - (d) provide that a matter or thing in respect of which regulations may be made is to be determined according to the discretion of a specified person or body.

### **SPENT CONVICTIONS (PART 8A FINDINGS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Final Stages*

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

### **EXPLOSIVES BILL**

*Final Stages*

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

### **RETIREMENT VILLAGES (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

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

### **CONVERSION PRACTICES PROHIBITION BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

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

At 18:27 the council adjourned until Thursday 12 September 2024 at 11:00.