

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 27 November 2024

The PRESIDENT (Hon. T.J. Stephens) took the chair at 14:17 and read prayers.

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

Parliamentary Procedure

ANSWERS TABLED

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

STATE FIRST NATIONS VOICE ADDRESS

The PRESIDENT (14:18): I lay on the table the minutes of proceedings of the joint sitting of the two houses held today, Wednesday 27 November 2024, to receive an address from the State First Nations Voice.

Ordered to be published.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

Reports, 2023-24—

Carrick Hill Trust
Ceduna District Health Services Health Advisory Council
Club One (SA) Ltd
Country Health Gift Fund Health Advisory Council
Eyre and Far North Local Health Network
Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network
JamFactory Contemporary Craft and Design Inc.
Lower Eyre Health Advisory Council
Mid-West Health Advisory Council
Millicent and Districts Health Advisory Council
Mount Gambier and Districts Health Advisory Council
Murray Bridge Soldiers Memorial Hospital Health Advisory Council
Northern Adelaide Local Health Network
Port Augusta, Roxby Downs & Woomera Health Advisory Council
Port Broughton District Health Advisory Council
Port Pirie Health Service Advisory Council
Quorn Health Services Health Advisory Council
Renmark Paringa District Health Advisory Council
SA Ambulance Service
Southern Flinders Health Advisory Council
State Opera of South Australia
State Theatre Company of South Australia
Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board
Waikerie and Districts Health Advisory Council
Whyalla Hospital and Health Services Health Advisory Council
Yorke Peninsula Health Advisory Council

*Parliamentary Committees***LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (14:19): I bring up the 54th report of the committee.

Report received.

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN: I bring up the 55th report of the committee.

Report received and read.

*Question Time***DROUGHT ASSISTANCE**

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:24): I seek leave to make a brief explanation prior to addressing questions to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development on the topic of drought.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Yesterday's announcement for drought funding was well overdue. The opposition is bewildered why there was such a big announcement for such a small hand-up to farmers. From our analysis, we cannot find \$18 million of new allocations for farmers. We can, however, see the rebranding of some of the 2025 budget, such as RBS. According to an *Advertiser* article today, farmers are labelling the approach as 'reactive' not proactive and they point to the scale of the situation in South Australia, and I quote:

...\$18 million is over the whole state and just in our small regions, that's about 10 per cent of the last economy...

To put it in the words of another farmer who is quoted as saying, '\$18 million is possibly a drop in the ocean as far as our businesses go.' My questions to the minister are:

1. Within yesterday's announcement, how much of the announcement is new money and how much of it is reallocated or relabelling of programs already in the budget books?
2. Is the minister considering supporting a seed bank and seed swaps for farmers to get back to business with next year's plantings?
3. Noting the scale of the crisis across South Australia's regions, are there future measures planned by the Malinauskas government to further assist our farmers into the future?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:26): I thank the honourable member for her question. As this chamber well knows, agriculture is the backbone of our state and I have spoken on many occasions about the importance of the agricultural industries, not just since the foundation of our state but also into our future. South Australia's primary industries and agribusinesses generated about \$18½ billion in revenue in 2022-23 and provide direct employment, including associated processing jobs, of around about 78,000 FTEs. These industries also accounted for 51 per cent of the state's merchandise exports.

As I am sure most people in this chamber are well aware, primary producers in South Australia are currently facing very, very difficult conditions, with some facing one of the worst production seasons for them in many years, as drought conditions combine with other compounding issues. I also acknowledge that many communities are still recovering from recent major events such as the 2019-20 bushfires and the River Murray flood. The situation is creating significant impacts on production and farm business finances and community wellbeing, and some will certainly have a long road towards recovery.

The government, through PIRSA, has undertaken and is continuing to undertake extensive engagement with industry and government stakeholders to ensure that there is a good understanding of the impacts of the current situation as well as potential future consequences, to be able to gather information about support needs and to communicate widely about the assistance that is available.

Part of the engagement process conducted by PIRSA included regional drought round tables, which were held in various locations across the state; the drought advisory group, which includes industry representatives who meet with PIRSA regularly and provide advice regarding impacts of drought and assistance measures; and also for myself, a council forum involving the regional mayors and chief executives held last week in addition to the various individual stakeholder meetings and interactions that I have across the state on a regular basis.

Using the input that we received from the regional round tables, the drought advisory group, the council forum and various other interactions with producers and stakeholders from across the state, yesterday I announced with the Premier an \$18 million drought package to assist farmers and their communities affected by drought.

The support package includes various additional measures on top of the existing measures, including the following: \$5 million for on-farm drought infrastructure grants for rebates of up to \$5,000 for infrastructure to strengthen drought preparedness. The rebate intends to cover infrastructure that could include water infrastructure upgrades, including pipes, tanks, troughs and dams, fencing to reduce grazing pressure, preserve pasture and protect environmental management, containment feeding such as yards, troughs and feeders, and potentially fodder storage infrastructure as just some examples.

Obviously, the grants will not cover all of those in full, in addition to the fact that a 25 per cent co-contribution is required from the producers. Obviously, this is only part of some of the work that they will be doing to deal with the current drought conditions.

We are also providing \$2 million for the cost of freight for charities who are transporting donated fodder to assist with feeding livestock. An additional \$1 million is being invested into mental health and wellbeing support to ensure that FaB mentors and Rural Business Support are well-equipped to provide the support needed. This is on top of the already committed \$4.4 million from this year's budget to FaB mentors and rural financial counsellors, who provide free confidential and independent services that link people with the appropriate assistance.

We are also opening up a grants program for groups to apply for up to \$5,000 to host community events. That is the sort of event that might provide a space for regional communities to get together to foster social connections and improve wellbeing. These are all in response to the feedback that we have had from those various fora that I mentioned.

The state government has also committed five and a half million dollars in funding for the state and federal governments' Future Drought Fund, which includes ongoing programs to help farmers with farm business resilience planning, climate tools and demonstrating more resilient farming practices.

I am extremely pleased to have been able to announce this package. One of the comments that the questioner quoted from *The Advertiser*, which referred to being a drop in the ocean, failed to finish the rest of the sentence, which was something like 'but it's a very important step in the right direction', or words to that effect as quoted in *The Advertiser*.

Our farmers feed the state, our country and the world, and I am glad to show the government's support of our primary producers during these challenging times.

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:31): Supplementary: has the minister received any feedback from farmers or farming communities about the difficulty for them in finding the funds available to provide 25 per cent of the drought infrastructure grant program that was announced yesterday?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:31): Usually these sorts of grant programs require a 50 per cent co-contribution. It was actually in the discussions that I have had leading up to this package where it was pointed out that 50 per cent may be quite problematic for some producers and lead to an undersubscription for that grant fund. As a result of that input we made it only a 25 per cent co-contribution.

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:31): Supplementary: did the minister consider support for a seed bank or a seed swap for farmers to get back to business for next year's plantings?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:32): Whilst I appreciate that wasn't part of the original answer, I am happy to answer it.

The PRESIDENT: A supplementary question is to arise from the answer, not the question. Are you choosing to answer, minister?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I am choosing to answer. In terms of the briefings that I have received about the feedback from the various draft round tables and other fora that I have mentioned, a seed bank didn't appear in that as something that had been raised as a high priority. I certainly haven't had multiple people raise that with me. If it's something that there is widespread support for, even if it hasn't been raised as a high priority in the forums, I am more than happy to continue to engage with producers and look at what additional measures may be required.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:33): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding SARDI.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: The Department for Environment and Water is currently conducting a sand dredging trial, moving an estimated 90,000 cubic metres of sand to West Beach for coastal erosion prevention efforts. Earlier this month, it was reported that a plan to dredge a sandbar just off West Beach to replenish the beach itself was shelved due to community pushback. Sand is currently being moved to West Beach from North Haven marina, as well as approved imported sand from inland quarries.

It is the opposition's understanding that, concurrently, the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) and neighbouring private enterprise Robarra have been impacted by large-scale stock losses due to irregular inflows through their seawater intake affecting the oyster breeding program of snapper fingerlings and Robarra's barramundi hatchery. My questions to the minister are:

1. Has the minister been made aware of the catastrophic event that has occurred at the SARDI and Robarra sites at West Beach? If so, when was the minister made aware of these events?
2. What action is the minister taking to protect this multimillion dollar industry?
3. Could the dredging and depositing of potential toxins in the vicinity of the seawater intake be responsible for this issue?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:34): I thank the honourable member for her question. My understanding is that there have been a number of mortalities in several programs in SARDI. The cause of those is being investigated and, until that cause has been established, it would be inappropriate, as the member opposite has done, to be saying that these were due to a particular matter.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:35): Supplementary: has the minister been briefed on how long that investigation will take?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:35): A thorough investigation is underway.

MESONET WEATHER STATIONS

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:35): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries on the topic of Mesonet weather stations.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: During the last several weeks, many farmers have contacted me with their concerns about the impending shutdown of the Mesonet weather stations and what that might mean for their businesses going forward. Many primary producers are currently on their knees due to a range of issues, including drought, frost and market forces, and many do not have the income to support the annual subscription fee. The Mesonet infrastructure was built to provide real-time hazardous inversion data to help prevent spray drift damage and also to provide high-quality weather data in agricultural regions in the gaps between Bureau of Meteorology stations.

It is also important to note that the Mesonet infrastructure also provides information for fire safety at time of harvest. The rollout of the Mesonet infrastructure was strongly supported by the former Marshall Liberal government, as we understood the benefits of the service not just to the farming community but to the wider regions. My questions to the minister are:

1. Given the communication by Mesonet suggesting their impending shutdown prior to Christmas, what is the minister doing to ensure this service can continue to exist throughout not just this coming summer period but into the future?
2. Is the minister and her government considering funding the Mesonet subscription going forward, given its importance in not just farming practices but in fire safety for wider regional communities?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:37): I thank the honourable member for her question. In South Australia the Conditions Over the Landscape (known as COtL) Mesonet provides a network of over 110 automatic weather stations across the Mid North, Mallee, Riverland, Limestone Coast, Langhorne Creek and McLaren Vale.

The Mesonet automatic weather stations network was designed to give chemical spray operators accurate local weather information to inform decisions about timing of spray operations and reduce the risk of spray drift. As of 2021, COtL operates and manages all the South Australian Mesonet automatic weather stations. The COtL Mesonet network has been supported through funding from two state governments—both the previous Liberal government and the current Labor government—with contributions going towards the capital investment component of the project.

Funding has not been provided for the ongoing operational costs. Initially, free subscriptions were available, but I am advised that the intent was always communicated, including by the former government, that ongoing operational costs would need to be through a subscription or other mechanism that enabled the company to be self-sustaining.

To help cover costs of ongoing maintenance, I am advised that COtL has implemented a user-pays subscription-based model, as was originally envisaged. COtL have informed me that they have concerns about the sustainability of their current business model. I have requested that PIRSA work with COtL to determine what assistance they may require to address their internal business needs to help achieve long-term business sustainability and potentially therefore to enable the ongoing operation of the Mesonet automatic weather station network.

On Monday 18 November, Mr Damon Grace, director of COtL, provided a media release advising that in the current operating environment their revenues are not covering operational expenses, and hence the Mesonet services may not be able to continue. The media release further advised that COtL are in high-level discussions to avoid a shutdown of the Mesonet at the end of this year. I have had discussions also with particular sector groups and peak bodies in regard to this matter, and the discussions with COtL are ongoing.

HOOD, HON. B.R.

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI (14:39): Pursuant to standing order 107, my question is to the Hon. Ben Hood. Will the Hon. Ben Hood explain to voters, especially to the women of Mount Gambier, why he was prepared to express support for a male colleague in the other chamber but not for a female colleague, his deputy leader in this chamber?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! That's enough.

DISTRICT POLICING MODEL

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (14:40): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Minister for Police in the other place, a question about SAPOL's district policing model.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Last week, Inspector Wade Burns—the disgraced President of the Police Association who I exposed in this place as a sex pest and who admitted to an alleged sexual assault complaint kept secret because of the draconian PCD Act—attacked Commissioner Grant Stevens, a warmly received nominee for Australian of the Year, over SAPOL's district policing model.

Mr Burns accused the commissioner of gaslighting the union's members, whatever that means, and claimed he wasn't listening to his workforce. Mr Burns has hardly set a good example to his 5,000 members, particularly females, going by his notorious past, which he failed to disclose while running for President of PASA in June and July, but as Mr Burns has said publicly and I will quote him, 'I never said I was perfect.'

Commissioner Stevens responded to Mr Burns' criticism, stating that PASA's attitude was disingenuous and unhelpful and was making it even more difficult to attract new recruits to SAPOL to replace those retiring or leaving the force. Yet Mr Burns now gives the impression of shock and horror about the tasking and resourcing situation with SAPOL, when in fact he knew all about it all the time because two years ago he was a member of the Premier's Taskforce that investigated it.

Furthermore, how can all PASA members have confidence they will continue to receive legal and other support from their own union, which has just reported a loss deficit of \$1.225 million in 2024—up from \$731,916 from 2023—in their latest annual report? My questions to the minister are:

1. Does he support Commissioner Stevens' widely held view that the Police Association's attack on the district policing model is hindering the recruitment process and will discourage people from considering policing as a career?
2. Has the minister met with Mr Burns to discuss the district policing model, and what came out of that meeting?
3. Does the minister have confidence in SAPOL's district policing model and the current recruiting program?
4. Will the minister now demand PASA's full financials be independently audited and presented to ensure that its policing members can have confidence they will receive legal or urgent assistance, considering the union's current financial plight?
5. Can he ask the commissioner for an update on SAPOL's investigation into bullying and harassment of staff at PASA's headquarters and report back to parliament?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:43): I thank the honourable member for his questions. I will refer those to the police minister in another place, the Hon. Dan Cregan, member for Kavel, and bring back a response for the honourable member.

MAST 2024 CONFERENCE

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:44): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Leader of the Government in this place about the MAST 2024 Conference.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.S. LEE: On 22 November 2024, the ABC reported that attendees of the MAST 2024 Conference held in Adelaide from 19 to 21 November described the event as 'an utter embarrassment and total [!!!!]show' that reminded them of the failed Fyre Festival. The ABC reported that defence industry figures claimed that organisers of the MAST 2024 Conference greatly exaggerated participant numbers and that there did not appear to be anyone from the Australian defence department there in an official capacity.

The government's press release dated 10 February 2023 crowed that the conference would draw thousands of senior level government, military representatives and researchers from across the global defence community, and that high-calibre plenary speakers, technical sessions and exhibits would help foster business opportunities for South Australian companies. However, attendees said:

Despite claiming there would be dozens of exhibitors [sic] at MAST, there was only a handful of stands, and none of the defence officials the organisers said would be here turned up.

My questions to the Leader of the Government are:

1. How much funding did the Labor government provide to Maritime, Air Systems and Technologies to stage a conference in Adelaide?
2. Does the government believe it got a good return on its investment?
3. Why did the Treasurer and Minister for Defence and Space Industries and the CEO of Defence SA plan a visit to the UK at the same time as the conference in Adelaide if it was such an important drawcard for our state's defence industry?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:46): I thank the honourable member for her question. In relation to attraction for events, including conferences, they are generally commercial-in-confidence with arrangements, as happened under the former government, so that we can maintain our competitive advantage and edge in attracting conferences.

In relation to the Treasurer's attendance, I am aware that the Treasurer was in the UK doing a whole lot of things and, amongst other things, talking to global credit rating agencies and other companies. I think he visited areas that could possibly influence the nuclear submarine program that we will be seeing in South Australia. In relation to costings, I will check to see if there is a figure that I can bring back but if it is commercial-in-confidence I won't be able to.

MAST 2024 CONFERENCE

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:47): Supplementary: how does it happen that the state government allows for the defence minister to be advertised as appearing at a conference when he is not going to be there and is actually in another country?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:47): I thank the honourable member for her question. The MAST conference, I don't think—but I will check—was a government-organised conference. If it's a private conference those questions would probably be better directed to the organisers of that conference.

RURAL BUSINESS SUPPORT CONFERENCE

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (14:48): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister please inform the chamber about the Rural Business Support Conference held earlier this month?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! I am sure the minister heard the question, I am sure I didn't hear it, but—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr Martin, please repeat the question so that I can hear it.

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN: It is a pleasure, sir.

The PRESIDENT: I don't know about a pleasure, just read the question.

The Hon. I.K. Hunter: And don't mislead the house.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hunter, don't harass the Hon. Mr Martin.

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN: My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister please inform the chamber about the Rural Business Support Conference held earlier this month?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:49): I thank the honourable member for his question. I was very pleased to be able to open the Rural Business Support biannual conference a couple of weeks ago at the Lakes hotel. It is such a great thing to come together face to face, and I commend Rural Business Support for their commitment to sharing knowledge and building networks.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Attorney! Minister, please ignore the Attorney.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I will point out that the Lakes hotel was at West Lakes, not at Mount Gambier, and therefore had nothing to do with complaints about chicken from the former opposition leader.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: However, I am always glad when anyone in this place is so focused on Mount Gambier as an area, as obviously the Leader of the Government in this place is—always keen to find additional references.

I was very pleased to open the Rural Business Support biannual conference a couple of weeks ago at the Lakes hotel, West Lakes. It is a great thing to come together face to face, and I commend Rural Business Support for their commitment to sharing knowledge and also to building networks. As I have already spoken about today, our farmers are currently experiencing very challenging times due to the drought conditions that are affecting much of the state. The chamber is also very aware of the importance of primary producers to our state who provide our food and fibre and also, of course, make an enormous contribution to our state's economy, as I referred to earlier today in this place.

Rural Business Support is imperative to the ongoing support of primary producers and regional communities, which is why the drought support package that we have announced includes additional funding for mental health and wellbeing support, including for rural financial counselling services. I also very much appreciate the advice that people such as Brett Smith and Mont Saunders from Rural Business Support and others have provided into the drought advisory group discussions and the regional roundtable meetings.

Rural Business Support has a unique insight into the challenges of farming businesses that is incredibly valuable to government in understanding the appropriate support measures in times of distress. I very much appreciate the willingness of Rural Business Support to share these insights at all levels for our common goal of supporting primary industries, primary producers and regional communities.

I am very proud of the partnership with Rural Business Support to deliver rural financial counselling in this state. Rural Business Support's 20 years of experience in delivering such services

provides a depth and breadth of understanding of our regional communities that is crucial to effectively supporting farmers who are experiencing hardship.

Often when I am around the state talking to people who have had interactions with Rural Business Support staff I hear about the commitment of those staff and the appreciation of the professionalism as well as the compassion that they extend and the practical assistance they provide.

Of course, Rural Business Support provides several other services to our rural communities that I am also very proud to support through our partnership. The RBS Relief Fund was launched in July 2022. This fund is a really fantastic addition to the suite of support that RBS offers, because it provides practical help with day-to-day costs that may well just make the difference to a family experiencing hardship. It can also provide an important gateway into the full service with RBS, which is so important for the long-term recovery of farmers and their farming businesses.

I am always excited to support the charity soccer match, and I look forward to doing so again next year and hope I will be joined by some in this chamber. The RBS Relief Fund provides a channel of support where government may not be able to provide the solution with flexibility, and this particular initiative is to be commended.

The work of Rural Business Support is absolutely vital to the long-term prosperity of our primary industries and regional communities. Again, I thank the Rural Business Support staff for the professional, compassionate and thorough way they go about providing the services that are so important to our regional communities.

REGIONAL RENTAL AFFORDABILITY

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:53): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question without notice to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development on the topic of renting in the regions.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: A joint study released today by the Australian Council of Social Service and the University of New South Wales has found that one in five Australian private renters are living without two or more essential items and that 22 per cent of renters are now living below the poverty line as the nation's dual housing affordability and cost-of-living crises continue. Chief Executive of ACOSS, Cassandra Goldie, told ABC's 7.30 that:

This report paints a very grim picture in terms of deprivation for large numbers of people on low incomes across the country.

We're [also] very worried about the rates of evictions all over the country with rents going up, people in the private rental market, if you're on JobSeeker, there is literally nowhere that's affordable for you to live.

My question to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development therefore is: when will the Malinauskas government finally take action to rein in soaring rent prices in South Australia's regions?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:55): I thank the honourable member for his question. The issue of rental affordability is one, I am sure, that comes up to probably everyone in this chamber and in this parliament on a regular basis. We know that across the country there is an affordability crisis both in terms of purchasing a property to live in and also in terms of being able to access rental properties and, in particular, affordable rental properties.

In terms of specifically in the regions, we know that those issues can be different in different areas. Probably in no area, however, is there an abundance of rental properties available. The incredibly small amounts of rental availability I think have been well documented, and I hope most in this place would be well aware of that.

The Malinauskas Labor government has done a great deal in terms of trying to address this issue, which has, after all, developed over many years under governments of both types. Changes to family structures, changes to much within our communities, mean that the types of housing that

were suitable perhaps 40 or 50 years ago are not necessarily suitable for today's families, in addition to more mobility of people and various other changes within society.

The establishment of the Office for Regional Housing was a key initiative of this government because, as a government, we recognise that there need to be different solutions in different areas. Different industries, different demands on the labour force, different shortages of particular skills: all of these things feed into the factors that make different regions experience the issues that we are talking about in different ways.

The government has also made changes to the rules around tenancies, and they of course apply in regional areas as well as in the city. But the issue of supply of housing is key, and that is why there has been such a large amount of focus on that. In regional areas, it can often be complicated by the fact that there is no such other infrastructure or the infrastructure might be at the limits of its capacity. It is something that requires an ongoing and coordinated approach and, I would certainly hope, bipartisan support.

REGIONAL RENTAL AFFORDABILITY

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:57): A supplementary question arising from the answer: how many new public homes has the Malinauskas government built in the regions, and would the minister support a freeze on rents so that South Australians can get some reprieve, particularly those in the regions?

The PRESIDENT: Minister, you can answer the question if you wish.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:58): In terms of the number of houses, I am happy to refer that to the relevant minister in the other place, but I do think that it is particularly appropriate that we refer to the fact that this government has started the turnaround from the sell-off of public housing, which, again, has been under governments of both stripes previously. That is something that the Premier and the housing minister have certainly acknowledged. Under the previous government, there was a large amount of public housing that was slated for sale, and we have stopped that. For the first time, there will be a net increase in the build of public housing.

In terms of a rent freeze, I think the honourable member is aware that the implications of that in terms of potentially reducing the supply of housing stock have been well documented. It is not considered by credible economists to be something that would actually result in the outcome that we would wish, which is more housing availability in the rental market, including in regional areas.

CONSTRUCTION, FORESTRY AND MARITIME EMPLOYEES UNION

The Hon. B.R. HOOD (14:59): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Industrial Relations regarding the CFMEU.

Leave granted.

The Hon. B.R. HOOD: Concerning allegations were aired recently regarding the former South Australian CFMEU branch head, Marcus Pare, resulting in a new investigation into improper union spending, kickbacks, underworld links and threatening behaviour. The Premier told FIVEaa this week that upon hearing of the new allegations, despite being on holidays at the time he phoned the Prime Minister's office, federal minister Tony Burke and the police commissioner straightaway to discuss the examination of those involved.

Meanwhile in Victoria, building unions are warning of a snap 24-hour shutdown of the state's construction industry for fears union organisers could be targeted by outlaw bikies and their criminal associates. My questions to the Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations are:

1. Has the Attorney now met with the CFMEU administrator, Mark Irving KC, to discuss his investigation into the branch, as he said he would a month ago?
2. If so, what can he report back about that investigation, or the latest one?
3. What actions has the Minister for Industrial Relations taken in direct response to these concerning new developments?

4. Is the Attorney aware of any threats to South Australian union organisers, similar to what is happening in Victoria, and associated risks of a shutdown to our own construction industry as a result?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hunter, if you want to answer the question you can answer it, but I think the Attorney is capable.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

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 his question. As I think I heard someone say, it is remarkable that the Hon. Ben Hood has found his voice in this place. Three times the Hon. Ben Hood has been asked if he supports his deputy—

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: Point of order: relevance. That is not the question that was asked.

The PRESIDENT: Attorney, I know that you are getting to the question, so let's go. We are 23 minutes in.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: I am. As I say, I am going to be happy to answer this question, but I do note that three times the Hon. Ben Hood has been asked if he supports his deputy leader in this place, the Hon. Jing Lee. Every single time, the Hon. Ben Hood has refused to do so—has refused to do so. Even today, when asked what he thought that said to the voters, particularly the women of Mount Gambier, that he refuses to support a woman in this chamber, his leader, but is happy to support a bloke in the other chamber, what did we get? Stone silence again. Absolute crickets. It says everything you need to know about the Liberal Party and its culture.

In relation to the CFMEU, I met with the administrator on 7 November 2024 and I was grateful for the update that the administrator was able to provide. As the administrator let me know, he has made it very clear that where an investigation reveals any wrongdoing the investigation may result in action against wrongdoers, including any former officers, particularly if they have contravened the law. The South Australian government welcomes the action taken by the CFMEU administrator and the emphasis that the federal government has taken in placing the union into administration.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (15:02): My question is to the Attorney-General. Will the minister inform the council about this year's milestone anniversary of the South Australian Bar Association?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:03): I would be happy to. I thank the honourable member for his question. It was a privilege to recently attend the 60th anniversary of the South Australian Bar Association. This important occasion was masterfully hosted by the Hon. Justice Ben Doyle, with a keynote speech delivered by the Hon. Robert Beech-Jones, Justice of the High Court of Australia.

Justice Beech-Jones spoke of the collegial nature of our local independent bar, which combines civil, cordial respect for other members with a fierce dedication to the interests of their clients. He spoke about the importance of new members of the bar and welcomed bar readers to the profession. He highlighted South Australia's impressive history of legal firsts—the first in relation to women's suffrage and enfranchisement, the first female silk appointed, the first female Supreme Court judge—and also mentioned, as part of his speech, the first Aboriginal Voice to Parliament in this nation.

The event was also important recognition of the impact of one particular South Australian legal identity, the Hon. Christopher Legoe AO KC, who at the age of 96 represented his incredible legacy through his attendance at the event and an address to the gathered profession.

After receiving his law degree from Cambridge University, Christopher Legoe returned to Adelaide and became an associate to Sir Geoffrey Reed KC. In 1955, Legoe wrote to the then Law

Society of South Australia President, Frank Piper, to ask to be granted an exemption from the keeping of a trust account to set up a practice solely as a barrister. This was a new direction for the state's fused legal profession and, as I understand at the time, not without controversy.

After seven years of sole practice, Legoe was joined by Jack Elliott, Robin Millhouse and Howard Zelling. At the first official meeting of the South Australian Bar Association in December of 1964, all four practitioners signed an exercise book, which then went on to become South Australia's official bar roll. The South Australian independent bar now stands at around 300 members. I congratulate and extend my thanks to the South Australian Bar Association, especially president Dr Rachael Gray KC, and executive officer Georgia Lloyd.

The independent bar is a cornerstone of a functional and just legal system, and I thank all members for their services to the state of South Australia, and wish them all the best in this year, the 60th anniversary of the existence of the Bar Association.

SUMMIT SPORT AND RECREATION PARK

The Hon. S.L. GAME (15:05): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing a question to the Attorney-General, representing the Treasurer, regarding the \$23 million Summit Sport and Recreation Park in Mount Barker.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: Last week's *Mount Barker Courier* carried a front-page report stating that the park's premier oval and change rooms are largely unused. The paper had previously reported the facility would no longer host cricket matches, and that the local football club and the entire league had ceased holding matches there. Last week, the *Courier* also ran a report on a budget hole and an operating deficit at the park, plus comments from five stakeholders who all expressed concerns about the costs of using the facility.

My question to the Attorney-General, representing the Treasurer, is: given the government provided \$3.775 million funding to the Summit, will it commit to advising Mount Barker council about adopting an alternative management strategy, one that ensures taxpayers and local ratepayers get better value for money rather than stand accused of funding a white elephant?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:06): I thank the honourable member for her question, and I am happy to pass that on to the relevant minister or, as the case may be, ministers in another place, and bring back a reply.

FIRST NATIONS VOICE, PARLIAMENTARY SITTING

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:06): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs about the Voice. Minister, could you please advise if you or anyone in your office had input into the speech by the First Nations Voice delivered today or if you or anyone in your office saw the speech in advance of the speech being given?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:07): I certainly didn't, but I am not aware that anyone from my office had any input in the speech.

REGIONAL SHARK MITIGATION STRATEGY

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:07): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister inform the chamber about the regional shark mitigation strategy, which was announced last weekend?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:07): I thank the honourable member for his question. Over the last 18 months, three South Australians lost their lives in fatal shark attacks. It has been a devastating reminder of the potential for danger that does exist in our waters. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge

the victims and their families, and I am sure that I speak for all in this chamber when I extend sincere condolences to them.

As South Australians, and indeed as Australians, we share our beaches and our oceans with a wide range of wild and marine life, and sharks are an important part of the marine ecosystem. Our beaches are some of the best in the world. It is important that we coexist with sharks, and where realistic and possible that we do also mitigate the risks for beachgoers. This has occurred over many years through a range of measures that have included aerial patrols of metropolitan beaches and the south coast, education programs, drones, and a shark sighting log.

Unfortunately, of course, there is no 100 per cent effective solution to prevent shark attacks, and solutions that are used in other parts of the country and the world are not necessarily suitable for South Australia's unique coastline. South Australia's metropolitan beaches are well served with aerial patrols and the physical presence of Surf Life Saving South Australia, who do an incredible job in helping to keep us safe, not just from sharks but also in terms of preventing drownings and other water safety incidents.

We are very lucky in South Australia to have a huge number of regional beaches, some of the most incredible natural wonders in the world. They are beautiful, isolated, secluded, and often sparsely populated, which can be amazing for a wonderful day at the beach and a wonderful experience, but can also be very dangerous when things go wrong.

Coverage of South Australia's regional beaches in terms of mitigation for shark attacks is extremely difficult with coastline stretching further than the coastlines of Victoria and New South Wales combined. They are often rugged and difficult to access or to accurately describe in terms of location, with a selection of popular beaches, particularly surf beaches, stretched over huge distances, often away from population bases and services. The challenges are numerous but it was evident that there was some more that we could do and should do to protect regional communities who often rely on tourism to their beautiful beaches to keep local economies ticking over.

I was very pleased on Sunday, alongside Minister Cregan, to announce a half a million dollar funding package for Surf Life Saving SA to work with regional communities and councils to provide a suite of measures that will help to mitigate some risks in those regional areas, including coastal risk assessments, signage, trauma kits, drones, drone operator training and, importantly, educational program support for regional schools. These are practical measures that can make a difference in not only detecting shark activity but responding to incidents should they occur.

Trauma kits as used in other states will be a useful addition and might just make a difference in the event of a shark attack where some level of first aid in those early stages is so vital, particularly if it occurs a long distance from the nearest hospital. It is anticipated that this program will provide tangible outcomes, improve public safety, community confidence and emergency response capability, and implement a sustainable and scalable model by building local capacity with training conducted by qualified personnel. The additional funding will also see use of the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter to expand to the regions to provide coverage of community aquatic events.

Surf Life Saving SA are of course deeply respected in the South Australian community for their work in keeping us safe on our beaches, and I think there is no better organisation to tackle this work on behalf of our regional communities and metropolitan communities alike. I want to thank their chief executive officer, Damien Marangon, and his team for their contribution in putting this package together and assisting in rolling it out to communities right across the state. They will be working closely with local councils, as well as other stakeholders and members of the community, in ensuring that this program can get the best outcomes possible.

SAND DREDGING

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:12): My question is to the Attorney-General with responsibility for the current sand dredging trials off our coastal shores. Could he please give us an update on what the status is of the two-month trial?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:12): I thank the honourable member for her question. There is a dredge trial that has commenced. It commenced in October and will continue towards the

end of 2024. It is providing important information that will help determine the future of dredging and sand management in that northern coastal area. The trial involves dredging sand from multiple sites and depositing it at West Beach using various techniques to test the technical and operational practicality of those methods of replacing sand there.

Final decisions on longer term dredging will be made in consideration after those trials have finished. I am informed that in line with the recommendations for West Beach, the Department for Environment and Water is coordinating a delivery of an additional approximately 100,000 cubic metres of quarry sand in 2024-25, above the annual maintenance volume that has been committed since our term in government.

SAND DREDGING

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:13): Supplementary: what has the government learnt so far from the trials?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:13): I thank the honourable member for her question. That will be assessed once the trial has been completed, is my understanding.

SAND DREDGING

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:14): Supplementary: did the trial discontinue the dredging of the sandbar off West Beach during this trial?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:14): I thank the honourable member for her question. I will double-check this to make sure it is right but, from memory, my understanding is the proposed and anticipated dredging of the sandbar was discontinued due to delays and weather conditions at the time, but I am happy to double-check that that is correct.

YOUNG REPEAT OFFENDERS

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:14): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking questions of the Attorney-General regarding young repeat offenders.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: In his regular radio segment on the ABC most recently, Police Commissioner Grant Stevens entered into the topic of young repeat offenders, and he made an interesting quote, and I quote directly:

I do think we're seeing increasing incidents of young people involved in serious crime...But I do want to provide context that I think the vast majority of young people do the right thing. They don't come to the attention of police. But we do have this cohort of very young children who seem to be operating in the absence of any sort of parental control or supervision, out all hours of the night committing offences and that is a real challenge for us. There is a presumption under the Young Offenders Act that young offenders are given every opportunity to be kept out of the criminal justice system and not retained in custody which does create some difficulties for us with some of these kids who continually come to our attention.

My questions to the Attorney are:

1. Is the Attorney concerned by the situation facing South Australians, as outlined by the commissioner? What assurances can he give to provide law-abiding South Australians comfort?
2. What options or possible solutions is the Attorney able to point to in order to assist SAPOL in dealing with young repeat offenders, or is there simply a gap in the law, meaning that these young repeat offenders will continue their illegal activity largely unabated?

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 frequent interest in the safety of our community. In relation to young offenders, there are a variety of ways that SAPOL keeps the community safe. Of course, if a young offender is apprehended it's a decision about bail that is either made by a judicial officer or a police officer at first instance. If there are concerns about a decision that has been made in relation to bail, there are potential avenues for that to be addressed or that to be appealed.

In relation to safety in general, I know that there are laws that we have introduced or procedures under current laws that we have introduced if there have been concerns that have been raised. For example, the police have raised concerns about, particularly in the Adelaide area, antisocial behaviour and some criminality. As the government we have, at the request of the police, declared a public precinct, which gives the police more powers, particularly in relation to the ability to search and the ability to move people out of an area where that is occurring. So there are procedures that we have enlivened at the request of the police, and we are always open to any further requests the police may make.

YOUNG REPEAT OFFENDERS

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:17): Supplementary question, and I thank the Attorney for his answer. Would the Attorney concede that the comments by the police commissioner indicate that the current situation is not sufficient?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:17): I am not sure that is the case, and I have regular meetings with the police commissioner. I can't remember this being raised the last time I met with the police commissioner, but I look forward to it if it is something that the police commissioner wants raised and has ideas about how it might be addressed.

We do see, particularly in monthly figures, that figures go up and down. There are figures that have gone down—monthly figures, year-to-date figures—and other crime statistics that have gone up in year-to-date figures. I think the last Report on Government Services showed that we had one of the lowest, if not the lowest, recidivism rates of anywhere in Australia. As I say, I think we have demonstrated an openness and a willingness, and we will continue to do so for sensible reforms that are proposed.

The PRESIDENT: Members should be aware that today is the Hon. Mr Martin's birthday. Happy birthday, the Hon. Mr Martin.

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN: Point of order, Mr President: relevance.

The PRESIDENT: Well, you are still here. That is a good thing.

COURT BACKLOGS

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (15:18): Happy birthday, Reggie. My question is to the Attorney-General regarding court backlogs. Can the Attorney-General update the chamber on his understanding of current court backlogs in South Australia and on any impact that it is having on the justice system?

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. Comprehensive statistics are published each year, I think it's in February usually, and it's a comparison. They are not always apple-for-apple comparisons because there are differences in different courts and jurisdictions about which matters are heard in different jurisdictions, and there are not always completely analogous jurisdictions in different states.

There are two tiers of the courts system in the Northern Territory, for example, whereas many other jurisdictions have three tiers of the courts system, so a direct comparison is not always able to be made. In the Report on Government Services that comes out each February there is a comprehensive breakdown of statistics, of timelines for court figures. I am happy to go back—some were traversed during the estimates process this year—and provide a comprehensive look at those published figures for the honourable member in relation to the Report on Government Services figures.

COURT BACKLOGS

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (15:20): Supplementary: can the Attorney take on notice to provide current data in regard to July, August, September and October, appreciating that he did mention that it is more comprehensive in February? Can he also ask what information is provided on a monthly basis?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:20): I am happy to see if there are comprehensive figures available on a monthly basis, but the comprehensive figures I know are published each year on what is provided by the Courts Administration Authority.

COURT BACKLOGS

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (15:20): Supplementary: can the Attorney provide a high-level outline of any concerns relating to the courts backlogs currently?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:21): I haven't had any concerns raised with me recently that I can remember from the courts, but I will check whether that is the case.

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (15:21): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister inform the chamber about the centenary celebration of VET in Murray Bridge recently?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:22): I thank the honourable member for his question. It was a pleasure to represent the Minister for Education, Training and Skills, the Hon. Blair Boyer, at the Murray Bridge Centenary celebration of VET a couple of weeks ago.

It was a great opportunity to catch up with Mayor Wayne Thorley from the Rural City of Murray Bridge, Mayor Simone Bailey from Mid Murray Council and Mayor Paul Simmons from Coorong District Council was also there, if I remember correctly, as well as other community leaders—Councillor Mat O'Brien—as well as many TAFE staff and students, both past and present. I have had a real interest over many years in the Murraylands region, as members may be aware, and have been a frequent visitor, both during my time as minister and prior to that.

As Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I am very aware of just how important the region is to the agricultural sector in our state, and the important role that Murray Bridge and its surrounds has and will continue to have as a key region for population growth, with ambitious plans to house many thousands more people through the recently announced Gifford Hill development, which is a private development but certainly of great interest to local people.

With Murray Bridge and the Murraylands firmly looking forward to the opportunities that await in coming years, it is important that we take time to reflect on the history of the region and those who built it over the last century. With that said, it was a fantastic afternoon on the lawns of the TAFE campus in Murray Bridge recently. It was an opportunity to celebrate the incredible contribution that TAFE and VET have made to the Murraylands over 100 years, but more importantly to celebrate the people who have devoted their lives and careers to developing critical and life-changing skills within their communities.

As part of the celebrations, a time capsule from the 75th anniversary was opened and, alongside Mayor Thorley and a TAFE executive, it was an honour to announce its contents to the gathering. Time capsules are a fascinating way of preserving history and, with the early 2000s no doubt making some of us feel like that wasn't that long ago, in fact it made us feel a little old because it didn't seem like it was that long ago. A copy of the *Sunday Mail* from 7 November 2004 was in the capsule, with Delta Goodrem on the front page alluding to her love for 'Scud' Philippoussis, and Lleyton Hewitt telling us why he had to leave home.

The time capsule also contained a bottle of local wine, course guides and documents, a photo of the staff at the time, some CDs—I am not sure some of the younger participants at the event actually knew what they were—and also a poem written by one of the management team from the campus in 2004, aptly titled *Ode to a Time Capsule*.

The author of the poem, Dr Tom Haig, has since retired from TAFE and is now a councillor for the Rural City of Murray Bridge and was present on the night. He read the poem beautifully in his dulcet Scottish tones, and you can't help but wonder if he knew 20 years ago when he put the poem

in the capsule that he himself would be present 20 years later to give such a great reading of it, still a leader in his local community.

Of course, with the time capsule from the 75th anniversary coming out of the ground it was important to have one for the 100th anniversary go back into the ground for those in the next generation to open in 25 years' time, in what will no doubt be very different times.

Vocational education and training will continue to have a critical role in training the workforce our state requires. Our government has recognised the importance of the sector, particularly in regional South Australia, with the Regional Skills Development Fund, which ensures TAFE SA can offer more courses in rural and regional South Australia that align with the needs of the local industry as well as government priorities. We have also invested in fee-free TAFE to support industries facing skills shortages as well as those experiencing growth.

It is fair to say this is a very different approach to TAFE than those opposite took in their four years in government, and one I am confident will make a difference not only in metropolitan Adelaide, where students often have a far greater choice on how and where to study, but importantly in regional areas where TAFE and VET are such a critical part of the community across so many aspects of life, including retaining young people in the regions who want to remain there and study there. I congratulate TAFE SA and the Rural City of Murray Bridge for organising a fantastic event.

To finish, I also want to mention the students from Murray Bridge High School. They had a fantastic musical performance on the afternoon which was just outstanding, and I believe they had been involved in doing that throughout the afternoon. It was really remarkable and very much appreciated. Well done to all concerned.

Matters of Interest

SA MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI (15:27): Today, I rise to speak on the hugely successful 2024 Multicultural Festival that took place on Sunday 24 November at Tarndanyangga/Victoria Square, which was organised by Multicultural Affairs SA. Over 11,500 people—which was a record attendance—joined the event, where more than 80 multicultural groups participated and represented 60 cultures.

Attendees had the opportunity to immerse themselves in different cultures and languages through music, dance, cultural activities and food. It was wonderful to see people of all ages and backgrounds interact and enjoy each other's company. I witnessed many vivid conversations and am proud to live in a state with such great cultural diversity. More than 1.7 million people call South Australia home, with almost 430,000 born overseas, coming from more than 214 countries, speaking 248 languages and practising 128 religions.

The Multicultural Festival is not just another event; it is a flagship event where multicultural community organisations from across our state come together to showcase their rich, diverse cultures with the broader South Australian community. We should all be proud of this event, which now occurs annually thanks to the Malinauskas government. This is another election commitment delivered for our multicultural communities across the state.

Our state would not be the same without our many communities, and the festival is a terrific demonstration of the community spirit and shared values that make South Australia such a great place to live, study, work and thrive. We have so many values to be proud of. I felt humbled by the generosity of community leaders and members of different communities who wanted to show me around their stalls, welcomed me and offered me traditional delicacies from their home countries. We all know that by sharing food we share culture, we share mutual understanding, and we promote unity and social cohesion among diverse groups.

In a world where cultures entwine more closely than ever before and cultural boundaries blur, cultural awareness should be an essential component of our society. This is why this festival is so important. It is the bridge between the various cultures our state has to showcase, and a great opportunity for all of us to understand, respect and appreciate and value different cultural opinions and perspectives.

Festivals like this are a product of months of preparation and teamwork, and I would like to congratulate Multicultural Affairs South Australia on another successful festival. I especially want to thank all the participants, volunteers and everyone who joined us at the event—the music, the dance, the food, and art—and joined in the activities on offer. There was so much to see, do and enjoy.

A special mention to the leaders and members of our multicultural community groups who work hard and dedicate their personal time to enrich this state with their cultures and languages. I look forward to next year's Multicultural Festival, which I have no doubt will be even bigger and better.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:30): On this quite auspicious day, which was the inaugural First Nations State Voice address to this parliament, I rise to speak about my concerns and touch on a topic which was raised in the address today, and that is racism and SAPOL. It was reflected upon this morning that while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up approximately 2.5 per cent of the community, they are almost 25 per cent of those incarcerated. They are more likely to come into contact with the justice system, and children are still being removed at rates that are simply unacceptable.

What was truly unacceptable was the vision that many South Australians, and indeed people right across globe, saw in the Davenport community just over a week ago, of the assault of an Aboriginal man in that Davenport community, an Aboriginal Lands Trust community, where that Aboriginal man was shoved against a wall by a police officer, dragged across a footpath, seemingly unconscious. That vision was shared tens of thousands of times. It sparked outrage, and quite rightly so.

I raised with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Attorney-General yesterday my concerns that what has not yet been reported is that that man, when he was taken into custody by the police, was taken to the hospital briefly and found to have a broken rib and a fractured skull. He was then taken from the hospital to the police station and charged with two of what is often called part of the trifecta: hindering and assault police.

He was not able to be returned to the hospital. He was not returned to medical care. He was, in fact, made to walk back to the Davenport community, a walk of almost an hour from that police station. Many questions have been raised by the people in the community, by family and friends of this man and, indeed, no doubt in the courts we will see unfolding some more information. But what we do know, in the words of Andrew Carpenter, who is an Adelaide-based lawyer, is that the vision was of an officer shoving a male who does not appear to be identifying as any threat, especially when there were other officers around who could have clearly de-escalated the situation.

Indeed, our own Aboriginal affairs minister, Kyam Maher, who has spoken to members of the local community, has stated:

I have been contacted by a number of Aboriginal community leaders and members over the last 24 hours concerned about the footage. I understand those concerns.

I echo the words of the Attorney-General, and I question whether or not there is racism in SAPOL and whether or not the workings of the declared public precinct in Port Augusta are feeding and fuelling that racism, and that changed expectations around civil liberties and human rights.

We know that there was sexism in SAPOL. There may well still be, but we know because the equal opportunity commissioner in this state did a three-year inquiry with three annual reports that found sexism in SAPOL and created measures to address that. For a long time the Greens have called for a similar inquiry to be undertaken into SAPOL.

Then we see footage like this, of an Aboriginal man, who was not even the person the police were there to talk to, being shoved into a wall and dragged, seemingly unconscious and suffering from a broken rib and a fractured skull, and having no charges against him laid other than two of the trifecta, which we know often are what Aboriginal people are charged with: hinder and assault police. Certainly, that was not on the footage, and if that footage does exist from the body cam operations I certainly look forward to SAPOL releasing it. But what I look forward to more is SAPOL taking a closer look at itself and whether or not it has racism in its ranks.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES SECTOR

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:35): I cannot recall a time when so many primary industries were facing such diverse challenges. These are not just the usual hurdles faced by those who work on the land; it is the continuous assault on farms and farming practices by the woke elite activists who are so far removed from the reality on the ground, and it is also the added burden of soaring input costs and excessive regulation coupled with poor government decision-making that is bringing farming communities to their knees.

There is currently a troubling trend where special interest groups are having more influence over policy than scientific evidence. I support everyone's right to a civic voice, but when animal liberation groups have more influence than the livestock industry's scientific evidence, resulting in the live sheep export trade being shut down, there are serious concerns. The live sheep industry has made substantial progress in animal welfare, and this outcome sets a worrying precedent where emotion can override logic and evidence.

We have also seen a crisis with this current Labor government's handling of the tomato brown rugose fruit virus. It is clear that we as a state were caught with our pants down and ill-prepared when it came to this virus, and we should not have been. The virus is endemic in so many countries around the globe, yet we were caught napping and had no local testing capacity. Despite a promise made by the Labor government of a 10-day testing turnaround time, I have had tomato growers calling my office who have been waiting three weeks or more without answers.

It is my view that part of the role of government should be to continuously review invasive species and diseases around the globe, review the science and review government and industry's preparedness and response to potential outbreaks and incursions. That, clearly, is lacking, and we now have growers who are looking to pull out entire crops that cannot go to a market because of the Labor government's lack of urgency on this issue.

Farmers need confidence that they will not be burdened by escalating red and green tape. Recently I have spoken out about the need to exempt farmers from onerous carbon reporting requirements. Many farmers have been balancing their carbon footprints through various practices for decades. Adding more reporting requirements only creates additional burdens and threatens their ability to produce food and fibre, which is critical for this state. While some farmers may choose to report emissions for market access or product premiums, mandating reporting that goes beyond what is required in other countries creates an uneven playing field for our producers.

It is also clear that many people in this state do not fully appreciate the scale of the current drought and what is at stake. In certain regions farmers are struggling to feed their stock, with many already destocking. This is not just about the current season; it is about the long-term impact. All of this comes at a time when the cost of doing business is exceptionally high. Energy, compliance, labour, fuel and input costs are all rising. These challenges could be alleviated through changes in policy, perhaps reducing red tape or lowering input costs. I note the government's announcement yesterday of their drought package, which we welcome but stress that more must be forthcoming given the exceptional circumstances our farming communities are facing.

But this is not just a farming issue; it affects whole communities. Local businesses, from grocers to mechanics, are feeling the impact. When less money circulates in small towns everyone feels it. If food and grain production decline, prices will rise, which will be felt at suburban shopping checkouts, especially in the current cost-of-living crisis.

Despite these challenges, though, there are inspiring stories of support within farming communities: farmers helping each other and communities supporting farmers right across the nation. Last week, the Rapid Relief Team delivered over 180 farmers one-tonne bulker bags of livestock pellets at Mannum. Just last month, Aussie Hay Runners and Need for Feed also provided multiple hay drops here in South Australia. These donations show the incredible spirit of collaboration and of generosity. There are also stories of innovation, collaboration and success, and it is these stories that we must acknowledge, we must appreciate and we must celebrate.

South Australian producers are some of the cleverest, most inventive, dedicated people I know, who just get the job done. So I say to them: celebrate your hard work, and celebrate the fact

that you provide the rest of us and the world with world-class food and fibre, which you should be tremendously proud of. We the opposition celebrate you and all that you do for South Australians and the South Australian economy. From my family to yours, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year. I look forward to continuing with you all in the year ahead.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:40): A few weeks ago, I had the great pleasure of attending one of our state's premier annual sporting events, the 2024 African Nations Cup. For those who might not know, the African Nations Cup is a multicultural football tournament that has been running for over a decade. The tournament brings together teams from South Australia's African community to compete over three weekends of some pretty exciting football.

With 22 men's teams and six women's teams representing the wide diversity of our South Australian African community, the competition aims to develop and, I think, inspire the next generation of football stars while fostering a sense of belonging, unity and social cohesion amongst the players and, I hope, the wider community. This year's tournament had teams from Burundi, Cameroon, Congo-Kinshasa, Congo-Brazzaville, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, the mighty Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, South Africa and Uganda.

Organised by the African Communities Council of South Australia for the first time in a number of years, the tournament faced a few challenges prior to kick-off, but thanks to the dedication and sacrifice of many volunteers and community leaders, the tournament was able to return to its roots as a community-run festival of football, bringing back the vibrant community food stalls and cultural exhibitions.

I had the pleasure of watching the men's grand final between South Sudan and Burundi. I have to say, the exceptionally high level of competition and skills that I witnessed from both teams was incredible. The game finished in a victory for Burundi. I am rightly informed this was a vindication for the Burundian team, one of the most consistent and dominant teams the competition has seen in its over a decade of performance.

With several years of finishing second, the team's resilience and discipline showed in the final. Led by their captain, Aladin Irabona, and top goal scorer, Gildas, the team had an unbeaten run through the tournament, culminating with a victory in the final. Although I did not witness the women's grand final between Liberia and South Sudan, I could see from the celebrations during the trophy presentation that the victory meant a lot to the Liberian women's team, who had prevailed in a 1-nil victory over South Sudan.

All of this would not have been possible without the generous support of sponsors such as Simba Car Hire, who I had the great pleasure of meeting also last week, and also the Australian Migrant Resource Centre, Torrens University and many of the individual team sponsors.

I want to take a quick opportunity to acknowledge some of the key volunteers who contributed to make this year's tournament such a success. Obviously, there were the magnificent Mr Denis Yengi, Chairperson of the African Communities Council of South Australia, and the tournament director, Arsene Iribuka. There were Albert Barrie, Rose Mangiroza, Su Mapholisa, Abidemi Akinloye, Richmond Kgatle, Mohammed Keita, Deng, Hosea Kiprono, Tom Nyiha, Stephen Tongan, Dr Chi and Dr Sumbo, Patrick Moyima, Melissa Nininahazwe, Marcus Jallah, Derek Chapman, Rumbi Gaura, Rocky Morris, Siegfried Mends and Adrian Griffin.

I also want to acknowledge my colleagues in the other place who attended, the Hon. Zoe Bettison, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, and also Mr John Fulbrook, member for Playford, for their support of the tournament. I very much look forward to this tournament continuing on next year. I know with the magnificent support of the sponsors that are in place—and I hope will continue to be in place for the tournament going forward—we will see it again, because I have to say the action was pretty magnificent. There is a lot to look forward to in football in African communities in South Australia.

The goodwill generated on the pitch really runs juxtaposed to what we often see, very sadly, in much of the media covering our African communities in South Australia. I really hope to see more

of these types of events in our media and on the front page of our papers, instead of often what we do tend to see. I look forward to hosting the champion teams, and indeed the volunteers, at parliament in the new year and supporting next year's tournament myself.

CONSTRUCTION, FORESTRY AND MARITIME EMPLOYEES UNION

The Hon. B.R. HOOD (15:45): The opposition and industry have repeatedly warned the government about the consequences of the Victorian CFMEU taking over the South Australian branch of the union. You would not have to be a rocket scientist to see that John Setka's hostile takeover would end badly, but nevertheless our warnings have fallen on deaf ears. Thuggish and threatening behaviour quickly became entrenched as they immediately sought to replicate the toxic Victorian model. Worse still, their anti-South Australian approach saw more and more work going to Victorian businesses at the expense of locals, as money flowed to the Victorian CFMEU office in Melbourne.

For the last two years, the South Australian CFMEU has been run out of Melbourne. Does anyone seriously think that John Setka and the Victorians came here because they care about the state? Are they here to pillage, like the conquistadors of old? Just this week, it was revealed that the John Setka takeover has been investigated by the administrator, Mark Irving KC. Union spending, kickbacks and underworld links are all being examined.

Former SA head, Marcus Pare, allegedly received benefits in return for enterprise agreements, had links to organised crime and granted himself pay rises. Is anyone surprised that a man hand-picked by John Setka is being investigated for pretty much running the exact same playbook as Victoria?

Incredibly, the South Australian CFMEU had run a small surplus prior to Setka's takeover, but has now accumulated an astonishing \$1.6 million in losses by 2024. Even if Mr Pare's spending is found to be illegitimate or out of control, clearly those Incolink rivers of gold that the Victorian CFMEU enjoys have not been shared to anywhere near the same degree in South Australia, if at all, despite the Victorian CFMEU's attempts to force local South Australian employers to pay into the fund.

Incolink is an infamous organisation, severely lacking in transparency but widely seen as a Trojan Horse to funnel money to third parties that until recently had Mr Setka on the board, and gives the Victorian CFMEU tens of millions of dollars each year. We have to ask the question: has the local CFMEU been played for fools by the Victorians?

This toxic Victorian agenda continues even in administration. Today's *Advertiser* features a local construction boss highlighting that the Victorian CFMEU continues to pressure local builders to use Victorian subcontractors. Recently, the opposition spoke to a group of local SA employers who highlighted this trend on major government jobs, including the new Women's and Children's Hospital.

Acting CFMEU head, Travis Hera-Singh, in *The Advertiser* today did not deny this had occurred, simply saying that the era of Victorian or interstate companies coming in and taking precedence over South Australian companies employing South Australian members is over—but is it? Local construction businesses tell me otherwise.

Rather than trying to pick off South Australian employers one by one and get them to pay into Incolink, just bring in Victorian businesses who already do. It is quite a simple equation for the Victorian CFMEU. The more businesses that pay into Incolink and the higher the rate, the more money that ends up back in Victorian CFMEU coffers.

One Victorian business that this group of employers told me is being pushed hard by the Victorian CFMEU is Vamp Cranes. Nick McKenzie's Building Bad exposé, which ultimately forced the Albanese government to put the CFMEU into administration, notes:

New crane company Vamp has also secured lucrative contracts on CFMEU-controlled sites. Vamp Crane's shareholding records reveal that until earlier this year one of Vamp's owners was a business entity named in police intelligence as having deep suspected links to Middle Eastern organised crime and drug trafficking, and was recently targeted by fire bombings.

This is the kind of organisation that the Victorian CFMEU, even in administration, has rolled out the red carpet for in South Australia. The Victorian construction industry is a basket case, plagued by corruption, organised crime and high insolvencies, including the largest residential builder in the state. Victoria is broke. The money is drying up, so the CFMEU want to come into South Australia and replicate an approach that has hugely benefited that union but has been a disaster for everyday people and industry.

COST OF LIVING

The Hon. S.L. GAME (15:49): We know we are in a cost-of-living crisis in our state, a crisis where families are struggling to pay their electricity bills, mortgages, petrol and rent; in short, the basic essentials. What is more alarming is families in South Australia with pregnant mothers who are going without food and vital supplements during their pregnancies.

An Australian survey conducted this year of 1,500 pregnant women by Professor Danielle Gallegos, School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences in Queensland University and Technology, found that more than one in 10 pregnant women were regularly going hungry during their pregnancy, but were not accessing food services such as Foodbank for fear that any of the children they do have could be removed from their homes by the government department under the auspices of neglect if they deem this to be occurring.

And because these pregnant women are not eating properly, as Professor Gallegos highlighted, it led them to be severely lacking in the nutritional levels necessary for healthy outcomes for their babies. Furthermore, this was not isolated to single pregnant women or women of lower socio-economic status but also affected families with two incomes. This is very concerning, yet it can be easily rectified.

South Australian hospitals and clinics need to be providing pregnant women with the knowledge of how important eating nutritional foods and taking supplements is for themselves and their unborn babies. Folate (or folic acid) is a vitamin that helps build the baby's cells and reduces the risk of certain birth defects such as spina bifida. It is found in a variety of foods, such as green leafy vegetables, fruit, wholegrain breads and cereals, fortified breakfast cereals, legumes and nuts. It can be difficult to get enough folate, so having a supplement of folate before planning a pregnancy and during the first three months of pregnancy is needed.

Iodine is another nutrient that is important for the baby's brain development. It is vitally important that the pregnant mother gets adequate iodine in her diet, either by eating fish at least three times a week, along with using iodised salt or taking a multivitamin supplement for pregnancy.

Iron is a nutrient which makes red blood cells that carry oxygen around the body. During pregnancy, a woman needs more iron because the volume of her blood increases, and the baby's blood is also developing. Iron is in meat, chicken, fish, legumes or nuts, wholegrain breads, cereals, and green leafy vegetables. Having foods high in vitamin C in conjunction with these foods helps to boost the iron absorption.

Calcium helps form healthy bones. The richest source of calcium is found in dairy foods. Vitamin D is mostly made in the skin by the action of sunlight, but a small amount can come from foods like oily fish, egg yolks, margarine and some brands of milk. Vitamin D is important for the development of the baby's bones and teeth. Low levels can cause muscle weakness and pain in women, and skeletal problems (called rickets) in their babies. Many pregnant women need vitamin D supplements to build up their levels during pregnancy.

What I am getting at with all of this is that our state provides tens of millions of dollars towards health care each year, yet it is failing to help pregnant women with eating healthy and being able to obtain vital vitamin supplements. We need to ensure that pregnant mothers and their unborn children are healthy during pregnancy, and for years to come.

It is a known fact that pregnant mothers who do not receive adequate and nutritional food in pregnancy are more than likely to have children with lower birth weights, leading to poor outcomes, and can even be linked to chronic disease in later life. There are programs in the United States and United Kingdom that provide pregnant women with nutritional foods and supplements during pregnancy, and these mothers and their unborn and born children are having less health problems.

Therefore, early intervention at minimal expense will alleviate more blowout costs to an already under stress health system.

We want the future generation of South Australian children to be healthy and happy. This can be achieved by providing nutritious food and supplements to every pregnant mother when she attends her antenatal appointments in our South Australian hospitals or clinics. This will help to give each unborn child the best start in life. Surely, the members of this house would agree with me on this.

I will be introducing a bill early next year into this place that will bring in much-needed reform in this area, a reform that cherishes the lives of pregnant mothers and their unborn children, and a reform that acknowledges the science that nutritious foods and supplements play a big role in keeping pregnant mothers and their children healthy.

DECRIMINALISATION OF HOMOSEXUALITY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (15:54): Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexual acts in South Australia. The last time I spoke on this matter, I mentioned some of the ugly language that was used to dehumanise homosexuals in the debates in this house and the other place about 50 years ago. Scanning through the *Hansard* from 1972 to 1975, one reads that gay men were sick, corrupted or corrupting, perverted and sought to 'spread' their homosexuality. The Hon. Boyd Dawkins MLC stated:

The Bill will make it easier for people to carry on with their homosexual practices [well, hear, hear to that!] and it will make it immeasurably harder, if not impossible, to stem the tide and to keep a check on the spread of such practices in the community.

The Hon. Keith Russack MP stated:

I cannot accept that homosexual acts are anything but unnatural; they are not physically and mentally correct.

The Hon. Thomas Casey MLC stated:

Removal of legal sanctions would make it easier for homosexuals to attract, persuade, dare or use some other means to cause other people to adopt their way of life. It is an unfortunate fact of life that it is the weak and the immature who fall easy prey to the unscrupulous.

The Hon. Leslie Hart MLC stated:

The primary purpose of the imposition of criminal sanctions against homosexual acts is to enforce the wish of society that these practices be curbed, and, in particular, to protect minors from any ill effects which might stem from the existence of homosexuality within the community.

The Hon. Peter Duncan MP stated:

The first thing to which I want to refer is the question of homosexuals who are living together adopting children. I find that quite abhorrent and I oppose it strongly.

These comments frame the debate that ultimately led to decriminalisation. While we can celebrate the victory—and I do and I am grateful for it—we must also recognise how mired in bigotry that success was. You would think after 50 years of decriminalisation, society has moved on past those sentiments, and in many ways it has. Who would have thought a few short years ago, almost two-thirds of Australians would have voted in support of gay marriage?

But on a sadder note, a week ago or just over a week ago, what should have been a happy and joyous occasion where Sam Kerr, captain of the Matildas—I think they are some sort of sporting outfit—and her partner, Kristie Mewis, recently announced they were expecting a child together and that announcement was sullied with comments from online trolls: 'She isn't actually having the baby, nor is she the father', 'Just find the man who got you pregnant and marry him?', 'One of them went out and played up and came home knocked up.' Little wonder after that social media contribution, that the couple, Sam and Kristie, decided to turn off social media comments.

Ugly language encourages ugly actions. In fact, I think it is actually designed to do just that. On 10 November, a gay couple walking down Rundle Mall was attacked by three men—10 November this year. The attackers unleashed a barrage of homophobic abuse before repeatedly punching both men, twice breaking the jaw of one of the men and bruising the face and legs of the other, whilst

onlookers did nothing, no intervention, although some of them, I think, recorded it on their iPhones. As reported in *The Advertiser*, the couple said:

This is horrible and the pain is 10/10...I'm afraid to go down the street because someone will hit me again.

So are these the terrifying homosexual acts that past parliamentarians warned us about 50 years ago: having a baby with the one you love, walking down the street holding the hand of the man you love? This is where we find ourselves 50 years on from that great legislative progress that our antecedents did in this place, while at the same time anti-gay commentary proliferates in social media and in our social discourse. These are the effects of that: online hate and more bashings.

The job for those of us who champion personal and human rights in this place is not yet done. Let's commemorate the 50th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexual sex joyfully and gratefully. I know the Hon. Robert Simms will be and I know that I will be, but let's not pretend that we have arrived at the journey's end. We still have work to do as legislators and as a community. For every generation of young people to come who will embark on the same journey of self-discovery that we ourselves went through, working out who they are and who they love, we owe it to them to try to make the experience a little bit easier, a lot more joyous and a whole lot more safe.

Parliamentary Committees

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE RETURN TO WORK SA SCHEME

The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:59): I move:

That the report of the select committee be noted.

I speak today to reflect on the work of the Select Committee on the Return to Work SA Scheme, which was first proposed in this place on 6 July 2022. At the outset, and before I forget, can I extend my thanks to the members of that committee—the Hon. Ms Bourke, the Hon. Ms Centofanti, the Hon. Ms Girolamo, the Hon. Ms El Dannawi and, previously, the Hon. Ms Pnevmatikos and the Hon. Mr Ben Hood—and also to the secretariat and staff who assisted us along the way. It has been quite a process, so I extend my thanks also to Ms Guy and Dr Robinson.

The establishment of that committee, as we know, followed years of debate and mounting evidence of the scheme's inadequacies, compounded by a history of unimplemented recommendations from a 2018 legislative review. Of course, it was also the result of some quite worrying pieces of legislation and the nature in which they were introduced into this place by the government.

I do not need to remind honourable members about that first piece of legislation that was sprung upon all of us and the impacts that that had. I am grateful that we were able to claw back some of the initial measures after what was immense political pressure, and indeed public pressure and union pressure, on the government to claw back some of those provisions. Of course, since then, we have seen another I think two pieces of legislation come in, all of which were aimed at softening the blow of that first piece of legislation and were based on undertakings, particularly undertakings given by the Attorney in this place.

The current Return to Work scheme, stemming from the 2014 Rau reforms, was touted as a solution to longstanding issues within WorkCover. We know, despite the overhaul, that the promise of a functional and fair system remains far from fulfilled. Instead, we have been left with a scheme plagued by cracks that have widened over time. The failures have a direct and devastating impact on the lives of injured workers, who are ordinary people who sought only to do their jobs and now find themselves navigating a complex system through no fault of their own.

Of course, this is not just a technical issue. It is a human issue because behind every case is a person—a parent, a child, a sibling, a friend—whose life has been irreparably altered by injury and compounded by a scheme that too often appears indifferent to their plight. It is particularly unacceptable that we have ignored repeated warnings from legal professionals and other stakeholders about the real-world consequences of decisions made in this place.

I will speak to the recommendations in a moment, but, as I said, I will also acknowledge all the individuals in those sectors, in the legal profession and also the stakeholders, who put a lot of work not only into assisting us make what was a terrible piece of legislation slightly more palatable

but also, in terms of the evidence they provided to this committee, had the hope that when the government does actually get to the next review it will be a genuine one and there will be no more kneejerk reactions—as there were in 2021 when we debated the issue of the Summerfield case—and that there will be some genuine reform to address this issue.

I do not know how hard it would have been for members on this side of the bench, on the Labor benches, to swallow the bill that was introduced at that time. It was certainly a bitter pill for the Labor Party movement, for its rank and file and for the union movement. I think the crossbench in this place did what they always do in terms of trying to stand up and, as far as we can, remedy what was a terrible set of reforms that were nothing short of a kneejerk reaction to a precedent that had been set and had absolutely zero regard for the lives impacted as a result.

The committee received 29 submissions and convened on 14 occasions to hear evidence from a wide range of stakeholders, as I said, including legal experts practising in the field—the Law Society of South Australia, all of the unions, from memory, the AMA, business groups, the LGA, the HIA, the AHA, the list goes on—and of course individuals who have experienced the scheme firsthand.

We heard from ReturnToWorkSA several times, the Crown and self-insurers, providing a comprehensive view of the scheme's operations and impacts. As the scheme has matured, its flaws have become increasingly evident, leaving some of our most vulnerable injured workers caught in its web. I think the most important message we received during that committee process was that, if we keep responding to those 2014 changes the way we have been responding since then, the system will continue to be broken and it will never, ever be able to meet its objective of returning injured workers to work, let alone ensure they are looked after where they are injured to the extent that they cannot return to work as a result of a work place injury. It is not a big ask.

You cannot convince me that there are not things we can do that strike a balance between business on one hand and the rights of injured workers on the other. I may have surprised my colleagues on this committee a little in terms of how we went about reporting on this issue but also with the recommendations themselves. After the Summerfield legislation, and the consequent legislation, the worst thing we could have done as a committee, knowing that there are plans for a root-and-branch review post election, was to come back with other recommendations that we urge the government to implement in the meantime when the scheme has not really had the opportunity to adjust to those changes that have happened since. They need to settle down, effectively.

All the advice I had was in line with that, that we need to acknowledge that there are things that, if we do now, will probably make a complicated and broken system a bit more complicated and broken, and we really cannot run the risk of implementing such significant changes as we did in 2021 and 2022 without understanding the full impacts they will have. We still do not know what the impacts of the changes made in 2021 and 2022 and this year will be.

I agree that the appropriate thing is to allow them to settle so that everybody knows the lay of the land and proceed to a root-and-branch review of the system. That is what the former Attorney-General John Rau thought he did in 2014. Clearly, that has been an abysmal failure for injured workers. It has not worked well for employers either, so depending on who is in the hot seat after the election—and I will take a guess and say that this government is already committed in terms of this review—it is important that we hold them to what they have committed.

The way the recommendations in this report—and I will not address them all, members are welcome to read through this report and make sense of it for themselves—have been drafted is such that there are a bunch of things we can do now, all of which were examined in evidence, and came via witnesses and ReturnToWorkSA itself, and are effectively administrative. They do not need legislation, but they could go a long way towards addressing small imperfections in the scheme that currently exist.

The recommendations in relation to those things are things that the committee would like to see actioned now. The remainder of the recommendations that do form part of the root-and-branch review, if you like, are more than food for thought for the Attorney, the government and ReturnToWork in terms of the aspects of the legislation that simply are not working or are not working well enough.

The approach of the committee has been to deal with those administrative issues or those issues that can be dealt with straightaway, and its hope is—and I will certainly be keeping tabs on this—that ReturnToWork will go away and do that, and that thought will be given to the role and the interplay between ReturnToWork and SafeWork SA, because that is also a critical factor in all this.

But we do not have to wait to get to the 2026 election and then think about what we are going to be doing for that root-and-branch review. It has all been set out for you very neatly, based on the most experienced minds in this jurisdiction—that is not us, by the way; that is the people who gave evidence—in terms of what the reforms ought look like.

My request and urgent plea on behalf of the committee to the government, ReturnToWork and indeed to SafeWork is: take those recommendations and start your investigations now—knowing what you know about the history of the scheme up until this point, knowing what you know about the reforms that we have had up until this point, and knowing what you know about what needs to be addressed going forward—so that when we get to that point in 2026 the groundwork can already be done. I think it is fair to say that that is the approach that the committee is hoping the government and ReturnToWork will take.

They are not radical recommendations; they are reasonable, sensible, middle-of-the-ground recommendations that we had unanimous support on in the committee process. Both major parties and I signed off on these recommendations because they are more than reasonable and rational and sensible in terms of addressing the issues that have been raised by all of the witnesses and the agencies and so forth who appeared before the committee.

I do not intend to speak to the report any longer than that. The only other person who I would like to thank on the public record, as I did when we moved some of those pieces of legislation earlier, is a barrister in South Australia, Ms Theodore. She does not need to do what she does in terms of the advocacy that she provides—on both sides of the fence, I might add—but she does it because she believes in a fairer and just return to work system, is extraordinarily knowledgeable in this area and has served all of us well in terms of assisting all of us in our work, both during the debates we have had in this place as a parliament and subsequent deliberations that we have had. I think at one point or another we have all relied on experience like that, and I am very grateful to her in particular for the level of expertise she has been able to offer this place since the commencement of this review back in 2022.

With those words, I commend the report to the chamber and look forward to ReturnToWork and the government getting cracking on fulfilling some of the things that I have outlined today, and getting their skates on in terms of that review which is due to take place post 2026.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON GROCERY PRICING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (16:14): I move:

That the report of the select committee be noted.

I want to make a few brief comments about the report, but before I do so I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who was involved with this committee, in particular the members of the committee: the Hon. Jing Lee, the Hon. Ben Hood, the Hon. Reggie Martin, the Hon. Mira El Dannawi, and of course Ms Leslie Guy and Dr Margaret Robinson for all of the support they provided as well.

I think it is fair to say that this committee was timely in that there is significant concern in the South Australian community around food prices and the impact that high food prices are having. I think it is fair to say also that the prevailing view of the committee was that the federal government is looking at some of these issues and so we wanted to really focus our attention on what we could recommend for the state government to do within our jurisdiction.

I feel very proud of the recommendations that have been agreed upon by the committee because I think they are very sensible and they are tangible. I will not talk through all of them but there are a few that I think are worth highlighting in particular. Some of the recommendations relate to the need to improve competition in food retailers in South Australia. There was some evidence the

committee received from the Woolworths group in particular that higher food prices in South Australia were actually being driven by the preponderance of independent food retailers in our state.

The committee did not accept that assertion; rather, we thought that actually a lack of competition is one of the big factors that is driving up food prices in South Australia, and we came up with a range of recommendations that would potentially address that. One of the big issues that came to light through the committee was the impact of planning laws on grocery prices. For instance, it is becoming commonplace in some regional communities for big food retailers to buy up greenfield sites and to then put smaller retailers out of business.

One of the recommendations in the report is for the Minister for Planning to investigate potential amendments to state planning laws to prevent rezoning of greenfield sites to retail in instances where this would have a negative impact on existing businesses. We also made a recommendation for the Minister for Planning to investigate opportunities to prioritise green space in new developments, to encourage community gardens and therefore access to fresh fruit and vegetables, and also for the government to look at what it could do to crack down on the practice of land banking by major food retailers, another big issue that is contributing to lack of competition in the market.

There are some recommendations in here, too, around the state government using its procurement guidelines to prioritise smaller food retailers where it has the opportunity to do so. In addition to anti-competition, another key factor that was flagged by the committee, in terms of contributing to high food prices, was the stringent nature of food packaging standards and the aesthetic standards that are applied to fruit and vegetables and the like.

I will say that one of the things I found really fascinating about being on this inquiry was learning more about the packaging requirements that are placed on our foods. I had no idea, for instance, that Australia imposes such significant and stringent requirements on the packaging of potatoes and the display of potatoes, and the impact that might have on pricing.

For instance, in Australia we put potatoes out for sale on an individual basis, whereas in Europe they are sold in a pre-packaged bag. That, of course, has an impact on pricing locally because it means that more potatoes have to be potentially discarded if they are no longer looking aesthetic. So one of the recommendations of the committee is that the state government review packaging standards and cosmetic specifications to ensure that these factors are not contributing to unnecessary food waste.

The other proposal is that the parliament legislate to increase the social responsibility of big supermarkets, including mandating their donation of damaged food, to ensure that supermarkets are responsible for the waste they produce. I think it was concerning to hear evidence at the inquiry that some of the big food retailers are discarding food that is not aesthetic, and we are in the middle of a food crisis.

There was an example provided, for instance, of big bananas being unappealing to some consumers. That struck me as a curious proposition—I know lots of people who would disagree with that—because something like a banana could be turned into banana bread or a range of other practices. So, again, let's look at some of these factors that might be contributing to high prices, and that is what the committee has advocated.

We have also suggested there is a role for the federal government to play here, in particular looking at things like increasing migration to South Australia to provide more workers to the farming sector; looking, of course, at things like increasing income support for South Australians who are struggling; and looking at national initiatives to improve transparency.

We also make some recommendations regarding cost-of-living relief. I think the committee recognised the really valuable work of Foodbank and other organisations that provide support, but we also noted that it is not the role of these organisations to plug all of the gaps. What is needed is broader structural reform.

We have made some recommendations for things the government could do to provide more short-term relief, in particular things like expanding access to free school breakfasts and lunches and looking at ensuring that Foodbank is appropriately serviced by public transport, particularly in

regional areas, and also, of course, potential legislative action on things like grocery prices, rent, energy and transport, recognising that people who are paying more money for groceries are also paying more money for rent, electricity and so on.

That is a snapshot of some of the key recommendations. All of the recommendations bar one were supported by the full committee and across party lines. I think that speaks to the fact that they are sensible recommendations. Certainly from my perspective, there is always scope to go a little bit further, but I think where we have landed is good and provides a potential road map for the government, if they wish to take it up.

I hope the government will take the time to look over this report over the Christmas break. It is a time of year when lots of South Australians will be focused on food prices and the cost of living more generally, and I hope the government can come back in the new year, having looked at this report, and commit itself to take action on some of the very sensible recommendations.

Just before concluding, I should thank all those organisations and individuals that participated in the inquiry. We engaged with all of the key stakeholders, including business. We heard from Foodland, Aldi, AUSVEG, Woolworths and Coles, and we also heard from a lot of the organisations that assist vulnerable South Australians, organisations like Foodbank, SACOSS and SA Unions. We also had an opportunity to undertake a regional trip to meet with primary producers and other key stakeholders. I should also thank the Hon. Ben Hood for his assistance in coordinating that trip to Mount Gambier. With that, I conclude my remarks.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON WATER SUPPLY NEEDS OF EYRE PENINSULA

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:24): I move:

That the report of the select committee be noted.

I rise to speak to the report of the Select Committee on Water Supply Needs of Eyre Peninsula, tabled in this place yesterday together with the minutes of proceedings and evidence. Before I do, I want to place on the record that, as Chair of this select committee, I did find the timing of yesterday's announcement by the government of SCAP and subsequent cabinet approval for Billy Lights Point as the site of the desalination plant quite remarkable and incredibly disappointing.

Why the government could not wait another 12 hours to see the select committee's report, which was tabled in the parliament yesterday afternoon, and consider its recommendations is something that is beyond me. Our committees have a very important role in our parliamentary system, so I think it is incumbent on this government to acknowledge that. The fact they went out announcing the approval yesterday morning when they knew that this report was being tabled is incredibly disappointing and somewhat arrogant.

Nevertheless, the government's announcement does not detract from the diligent work of the committee over the last few months. This committee was established via a motion in this place in February this year after significant concerns were raised with members in this place over the current government's decision to place much-needed desalination plant infrastructure, which was identified back in 2008 as being crucial to water independence and security on Eyre Peninsula, at Billy Lights Point.

The committee met in Adelaide on six occasions to hear evidence from 32 witnesses. The committee also travelled to Port Lincoln in May of this year and heard from a further 23 witnesses. The committee was cognisant of the need for timeliness with this process, and I thank the committee members and staff for their hard work in what was a fairly intensive period of hearings as well as travel.

It is no secret that Eyre Peninsula is facing a critical water supply crisis. This is due to over-reliance on existing groundwater resources, which are under severe stress. The Uley South Basin, the primary source of potable water, provides 68 per cent of the region's supply; however, extraction over decades has pushed the basin to unsustainable levels, raising concerns about salinity and the ingress of seawater.

As stated, it was back in 2008 that SA Water proposed a desalination plant as a climate-independent water source. This report examines the delay around the construction of that desalination plant and now the controversy surrounding the selected site of Billy Lights Point as well as providing a broader examination of water security on Eyre Peninsula. Eyre Peninsula's water supply issues have been recognised for decades across successive governments. Historical reliance on aquifers and reservoirs has led to depletion and salinity issues.

The committee heard evidence that climate conditions and the unpredictability of rainfall are adding stress to the basin. Critically, the committee heard evidence that the region's water distribution infrastructure is ageing or non-existent, further limiting capacity. These challenges have spurred calls for a reliable long-term solution to secure water for domestic, agricultural and industrial needs. Desalination has been the preferred and practical option, offering resilience to climatic variations whilst not impacting current water sources; however, the implementation of this solution has faced significant hurdles, particularly regarding the proposed site.

The South Australian government announced plans in March 2023 to construct a desalination plant capable of producing 5.3 gigalitres of potable water annually, with an estimated cost of what was then \$313 million but figures are currently being estimated at \$350 million. The plant is expected to meet the peninsula's current water demands, addressing risks of overextraction and groundwater depletion. The proposed location at Billy Lights Point has sparked widespread opposition and, as previously mentioned, this is largely what spurred the formation of this select committee.

No-one on the committee was debating the need for a solution. The terms of reference were not to dispute that point. Rather, it was to respond to calls from community, from industry, from cultural groups, from local government and from scientists to independently investigate the best solution from all the evidence available.

SA Water prioritised Billy Lights Point for the desalination plant, citing its proximity to existing infrastructure and cost efficiency. The location also, on paper, allowed for timely delivery of the plant by mid 2026, crucial for avoiding water shortages when groundwater allocations are reducing. However, the committee heard that this decision has been met with resistance and opposition from several stakeholders, including local government, environmental groups, aquaculture operators and traditional owners.

Whilst this opposition exists, the committee heard evidence that there remains the real risk of delay through potential future legal proceedings. Whether those proceedings eventuate or not is not a matter for the committee, except to note that such proceedings may impact on the delivery of the plant to the community in the required timeframe, and this should be considered in any future or current decision-making.

Throughout the committee process, I think it is fair to say that there were differing views in regard to the science and modelling used by SA Water to determine the suitability of Billy Lights Point as the selected site, particularly around the potential effects on the environment and the potential impact of brine and chemical by-products on marine life.

I would like to share some of those concerns that were ventilated through oral and written submissions within the committee process regarding the desalination site at Billy Lights Point. Boston and Proper bays, which are adjacent to Billy Lights Point, are, according to evidence received, characterised by poor water circulation, limiting their capacity to disperse the brine and chemical by-products of desalination.

In our report, numerous experts warn that these highly saline discharges could harm marine ecosystems, particularly benthic organisms and semi-sessile species; disrupt the spawning and growth of aquatic life, including King George whiting and blue swimmer crabs; and also jeopardise aquaculture operations, with the entrainment of mussel larvae identified as a critical concern.

The bay's ecological fragility is further compounded by the presence of dormant dinoflagellate cysts in the sediment. Construction and operational activities risk, according to evidence, activating these toxins, potentially causing paralytic shellfish poisoning. According to a

number of witnesses, such disruptions threaten not only marine biodiversity but also the region's reputation as a premium seafood supplier.

Aquaculture and seafood industries on Eyre Peninsula contribute over \$400 million annually to the South Australian economy. The committee heard from witnesses that the proposed desalination plant at Billy Lights Point is, from their investigations, scientific studies and understanding, a direct threat to these industries, with direct impacts on mussel farming, which relies on natural spat settlement in clean waters, and also more broadly on the peninsula's 'clean and green' branding, which we all know is critical for maintaining market competitiveness in both domestic and international markets. Multiple representatives from the aquaculture sector emphasised to the committee that even the perception of environmental degradation will harm their industry.

Another key concern was raised by the Barngarla people. The Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation, as traditional owners of the region, have expressed strong opposition to the proposed site. Billy Lights Point holds significant cultural heritage, including ancient fish traps that are interconnected with the local marine ecosystem. The committee heard evidence that for the Barngarla people any harm to marine life could diminish the function and spiritual value of these heritage sites. During evidence, the corporation's legal representatives criticised SA Water's engagement process, highlighting the lack of comprehensive heritage assessment and inadequate consultation.

The committee also considered the findings of the site selection committee, which was initiated by the previous Liberal government in response to community opposition to the site of Billy Lights Point. It was clear that the previous Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant Site Selection Committee—in its full name—was established to explore alternative sites, and they recommended Sleaford West as the most suitable location. This site was identified based on criteria including environmental impacts, social licence and feasibility; however, SA Water were quick to reject this recommendation, citing higher construction costs, and geological and planning regulation challenges.

The committee found that the site selection committee was effective in its purpose of examining a range of sites for a desalination plant on the southern Eyre Peninsula, and that the site selection committee engaged with stakeholders in the community in an effective and efficient manner. The committee also notes that SA Water did not adopt the site selection committee's recommendation for sites to locate a desalination plant, and the agency cited costs to its customer base as one of the key reasons not to adopt the site selection committee's recommendation of Sleaford West to locate the desalination plant.

The committee also heard evidence, and it was well ventilated publicly, that the Premier and his Labor ministers attended a country cabinet community forum on 9 May and announced, despite the development application for Billy Lights Point not having been through the State Commission Assessment Panel (SCAP), that Billy Lights Point, in the government's view, was the only site option for the desalination plant for Eyre Peninsula, citing risk to the community of running out of water with further delays.

The select committee has in its report urged the government to reconsider the site selection process, emphasising the need to prioritise community support and environmental sustainability over short-term cost savings. A recurring theme in the report is the lack of transparency and meaningful community consultation. The select committee made a finding that SA Water, and by virtue the government, had prioritised costs and deadlines over environmental, cultural and social considerations.

Stakeholders in their evidence emphasised the need for a participatory decision-making process to rebuild trust between the community and government authorities. The aquaculture industry, and the Barngarla people in particular, called for greater involvement in site assessment and decision-making processes.

The report has called for a comprehensive and integrated approach to water planning on Eyre Peninsula. Our key recommendations include that the current state government acknowledges that successive governments have been aware of the issues of water supply on Eyre Peninsula for decades, but that mismanagement of water supplies has led to the current crisis, and acknowledges

that there need to be definitive and informed decisions made to ensure the longevity of current supply sources and sustainable future long-term alternative water supplies.

The committee also recommended that the government acknowledge that social licence does not exist within the community for the proposed desalination plant at Billy Lights Point due to the significant community, cultural heritage, industry and environmental concerns regarding the location, and reconsiders an alternative location for the desalination plant that minimises impact and maximises regional support, as identified by the state government's site selection committee.

We also recommend that the government formally engages with the federal government's National Water Grid Authority to secure funding for delivery of long-term water supply for Eyre Peninsula, and that the government commits to a comprehensive independent audit of Eyre Peninsula's water distribution network to establish the current conditions of the pipes and related infrastructure across the region, and the network's capacity for change to support current and future distribution needs.

The committee also recommends that consideration be given to the scope of the Northern Water project, to include the design and costings for it to be connected to the wider Eyre Peninsula water supply network, and it recommends that the state government urgently commits to the investigation of alternative water supply projects, water efficiency measures, incentives and pricing structures on Eyre Peninsula to ensure a sustainable future long-term water supply for the region, noting particularly the potential for delays caused by the absence of social licence, the communications with the federal government, National Water Grid Authority, and the potential for legal challenges.

The committee heard about innovative and decentralised water supply options, such as offshore modular desalination plants and enhanced wastewater reuse. Stakeholders proposed several innovative approaches to ensure regional water security. Finally, the committee did recommend that the state Labor government table in parliament a response to this report, including the findings and recommendations, within four months of the tabling of this report.

The Hon. R.A. Simms: Good luck with that.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Given that they do not table questions on notice within the required timeframe of the sessional orders, I am certainly not holding my breath on this last one.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members. I thank the Hon. Tammy Franks, the Hon. Connie Bonaros, the Hon. Ben Hood, the Hon. Justin Hanson and the Hon. Russell Wortley. Can I also thank the support staff, secretary Leslie Guy and research officer Dr Merry Brown, for their hard work. Of course, I also thank all those who gave evidence to an extremely thorough investigation.

While the need for a climate-independent water source is undeniable, the proposed desalination plant at Billy Lights Point has revealed multiple significant shortcomings in both planning and stakeholder engagement. Environmental risks, economic implications for aquaculture and cultural heritage concerns underscore the necessity of re-evaluating the site selection process, as well as looking at other water supply projects, including water efficiency measures for Eyre Peninsula.

The select committee's recommendations provide a road map for addressing Eyre Peninsula's water challenges. By reconsidering the plant's location, rethinking solutions and improving community engagement, South Australia can secure a vital, sustainable water future for the region whilst preserving its environmental, economic and cultural assets.

Despite the government's rhetoric of full steam ahead, I do hope that the Premier and the minister take the time to read our select committee's report to seriously consider these recommendations and to reconsider their draconian approach to decision-making on Eyre Peninsula. With that, I commend the report to the chamber.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (16:42): I rise briefly to associate myself with the remarks of the Chair of this committee and to commend this report to the council and to the government. I echo her thanks to our researcher, Dr Merry Brown, and to our expert secretarial support, Ms Leslie Guy.

Indeed, the members of this committee worked quite collaboratively, quite constructively and very quickly, I believe, to produce this report. It is a pity that the government could not wait just a few hours more to see what this committee had to say, rather than make their announcement without waiting for that document this week.

We know that water supply on Eyre Peninsula has been an issue for a very long time. Indeed, in the evidence to the committee, we saw reflections of the Eyre Peninsula Water Summit of some 22 years ago, identifying the very same issues that we still see today, namely that:

- Eyre Peninsula has a serious water problem that needs early intervention;
- in the long term, the solution does not lie in further exploitation of their underground basins;
- lack of adequate water is and will continue to be a problem for business, for industry, for the environment, for the community and for developmental and environmental management; and
- large-scale desalination does seem to be something that does have not only social licence but less controversy, in this case, than it would otherwise.

I note that the findings of the committee were agreed to by all members of the committee; that is, Labor, the Liberals, the Greens and SA-Best. That is quite a feat in itself, but it probably echoed the majority of the community of Eyre Peninsula as well. Finding No. 10, in particular, is that the committee found that there is no social licence for SA Water to locate a desalination plant at Billy Lights Point—no social licence, for a number of reasons.

Certainly, the Greens were probably more convinced on certain parts of that and probably gave greater weight to certain parts of that than perhaps did the Liberals, SA-Best or even Labor. The case of the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation was, I think, evidence of a very poor consultation, very poor cooperation between SA Water and the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation. I found it quite concerning to be given one story from SA Water but to hear a very different story from the Barngarla people and their legal representatives.

I note that the SA Water board has, for the 2022-23 year, allocated an amount of \$330 million for the total project budget for this. That, of course, is an allocation that only in this case will suit Billy Lights Point, because it is the cheaper of the options when compared by SA Water to Sleaford West. Their real costs in documents they presented to us for Billy Lights Point were \$330 million (or nominal \$330 million), surprisingly coming in at the budget they had set for Billy Lights Point, but far more expensive for Sleaford West—\$489 million being the supposed real cost and \$511 million being the nominal cost. I note that they have written Sleaford West in that document, not Sleaford West, so there we go. I think that pretty much sums it up actually.

The Greens came into this inquiry with an open mind. We were happy to listen to the evidence, we certainly found it compelling that there were 40 submissions, dozens of witnesses and deep, deep distrust in the community of SA Water and increasingly of the government. Successive governments have let down the people of Eyre Peninsula on this matter. The environment, industrial and Aboriginal issues may be given whichever weight you like to give them in whichever matrix you wish to use, but the reality here is that SA Water has gone for a cheap option for them, with the threat of increased water prices for South Australia, with little reference to ESCOSA or their social licence to operate.

Not only did the Greens contend that Billy Lights Point does not have a social licence in this case, we question SA Water's role in this debacle. We think the government should have been asking them harder questions, pushing them harder, pushing back harder, and I hope the government reads this report. I would note that the potential court costs have not been factored into the SA Water budget, yet we knew by the end of the committee that SA Water knows there is a legal challenge ahead, and it is not just going to come from the Barngarla people.

I would not be surprised if we saw some form of green bans on Eyre Peninsula with regard to this very controversial proposal. They have chosen the cheapest option and not the option the community supported, which was well researched and recommended. This is incredibly

disappointing. We know time is of the essence, but really the choices here from SA Water have been constructed on very flimsy premises. With that, I commend the report.

The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:48): I rise to echo the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the Opposition and Chair and the Hon. Tammy Franks, and of course to express my disappointment, but I do not think surprise, at the announcement yesterday pre-empting that this report would be coming out today. It really is indicative of the way the government has treated this entire process from beginning to end. If ever there was an example of the country cousin who does not get any coverage in Adelaide and what we can get away with, this has to be it.

I note that the Leader of the Opposition talks about the importance of this committee system. It might be important to us, and it was certainly important to the people and individuals who presented to that committee and gave up their time not only to express their dissatisfaction with the ultimate choice but also to talk about so many more viable opportunities that they feel have just been ignored by successive governments and by SA Water for a very long time.

As the Hon. Tammy Franks said, this is not a new issue. We have known about this issue, successive governments have known about this issue and SA Water has certainly known about this issue on Eyre Peninsula for 22 years. If you went to Port Lincoln today and asked anyone if they are going to get a desal plant, they will laugh at you because they have been hearing about a desal plant for so many years that they just do not think it is actually going to happen—even today when they know, after the Premier's country whatever we call it, community cabinet, whatever it was, the community meeting—

The Hon. C.M. Scriven: Country cabinet.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: Country cabinet: a hall full of people who were told, 'This is the only option. You are getting a desal plant and you are getting it at Billy Lights Point,' despite the fact that there was no approval for that, pre-empting a process that had not been completed yet. I still do not think many of them believe it, because they have been sitting back, waiting and watching this debate play out while water security has become critically dangerous for some 22 years.

I, too, thank everybody who has taken part in this, in terms of acknowledging the work of my colleagues and also the secretariat, but pay special thanks to those locals from across Eyre Peninsula who tried desperately—and I think many of them would think in vain—to impress upon us the importance of water security for their region.

There is no question in my mind that, as the Hon. Tammy Franks has said, this is the easiest, cheapest and most efficient option in the face of communities being threatened with, 'You're not going to have any water when you turn on your taps,' with water security becoming critically at risk for those communities.

We have come to that decision with zero regard for the lack of social licence that forms part of the recommendations; with a lack of regard for the widespread opposition; with a lack of regard for the cultural significance of the Barngarla people and the concerns that they have raised as well; and with a lack of regard for the concerns raised by agriculture, aquaculture and seafood industries.

I remind honourable members that when we are talking about the seafood capital of Australia we all look at Port Lincoln. The inconsistencies and differing views in regard to the science and modelling that was used by SA Water were quite rightly very topical, because you cannot have your cake and eat it too. You cannot be pointing at Port Lincoln in one instance saying, 'Look at our regional towns and how amazing they are and what they contribute to our seafood industry, not only on an Australian level but on a global level,' and at the same time compromise the very being of that industry by proposing a desalination plant smack bang in the city centre where much of that production for some of those sectors of that industry occurs.

You cannot do that when you have the opposition and concerns that have been raised by the local Indigenous community. You cannot do that knowing that we are not just talking about Port Lincoln, either—we are talking about the whole Eyre Peninsula. We are talking about an entire region, and all the focus is on this one spot on Eyre Peninsula at Port Lincoln. It will be the centre of attention, for none of the reasons that Port Lincoln locals would have ever anticipated.

I will say in relation to SA Water that they certainly did face a lot of scrutiny and criticism throughout the committee process. I am by no means suggesting that that was not well placed, but I do maintain the view that, in the absence of government committing funds to address this issue, I do not know what real choice they have sometimes. I think we started with 22 sites; there was a large number of sites and it was gradually reducing in terms of sites.

When you start talking to governments about funding these projects, the government is looking at project A over here at \$313 million or \$330 million, baseline case. Of course it is the best proposal; it is the cheapest, it is the fastest and it is the easiest. It is right next to infrastructure. It is literally at everyone's front door. Then you are looking over here at option B at \$580 million. You do not need to be Einstein to work out that even SA Water is going to say, 'We will just choose this one because we've got Buckley's chance of getting a government to commit to what would be the best option over here, and we will deal with the legal challenges if and when they arise.'

There are three groups—Yumbah, Clean Seas Seafood and the Barngarla people—who have already indicated quite strongly that they will be taking legal action. When you are talking about Sleaford—and I am not the expert but I could see the problems with Sleaford—on the one hand, with all the experts in the room from government who are saying to you, 'This isn't an option because we are facing processes and potential legal challenges that might push things out by one, two, three or four years and we won't have water supply and security if we wait that long, but we are going to choose this side over here because it is really quick and cheap and easy,' but we are going to ignore the fact that there at least three groups who have openly said that they are going to challenge this legally.

We actually do not know whether Billy Lights Point is going to go ahead or in what timeframe it is going to go ahead, and the government certainly cannot bank on the figure of \$313 million or \$330 million because they have not factored in the fact that there is very likely going to be legal challenges to Billy Lights Point. We certainly have not factored in, based on the differing science, whether there are going to be any other legal repercussions as a result of this because of damage that is actually caused as a result of the desal plant, if indeed it goes ahead.

I have to then agree with the locals at Port Lincoln that the idea and concept of a desal plant at Port Lincoln, whether it is at Billy Lights Point or anywhere else, is a bit pie in the sky right now as well, because none of us know what is going to happen in the face of those legal challenges, not at Sleaford West and not at Billy Lights Point.

The one person we have not acknowledged today who ought to be acknowledged is the former member, Mr Peter Treloar, who did an extraordinary job, together with his team. He is the former presiding member of the site selection committee; I think that is his appropriate title. I do not think any of us came across a single person who presented evidence or spoke at that committee process and did not speak in the highest of regard about the way that Mr Treloar conducted that whole process.

It is little surprise to me if he is disappointed with where we have ended up, because everyone who joined him in that process in terms of whittling that list down to four sites did so in genuine good faith. He wanted what was best for his community, even though he is not the member over there anymore. He wanted what was best for Eyre Peninsula, even though he is not the sitting member anymore. He brought others along with him on that journey and they made selections based on what they thought was best for their communities, only to have those overturned by SA Water and disregarded by the government.

It was a kick in the teeth for locals, particularly at Port Lincoln, and all those people who attended that public meeting, when they were told, 'There's no discussion to be had here. This is it. This is what you're getting, like it or lump it. That is where we are ending up. This is where you're going to get a desal plant.' And there was the threat—and this irked me during the evidence—that, 'If you don't come on board, if you don't toe the line and if you don't follow the advice, you are not going to have water, and you are going to be responsible for the other regions not having water.'

That is a terrible threat to issue to a community that is not responsible. This is not a problem of their making but in the end the community is basically threatened with, 'There are changes to the water allocations for the region due to come into place. There is a sense of urgency which keeps

getting pushed up in terms of its timeframe, and if we don't do this right now, you're not going to be able to turn on your taps in coming months.'

That is a terrible predicament for the people at Port Lincoln, and Eyre Peninsula more broadly, and the fact remains that despite all of that—and the committee did find that there was not consistency and there were differing views in regard to the scientific modelling used to determine the suitability of Billy Lights Point. There was conflicting evidence over the engagement with the Barnjarla people and BDAC. There was conflicting evidence over SA Water's engagement with the aquaculture industry and the seafood industry.

There were differing views in regard to the potential impacts environmentally in terms of aquaculture, in terms of fishing, in terms of agriculture, in terms of native title holders, and there was absolutely—and remains absolutely—no social licence for the desal plant that has been proposed at Billy Lights Point. All of that has been reflected in the body of work that members will have the opportunity to peruse at their leisure, and the government will have the opportunity to respond to within four months of this report coming through.

My closing remark will be this: none of us here know what the best site is. It is not our job to know what the best site is, but there is a dedicated bunch of people who are both local to the area and passionate about their communities, who have a good idea about the sorts of things they would like to see in their communities to ensure water security for the entire region. I think it is about time we stop ignoring those voices, take on board some of the things that they have said, take on board the spread and the demographic of that particular area in Port Lincoln, the divide between agriculture, seafood and community, and the needs of each of those, and try to put in some reforms that will actually empower that community to ensure their water security going forward.

My bet is that this is not going to be resolved as easily as the government thinks, that there are going to be the challenges that have been touted publicly and within the committee process. You certainly do not have any social licence for this, but if you do not have the intestinal fortitude to at least come back to this place within the four-month timeframe and respond to the individuals who took the time to attend those hearings, provide evidence, provide alternatives, provide solutions, provide amendments, recommendations, suggestions and all of the above, then the disservice that you are doing to that community is unacceptable. I do not think there is any other word to describe it.

It might not make the front page of *The Advertiser* but those individuals go to vote as well, and you may not be worried about it because of where politics sit, but politics change, and I think that that community will certainly hold us all accountable one way or another for the ultimate decision that we make. I would not look at that recommendation lightly and think that it is just the select committee and we do not really need to be responding, because it is not the members of the committee you owe that responsibility to. It is the local communities on Eyre Peninsula and Port Lincoln that you owe that responsibility to.

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

CRIME AND PUBLIC INTEGRITY POLICY COMMITTEE: OMBUDSMAN INQUIRY

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (17:04): I move:

That the report of the committee, on its inquiry into the performance of functions and exercise of powers by the Ombudsman, be noted.

Pursuant to section 15O(1)(d) of the Parliamentary Committees Act the Crime and Public Integrity Policy Committee must inquire into and consider the performance of functions and exercise of powers by the Ombudsman under the Ombudsman Act or any other act. On 16 February 2024, therefore, the committee resolved to commence the inquiry. Its terms of reference implemented section 15O(1)(d) of the Parliamentary Committees Act.

The Ombudsman Act establishes the office of the Ombudsman, referred to publicly as Ombudsman SA, and confers the Ombudsman's functions and powers. Primary functions of the Ombudsman include:

- the receipt, assessment and investigation of complaints made or referred to the Ombudsman about public administration;
- the receipt, assessment and investigation of reports made or referred to the Ombudsman about potential matters of misconduct or maladministration in public administration;
- assisting agencies to identify and deal with inappropriate or improper administrative acts;
- to give directions or guidance to public authorities in dealing with misconduct and maladministration in public administration, as the Ombudsman considers appropriate;
- evaluating the practices, policies and procedures of public authorities, with a view to advancing comprehensive and effective systems for preventing or minimising misconduct and maladministration in public administration; and
- conducting or facilitating the conduct of educational programs or the publication or distribution of educational materials that are designed to prevent or minimise misconduct and maladministration in public administration.

The Ombudsman also performs functions conferred by other acts, which include the Freedom of Information Act, Return to Work Act, Public Interest Disclosure Act, Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Act, Local Government Act, Ageing and Adult Safeguarding Act, Health and Community Services Complaints Act, Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act and the Child Sex Offenders Registration Act. For the purposes of an investigation, the Ombudsman is conferred with the powers of a commission as defined in the Royal Commissions Act 1917.

The submissions and evidence received by the inquiry addressed a number of issues, including the need for review of the resources available to the Ombudsman to provide for the performance of functions and exercise of powers, a proposal to subsume the functions of the Office for Public Integrity (OPI) into the office of the Ombudsman, the impact of the performance of Ombudsman functions and exercise of powers in respect of the local government sector, and the impact of the performance of Ombudsman functions and exercise of powers in respect of the care and protection of children and young people, particularly regarding foster and kinship carers. Proposals to amend the Ombudsman Act included the following:

- the definition of misconduct in public administration as amended pursuant to the enactment of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (CIPIC Recommendations) Amendment Act 2021 or the CIPIC recommendations thereto;
- provisions recognising the operation of parliamentary privilege;
- provisions providing for assessment of public complaints and their purpose;
- provisions providing for directions or guidelines to be issued requiring public authorities or officers to report a reasonable suspicion of misconduct or maladministration in public administration;
- provisions conferring investigation powers on the Ombudsman directly without reference to the Royal Commissions Act;
- to clarify the operation of the secrecy provisions in respect of legal advice received by public authorities;
- to reinstate section 25(1), which was deleted pursuant to enactment of our recommendations previous, which refers to matters that the Ombudsman may find as a result of an investigation;
- the operation of provisions conferring authority on the Ombudsman to report and therefore perform on a failure to give effect to an Ombudsman recommendation;
- the basis upon which the Ombudsman may refer a matter involving misconduct or maladministration in public administration to a public authority;

- the basis upon which reviews may be undertaken by the Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, Ombudsman and the Office for Public Integrity;
- the operation of any confidentiality provisions;
- to require that a public authority must provide the Ombudsman with any assistance necessary to undertake an evaluation of the authority's practices, policies and/or procedures; and
- to clarify the scope of reviews that may be undertaken by the Ombudsman in respect of agencies providing services in the realm of the care and protection of children and young people.

A number of submissions also referred to the recommendation of the report of the Independent Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care published in November 2022. The report, prepared by Dr Fiona Arney, recommended the establishment of an external independent quality assurance unit to respond to complaints in respect of the Department for Child Protection that allege bullying, discrimination, harassment or other matters that cannot be reviewed through the presently available external complaints mechanisms.

The Ombudsman highlighted a number of changes to the practices of the Ombudsman's office, including the implementation of conciliation and increased use of negotiated settlement to expedite the resolution of matters. The CPIPC supported such initiatives; however, the first recommendation is with respect to the concerns regarding the resources available to the Ombudsman to perform functions and exercise powers in accordance with the Ombudsman Act. It appeared important to the committee that available resources are subject to immediate review.

The committee noted that on 15 October 2024, the inspector's 2023-24 annual report was tabled in each house of parliament. The acting inspector, acting at that time, reported satisfaction that the Ombudsman's practices and procedures were, on the whole, effective and efficient during the reporting period. The inspector was satisfied that the Ombudsman's functions were carried out in a manner likely to assist the proper exercise of administrative powers in the state and that the powers of the Ombudsman were, on the whole, exercised in an appropriate manner during the reporting period.

The inspector found no evidence of undue prejudice being caused to the reputation of any person by the Ombudsman or the employees of the Ombudsman. Thankfully, they were not migrating anywhere. The key issues raised in the submissions and evidence are discussed at section 3 of the report, which I know all members will certainly avail themselves of. Proposals to amend the Ombudsman Act are discussed at section 4 of the report. The committee's findings and recommendations conclude the report generally.

In conclusion to my speech here, the committee would like to thank its recently appointed secretary, Shannon Riggs, and its research officer, Ben Cranwell, each of whom very ably supported the conduct of this inquiry. I think the length of it and certainly the events surrounding us getting it moving to begin with were really assisted by having two officers to conduct inquiries. Certainly, as a long-term member of this committee and a long-term Chair—I can see other Chairs of this committee in this room here today—it has been really great to have both a secretary and a research officer. I think it has really made the committee function quite some amount better.

I would also like to thank other members of the committee for their contributions to the inquiry, firstly other members of the council, the Hon. Frank Pangallo and the Hon. Laura Henderson, and then from the other place the member for Heysen, Josh Teague; the member for Davenport, Erin Thompson; and the member for Playford, John Fulbrook. I would also like to acknowledge the former member of the committee, the member for Elizabeth, Lee Odenwalder. I commend the report to all members of this council, and I look forward to many debates on its content with you all in the members' bar over the years.

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

*Motions***SHORT STAY ACCOMMODATION**

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:13): I move:

1. That a select committee of the Legislative Council be established to inquire and report on the short stay accommodation sector in South Australia with particular reference to:
 - (a) the role of short stay accommodation in contributing to the rental affordability crisis;
 - (b) the social and economic impacts of short stay accommodation on South Australian communities;
 - (c) the potential to regulate the short stay accommodation sector;
 - (d) the effectiveness of regulatory models adopted in other jurisdictions, both nationally and overseas;
 - (e) potential taxes or levies that could be applied to short stay accommodation and long-term vacant residential property;
 - (f) incentives that could be provided to home owners to transition properties listed on short stay accommodation platforms onto the long-term rental market;
 - (g) other strategies that could be adopted to activate residential property that is vacant long term; and
 - (h) any other related matters.
2. That this council permits the select committee to authorise the disclosure or publication, as it sees fit, of any evidence or documents presented to the committee prior to such evidence being presented to the council.

This motion is to establish a select committee looking at the short stay accommodation sector in South Australia. In particular, I am proposing that the committee will have reference to:

- the role of short stay accommodation in contributing to the rental affordability crisis;
- the social and economic impacts of short stay accommodation on South Australian communities;
- the potential to regulate the short stay accommodation sector;
- the effectiveness of regulatory models adopted in other jurisdictions, both nationally and overseas;
- potential taxes or levies that could be applied to short stay accommodation and long-term vacant residential property;
- incentives that could be provided to home owners to transition properties listed on short stay accommodation platforms onto the long-term rental market;
- other strategies that could be adopted to activate residential property that is vacant long term; and
- any other related matters.

In moving for this inquiry, the Greens recognise the severe nature of the housing crisis that we are facing at the moment in our state and the impact this is having on some of our most vulnerable people. While short stay accommodation such as Airbnb and Stayz have become popular features of our state's tourism economy, they also contribute to the housing crisis by reducing the amount of housing that is available to rent or, indeed, buy. This impact can be felt not only in the city and the suburbs but also in regional and coastal areas, where houses are often left empty for six months of the year during the off-season.

How can it be that we have some homes in our state that are vacant for months on end while people sleep on the street? That is not sustainable in a housing crisis, and this parliament has a responsibility to do something about it. We have rent prices that are skyrocketing out of control and a rental vacancy rate that is just 1.13 per cent. That is the latest data according to October.

Last week, new data was released that showed rental affordability in SA is at its lowest level in a decade and that the average renter is spending 30 per cent of their income on rent. Meanwhile, we have perfectly good homes sitting there vacant for protracted periods and we have some people making a lot of money from short stay platforms like Airbnb. It is not sustainable, and we have to look at what we can do to move some of these homes into the long-term rental market.

The Greens have advocated for a long time for the government to build more social housing, and also for parliament to take action to encourage the development of more social and affordable housing at the private development level, but in terms of getting this housing crisis under control we need to look at what we can do to activate stock that has already been built. Are we making the most of properties that are already in the system?

The census data conducted a few years ago found that there were more than 80,000 properties vacant on census night. I am not suggesting all of those were on Airbnb. Even if just a small fraction of them were, though, that demonstrates the significant scale of this crisis. I know from my time being a City of Adelaide councillor that this was a significant factor in the CBD. From memory, there was some data that came out from PropTrack recently which I think found that 2,000 properties were vacant in the Adelaide CBD area alone—about 20 per cent of all properties. That is significant and, again, the government has to do something about that.

Other states have begun to implement a range of different approaches to addressing the impact of short stay rentals and accommodation on housing and looking at what they can do to encourage the owners of these properties to put them back into the housing market. New South Wales was the first state in the country to impose limits on the number of nights that short stay accommodation could be let each year, applying a 180-night cap on otherwise empty properties across Greater Sydney. The Victorian government has introduced a 7.5 per cent levy on short stay accommodation bookings, and that will begin next year. The revenue collected from this levy will go to support building and maintaining social and affordable housing across that state.

Western Australia has recently had a parliamentary inquiry, and as a result they have resolved that all short-term rentals need to be registered with the government by 2025, with a \$10,000 incentive to be provided to hosts who make their properties available for long-term tenants. In Tasmania, hosts are now being required to get a planning permit from their local council. Evidently, there are a whole range of mechanisms that governments can deploy to rein in the impacts of short stay accommodation and free up properties that can be used for longer term accommodation.

I know I often talk about a more punitive range of options available—that is, increasing taxes, some of the disincentives that could be placed on Airbnb—but we should be looking at both a carrot and a stick approach. One of the things I would really like to look at through this inquiry, should it get support in this chamber, is what incentives we can provide to landlords as well to get them to think differently about their investment.

We have also seen several councils in South Australia consider tightening their regulations on short stay properties. Adelaide City Council, for instance, has recently made a change so that if a property is listed for short stay accommodation for 90 days or more in the previous financial year, it is subject to higher rates. I think that makes sense because we know, of course, that these short stay rentals have a significant impact as well on council services and amenities, but we should not be relying on a hotchpotch approach at local councils. We need to actually have a systemic, whole-of-government, whole-of-state approach.

An inquiry will be an opportunity for the parliament to investigate the impact of short stay accommodation on the housing market and to consider what measures could be implemented locally. The housing crisis is a key priority for the Greens, here in the state parliament, and I think this inquiry could play a very important role in informing the policy positions that all of the political parties take as we head towards the next election. With that, I conclude my remarks by indicating that I do plan to bring this to a vote when parliament resumes in the new year, and I would encourage members to discuss this within their caucuses to form a position over the Christmas break.

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

WORLD AIDS DAY

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:21): I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises that 1 December is World AIDS Day.
2. Notes that the Australian theme for 2024 is It Starts With Me.
3. Notes that approximately 1,400 people are estimated to be living with HIV in South Australia.
4. Acknowledges the success of South Australia's public health response to HIV, and that new infections have been declining over the last 10 years with people living with HIV now able to live a long, healthy life as a result of:
 - (a) antiretroviral therapy medication;
 - (b) community-led initiatives through grassroots organisations;
 - (c) peer education by including priority populations in responses;
 - (d) harm reduction through needle and syringe programs; and
 - (e) prevention through regular testing and interventions such as PrEP and condom use.
5. Calls on the Malinauskas government to continue the commitment to virtually eliminate HIV transmission by 2030 and reduce the impact of HIV on those living with the virus in the community by committing to the full implementation of the Ninth National HIV Strategy:
 - (a) empowering communities to educate, raise awareness and combat stigma and discrimination;
 - (b) allocating sufficient funding for high-quality HIV testing, care and treatment, prevention, advocacy and research; and
 - (c) expanding access to high-quality support services to affected and at-risk communities.

This motion is recognising that 1 December is World AIDS Day. It notes the Australian theme for 2024 is It Starts With Me, and it notes that there are approximately 1,400 people living with HIV in our state. It also acknowledges the success of South Australia's public health response to HIV and notes that new infections have been declining over the last 10 years, with people living with HIV able to live long and healthy lives.

It also calls on the Malinauskas government to continue its commitment to virtually eliminate HIV transmission by 2030 and reduce the impact of HIV on those living with the virus in the community by committing to the full implementation of the Ninth National HIV Strategy. Some of the elements of the strategy are outlined in the motion.

World AIDS Day is an international day that began in 1988. It is held on 1 December each year to help raise awareness about HIV and AIDS. The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a virus that affects the immune system. It gradually destroys cells called CD4 cells, which usually help the body stay healthy by fighting off disease. While there is no vaccine or cure for HIV infection, there are effective treatments that can prevent the transmission of HIV and the progression to AIDS, and help ensure a near-normal life expectancy for people who are HIV positive. These treatments are known as antiretroviral therapy. They stop the virus from reproducing itself, which can lead to a lower viral load. The treatment involves a combination of drugs being used together.

HIV positive people who take antiretrovirals daily, as prescribed, and achieve and maintain an undetectable viral load are not able to sexually transmit the virus to a partner who is HIV negative. That is one of the really great innovations that we have seen in HIV prevention in this country over the last few years, and it is one of the reasons why it is so important that people who are at risk of acquiring the virus, in particular men who have sex with men, should ensure that they are being tested regularly for HIV. If they are considered to be at high risk of acquiring the virus, in consultation with their doctor they should get access to PrEP, the medication that can be taken daily which reduces the risk of HIV significantly.

Thanks to the improvement in HIV treatments, infection is now a manageable chronic disease for many people in countries like Australia. Globally, there has been a 60 per cent reduction in the number of new HIV infections since the peak of the virus in 1995. According to the Kirby

Institute at the University of New South Wales, Australia is tracking well towards the elimination of HIV transmission in our country, with just 555 new diagnoses in 2022. This represents a decline of 48 per cent over the last 10 years. That is really significant.

Australia is also leading the world in HIV reductions in gay and bisexual men, achieving a remarkable 57 per cent reduction in new HIV diagnoses since 2013. This really demonstrates the success of comprehensive approaches to HIV prevention that have been made within the LGBTI community. I think it is worth noting what some of these approaches are. They include:

- community-led health promotion strategies, such as those run in SA by SAMESH;
- regular sexual health testing and treatment through facilities like the O'Brien Street Practice and the Adelaide Sexual Health Centre;
- treatment as a prevention, and by that I mean the finding that an HIV positive partner on effective HIV treatment cannot transmit the virus to a negative partner; and
- the rollout of PrEP.

I have spoken a bit about PrEP. Indeed, I was proud, during my time in federal parliament, to advocate for PrEP to be listed on the PBS, and I certainly welcomed the decision of the Turnbull government to do so. That has been carried on by the successive Labor government. Other effective preventative measures more broadly include increased condom use and harm reduction through a needle and syringe program, such as the Clean Needle Program that is run by SA Health.

In South Australia there are estimated to be 1,400 people who live with the HIV virus. Worldwide, though, there are still estimated to be 39.9 million cases. Whilst we have made huge strides here in our own country, and indeed here in South Australia, in tackling the AIDS virus and preventing transmission, sadly this is still a prevalent virus around the world. There are many people who are continuing to die from AIDS because they do not have access to treatment, particularly in developing countries.

World AIDS Day is also a time to reflect on the huge social effect of HIV and AIDS and the terrible loss of life that has occurred over the last 40 years. Indeed, more than 42.3 million people have died as a result of AIDS-related illnesses throughout the world. Of course, we honour them on World AIDS Day and we grieve for the loss of life.

I think it is worth noting, when talking about World AIDS Day, that such was the stigma associated with HIV at the height of the AIDS virus that many people, particularly gay men, were forced to die in isolation, separated from family and friends at this tragic time in their lives. I think one of the great changes that we have seen in Australia over the last several decades is that the campaign to end stigma around HIV has been very effective, and there is a broader understanding of the HIV virus and, in particular, a broader understanding of how this virus is transmitted and what can be done to reduce the transmission. That understanding has meant that people who are HIV positive are able to live happy and fulfilling lives and are able to be members of the community that can live their lives free from discrimination.

The theme of the 2024 World AIDS Day event in Australia is It Starts With Me, which highlights that the fight against HIV is still far from over and calls on everyone to take the actions they can to raise awareness, challenge stigma and support people living with HIV.

In closing, in the lead-up to World AIDS Day on 1 December, people may be asking what they can do. This is a time for members of the South Australian community to show their support for people living with HIV, to raise awareness about HIV prevention, treatment and care within their communities, to do what they can to eliminate stigma and discrimination around HIV and to remember people who have died of AIDS-related illnesses.

It is also a time for governments to continue the commitment that has been a multiparty commitment in Australia over many years now to reduce the prevalence of HIV in the community. This includes adopting initiatives such as empowering communities to educate, raise awareness and combat stigma and discrimination, and allocating sufficient for high-quality HIV testing. I note the Malinauskas government recently made rapid HIV testing available at some key sites in South Australia. I welcome that, I think it is an excellent innovation. It is excellent that people are able to

get their results in a timely manner and are able to access support from healthcare professionals when they deal with those results.

It is vital that we continue care, treatment, prevention, advocacy and research in this area, and we need to expand access to high-quality support services to affected and at-risk communities. I believe that it is possible for us to end the transmission of the HIV virus in Australia. We need to do what we can to combat this virus internationally as well and support people, particularly in developing countries, to access the treatment and support they need. With that, I conclude my remarks.

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

Bills

SECOND-HAND VEHICLE DEALERS (ROADWORTHINESS CERTIFICATES) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (17:31): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Second-Hand Vehicle Dealers Act 1995 and to make related amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act 1959. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (17:32): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to rise today to introduce the Second-Hand Vehicle Dealers (Roadworthiness Certificates) Amendment Bill—important legislation that protects consumers and promotes road safety. This legislation has been a long time coming and I will explain why in a moment. I thank the Motor Trade Association and its many members for their support for this bill.

However, I am extremely disappointed by the RAA's dismissive and negative attitude, which I had expected considering their own selfish self-interests. They are an organisation whose core business is vehicle maintenance. However, they also want to safeguard their lucrative motor vehicle inspection business, where customers and their members can pay upwards of \$500 for a comprehensive inspection. But, not everybody buying a second-hand car privately can afford to pay that. Disingenuously, the RAA, in what is a veiled dig at the Motor Trade Association, had the audacity to claim that the car industry wants to stop private sales.

Last year more than 318,000 used cars were sold privately. Just 82,000, or 26 per cent, went through licensed car dealerships which, of course, carry statutory warranties. That means around 240,000 vehicles last year, or about 5,000 a week, were sold on online platforms like Facebook's Marketplace and Gumtree. There are no warranties or protections when buying cars privately; it is buyer beware. But as we know, there are now many cowboy backyarders out there keen to make a quick buck at the expense of unwitting buyers.

The RAA's views would not have the support of the public. I am willing to wager that the vast majority would support what I am doing. This legislation would provide a level of protection from being sold lemons by backyard private sellers for the RAA's 800,000 members as well as the general public, not to mention provide business to those thousands of current repairers who have to pay for the privilege of being an RAA-approved repairer. Even RAA's workshops could benefit from this much-needed initiative.

I would have expected at least one good word from it from the RAA's Mark Borlace, who I have a great deal of time for. It is not my intention to bash the RAA. They are a good organisation, but they are also conflicted and I think they have got it wrong here. But it was all negative from what I heard on radio.

Mr Borlace was worried it might mislead people to think they were getting a good car. No, Mark, it would give the buyer an idea of any existing problems that could cause the vehicle to be defected by police or detect a problem the buyer would not pick up. He claims the car industry was trying to stop private sales, and that based on the number of annual sales the public would have to spend around \$23 million a year on inspections. He asked, 'What would this cure?' Firstly, how much

does the RAA receive in revenue from its own inspections annually, and secondly, this is not about curing anything. It is about ensuring a vehicle sold is roadworthy and safe to drive.

Mark wants to know what the size of the problem is. Well, I can tell Mark just from my own experience over the many years that it is a big problem that is only going to get bigger. Compulsory roadworthy checks have been working just fine in other states for years. Why should we be one of the only states out of kilter? Because the RAA does not like them?

Consumer Affairs cannot prevent or save people from buying lemons in private deals. They tell buyers it is their own problem, a civil matter. They only get involved when a seller breaks the law by selling more than four vehicles from their backyards in a year, but the cagey cowboys have even worked a way around this, flipping more vehicles using the name of a family member or relative.

The high value of used cars has made private sales a lucrative sideline for backyarders. They source used vehicles cheaply from clearance auctions and from interstate sellers offloading cars because of the stricter regulations on roadworthiness that apply there. They could be insurance write-offs, crash-damaged, vehicles with high odometer readings, or which may have been involved in accidents and then repaired. Many will come without books that give a history of ownership, odometer readings and, importantly, maintenance.

Today SUVs, utes and panel vans outsell conventional passenger vehicles. These models, along with light commercial vehicles like transit vans, are in great demand by tradies. They can also be very expensive to repair if something goes wrong or if you buy a second-hand lemon. You might think you are getting a good deal paying \$30,000 for a late-model popular used Ford Ranger privately; however, these types of modern light commercial vehicles are also far more sophisticated, with all types of gadgetry and electronic components. Blow an engine and you will be up for more than \$20,000 to recondition it, whereas once it could have been between \$3,000 to \$4,000. There could be other defects that are not visible to an untrained eye. Modern generation passenger vehicles of around 10, 15 or 20 years of age are also very expensive to repair.

With cost-of-living pressures weighing heavily on family budgets today, car maintenance, servicing and repairs would not be a priority. Clive Polley, the national chairman of the Commercial Vehicles Association and a 60-year veteran of the commercial vehicle industry, tells me that over the years he has seen many instances where light commercial vehicles bought from interstate were unroadworthy, and he felt sorry for their new owners left with hefty repair bills they had no idea about.

In South Australia, there are compulsory inspections required for vehicles over 4.5 tonnes yet, surprisingly, there is no such requirement for those under 4.5 tonnes, which includes utes, panel vans and transit vans. I would have liked to have heard Mark Borlace say that any type of consumer protection in buying used cars privately could only be beneficial. After all, this remains the largest unregulated consumer activity in this state, which is booming on social media platforms like Facebook Marketplace and Gumtree.

Motoring and maintenance is the RAA's core business, although these days they dabble in insurance, travel and providing energy solutions for their members. You would think consumer protections would still be a strong consideration in their multibusiness model. As people in this place may know, consumer protection is something that I have been hot on for decades, long before I entered this place.

In my previous career we exposed so many used car shysters that I have lost count. They took advantage of vulnerable, trusting people—young kids, single mums, battling pensioners, even professional types. I will even confess that I got burned not once but twice. A basic roadworthy check like I am proposing would have found a major problem I could not immediately identify: a cracked head gasket, which cost me more than \$1,000 to repair, because the previous owner laughed and said it was my problem the moment I drove off and it started overheating.

I can tell you some horror stories we revealed on *Today Tonight* and as you would have seen on our rival program on the Nine Network, *A Current Affair*. People with problems came to us because they had lost faith in the government's lax consumer laws and toothless tigers like business and consumer affairs, which simply cannot keep up with the complaints they get. If it is a private sale, they get told, 'Bad luck, it's buyer beware. Take civil action.' Who can afford that?

There were cars that blew up on the road after purchase, cars that caught fire, write-offs and dangerous and unsafe cut and shut jobs being flogged at high prices without the problems or incidents being disclosed. There were stolen cars or vehicles that were still under finance but it was not disclosed, costing unwitting buyers tens of thousands of dollars when the car was repossessed by the finance company.

One of South Australia's most notorious backyarders I came across had whizzed back the odometer of a used care by almost one million kilometres, or a couple of round trips to the moon. People have died because they bought unsafe and dangerous vehicles privately, which were not covered by any statutory requirement.

The unscrupulous operators will continue to prey on the vulnerable and the ignorant. Buying a car is an emotional experience too, if you are attracted to it, but it can lead to heartbreak and great expense, particularly for young people and those on low incomes who do not want to buy trouble.

Here are three recent examples of what a roadworthy inspection can do. Last weekend, the MTA and my office invited people to have their vehicles inspected by experienced technicians at their impressive Royal Park workshops and training centre. Among them, was a stylish-looking 2009 Audi Q5 bought for \$8,000 in a private sale from a backyarder by 19-year-old Josef Gentile, a luxury marque with 145,000-plus kilometres on the clock at what he thought was a bargain price. Temptation got the better of young Joseph who did not tell his dad about the purchase until he arrived home with his set of wheels.

They noticed it was blowing white smoke while idling and then the alarm bells started to ring. They took it back to the seller, a migrant visa holder, who scoffed at them, refusing to refund the money. Left with no legal option, they reluctantly took the car in for repairs which have cost them so far over \$1,000. But there was more bad news to come from the hour-long inspection at the MTA. The vehicle was found to have other serious faults and there was evidence that the vehicle's odometer had been wound back. The teenager's dad told me he wished this proposed legislation had been in place before his son bought the car as it would have saved him thousands of dollars that he could be up for now, and lots of heartache. A roadworthy check will be able to pick up odometer tampering.

Another vehicle brought in for inspection, a Ford Territory, was found to have worn parts that could have resulted in more serious damage, costing its owner thousands if not rectified. The owner was thankful for bringing it in. Then there was my son Connor's 2014 Ford Focus. The roadworthy check found that a wrong-sized tyre had been fitted to the front, which was dangerous and could have caused serious handling problems and lead to an accident. He fixed it the next day—the new tyre cost more than he would have had to pay for a roadworthy certificate inspection.

Yet, there is the RAA dismissing roadworthy checks and saying they are worried they might mislead buyers into thinking they had a good car when it was not. These inspections include checking the vehicle identification number (VIN) to ensure the car is not stolen or rebirthed, the engine, gearbox, differential, brakes, steering, suspension, tyres, body, rust, damage, windscreen chips and cracks, lights, exhaust, seatbelt and airbags. A small price to pay for peace of mind.

The Treasurer, Stephen Mulligan, should also take an interest in what this legislation can do for the government's revenue streams. For years, the government has missed out on hundreds of millions of dollars in stamp duty revenue because buyers and private sellers of second-hand vehicles deliberately and willingly colluded to underestimate the true sale value of their vehicles when registering new ownership. This legislation can put a stop to that dishonesty.

While Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria have strong roadworthy certificate laws in place to protect the consumers and improve road safety, in South Australia there is currently no requirement for roadworthy inspections upon sale or renewal of registration. They are only required upon a lapse of registration, when a vehicle has been significantly modified, or upon a transfer of a vehicle from interstate.

I can point out an anomaly I discovered myself. I bought what I believed was a 1997 Mercedes coupe. When I went to change the ownership of that vehicle and the registration, I was surprised to see that on Service SA's records the vehicle was registered as a 2006 model. When

I made inquiries about that it turned out that the vehicle had been imported from the UK in 2006 and therefore, under strange South Australian registration laws, was actually registered as a 2006 model when in fact it was nearly 10 years older than that. As a consequence of that I had to go to Regency Park and go through this arduous process with inspectors there to prove the age of the vehicle and when it was manufactured and give them other evidence before I could then have it appropriately dated as a 1997 vehicle.

Incredibly that is still in place today. As we know, there are a lot of vehicles that are imported from overseas, right-hand drive vehicles particularly from places like Japan and South-East Asia, where motorists still drive them on the road. That is something that Minister Koutsantonis and his department need to rectify pretty quickly.

Let me repeat that when selling a vehicle here in South Australia there are no requirements that the car be checked for roadworthiness. That means the vast majority of those 318,000 vehicles privately sold last year have had no inspection since their last service, and who knows when that was?

Compare that to New South Wales, which has the most rigorous roadworthy regime in place. To register a car in that state a blue slip is required if the car is under five years old along with a safety inspection and an integrity check. That includes the vehicle identification number (VIN) and engine numbers. If a vehicle is over five years old or transferring from interstate, an e-safety check, pink slip and a name for a roadworthy is also required. Further, all New South Wales vehicles must also have an annual safety check at registration renewal. It is no surprise that New South Wales has the youngest and highest standard of vehicles on Australian roads.

South Australia? Well, unsurprisingly ours is still the oldest. In other states, like Queensland, they maintain similar requirements for selling cars, requiring a roadworthy certificate to reregister, transfer or register an interstate vehicle. In Victoria and the ACT vehicles are unable to be transferred unless there is a roadworthy certificate. Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory have similar regimes to us.

The Motor Trade Association SA/NT CEO, Darrell Jacobs, described the current situation for private purchasers as:

South Australians are the least protected and most vulnerable second-hand vehicle consumers in Australia.

You need to go into this transaction with your eyes wide open, and understand the moment you exchange the keys for the cash there are no comebacks on that vehicle.

This bill is not about limiting private sales. It is about providing a vastly improved level of protection for South Australian consumers buying a second-hand vehicle in South Australia and improving the road safety standards of the vehicles on our roads.

Of course, a diligent buyer can buy from a reputable dealer, do their own register check to see if the car is under finance or has previously been written off and have a pre-purchase inspection done at a cost of between \$300 and \$500, but the fact is most buyers do not, and unscrupulous sellers have exploited this unregulated private sector where lemons are sold.

Licensed dealers are required to comply with the Second-hand Vehicle Dealers Act. They have to disclose if the car has been written off, if it has had any known faults and provide statutory warranties and consumer protections such as cooling off and refund rights. No such protections exist in regard to private sales. The RAA, who conduct excellent pre-purchase inspections at a purchaser's cost of about \$300-plus, have warned of similar problems on their website. Let me quote them:

If you're considering buying a pre-loved BMW, you might want to get it checked over by an expert first.

That's the advice from RAA's vehicle inspection service, after it found only 16% of BMWs brought in for an RAA vehicle inspection last year were given the green light.

In 70% of cases, caution was advised in the form of a yellow light result—a rating that means potential buyers should proceed with caution, as there are some problems that may need attention.

However, it was the Land Rover that recorded highest number of serious roadworthy faults last year, with an average 2.3 serious faults per inspection.

RAA motoring expert Mark Borlace said it was worth noting the faults weren't necessarily a result of defects with the car makes themselves, but rather how the vehicles had been looked after by previous owners.

Across all vehicle makes and models, there was an average of 10 faults at every inspection, including 178 cases that were serious enough to warrant a red-light rating.

'That's 178 times when someone was considering buying a vehicle that would have been a terrible investment,' Mr Borlace said.

'That's why it's so important to get any car checked by a professional—it may cost you a small amount now but it could save you a lot of money in the long run.'

Yet there they are, criticising. I am trying to do exactly the same thing that they have just highlighted on their website. Such advice makes the comments by Mr Borlace about wanting to see more supporting data even more bewildering.

The top five serious roadworthy faults identified by the RAA are headlights, park and driving lights; stop, tail and numberplate lights; brakes, hoses or pipes condition; door glass, windscreen and tinting; and window wipers and fluid. The roadworthy certificates this bill provides for will identify all these and more, including the provenance of the vehicle. Typically, a roadworthy certificate inspection will take up to an hour and will cover tyres, including the spare, and body rust and damage, interior trims, roof, engine, gearbox, differential, brakes, steering, suspension, windscreen chips and cracks, lights, exhaust, seatbelt compliance and that the airbags are operational, the display lights work and no error or warning lights are flashing on the display.

Let me just make a point about airbags. You may recall in recent years there was a significant recall of airbags that had been fitted by a Japanese manufacturer. That was a worldwide recall involving millions of vehicles. Again, it is unknown how many car owners took advantage of that recall. These dangerous cars, cars with dangerous airbags that could explode and cause death to the persons in the vehicle, could still be out on our roads.

A roadworthy certificate does not purport to be the full \$300-plus 'total care' road safety inspection that buyers will still be able to obtain pre-purchase, but it is a minimum level of protection that South Australians should be afforded that is simply that the car they are buying is at least safe to be on the road.

In South Australia, it is currently 'buyer beware', and too often this has meant 'buyer be burnt', figuratively and literally, like for 19-year-old Hajar Yassini. She had purchased her first car from what appeared to be a second-hand car dealership, a pre-owned Mazda3, in October 2023 for \$5,000. It burst into flames less than 15 minutes down the road. Ms Yassini had no protections or comeback against the seller, a con man who claimed the car was being sold in a private capacity. The so-called dealership disappeared overnight, with no recourse despite the department of consumer and business affairs investigating it.

Experiences like Ms Yassini's are all too common. Last weekend's free MTA-led road safety check day supported by PC Automotive, All In Vehicle Inspections, Taff's Auto Repairs and Adelaide Automatics provided many more examples with a common theme. I mentioned earlier the case of 19-year-old Josef Gentile, whose situation only got worse when he attended the MTA inspection check. But it did not stop there.

Josef did some research and discovered that the seller had other vehicles for sale, was not a licensed dealer and had sold over five vehicles on Facebook Marketplace in the previous year. When 7News tracked down the vendor and asked him all about his sales, he took no fault and said that his wife had sold some and he had sold others. This distribution of sales to family members is a common, but illegal, tactic to avoid the second-hand dealers licence act. Josef's dream car has turned into a costly nightmare.

Since announcing my intention to introduce the bill, I have been overwhelmed with support, including from the MTA. Seventy per cent of respondents to talk radio supported it. While the cost of these certificates will be a matter determined by the government, those around the country start as low as \$49.

Sitting suspended from 18:02 to 19:46.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Before the break, I was outlining how announcing my intention to introduce the bill had received overwhelming support from the Motor Trade Association and also in media reaction; certainly, 70 per cent of respondents to talk radio had expressed their support for it. I went on to describe how the cost of these certificates will be a matter probably determined by the government, with prices probably starting as low as around \$49. At this cost, and even double or triple that, a roadworthiness certificate is going to provide greater peace of mind for private sales than we have now.

The bill itself is tailored to South Australia. It is not a replica of legislation in New South Wales, Queensland or Victoria, but I did consult with these jurisdictions and South Australian industry with regard to best practice and what would be workable here. The elements of this bill are:

1. It comes into operation nine months after assent. Government and mechanical businesses will be able to use these nine months to develop the regulations and structure their business processes to meet the requirements of the bill. South Australia's MTA members and private mechanics have advised they are well equipped and qualified to meet this need. The RAA already has an inspection service that could be easily adapted to provide roadworthiness certificates.

2. Individuals selling a second-hand vehicle must provide to the purchaser a roadworthiness certificate that has been issued within three months of the date of sale of the vehicle. The vehicle will not be able to be transferred or re-registered without the roadworthiness certificate.

3. The onus and cost of providing the roadworthiness certificate are on the seller. The cost is a small and reasonable one that can be built into the price of the car. It can be shown and provided to all prospective purchasers. Bear in mind that is important because they may have a number of inquiries about the sale of the vehicle, so the seller already has a certificate as opposed to an individual potential buyer who may decide he will go and get an RAA inspection that may cost him \$300 or more. Once the potential buyer has that inspection, he or she can decide whether they want to buy that vehicle or not, but that report remains with the person who paid for that report. It is not transferable to anybody else who comes along, and that is the importance here, where the seller is the one responsible for that certificate and it is shown to all the potential buyers.

4. The bill does not apply to licensed dealers, auctioneers—although I may have something to say about that shortly—a person selling to a dealer or an auctioneer, or the sale of an historic registered vehicle. This bill is not a free kick to licensed second-hand vehicle dealers; they are already obligated to comply with the comprehensive requirements of the Second-hand Vehicle Dealers Act and various other consumer protections and warranties in South Australia.

5. The regulations will set out a scheme of issuing certificates of roadworthiness. Just to clarify, the bill does not require annual roadworthiness certificates.

South Australian consumers currently have no protections when buying a second-hand vehicle from a private seller. This is going to change that. As I have pointed out, we constantly hear horror stories of unroadworthy vehicles being sold to unsuspecting buyers with no recourse whatsoever for expensive repairs or mechanical work to ensure their car can be registered and driven. The bill does not impact on the decision of a purchaser to buy privately. The bill is simply there to improve the standard of private sales and, by its nature, improve the safety of vehicles on South Australian roads.

I commend the Motor Trade Association for its ongoing campaigning to protect consumers, putting a stop to the dishonest and unregulated rip-off merchants flourishing right under the nose of the government and ensuring that older vehicles on our roads are safe to drive.

I would also like to congratulate the MTA's outgoing president, Frank Agostino AM, who last night received the MTA's first lifetime achievement award, presented by Premier Peter Malinauskas. The MTA has been going for something like 98 years, and this is the first occasion they have honoured one of their own. It could not have gone to a more deserving recipient. There were messages of thanks from a cross-section of the community who have engaged with him over the years, including former Premier Mike Rann and leading figures in politics, industry and sport, including a former member of the House of Assembly, Dan van Holst Pellekaan.

I have known Frank for many years. He is a distinguished South Australian of great integrity and a general of industry and business who has made enormous contributions to this state, both

through his wideranging professional interests and his selfless and generous community service through so many organisations over the decades. He has been a leading figure in the motor industry at all levels, earning the respect and admiration of all those who have come to know and work with him. He really is a giant, despite his stature.

I am pleased to say that last night I was able to finally put to rest a long-running argument about which of us little Franks is the shortest, and I have to say, 'Congratulations, Frank Agostino. You win!' With that, I commend this bill to the chamber.

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

Motions

SILENCE FOR WORLD PEACE

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (19:55): I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises we live in internationally turbulent times and are witness to the destructive consequences being endured by those living in war zones throughout the world.
2. Recognises the human right of all people to a safe existence and acknowledges the importance of global peace—learnt through the devastation of past conflicts.
3. Encourages every member of every community to come together to support global peace.
4. Notes that the three-minute silence for world peace will be staged on 10 December 2024 between 6.00-6.30pm at Peace Park (Karrawirra-Park 12) in North Adelaide and that:
 - (a) the event is neutral with no speeches, flags or banners; and
 - (b) the date falls on the United Nations International Day for Human Rights.

I rise in order to move the global peace motion, which calls on us all to reflect on our shared responsibility to uphold peace and defend the universal human rights of all people. In these turbulent times, as conflicts rage and innocent lives bear the brunt of war, we must confront the devastating consequences of violence with renewed determination to achieve global peace.

The United Nations International Day for Human Rights, observed on 10 December, urges us to reflect on the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—principles of equality, liberty and the right to a life of safety. Here in South Australia we look to the legacy of Muriel Matters, who exemplified the courage and commitment needed to advocate for peace.

In 1915, as the world was engulfed in war, Ms Matters hosted a peace conference, calling for an end to all conflict and urging nations to pursue global harmony. The ideals for which Ms Matters stood—dialogue, justice and global unity—are as vital now as they were a century ago. Her work reminds us that peace is an active pursuit, requiring the efforts of individuals, communities and nations.

On 10 December a three-minute silence for world peace will be held at Peace Park in North Adelaide. It will provide a moment of quiet unity, devoid of speeches, flags or banners, to recommit ourselves to these ideals. Let us stand together in silence, united in our resolve to carry forward the vision of Muriel Matters and countless others who dared to dream of a peaceful world. Let this be a moment to reaffirm our commitment to human rights and the shared pursuit of global peace.

I would ask that members in this place attend this significant event. As I pointed out, the world is going through a terrible situation right now. We wake up every day now to hear terrible news of what is happening in the world, with wars in the Ukraine, of course in the Middle East and elsewhere, but particularly over the last 12 or so months in Gaza and more recently in Southern Lebanon. It was a total relief to hear this morning that Israel and Hezbollah appear to have reached a solution for a ceasefire, which I think will occur overnight and for 60 days. That is certainly a breakthrough in the gloom that has beset the world since 7 October last year.

I hope that we again see more dialogue that will lead to a more peaceful solution in Gaza and elsewhere. Let's hope that we also see a peaceful resolution to the bloody, atrocious and horrific war that is being waged between Russia and Ukraine and now has North Korea involved. If we were

ever close to having another world war, this is it. I think we must all unite and push and pray for peace.

Again, I ask members both in the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly to join us on 10 December for three minutes of silence for world peace. I also take the opportunity to commend a former member of the House of Assembly, the Hon. Frances Bedford, who is behind this initiative for three minutes of silence for world peace. Of course, we know that she is a strong stalwart and supporter of Muriel Matters, who was an icon of suffragettes from South Australia who campaigned strongly for women's rights and the right to vote.

This event will not only be an event to quietly reflect on world peace but also on the efforts of Muriel Matters and what she stood for. With that, I commend this motion to the chamber.

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

GRANDPARENT AND KINSHIP CARERS

The Hon. S.L. GAME (20:01): I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises that all South Australian children have the right to a safe, secure and nurturing family environment, to provide them with the opportunities they need to flourish, both personally and academically;
2. Acknowledges and values the enormous contribution made by grandparent and kinship carers, who are not formally recognised by government, but who are full-time carers of their kin's children;
3. Commends the endeavours of Grandcarers SA, which since 2002 has provided financial support, resources and a caring network to SA grandparents and other full-time informal kinship carers; and
4. Calls on the government to support all our carers, including those represented by Grandcarers SA.

A safe, nurturing and secure family environment helps ensure all South Australian children have the same opportunities to grow and thrive physically, emotionally and academically. Unfortunately, some parents are unable to provide this environment for varied reasons, including their employment status, their mental or physical state, incarceration, drug or alcohol dependencies and more.

In these cases, responsibility often falls to grandparents and in many cases to what are known as 'informal kinship carers'. Unlike formal kinship carers, informal kinship carers are not legally recognised as designated carers, precluding them from certain rights and benefits, including accessing services provided by the Department for Child Protection. This creates what has been described as an emotionally draining, physically exhausting and financially devastating scenario for these grandparents. It is life changing and it turns their world upside down.

All grandparents love their grandkids, but grandparents who double as informal kinship carers cannot hand their grandkids back at the end of the day of fun activities or a long weekend sleepover. They must feed, clothe, care for and nourish them, day in, day out.

Today, I present the plight of informal kinship carers and the need for better support for this often neglected but crucially important sector of our carer community. Informal kinship carers put their own lives and plans for a blissful retirement on hold, sometimes permanently, draining their hard-earned lifetime savings. Do they have a choice? Ask yourself: if the Department for Child Protection removed your grandchild from a harmful or damaging environment, arrived at your home and said, 'Here are your grandchildren. Take them or they go into state care,' what would you do? What choice would you have?

If your answer is: why not become a formal kinship carer and become eligible for government benefits, it is not that simple—not by a long shot. A major, often insurmountable, hurdle is attempting to navigate a path through the family courts. As pointed out by the not-for-profit Grandcarers SA group, this option is often cost prohibited with one grandparent recently having to fork out well over \$100,000 to do so. We are told other such court cases run into the tens of thousands of dollars and many grandparents simply cannot afford this option.

Grandcarers SA has an Education and Development Fund that supports its clients—grandparents—to help them pay for things like school uniforms and school excursions for their

grandchildren. Being without these basic privileges and opportunities enjoyed by their classmates naturally has a negative impact on the schooling and the lives of these children. Grandcarers SA recently had a grandmother ring and ask for \$15—that is \$15—to pay for her grandson's school excursion that she could not afford. That is how much of a difference Grandcarers SA can make.

Unfortunately, Grandcarers SA cannot provide anything like the funding it needs for the 1,300 South Australian families and 2,200 South Australian children on its books. It has increased its client base by 30 per cent in the past 2½ years and the call is growing all the time, exacerbated by the current cost-of-living crisis.

With an average age of 65, informal grandparent carers come from across the state, including all corners of Adelaide. Grandcarers SA currently receive some state government funding, but that only covers the group's operational costs, not the families it supports. That money comes entirely from philanthropic grants secured by the group.

It is worth considering that formal kinship carers receive somewhere between \$14,000 and \$60,000 per year, including all claimable allowances per child per year. I believe South Australia should consider the model adopted by the Western Australian state government, which provides dedicated funding for informal grandparent carers.

Grandcarers SA informs us that the children we are talking about across our state are very often already traumatised before moving into their grandparents' care. They are traumatised as a result of their experience with their parents, then they get removed from their homes and maybe even their schools. The last thing they need is to be further disadvantaged at school because their grandparents, despite doing the best they can, cannot afford basics to give these children the same opportunities as their classmates. Better South Australian government support for Grandcarers SA would lead to tangibly better outcomes for these disadvantaged children.

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

KANGAROO MANAGEMENT

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (20:07): I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises that:
 - (a) from 2022-2023, Red Kangaroo population estimates in South Australia rose 24 per cent to 2.019 million—33 per cent above the 20-year rolling average;
 - (b) it is approximated that there are over 40 million kangaroos in Australia and, without adequate, sustainable harvest measures in place, kangaroo numbers can grow to unsustainable levels as changes to the Australian landscape since European settlement have provided conditions which facilitate population booms;
 - (c) excessive kangaroo populations can negatively impact habitat structure, environmental rehabilitation efforts and native ecosystems, while also detrimentally affecting our national agricultural industry;
 - (d) the animals themselves are placed at greater risk as kangaroo populations can outgrow their food sources, causing many to starve to death;
 - (e) kangaroo and wallaby commercial management is highly regulated and a sustainable industry, with harvests playing a critical role in kangaroo management in South Australia;
 - (f) commercial management supports an industry worth around \$200 million annually, including sales for kangaroo meat and the manufacture of high-quality products; and
 - (g) a regulated and evidence-based approach to commercial harvesting benefits the:
 - (i) environment;
 - (ii) economy;
 - (iii) agricultural sector; and
 - (iv) the long-term welfare of kangaroos and wallabies.
2. Notes:

- (a) the introduction of the misleadingly named Kangaroo Protection Bill 2024 in the United States Senate; and
 - (b) that this bill would, if enacted, have negative environmental, economic and kangaroo welfare outcomes in South Australia.
3. Calls on the government to:
- (a) recognise that the Kangaroo Protection Bill 2024 before the United States Senate will negatively impact on the South Australian export economy;
 - (b) urge the federal government to formally encourage the United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works to reject the bill; and
 - (c) promote and advocate our kangaroo export industry, particularly in the United States.

I quote:

Australia's kangaroo industry leads to better kangaroo welfare, more stable populations and improved conservation outcomes.

These are not my words, they are from an article written by experts George Wilson, Honorary Professor, Australian National University; and John Read, Associate Lecturer, Ecology and Environmental Sciences, University of Adelaide, in response to a previous bill brought before the US Congress that would have seen a nationwide ban in that country for all kangaroo meat and manufactured products in 2021.

The proponents of that bill, a group called Kangaroos Are Not Shoes, in the United States would have you believe the exact opposite. As I will outline, the evidence simply does not stack up when compared with the extensive body of work that has been produced by government organisations and industry within Australia and particularly South Australia.

Since European settlement, much of regional South Australia has become more hospitable to kangaroos, thanks to improved access to water, more reliable food sources and the eradication of predators. During times of abundance, kangaroo populations surge, leading to large mobs that can cause significant environmental damage. However, during droughts these same populations face catastrophic losses.

This stark contrast underscores the urgent need for a comprehensive outcome-driven approach to kangaroo population management and welfare. I will keep it brief but, when it comes to welfare, the contrast is striking between an animal being swiftly euthanised from a high-powered rifle and the prolonged agonising death from starvation or dehydration that millions of kangaroos endure during drought conditions. I have witnessed kangaroos so debilitated that they cannot flee from danger, let alone search for food and water. Without proper population control, those suffering conditions will only worsen.

One example of this is through the drought conditions that occurred in New South Wales in 2020, when the kangaroo population was estimated to have crashed by 25 per cent from 14 million in 2019 to 10.5 million—a shocking case of suffering for so many kangaroos that grew to unsustainable numbers in better conditions.

This motion addresses the problematic US Senate bill, known as the Kangaroo Protection Bill, which seeks to ban the importation of kangaroo products into the United States, including items like soccer boots and clothing, such as the shoes and belts worn by many South Australians. Even if this bill passes, it will not eliminate the need for responsible kangaroo population management here in South Australia. In fact, it would threaten a well-regulated kangaroo management system that has conservation and animal welfare as its guiding principles.

Since 1978, South Australia has maintained a strict framework for commercial kangaroo harvesting. Harvesting provides a sustainable, humane approach to managing kangaroo populations whilst ensuring that neither the meat nor the skins are wasted. This industry contributes millions of dollars to the Australian economy and offers a practical solution to the management of kangaroo numbers. Importantly, this industry does not lead to a decline in kangaroo populations.

While kangaroo numbers naturally fluctuate in boom-and-bust cycles, the regulated harvesting system helps stabilise these fluctuations. The government regularly conducts population

surveys using aerial and ground methods, or predictive models based on long-term data. These estimates inform the commercial quotas which are determined as a percentage of the estimated population size for each species. A quota report is prepared annually.

To guide the ecologically sustainable management of commercially harvested kangaroos in South Australia, the Department for Environment and Water developed the South Australian Commercial Kangaroo Management Plan 2020-2024 in consultation with conservation and animal welfare groups, land managers, regulatory and peak bodies, the kangaroo industry and the community. Consultation has just finished on the 2025-2029 draft management plan, and feedback from this consultation will inform development of that final management plan.

The quotas are set carefully, typically at 10 to 20 per cent of the estimated population, depending on the species; however, the actual harvest is consistently well below this threshold. For example, in 2020 only 19 per cent of the allowable harvest was taken and in 2002 just 32 per cent of the quota was used. That is one of the highest percentages in these last two decades. These figures remain far below scientifically determined limits that ensure the long-term sustainability of kangaroo populations. Quotas are also adjusted in response to seasonal conditions.

South Australia exports kangaroo meat to over 60 countries, including the United States, along with other kangaroo products, such as belts and boots, which would be affected by the proposed bill. The bill unfairly demonises this sustainable, economically and environmentally significant industry. Ultimately, no-one stands to gain from this legislation. Therefore, it is a sensible step for this parliament and the government to act in defence of the industry, support regional communities and the agricultural sector, and safeguard the welfare and sustainability of kangaroo populations.

Much of the justification for the measures in this bill comes from animal welfare advocates in the United States who ignore the real situation on the ground here and that work undertaken by industry experts, farmers and environmental organisations. While the bill introduced in 2021 did not proceed, the state legislature in Oregon considered a similar bill, and both these actions were enough for Nike and Puma to discontinue the use of kangaroo skins in their football boots, instead moving to synthetic materials. A strong message of support for the kangaroo industry is required regardless of the outcome of the current senate bill.

This motion addresses several key issues, all of which are substantiated by government documents, real-world experience, insights from ecologists and researchers, as well as perspectives from Indigenous and other community and industry leaders—and perhaps, most importantly, the practical realities on the ground. I urge all members to support this motion.

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

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (20:14): I move:

That the transcript of evidence taken by the Budget and Finance Committee at its meeting on 3 April 2024 from the South Australian Museum and attached supplementals tabled in the council on Tuesday 26 November 2024 be referred to the Statutory Authorities Review Committee for its consideration.

Quite simply, those are some of the documents, that were tabled in this place yesterday of evidence taken by the Budget and Finance Committee that will be useful for the Statutory Authorities Review Committee's current inquiry into the South Australian Museum and the Art Gallery of South Australia. I will take this to a vote on the next Wednesday of sitting, in February.

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

Parliamentary Committees

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (20:15): On behalf of the Hon. Heidi Girolamo, I move:

That the time for bringing up the report of the committee be extended until Wednesday 4 June 2025.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (20:16): On behalf of the honourable member concerned, I move:

That the time for bringing up the report of the select committee be extended until Wednesday 4 June 2025.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE TIMBER INDUSTRY IN THE LIMESTONE COAST AND OTHER REGIONS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (20:16): I move:

That the time for bringing up the report of the select committee be extended until Wednesday 4 June 2025.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON DAMAGE, HARM OR ADVERSE OUTCOMES RESULTING FROM ICAC INVESTIGATIONS

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (20:17): I move:

That the time for bringing up the report of the select committee be extended until Wednesday 4 June 2025.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT OF THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (20:17): I move:

That the time for bringing up the report of the select committee be extended until Wednesday 4 June 2025.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON 2022-23 RIVER MURRAY FLOOD EVENT

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (20:17): I move:

That the time for bringing up the report of the select committee be extended until Wednesday 4 June 2025.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUPPORT AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR POLICE

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (20:18): I move:

That the time for bringing up the report of the select committee be extended until Wednesday 4 June 2025.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON LOCAL AND LIVE CREATIVE VENUES

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (20:18): I move:

That the time for bringing up the report of the select committee be extended until Wednesday 4 June 2025.

Motion carried.

Motions

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ANNIVERSARY

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

That this council—

1. Acknowledges that in 2024 we mark 130 years since the passage of the Constitutional Amendment (Adult Suffrage) Act 1894 through both houses of the South Australian parliament, which saw South Australia become one of the earliest jurisdictions in the world to grant women the right to vote;
2. Recognises the crucial importance of access to full democratic participation for all citizens to the achievement of a fair, equitable and successful society; and

3. Reaffirms our commitment to upholding South Australia's long and proud tradition of national and global leadership in progressive democratic and social reforms.

(Continued from 13 November 2024.)

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (20:18): I rise today to speak in support of the motion marking the 130th Anniversary of the passage of the Constitutional Amendment (Adult Suffrage) Act 1894, an extraordinary milestone in South Australia's democratic reform. On 18 December 1894, the adult suffrage bill was passed in the South Australian parliament, granting women the right to vote and also making South Australia the first jurisdiction in Australia where women could stand for parliament.

Amendments to our constitutional act made our state (then a colony) the first in Australia to grant women the right to vote in parliamentary elections and the first place in the world to grant women the right to stand for parliament.

Reform was contemplated in our parliament as early as 1872, with the first resolution being introduced in 1885 by Dr Edward Stirling who said at the time that 'the right to vote by no means indicated that women should have a right to a seat in the House.' Several bills were debated and lost before the historic bill was agreed to in 1894.

A coalition of women and men of diverse backgrounds worked together to win the franchise through the South Australian Women's Suffrage League which was formed in 1888. Catherine Helen Spence and Mary Lee led the charge, and the Working Women's Union and many church groups played significant roles. Elizabeth Nicholls led the Woman's Christian Temperance Union which collected over 7,000 of the 11,000 signatures on the historic petition, no small feat when the population was dispersed and canvassing was on foot.

An anonymous newspaper letter writer known only under the pseudonym Zenobia, but thought to be a member of the league, articulated her support for suffrage in the *Register*.

What women want is to assist in procuring a proper set of men for the Parliament. We want the sort of men that will pay more attention to the rights and needs of women and the rights and needs and defence of the home than the men hitherto found in our legislature.

All those a woman loves are injured or benefited by the laws of the land and by the administration of the laws. Without a vote woman is powerless to mould or amend those laws.

An account of the tense and uncertain battle, including how the measure was in doubt just 12 hours before the final vote and nearly failed, was provided by journalist Cornelius Proud in *Review of Reviews*. He himself was labelled a faddist for his support of the cause, and his report of the personalities and tactics by those on both sides of the debate is an entertaining read.

The prominence of the temperance workers in the fight for suffrage caused the public house party to take fright...

Later, he triumphantly declared that:

I had the honour to draft the now historic petition, afterwards signed by 11,000 persons, and to carry that ponderous document (which opened to about 400 feet in length) down to the House of Assembly for presentation to the Hon G K Hawker.

The bill was passed in the House of Assembly on the morning of 18 December 1894 by 31 votes to 14, effectively enfranchising over 80,000 South Australian women. Three years after the passage of the bill, in her President's address to the Temperance Union, Mrs Elizabeth Nicholls reported:

The dire results prophesied by opponents of women's franchise have not come to pass. We have not heard of any domestic quarrels, or any neglected children as a result of the new departure, and dinner was cooked on election day much the same as usual.

In 1994, to celebrate the centenary of the passing of South Australia's historic legislation, the tapestries that are now on display in the House of Assembly were commissioned. In addition to the extraordinary effort of 16 volunteer community Weavers, many women from across the state took the opportunity to weave in a few stitches themselves and record their names while the tapestries were temporarily located in a bank foyer on King William Street, Adelaide. The campaign to gain public and parliamentary support for women's suffrage was a collective effort, and the tapestries

commemorating this historic victory reflect this. For me, it is always a talking point in giving school tours of Parliament House.

On 18 December 2019, the former Marshall Liberal government commemorated the 125th anniversary of our landmark legislation. The theme for the anniversary, 'Their Triumph; Our motivation', recognised how the efforts of the suffragists in the late 19th and early 20th century were critical in the shift towards greater gender equality.

The anniversary was marked by various events throughout the year, including a community grants program in which 28 organisations shared \$125,000 in grants to commemorate the anniversary, allowing them to hold events, run education programs and produce materials to promote the anniversary; a signature event at the Adelaide Town Hall was held, featuring distinguished speakers and championing women's rights and celebrating this milestone; the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly jointly re-enacted the passage of the Adult Suffrage Bill 1894 on 18 December 2019; and other events and media activations.

The Liberal Party recognises the important contributions women make and have always been committed to promoting women's equality and participation in all aspects of life. This motion highlights fairness and opportunity for all. It reaffirms our dedication to fostering a society where everyone should have the same opportunities to participate in the democratic process.

The 130th anniversary will occur on 18 December 2024. This extraordinary achievement resulted from years of campaigning, letter writing, signature gathering and lobbying by both men and women in the South Australian community. Gaining the vote was a step towards gender equality in South Australia and meant that women had taken a step towards influencing decisions by having their say in general elections. By supporting this motion we acknowledge the historic significance of the Constitutional Amendment (Adult Suffrage) Act and reaffirm our dedication to South Australia's tradition of leading the way in democratic and social reform. I commend the motion.

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (20:25): I would like to start by thanking the Hon. Nicola Centofanti for her contribution and a really great speech on what is one of the most important reforms that has happened in South Australia. I think it is really worthy to celebrate South Australia taking the lead on what was a globally significant reform, to be the first place in the world to not only grant women the right to vote but grant them the opportunity to stand for parliament. Unfortunately it took a long time after getting the right to stand for parliament before the first woman took her seat, but it was an important reform.

South Australia has an important role and has had an important history in electoral reform, as we have seen even here in South Australia in just the last few weeks with reforms to get rid of donations from big business and from unions and to replace that with public funding so that there are more equitable elections. Reforms to continue to increase the franchise with the bill that this house passed just the other day and a very significant event which we participated in today, which was the first address of the Voice to Parliament. That long history of progressive reform when it comes to social movements and elections is something that South Australians should rightly be proud of, and it is worth celebrating this 130-year anniversary. I commend the motion.

Motion carried.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

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

That this council—

1. Recognises that 2024 marks the 110th year of the Red Cross in Australia;
2. Acknowledges the significant humanitarian assistance provided by the Red Cross to some of Australia's most vulnerable people over the last 110 years; and
3. Commends all past and present Red Cross employees, members and volunteers for their service.

(Continued from 13 November 2024.)

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (20:26): I rise today on behalf of the Liberal opposition to support the Hon. Reggie Martin's motion to acknowledge the special milestone of the 110th anniversary of the Australian Red Cross.

Honourable members may remember that I moved a similar motion in 2022 to recognise the significant humanitarian assistance provided by the Australian Red Cross and to highlight some of the incredible programs and services supporting refugees, asylum seekers and migrant communities across Australia. It is my privilege today to add my appreciation to acknowledge the dedicated employees, members and volunteers who serve the Australian Red Cross and support its vital programs.

I would like to take a moment also to acknowledge my brother-in-law Dr Yew-Wah Liew who has worked for the Australian Red Cross for more than 34 years. He is a very dedicated professional like many of his colleagues working for the Australian Red Cross. My brother-in-law manages the Red Cell Reference Laboratory unit in Brisbane and he has often mentioned to me that he is very impressed by the blood donation drives held by so many multicultural groups each year. This is very important for a multicultural country like Australia.

The Lifeblood program is just one of the many vital services that the Australian Red Cross provides to support the most vulnerable members of our community, often in their time of greatest need. For a brief snapshot of the scale of the Red Cross's impact across Australia, according to the 2023-24 annual report more than 18,000 members and volunteers and over 5,500 employees worked with the Red Cross to support our community in the last year; there were 70 emergency activations across the country; 213,000 people received support before, during and after disasters; over 47,000 people received preparedness information and attended disaster resilience activities, including workshops, training, community initiatives and events; and 23,600 people from 129 countries received help through Red Cross migration support programs in Australia.

I want to take this opportunity to again thank and commend Jai O'Toole, the Executive Director of State and Territory Operations and South Australian Director of the Australian Red Cross. Jai and his team continue to do an outstanding job leading Red Cross operations across the state with a specific focus on migration, emergencies and service development.

As the shadow minister I have met so many wonderful organisations that have benefited from the work done by the Red Cross to assist our diverse multicultural communities. I have personally witnessed firsthand how Red Cross has been involved with helping migrants and refugees overcome barriers to employment with support both for jobseekers and employers, connecting migrants with English language courses, training and education, digital literacy training and job-matching services.

I have also witnessed that Red Cross offers aid to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in transition, ensuring that they receive the support needed to integrate into Australian society. This includes tracing and reconnecting families who have lost contact as a result of conflict and disaster and providing financial support to temporary visa holders and those who have an uncertain visa status.

Another program I would like to particularly highlight today is the Health in My Language program, which was launched in 2022. The Australian Red Cross received commonwealth government funding to partner with the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health to train bilingual health educators to deliver in-language education sessions to community groups and multicultural organisations in South Australia. All the bilingual educators are women, enabling migrant and refugee women to communicate comfortably and confidentially about important health topics and empowering them to access health information and services.

Once again, in concluding, I would like to thank the Hon. Reggie Martin for moving this motion and providing us the opportunity to congratulate and acknowledge the Red Cross on its 110th anniversary and once again sincerely thank everybody at the Red Cross for their amazing work and their impact in making a significant difference in the lives of vulnerable South Australians. I commend the motion to the chamber.

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (20:31): I will start by thanking the Hon. Jing Lee for her contribution and for her family's contribution to the Red Cross, which was a fantastic thing to learn. When I was first elected as a member of parliament the very first visit I did was to the Red Cross. I learnt a lot about their operations. When I first met them they used the term 'Bloods and floods' to describe what everyone thinks they do—that is, that they do the blood drives and they help people in their times of crisis when there are floods and bushfires and things like that. But they do so much more and help so many people in so many ways.

If memory serves, they had about 1,500 volunteers working for them, making an enormous contribution to South Australia. So I thought it was worthy of acknowledging their service to the South Australian community across 110 years. I thank all of their leadership and their team and particularly the volunteers who do all the amazing work serving the community.

Motion carried.

APY ART CENTRE COLLECTIVE

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (20:33): I move:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges the importance of Indigenous art centres in their celebration of culture and contribution to First Nations communities;
2. Welcomes the opening of a dedicated Umoona Community Arts Centre in Coober Pedy; and
3. Notes the success that the APY Arts Collective has achieved on a national and international level.

As you well know, Mr President, Indigenous art is something that is a lifeblood to many Aboriginal people. It is something that is seen as a success story, and particularly here in South Australia we have something very much to be proud of, and that is the APY Art Centre Collective. The APY Art Centre Collective represents some 500-plus Anangu artists. They have a lot of people on their books and a lot of artists who are able to turn their art into income for themselves, their families and their communities. Indeed I congratulate the APY Art Centre Collective on their outstanding international, local and nationwide success.

I note that they previously had premises on Light Square in the city, but most recently they have moved down to 57-59 George Street, Thebarton. I encourage any member of this council to take a visit and perhaps stock up on some Christmas goodies because they have everything from pottery to earrings to quite significantly large, beautiful artworks in painted form. In fact, Ambassador Caroline Kennedy recently spent quite a few hours at the APY Art Centre Collective premises and I believe went away with a few goodies of her own.

This most recent time for the APY Art Centre Collective has seen them supporting opportunities for 70-plus new artists through the Port Augusta Arts Collective, Dunjiba arts in Oodnadatta and APY Adelaide arts centre as well as the Adelaide Women's Prison project—which in particular focuses on pottery, should you go to visit that George Street premises—and the South Australian weavers association.

They have also achieved significant success in national and international arts events and industry awards, including Josina Pumani winning the Emerging Artist Award at the NATSIAAs at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory; Zaachariaha Fielding, known to many of you through his work in Electric Fields and also an artist of the APY Art Centre Collective, winning the 2023 Wynne Prize at the Art Gallery of New South Wales; Vicki Cullinan winning the 2023 Hadley's Art Prize; and Alfred Lowe winning the 2024 MA Art Prize with the Sydney Contemporary and the 2024 Shelley Simpson emerging art prize.

In 2023, the Albertina museum acquired a major work by Nyunmiti Burton for their permanent collection in Vienna. In 2023-24, works by Nyunmiti Burton, Zaachariaha Fielding, Alfred Lowe, Sally Scales, LeShaye Swan, Kunmanara Brady and Josina Pumani from the APY Art Centre Collective were acquired by Fondation Opale, Switzerland; the National Gallery of Australia; the Art Gallery of South Australia; Parliament House in Canberra; the Art Gallery of New South Wales; the National Gallery of Victoria; the South Australian Museum; Flinders University; Artbank; and the Powerhouse Museum.

The APY Art Centre Collective's friends in museum leadership have remained steadfast in their loyalty to the APY Art Centre Collective and have given them encouragement and support that has buoyed their collective spirits during what has been a very challenging period. In the past two years—and it is now two years—the APY Art Centre Collective have seen many challenges. They have been the subject of not one, not two, not three, but four investigations sparked by a campaign by *The Australian* newspaper, the claimed so-called 'white hands on black art', claims that have not been substantiated in not one, not two, not three, but now four investigations.

Most recently, the ORIC investigation has wound up with a simple administrative instruction that an email address be assigned and some slight constitutional changes be made reflecting the growing nature of the size of the organisation. Prior to that, the ACCC, back on 19 July this year, put out a press release saying the investigation into the APY Art Centre Collective claims was discontinued. The statement from the ACCC was:

We have reviewed the material provided by the South Australian Government panel, and others, and found nothing that we consider may have breached the Australian Consumer Law...

That was a statement assigned to the ACCC Deputy Chair, Catriona Lowe. Indeed, the APY Art Centre Collective is a not-for-profit organisation incorporated under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act. It is First Nations owned and governed. It supports over 500 artists, and it has been put through the wringer. That is why I bring this motion to this place today, because there has also been a tripartite government review of the APY Art Centre Collective sparked by that mischievous campaign by *The Australian*.

It was a campaign where the video—the so-called 'white hands on black art'—was never provided in full to any of the review panels or investigations and was later found to have been the subject of a rival art dealer paying some money to somebody and then supplying that to the journalist who waged the campaign against them. The National Gallery was the first review that the APY Art Centre Collective faced, and that found no evidence of wrongdoing in that particular exhibition and no evidence of the so-called 'white hands on black art' so-called scandal.

I bring this motion to the house today to congratulate the APY Art Centre, which was already doing a fantastic job, but note that for the last two years they have suffered and been treated like witches at a witch trial in Salem, where they were damned if they drowned and damned if they did not. They are continuing on, they are going from success to success, but currently, unfortunately, they are going from that success to success without state government support, which should be duly restored, that was withdrawn from them two years ago by the Malinauskas government.

I bring members' attention to a piece of correspondence of 4 November 2024 that was sent on behalf of the APY Art Centre Collective from two directors, one being Sandra Pumani and the other being George Cooley, both very well-respected artists in their own right and very much leaders in their community. That correspondence to the Premier, Peter Malinauskas, is cc'd to the Hon. Susan Close, the Hon. Kyam Maher, the Hon. Andrea Michaels.

It does actually outline the plight of an organisation that does wonderful things, that brings a richness to the culture and the continuing culture. Certainly, on this day where we heard a First Nations Voice to this parliament for the first time, I would hope we would be in a position where we would be supporting organisations like the APY Art Centre Collective. It brings wealth into those communities, and it does so in a way that is incredibly productive and particularly supportive of the Anangu community and brings that culture to the broader community.

The directors have requested a meeting with the Premier to discuss the fact that their funding that was withdrawn two years ago has still not been restored but also in this time to reflect on the success that they have continued to achieve through these adverse situations. Just imagine how many more achievements they may well have had, that I could be informing this council of tonight, had we not actually seen them put through not one, not two, not three, but four reviews, inquisitions, all of which have found no evidence of any wrongdoing by the APY Art Centre Collective.

I seek leave to table this piece of correspondence so that all members of the council may see it and so that it may encourage that meeting to take place.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: With that, I commend particularly the leadership of Skye O'Meara and Sally Scales. Sally Scales was a face of the yes campaign in the Voice to Parliament referendum. The cynics amongst us would assume and presume that perhaps there was a different agenda at play against the APY Art Centre Collective. It is I think shameful that the Malinauskas government has withdrawn their arts funding and not restored it as was promised, that the South Australian government with its tripartite approach with the Northern Territory government and the federal government, when its review panel failed to even produce a report, prolonged the pain for another year and withdrew that funding that had already been awarded to the APY Art Centre Collective.

With that, I use this motion and this opportunity to call for that funding to be restored, to call on the arts minister to give the APY Art Centre Collective the respect that they deserve, the recognition that they deserve and, indeed, the funding that they were previously awarded. With that, I commend the motion.

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (20:44): I rise today to indicate that the Liberal opposition will be supporting the Hon. Tammy Franks to recognise and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous art centres. The APY Art Centre Collective is a group of 10 Indigenous-owned and governed art centres that work together on innovative artistic projects and strong business initiatives. Bringing together the work of a range of APY local art centres and some 500 artists who do their work in those centres, the APY Art Centre Collective provides a location in Adelaide where they can do their work when in the city, and also provides gallery space for them to promote their work.

It is incredible to see that some of the artists are now winning major international art prizes and having exhibitions around the world, as mentioned by the mover. Many countries around the world celebrate their Indigenous cultures and promote their artists. Therefore, the work by the art collective is significant, because they assist APY artists to commercialise their creative work and sell interstate and overseas.

APYACC recognises that art centre businesses are the beating heart of our communities. Their vision is to support every person of working age to have culturally affirming employment and earn an independent income so that they can succeed. The APY lands are home to seven art centres, which, along with studios in Adelaide and Umoona in Coober Pedy, facilitate and market the work of more than 500 Indigenous artists, as I mentioned earlier.

The Umoona Community Arts Centre is the latest permanent fixture to be added to the APYACC, having opened its doors earlier this year, and provides an important space for Indigenous artists in Coober Pedy and the surrounding area to gather, learn and engage with the community. Umoona Arts was established in 2020, with more than 30 artists from different language groups, ages and generations, embracing different mediums and diverse styles, working alongside each other. The new facility is the result of years of community-led advocacy and provides studio spaces and exhibition galleries, along with collaborative spaces for workshops and community engagement programs.

The prestigious standing of the APYACC within the Indigenous arts industry has seen the art centre flourish, being home to some of the best known and most collectible Indigenous artists in the country. Most of the funds generated by the APYACC are returned to the community on the APY lands. It is one of the most significant sources of non-government money that generates economic activity in these communities.

The model is underpinned by modest government funding of approximately \$245,000 per year, which supports the enabling work undertaken by the administration of the group. However, as the mover, the honourable member, pointed out, we understand that this funding was unfortunately suspended by arts minister the Hon. Andrea Michaels last year, with a review put in place following the release of a video suggesting that white studio assistants were doing work for one of the artists, which became known as 'white hands on black art'. There is nothing unusual about studio assistants aiding artists, and the minister's review did not make any findings that were conclusive. Instead, it referred the case to the ACCC and ORIC. The ACCC has found no case to answer.

My colleagues the Hon. John Gardner and Josh Teague, the shadow minister for arts and the shadow minister for Aboriginal affairs respectively, have both visited the APYACC and made trips

to the APY lands, where they have spoken with many artists. The diverse range of artists that they spoke with were united in the strength of their expression about the disrespect they felt from the South Australian arts minister, who removed their administration funding without consulting with them about it. That the minister refuses to reinstate their funding remains a significant black mark on the record of this Malinauskas Labor government

In contrast, the former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the former Premier the Hon. Steven Marshall, was a regular visitor to the APY lands and a regular visitor to its art centres and to APYACC. He would regularly introduce philanthropic international business people visiting South Australia to artists and their work, leading to many sales, money that went back into supporting communities as well as those local talented artists.

In recognising the APYACC as the important cultural institution that it is, it is disappointing to see that it has been tarnished by the lack of support and respect that it is due from the arts minister and from this Labor government. The APY Art Centre Collective has had a large positive impact on the economic, social and cultural outlook of the communities in the APY lands and is something that our state should be deeply proud of.

I want to thank the Hon. Tammy Franks for moving this motion and also for her ongoing passion in supporting Indigenous arts and First Nations communities. We join the honourable member in calling for funding to the APYACC to be restored by the Malinauskas Labor government. With those words, I commend the motion.

The Hon. T.T. NGO (20:50): I rise on behalf of the government to express our support for this motion, a motion that acknowledges the importance of Indigenous art centres. Indigenous community art centres are often vibrant hubs and they are also safe spaces that foster community pride and wellbeing. Importantly, they transfer more than 60,000 years of history, stories and knowledge from past generations over to present and future generations.

I have seen firsthand how our Aboriginal art centres are economic drivers, providing employment, social connection and income opportunities for people in many communities across the state. During my visits to the APY lands with the former South Australian Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee, it was evident that the art centres were the heart and soul of the local communities we visited. In June this year, the opening of the Umoona Community Arts Centre in the Umoona community in Coober Pedy played a vital role for that community.

This government was proud to partner with the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, and together we provided around \$1 million for the construction of this purpose-built facility in Umoona. The former federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon. Linda Burney MP, alongside our own Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon. Kyam Maher, and the member for Giles in the other place attended the official opening of the centre this year on 18 June. The Umoona centre will transform the community's cultural vibrancy and also have significant social and economic impacts.

We can never underestimate the power of art. Aboriginal art connects Indigenous Australians to their ancestral heritage and also plays an essential role in contemporary Indigenous life. Our Indigenous artists pass on knowledge to our younger generations and educate non-Indigenous people about Aboriginal culture. Aboriginal art also helps in healing, advocacy and maintaining a strong cultural voice, not only to Australian society but to many other nations as well. As I discovered on my travels to the APY lands, our Indigenous art centres have their work celebrated in many parts of the world.

With that, I thank the Hon. Tammy Franks MLC for bringing this motion to the chamber. The Malinauskas Labor government is honoured to support Indigenous art centres and proudly supports this motion.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (20:53): I rise to conclude the debate and thank those who have made a contribution tonight: the Hon. Jing Lee and the Hon. Tung Ngo. I also thank you, Mr President, for having attended one of the most recent Umoona artists launch with George Cooley in attendance down at the APY Art Centre Collective premises on George Street in Thebarton in previous months. Similarly to the Hon. Tung Ngo, you and I have many a time, as you know, visited those APY Art Centre Collective locations on APY lands as well. It is a success story; it is a success

story that deserves a happy ending, rather than the nightmare that they have currently been living through.

With that, I thank members for their contributions tonight, and I note that the Hon. Kyam Maher in particular and, federally, Minister Burney and Minister Burke have been particularly supportive of the APY Art Centre Collective. I hope that we see a time when we can come and celebrate their successes in a strongly cross-party, collaborative way.

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY REVIEW REPORTS

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. T.A. Franks:

That there be laid upon the table of this council, within 21 days of the passing of the resolution by the Leader of the Government, the two reports prepared by Mr Mark Priadko from 2011-12 titled 'Financial Sustainability Review Reports' in relation to the South Australian Museum and the Art Gallery of South Australia, respectively.

(Continued from 16 October 2024.)

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (20:55): I rise on behalf of the Liberal opposition to support the Hon. Tammy Franks' motion to express our disappointment and dismay that such a motion has to be brought to this council because of the inadequate response, lack of leadership and poor procedural process of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

As a member of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee, I strongly support this motion which calls on the Leader of the Government in this place to produce two financial sustainability review reports from 2011 and 2012 in relation to the South Australian Museum and the Art Gallery of South Australia. As the honourable member has outlined, the Statutory Authorities Review Committee wrote to the Chief Executive of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in July 2024, requesting copies of these reports that are relevant to the committee's current inquiry into the SA Museum and the Art Gallery of SA.

The DPC stated that the documents would not be provided to the committee as they were subject to cabinet confidentiality. However, these documents are now more than 10 years old and should be made available to the committee under the DPC's own 10-year rule for cabinet documents. After some four months of back and forth with the department, which resulted in the DPC advising that the committee would need to lodge a freedom of information request in order to access the documents, I am astounded at the disingenuous and disrespectful approach the government has taken to this simple request by a parliamentary standing committee.

I note that it is only since the Hon. Tammy Franks moved this motion that the SARC received further correspondence from the DPC, advising that the department is considering release of the documents to the committee and that no formal FOI application would be required. However, DPC stated that it is working through the process of consulting with third parties, which is required before the relevant confidentiality can be regarded as being effectively waived, providing no timeframe for when this process might be completed.

However, finally and rather conveniently, the members of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee were notified at 11.40am today—

The Hon. T.A. Franks interjecting:

The Hon. J.S. LEE: Correct. The DPC have sent further correspondence, advising that two documents that have been—

The Hon. T.A. Franks interjecting:

The Hon. J.S. LEE: —requested will be released to us. How convenient that this determination has been made on the same day that this motion was set to be debated. It is almost as if the department is trying to avoid the embarrassment of being called out in this place for deliberately attempting to withhold information from a parliamentary committee. Let us remind the DPC that the Statutory Authorities Review Committee has a mandate from this chamber to inquire into the SA Museum and the Art Gallery of SA and these reports will inform our inquiry. I eagerly look forward to reading these reports.

While this motion should never have been required, I wish to thank the Hon. Tammy Franks for moving this motion and forcing the department's hand to act accordingly in the interests of accountability and transparency. I commend the motion.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms Lee, I am sure you were not talking about deliberations or correspondence that was received in a committee today, because that would be inappropriate.

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI (20:59): I rise on behalf of the government to indicate we will not support the motion. I note that this morning the Department of the Premier and Cabinet provided two documents relating to the Art Gallery of South Australia.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: Point of order, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms El Dannawi, sit down for a second.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: Point of order: I believe that more than one member has now discussed the deliberations of a committee that has not yet even deliberated and certainly not made public these things, so they are very much contrary to the standing orders.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Ms El Dannawi, be very careful about how you put the fact that a committee may have received some documentation.

The Hon. T.A. Franks interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Okay. You really need to dance around this very carefully. I am sorry if I missed pulling up the Hon. Ms Lee—

The Hon. I.K. Hunter: Throw her out.

The PRESIDENT: No, I am not going to reward her. Members should be well aware that committee deliberations, correspondence received in committees before it has been received and published, should not be talked about in this chamber.

The Hon. T.A. Franks: And certainly not decisions that have not even happened yet.

The PRESIDENT: And certainly not decisions that have not happened yet.

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI: I understand that this morning the Department of the Premier and Cabinet provided two documents relating to the Art Gallery of South Australia and the South Australian Museum, requested by the Statutory Authorities Review Committee, to the committee. These documents were subject to cabinet confidentiality and involved an administrative process for them to be released to the committee.

Premier and Cabinet Circular 31, Disclosure of Cabinet Documents 10 Years or Older, otherwise known as PC 31, sets out the government's policy in regard to the disclosure of certain cabinet documents under the Freedom of Information Act 1991 after 10 years. While PC 31 allows for the disclosure of cabinet documents older than 10 years, it does not automatically waive cabinet confidentiality for all such documents or provide for automatic disclosure to a parliamentary committee.

This policy allows DPC to release cabinet documents under the FOI Act after 10 years, rather than the 20 years currently provided for in the FOI Act. This is known as the 10-year rule. Most governments, based on the Westminster system, have a class exemption for cabinet documents in their freedom of information laws, supporting the rationale that information prepared for cabinet should be kept secret to generate full and frank discussion and decision-making. This ensures cabinet decisions are not undermined, and protects cabinet confidentiality and the collective responsibility of cabinet.

In 2009, cabinet decided it did not want to claim the cabinet exemption over certain types of cabinet documents that are between 10 to 20 years old. This 2009 cabinet decision was given effect through the issuing of PC 31. By introducing the 10-year rule policy, cabinet recognises that disclosing information through FOI supports a greater government commitment to improving transparency of government. The policy assigns DPC as the agency to deal with all FOI applications under the 10-year rule.

In deciding whether to disclose a cabinet document, PC 31 requires DPC to have regard to the FOI Act, including exemption clauses in schedule 1 of the FOI Act. In requesting that the Leader of Government Business in the Legislative Council on behalf of DPC simply hand the cabinet document over to the committee, the Hon. Ms Franks MLC is in fact requesting that the leader and department do something for which they do not have authority.

PC 31 makes very clear that DPC must consider release of the documents in accordance with the provisions of the FOI Act. I understand that DPC has advised the Statutory Authorities Review Committee in correspondence dated 21 November 2024 that, while it has waived the requirement for a formal FOI application, it was working through the determination process, undertaking to get back to the committee as soon as possible. A determination has now been made and the documents have been disclosed to the committee—provided. There is very good reason for the existence of such policy.

The Hon. T.A. Franks: Which committee?

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI: The committee. The release of any documents, including cabinet documents, under the provisions of the FOI Act ensures—

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: Point of order, Mr President: I believe that the member just misled the parliament. She just claimed that the documents had been provided to the SARC committee and received and that is simply not true—simply not true.

The Hon. I.K. Hunter interjecting:

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: She did say that documents had been received.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. I.K. Hunter: Listen properly.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: Govern properly. This is an order for the production of documents motion; it has nothing to do with FOIs.

The Hon. I.K. Hunter: That is simply outrageous. She did not utter those words.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Enough. It's late, tempers are frayed.

The Hon. I.K. Hunter interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Hunter, I am on my feet. Nobody speaks when I am on my feet. We are going to move on. The Hon. Ms El Dannawi, if you mentioned 'received' you can withdraw that and then move on.

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI: There is very good reason for the existence of such a policy. Release of any documents, including cabinet documents, under the provision of the FOI Act ensures that there are no unintended consequences associated with disclosure of matters such as law enforcement, public safety, trade secrets, personal information or legal professional privilege, putting either the state of South Australia or members of the public at risk, whether that be a legal risk, a safety risk or simply a breach of privacy. I conclude my remarks and confirm that we will not be supporting this motion.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (21:07): In concluding the debate, I thank those who have made a contribution: the Hon. Jing Lee and the Hon. Mira El Dannawi. I note that this is actually not a motion about freedom of information requests. This council is not making a freedom of information request, this council is asking for an order of production of documents, something that happens in the Westminster system across every other parliament in this country on a regular basis, but does not happen under the Malinauskas government and has not happened under previous Labor governments for some time.

This is an order for the production of documents motion of a parliament chamber and the freedom of information laws have nothing to do with that. The power of the parliament is supreme. I urge members to support this very simple request that in the next 21 days these documents, relevant

to the inquiry of a current committee of this council, on the SA Museum and the Art Gallery of South Australia, from 2011 and 2012, with regard to Financial Sustainability Review Reports, be provided to this council. I commend the motion.

Motion carried.

PARISH OF PROPHET ELIAS NORWOOD AND EASTERN SUBURBS

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. J.S. Lee:

That this council—

1. Congratulates the Greek Orthodox Community and Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood and Eastern Suburbs for reaching the special milestone of their 65th anniversary in 2024, and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia on achieving their 100-year anniversary in 2024;
2. Recognises that the Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood is the oldest Greek Orthodox Parish in the eastern suburbs of Adelaide, and has been servicing the Greek Orthodox community from the same church since its establishment;
3. Acknowledges that the Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood has been the convenor of the successful Annual Norwood Greek Festival since 2011;
4. Appreciates the Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood for their charity programs and philanthropic endeavours, particularly their compassionate fundraising and volunteering efforts to assist the poor and elderly;
5. Commends the Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood for preserving traditional Greek culture through their Greek Language School, the Official Dancing Group of Prophet Elias and by hosting various feast days of patron saints; and
6. Reflects on the many achievements of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese over the past 100 years and the Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood over the past 65 years and their contributions to enrich multicultural South Australia.

(Continued from 13 November 2024.)

The Hon. S.L. GAME (21:10): I rise to speak in support of the Hon. Jing Lee's motion. I, too, would like to commemorate the Adelaide Greek Orthodox community and the Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood and Eastern Suburbs for reaching their 65th anniversary, and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia's 100th anniversary.

The Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood and Eastern Suburbs is the oldest Greek Orthodox parish in the eastern suburbs of Adelaide and has administered pastoral care to families and members of the church ever since its roots were first planted in Adelaide. The parish is well known for organising the annual Norwood Greek Festival since 2011, a celebrated event in the local area that preserves Greek culture and brings people together.

Additionally, its dedication to charitable work, including fundraising and volunteering to support the elderly and those in need, is highly commendable as it demonstrates love and kindness towards Adelaide's broader community. These efforts have enriched South Australia's multicultural landscape. As we celebrate these milestones, we reflect on the achievements of both the archdiocese and the parish, honouring their invaluable contribution to the community.

The Hon. C. BONAROS (21:11): I rise to support the motion and to congratulate what is my parish in the Greek Orthodox faith and my second home, only to St George. Prophet Elias and St George are my two parishes.

The Hon. I.K. Hunter: Isn't that greedy, two parishes?

The Hon. C. BONAROS: This is what we do. We spread the love in our churches. I choose to spread it between two churches, and that is St George and Prophet Elias, but both of them are very special places and have very special meanings to our families respectively. It is where we have been baptised, it is where we have baptised our children, it is where I baptised my son.

Prior to Father John coming to Prophet Elias, Father Stavros and Presvytera Kyriaki and their entire family (an army), who still play an extraordinary role in that parish, have led that community for a very long time. It is an honour and a privilege to be associated with them and

everything they do. We are very honoured to have Father John take over the reins from Father Stavros and then Father Michael and to continue the extraordinary efforts that the Psaromatis family have made in that area for a very long time.

I have been fortunate enough not only to attend those parishes in my formal capacity but also as a parishioner and to speak at many of the special celebratory events that we have had in our community. I will not speak to this long, other than to say that I am very humbled and proud to be associated with everything that Prophet Elias does, and I look forward to its continued success in the years to come.

I congratulate not just Father John but the entire community at Prophet Elias for their exceptional and extraordinary efforts on behalf of the community, including the amazing festivals that they put on, and I look forward to more of it in the future. I thank the member for bringing this motion to the house.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (21:14): I rise in support of this motion and, additionally, speak in support of the motion brought and passed in the other chamber by the member for Dunstan, Cressida O'Hanlon MP. It is a wonderful achievement of the Parish of Prophet Elias in Norwood on their 65th anniversary, while at the same time celebrating 100 years of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

The relationship between the Greek people and the Australian community can be traced back to the First World War. Not only that but the instability of postwar Europe saw major displacements, including those of Greek descent, so seeing Greek migrants come to Australia prior to the First World War was not unusual. We saw them in particular go and work in places such as Port Pirie, thus creating a need for a place of worship for the community.

As the Second World War caused further devastation and upheaval, we saw many migrants from Europe come to South Australia. One of the key groups was the Greek and Cypriot community. They settled in all parts of the state but predominantly in the western and eastern suburbs of Adelaide.

As we know, faith is a fundamental part of the Greek culture and thus creates a need for places of worship. In the eastern suburbs, that need was fulfilled by the establishment of the Parish of Prophet Elias in Norwood. This was a Parish built by and for the community. Throughout its time, it has gone through many developments simply to cater to the needs of the parishioners.

To build a community takes more than just the clergy, and we need to thank the countless volunteers over the past 65 years. The community has given more than just their time and work—they have provided their love to the community. This is the most important part of community, and it is the sole reason why the parish has remained an integral part of the community.

The community has always been supported by the clergy, and the name that comes to mind is the Very Reverend Father Stavros Psaromatis and Presvytera Kyriaki. I know they were honoured last year by the Premier, Peter Malinauskas, at the Norwood Greek Festival. Father Psaromatis was a key figure in the parish for 40 years. Today, we also have Father Ioannis Choraitis—or Father John, as he is affectionately known—and Presvytera Angeliki.

The community has also been running the Norwood Greek Festival, as previously mentioned. This is a terrific way to celebrate their faith and their culture. At the festival, usually on a warm night, you feel like you are in Greece. What is also amazing is seeing the diverse communities come and experience the night. You will always get good food there and witness some of the best Greek performances. It is a key reason why the state government made a three-year commitment to support the event at last year's festival.

Keeping culture strong in communities is why this government has supported Community Language Schools to the tune of \$4 million over four years. In addition, funding was committed to support Greek schools, like the one organised by this parish. Greek dancing classes are also provided by the community, and is an excellent way to see culture being preserved.

The motion mentions the incredible work the community does for South Australians. This is absolutely commended by the state government. This is a community that puts others first. I want to

single out the Five Loaves Initiative, led by the tireless efforts of the esteemed Philoptochos, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Archdiocese Community and Parish of Prophet Elias, Norwood. This is a group that provides food for those in emergency housing and people experiencing homelessness. I also want to acknowledge their toy drive during the Christmas period—another important philanthropic endeavour.

Finally, I want to again thank the volunteers who have contributed so much to the community over the last 65 years, whether it is in their capacity of faith, charity or celebration. This is the reason why the community is so strong.

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (21:18): I would like to thank all honourable members for their contributions: the Hon. Sarah Game, the Hon. Connie Bonaros, as well as the Hon. Russell Wortley. I want to particularly thank the Hon. Connie Bonaros for her very affectionate contributions to the parish. Every time I get to see the Hon. Connie Bonaros at many events, as well as church services, she always embraces me and gives me a big smile. At one time, she actually came up to me and said, 'I think we should make you an honorary Greek at some point.' So with those remarks, I thank all honourable members for their support. I commend the motion.

Motion carried.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ITALIAN ASSOCIATION 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (21:19): I move:

That this council—

1. Congratulates the South Australian Italian Association (SAIA) on reaching its remarkable 75th anniversary in 2024;
2. Recognises the proud history and contributions of the SAIA as a community hub which preserves and promotes Italian culture, services and experiences in partnership with the wider Italian community of South Australia;
3. Acknowledges the outstanding contributions of founding members, community leaders, current and past presidents, committee members, volunteers and supporters who have carried on the legacy of the founding members in serving the Italian community and enriching our multicultural society in South Australia;
4. Commends the SAIA for creating the prestigious recognition programme, namely the SAIA Excellence Awards, which aims to promote and perpetuate the Italian-South Australian heritage and celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of individuals or organisations in the South Australian community;
5. Acknowledges the pioneering and entrepreneurial spirits of the Italian community and pays tribute to the outstanding contributions that first-generations and subsequent generations of Italian migrants have made and continue to make to our resilient and dynamic multicultural society; and
6. Reflects on the achievements and vision of the SAIA as a centre for all, helping to connect South Australian Italians to their cultural heritage, fostering strong business and cultural ties between South Australia and Italy and delivering 75 years of dedicated service to the Italian community in South Australia.

It is a great honour to rise today to congratulate the South Australian Italian Association on reaching its remarkable 75th anniversary in 2024. Strong leadership is the backbone of every successful organisation. I wish to take this opportunity to honour the outstanding hard work and significant contributions of the current South Australian Italian Association President, Cavalieri Dr Phillip Donato OAM, past presidents and current and past board members, wonderful volunteers and supporters.

Their passion, dedication and community spirit are the hallmarks of this association that uphold the legacy of their founding members in serving the Italian community, and enriching the multicultural society in South Australia continues to this day. A special shout-out to Dr Phillip Donato OAM. Those of us who have had the pleasure to meet and work with Phillip would agree with me that he is truly a gentleman who is kind and generous. His exceptional leadership skills, active community engagement and his ability to work with people from all walks of life have earned him the respect from his board members and government officials as well as the broader South Australian community.

In addition to Dr Phillip Donato OAM, I would also like to place on the record my appreciation to the board members of SAIA, which include Vice President, Edi Carlesso; Treasurer, Christina Clemente; Secretary, Lou Fantasia; and other board members Frank Russo, Natasha Marona, Tony Bava, Angelo Benedetti, and Luke Corletto. Sylvana D'Elena and Eloise Abraham work hard as the manager and administration assistant to support SAIA.

For more than seven decades, SAIA has been the centre of a range of community services, serving as a hub which preserves and promotes Italian culture, working in partnership with the wider Italian community in South Australia. Its establishment was inspired by passionate, generous and community-minded individuals who were determined to deliver social and welfare services to the rapidly growing Italian community in South Australia.

Between July 1947 and 1950, over 30,000 Italians migrated to Australia, escaping the suffering and economic strife that followed the end of the Second World War, with many seeking a better life in South Australia. In 1949, the Catholic Italian Welfare Association was created to serve the social and welfare needs of newly arrived migrants, becoming incorporated in 1952 and purchasing the renowned Italian home at 262 Carrington Street, Adelaide.

In 1965, the Catholic Italian Welfare Association was one of several Italian community organisations which merged to form the Italian Australian Centre. Following a further restructure, the South Australian Italian Association was formed in 1967, becoming the association that we know and love today. After an intense period of rebuilding, the new Italian Centre was officially opened in April 1972, becoming the second home for many in the South Australian Italian community. The centre itself has had a varied and vibrant history, hosting the iconic Sunday night disco, Friday night cabaret, the beloved Enoteca Restaurant, and the Italian Chamber of Commerce over the years.

Today, the Italian Centre is home to not only SAIA but also the Adelaide Italian Festival, the Dante Alighieri Society of SA, the South Australian Association of Teachers of Italian and Com.It.Es South Australia Committee for Italians Abroad. The South Australian Italian Association's mission was evolved over time to respond to the changing circumstances and priorities of the Italian community in our state. While this objective may have changed in some ways, its dedication to being the overarching association for all Italo-Australians, regardless of regional identities, endures.

It has been a privilege to witness the South Australian Italian Association grow from strength to strength, building on its strong foundation to accomplish new goals under Phillip Donato's outstanding leadership, with support from SAIA board members. In 2019, the SA Italian Association facilitated the commencement of the new Italian Festival, becoming the inaugural and ongoing not-for-profit sponsor for the festival.

In 2022, the SA Italian Association held its first biannual Awards for Excellence gala dinner as part of the Adelaide Italian Festival. This prestigious recognition program was established to showcase the extraordinary accomplishments of individuals or organisations in the South Australian community. I was absolutely delighted to attend this year's SAIA's Excellence Awards on Saturday 9 November 2024, which also served as a fabulous celebration of the association's 75th anniversary.

It was a great honour to join the Hon. Vincent Tarzia MP, Leader of the Opposition, along with many distinguished guests from the Italian community, as well as the Hon. Frank Pangallo, to celebrate the remarkable achievements of the individuals and organisations with a proud Italian heritage.

Many multicultural communities look to the Italian community for inspiration as a successful role model for migration and multiculturalism. The pioneering and entrepreneurial spirit and the success story of our proud and passionate Italian community can be found right across our state in business and export, in education and healthcare settings, and in all professions and industries—indeed, in every aspect of our society.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt congratulations to the outstanding 2024 SAIA Excellence Award recipients in the following six categories. Pat Scalzi OAM was the winner of the Community Award. Since 1992, Pat Scalzi has proudly grown his family business, Scalzi Produce, to become South Australia's premier fruit and vegetable wholesaler. Pat contributes to many community clubs, including Radio Italiano and the Order of St John of Jerusalem. He has

been a board member of SA Produce Market since 1987, which supported many charities, and in 2000 Pat received an Order of Australia Medal for his outstanding service and extensive contribution to the local horticultural industry. I am sure Pat Scalzi is well known to the Hon. Nicola Centofanti.

The next winner is the winner of the Culture and Arts Award, won by Claudia Callisto. Claudia Callisto is a cultural storyteller and a bestselling author of the memoir *The Good Italian Girl*, which shares her experience in growing up in an Italian-Australian family and finding her own identity and passion as an ethnic woman. Claudia has written and performed three seasons of Fringe shows, sharing her and other Italian-Australian women's stories. Claudia has also curated cultural exhibitions to help preserve Australian-Italian heritage for the community.

The next winner is the winner of the Research and Development and Innovation Award, Professor John Beltrame AM. Professor John Beltrame is a world renowned academic cardiologist with active research, clinical and teaching roles. He is the Michell Chair and Discipline of Medicine Lead at the University of Adelaide, and senior cardiologist at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Royal Adelaide Hospital. In 2019, John was appointed as a member of the Order of Australia AM for his significant service to cardiovascular medicine and to medical research and education.

The winner of the Small Business Award was won by Antonio Virgara. Tony Virgara migrated to Australia in 1962 at the age of 13 and started working the following year. He operates his award-winning family business, Virgara Wines. With his incredible work ethic and determination, Tony has been successful in all his endeavours and still works tirelessly to this day, 60 years later, with no plans to retire.

The winner of the Large Business Award was Cavaliere Frank Agostino. I think most honourable members would know Frank quite well. Frank Agostino is a giant of South Australian business. At one time, the Agostino Group was the largest and the most successful Mitsubishi dealership group in South Australia. Today, the Agostino Group is one of the most significant operators in the state, with a range of fuel and convenience stores, Subway restaurants and Carl's Jnr restaurants across South Australia.

Frank also established Pendleton Olive Estate, which produces extra virgin olive oil and other really delicious products. Frank is known as a wonderful gentleman and a legend in so many fields. He has served the automotive industry with distinction as Motor Trade Association president and chairman for many years.

The winner of the Young Achiever Award was Marco Petta. I was particularly honoured to present the Young Achiever Award this year to the ever-energetic Marco Petta, general manager of Radio Italiana 531. Marco has certainly made an incredible impact through his role at Radio Italiana 531, working tirelessly to develop partnerships with major Italian national media outlets, engaging young people and students in the station and its programs, restructuring Radio Italiana and developing 50 new community programs between 2021 and 2024.

All these award winners have shown outstanding dedication, passion and a longstanding commitment to the Italian Australian community and have made exceptional contributions to the cultural, social and multicultural landscape of South Australia.

Congratulations to Marco and all the well-deserving winners and I thank you all for your wonderful contribution to our community. It is so important that today we reflect on and pay tribute to the proud history and incredible achievements of a foundational organisation such as the South Australian Italian Association.

On the night, Dr Phillip Donato provided a special tribute to acknowledge many pioneering women of SAIA. He made a moving speech where he honoured the many incredible Italian women who have been the quiet and yet resolute force behind the Italian community. These women carried the weight of traditions, families and community with grace, whether in positions of leadership organising events, fostering connections, or simply extending a helping hand whenever needed, often working in the background seamlessly making things happen.

It was wonderful to watch a video with a long list of trailblazing women and to honour so many amazing Italian women behind the success of SAIA. For more than seven decades, SAIA has been the community hub and a second home for all in the Italian community of South Australia.

Thank you once again to all the community leaders, volunteers and supporters for their tireless efforts and long-term commitment to connecting South Australian Italians to their cultural heritage and delivering 75 years of dedicated service to the Italian community in South Australia and the broader multicultural community. Once again, it is a great honour to move this particular motion to acknowledge the 75th anniversary milestone and wish SAIA a much brighter, much happier future ahead for many more years to come. With those words, I commend the motion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (The Hon. R.B. Martin): I call upon the Hon. Mr Frank Pangallo.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (21:32): Thank you very much, Mr Acting President, and congratulations on your birthday. Seeing as we are on the topic of Italian here, we might just christen you for the evening as Reginaldo Martini, or something, or Martino.

I would like to thank the Hon. Jing Lee for moving this motion on the 75th anniversary of the South Australian Italian Association. She has basically taken a lot of the wind out of my sails of what I was going to say, she is so well researched in her speech regarding the South Australian Italian Association.

Incredibly, this afternoon I was going through the books on my shelf and I found the book known as *La seconda casa (The second home)*, which was written by Dr Daniela Cosmini and Professor Diana Glenn. It is a magnificent piece of work on the history of the South Australian Italian Association and also Italian culture in South Australia. I spoke about that five years ago, when I moved a motion celebrating SAIA's 70th anniversary, and I cannot believe how quickly time has flown in that period.

But having a look at that book, it is quite an impressive piece of literature, focusing on the history of the Italian diaspora in South Australia. Flicking through it and seeing a lot of the photographs bore home to me the enormous contributions that Italo-Australians have made to this state and this country.

There are something like more than a million Australians, nearly 4 per cent of the population, who identify as Italian, which is a significant number: 4 per cent of the population. I think in South Australia alone there are probably 150,000. I reckon there is more, and a lot of them want to identify as Italian who may not be, but there are so many of them. You only need to walk around the city or around the state just to see the contributions that have been made by Italians since the postwar immigration boom.

My family are one of those that made the trip in 1952; that is when my family came out here. My mum came out with my two brothers. They were only quite young then, Dominic and Patrick. Incredibly, to give you an idea of the resilience of Italians, I will share this story about my own family. My uncle Frank Violi and my grandfather Pasquale Mittiga came to Australia before the war and during the depression years, and they worked in the cane fields of Queensland and elsewhere.

My grandfather and my uncle had left their family back in Calabria when my mother was just a baby. She did not even know her father when they came out here. Then, of course, the war broke out and many Italians and Japanese and also Germans were interned at the Loveday Internment Camp in the Riverland, and they were there for the duration of the war. Then, of course, in the postwar boom many Europeans made their way to Australia, leaving war-torn Europe to make a new life in Australia, to try to rebuild their lives and their families and also, of course, help rebuild Australia, which needed a lot of assistance at the time.

My own mother found herself having to reconnect not only with her father but also her brother-in-law, as it turned out later on, and at the same time my grandmother had also had to reconnect with her husband after more than 20 years. It is just an incredible thing to comprehend. But she was not alone: there would have been so many Europeans in that position. They had come here to try to create a new life for their families. They were sending money back to Italy and looking forward to the day they would be reunited in Australia.

Of course, from there our family grew, and many more of our relatives came out. I lived in the western suburbs; I grew up there. I was born in Mile End. We started to see the first seeds of multiculturalism sewn in South Australia. Of course, it was not just the Italians. It was also the Greeks,

the Poles, the Hungarians, the Bulgarians who were here. We had these new communities that were establishing themselves.

When I was reading the book I also came across this fact, which I have spoken about before: Australia's White Australia policy. This policy was introduced by governments before the war, and it was not until well after the war that it was lifted. It was not only about shutting the borders of Australia to people of colour, they were described as 'less desirables' from southern European countries like Italy, Greece and Malta. You have to assume that what they did not want in this country was peasant stock. I guess it was probably Australia's version of 'the deplorables'.

They did not want them here; they wanted probably more educated Anglo-Saxons. Fortunately, that all changed after the war, and there was financial assistance from the commonwealth to get those 'undesirables' here. They came to our shores in huge waves. As I said, we have seen large pockets grow around Adelaide. I grew up in the western suburbs, and you will find a large number of Italians in the western suburbs at places like Mile End, Torrensville, Henley Beach, Fulham, whatever. Of course, in the eastern suburbs of Adelaide, we have Campbelltown, Hectorville and around there.

Those pockets grew up because at that time when they came to Australia, because they had no ability to learn the English language, the migrants could not do anything else but stick together in their own communities. As a result of that, they went out and found work in various fields in factories. A lot of them were skilled in construction: bricklayers, tilers, electricians, plumbers. There were skilled labourers, farmers as well, who worked in horticulture. From there, we saw South Australia's economy and the Australian economy grow. Many went to work in New South Wales, particularly in the hydro scheme in the Snowy Mountains.

As a result of this influx of European influence, of course, we have seen changes in our cuisine. We have seen the influx of coffee and certainly cafes. When I was a young lad, there was only one place in the city you could buy an espresso coffee, and that was on Hindley Street. I am talking going back nearly 60 years. How much that has changed now. The Italian influence is so strong in our lifestyle and also what we enjoy.

The hub for all this activity amongst the Italians was always the South Australian Italian Association on Carrington Street. That was a popular meeting place. That was where people would go to engage with people from their own country or from their own regions. That was where people would probably have met their husbands or wives as a result of that.

It became a popular place for generations afterwards, including myself when I was a young man in the seventies. They would often have discos on a Sunday night. After we had gone around the pubs and nightclubs of Adelaide like Bogart's and the Old Lion or whatever, we would always find ourselves going to the Italian club on Sunday night for a bit of entertainment. Again, a lot of my friends met their wives there. It was a popular venue amongst young people of European origin and particularly Italians.

I think the other popular attraction of the Italian club was their Friday lunches at the centre. They were really well attended, and not just by Italians: they were a must. The main room would always be packed to the rafters, not just for the fine food but the guest speakers who turned up there. Among them were Don Dunstan, Gough Whitlam, Sir Donald Bradman, Malcolm Fraser, John Howard. We have seen a pantheon of sporting stars and soccer greats who have attended there. In fact, recently at the Italian club, SAIA, there was an event for Fabio Cannavaro, the captain of the 2006 Italian World Cup team. It was a huge turnout for that. Of course, Formula One legends often went there, particularly the Ferrari team, when Adelaide hosted the Formula One.

The Italian Association continues its strong engagement with the community. Of course, we know, as the Hon. Jing Lee pointed out, it assists so many causes as well. She mentioned and gave acknowledgement to Dr Phillip Donato. I will certainly acknowledge the incredible work that Phillip has done in recent years at the South Australian Italian Association. There was a period a few years ago when things were a bit rocky at the South Australian Italian Association. Others had come in and started to turn the place around, and among them was Phillip Donato. Now he has a very enthusiastic team behind him that continues to keep that place an active centre for Italian Australians and also for business and other events.

Before I get onto the SAIA Excellence Awards, I just want to acknowledge the Malinauskas government, because five years ago I was talking about the issue that Italian language courses at Flinders University were under threat. The Malinauskas government has now continued funding for that to continue and to keep the language and the culture alive there.

In closing, I would also like to acknowledge the recipients of the excellence awards for their extraordinary achievements. I was just amazed at the array of people who were there that night, not just those who won the awards but many who were in attendance, who are very successful in their line of work and organisations that they represent. It made me feel proud to be one of them, actually.

Again, I acknowledge those winners that the Hon. Jing Lee mentioned. I will not go into them, but they have been successful in a wide range of fields, in business, agriculture, science, medicine and media. The winners also included Antonio 'Tony' Virgara, who just happens to be a very close friend of our family. I have known Tony for as long as I can remember. He and his father and my father emigrated from the same village in Calabria. They were very close friends. The Virgaras are a huge family. They have been very successful in Angle Vale, and it was terrific to see Tony win the award for small business. He has built that winery up to be a very successful business with sought-after wine, and it continues to be that way there. The Virgara family were also involved heavily in the potato business for years. They supplied exclusively their potatoes to Smith's crisps.

Also, as the Hon. Jing Lee mentioned, Professor John Beltrame AM won an award for his outstanding research work in cardiac medicine. He was also given a Heart Foundation award several months ago for the work that he has done. She mentioned Pat Scalzi—he is a legend of course and an iconic figure in the community—who won the community award. Everyone knows just what a generous man Pat is. Of course, he is the brother of a former member of this place, Joe Scalzi. I mentioned him in my speech about the bill I introduced.

Frank Agostino was recognised for his contribution and won the Large Business Award. I do not need to say any more about Frank than what we have already said tonight, except that he is an absolute icon of industry in this state. There was Claudia Callisto, of course—she is an author and a Fringe artist—and Marco Petta, who was nominated as the Young Achiever of the year.

The Hon. R.A. Simms interjecting:

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Marco Petta. Do you know him, the Hon. Rob Simms?

The Hon. R.A. Simms interjecting:

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Well, you should. Actually, you did meet him. You met him at the Italian Festival, when you were there that day. He was there. He is a very enthusiastic manager of the radio station, Radio Italiana. It was terrific to see Marco's work in this state and with the radio station recognised.

As I said, SAIA plays an important part in celebrating Italian culture, and it has also been heavily involved in the resurgence and recent success of the Italian Festival. With that, I congratulate SAIA, and the honourable member for bringing it to our attention; SAIA for their 75th anniversary. I think, as we say in Italian, 'cent'anni', which means we want to see it hit 100 years.

The Hon. S.L. GAME (21:51): I rise briefly to speak in support of the Hon. Jing Lee's motion. I too would like to congratulate the South Australian Italian Association on its remarkable 75th anniversary in 2024. This milestone showcases its rich history and role as a central hub committed to safeguarding and celebrating Italian culture, traditions and initiatives in collaboration with the wider Italian community of South Australia.

The SAIA's legacy rests on the foresight and dedication of its founding members, complemented by the remarkable contributions of community leaders, past and current presidents, committee members, volunteers and supporters. Their unwavering commitment has sustained the SAIA's service to the Italian community, enhancing the richness of South Australia's multicultural fabric.

Notably, the SAIA has established the prestigious SAIA Excellence Awards, a program celebrating the extraordinary achievements of individuals and organisations while promoting the Italian South Australian heritage. These awards stand as a testament to the SAIA's commitment to

honouring the accomplishments of its members and fostering the next generation of leaders within the South Australian Italian community.

Finally, the SAIA's vision continues to connect South Australian Italians with their cultural roots by fostering strong cultural and business ties between South Australia and Italy. The SAIA has become a central force in maintaining and advancing the Italian community's heritage, creating a legacy of unity, pride and service that will inspire generations to come.

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

BULGARIANS' EDUCATIONAL AND FRIENDLY SOCIETY

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (21:52): I move:

That this council—

1. Congratulates the Bulgarians' Educational and Friendly Society (BEFS) on reaching its remarkable 75th anniversary in September 2024;
2. Recognises that BEFS has been the hub of the Bulgarian community in Adelaide since the organisation was established in 1949, promoting and preserving Bulgarian cultural heritage and providing a sense of belonging and fellowship for its members;
3. Notes that the Bulgarian community has an enduring historical connection with Fulham Gardens, Seaton, Henley Beach, Grange, and surrounding areas, with many Bulgarian migrants having settled and established market gardens in the area and later building the Bulgarian Club Hall on Tapleys Hill Road by hand;
4. Acknowledges the outstanding contributions of founding members, community leaders, current and past presidents, committee members, volunteers and supporters for their dedicated service to the Bulgarian community for more than seven decades;
5. Commends BEFS for enriching our multicultural society through a range of programs and services such as the St Petka Bulgarian Orthodox Church, the Bulgarian Ethnic Radio Program, the Bulgarian Ethnic School, the Kitka dance group, and through hosting annual cultural celebrations such as the 'Zdravei' Festival; and
6. Reflects on the many achievements and legacy of BEFS over the past 75 years and wishes the society and members of the Bulgarian community every success in the years ahead.

It is a great honour to move this motion to congratulate the Bulgarians' Educational and Friendly Society on reaching the remarkable milestone of its 75th anniversary in 2024. The Bulgarians' Educational and Friendly Society, also fondly known as BEFS, has served as a hub to promote and preserve Bulgarian culture, heritage, language, faith and traditions since the organisation was established in 1949.

As the society's name suggests, its core foundation is to provide educational support and a sense of belonging and fellowship for its members since its very beginning. I would like to, firstly, extend very warm and heartfelt congratulations to the current and past presidents, committee members, volunteers and supporters on this milestone 75th anniversary. It is only through the dedicated service and outstanding contributions of community leaders and volunteers that organisations such as BEFS can uphold the legacy of their founding members and continue to serve and enrich the community for more than seven decades.

There is a Bulgarian proverb which says 'Kyoto se uchi, toy shte spoluchi'. Literally, it means 'A person who learns will succeed', and it is probably equivalent to the English proverb, 'Knowledge is power and power is success'. They believe that if you want to be successful, then learn, learn and learn. The more knowledge you gain, the more confidence you will have while meeting different challenges in your work.

There is no doubt that each successive management committee of BEFS has learned and built on the knowledge from one decade to another to sustain the great work the society has set out to do. I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank the current president, Mr Ian Stefanoff. He celebrated his 50th birthday recently—in terms of special birthdays celebrated today, we have a birthday boy sitting in the President's chair right now—and we wish him many happy returns. I want to thank Ian for his passion, dedication and excellent leadership working alongside community-minded management committee members, including vice president Mimi Francesca, treasurer

Iggy Vasileff, secretary Nicholas Charles and committee members Velma Bennett, Joan Stefanoff, Allan Trifonoff, Michael Georgeff, Chris Elieff, Steven Gencheff, Krasimir Glogovski, Jenna Trifonoff-Lloyd and Nathan Lazaroff.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Ian and the BEFS team over the years. They have always made me and other guests feel very special every time we have had the opportunity to attend their events. Founders and presidents of BEFS are the foundation rocks and it is my privilege to acknowledge their long-term contributions to the society. Immediate past president Mr Ian Nenov held the role of president from 2007 to 2021. Mr John Bennett was president from 2000 to 2007 and was the society's longest serving president. Mr Sava Savoff served for almost 30 years, from 1973 to 2000. Mr Savoff deservedly received the Order of Australia Medal in the Australia Day Honours in 2002 for his longstanding service to the Bulgarian community of South Australia.

While the Bulgarian community in South Australia is relatively small, they have a long and proud history in our state. The first few Bulgarians arrived in the early 1900s, first working as itinerant labourers in orchards and then purchasing cheap swampy land in Fulham, where they used traditional Bulgarian horticultural skills to drain the land and establish the first market garden in the area in 1912. In 1928, a larger group of Bulgarian immigrants arrived in South Australia intending to earn money for two to three years before returning home; however, the Great Depression prevented most from returning to Bulgaria, and many ended up purchasing land around Fulham Gardens, Seaton, Henley Beach, Grange and surrounding areas to set up market gardens.

With Bulgaria being aligned with the Axis powers during the Second World War, Bulgarian migrants in Australia were threatened with being held in internment camps. Thankfully, growing vegetables on their market gardens was seen as a valuable resource for the war effort that saved many migrants from being interned. In the aftermath of the war, a third wave of Bulgarian migrants came to call South Australia home, and the need for a permanent meeting place and official body to support the growing Bulgarian community led to the establishment of the Bulgarians' Educational and Friendly Society in 1949. Construction of a community hall on Tapleys Hill Road began in 1952, with community members donating their time and skills to build the Bulgarian Club hall by hand.

By 1961, there were 458 Bulgarian-born South Australians, and during the 1960s they created a second tomato-growing settlement in Adelaide's north. The Bulgarian community contributed significantly to the establishment of Virginia as a major centre of market gardening, which it remains to this day. The heart of the community remained in the Fulham Gardens area, though, with the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church of St Petka built directly behind the club hall and opening in 1973. The church continues to hold weekly services in both Bulgarian and English and helps preserve the unique religious heritage of the community.

The Bulgarian ethnic radio program has been broadcast on 5EBI ethnic radio once a week since 1977 and remains an important way to highlight and promote Bulgarian language and culture over the airwaves to keep the community connected and informed. From the very beginning, the founding members placed a strong emphasis on passing on their heritage and language to the next generations. The Bulgarian Ethnic School has been operating for more than 50 years and continues to be an integral part of the community, enriching the education and lives of its members, children and grandchildren. It is remarkable, after seven decades, for a small community to have such an active organisation that continues to meet regularly and hosts fantastic events such as the Feast Day of St Petka, Bulgarian Alphabet and Cultural Day, and monthly themed dinners.

More than that, the society has increased its community events, hosting the inaugural Zdravei Bulgarian Festival in February 2018. The Zdravei Festival has since become a major event on the multicultural calendar, being one of the first major multicultural events to return after the COVID-19 restrictions. The Zdravei Festival is a wonderful celebration of Bulgaria's rich culture and proudly showcases the incredible talents of the traditional Kitka dance group. It is an opportunity for the wider community to share in the unique traditions, music, food, crafts and performing arts of Bulgaria, and there are always a number of other talented multicultural groups performing on the day, making it a truly joyful intercultural occasion.

It has been a privilege to get to know the community so well over the years in my role in multicultural affairs. It was a true honour to attend the society's 75th anniversary celebration on

8 September 2024. I was joined by my colleague Matt Cowdrey, the member for Colton, who is the local member, and many community leaders and special guests to recognise the incredible achievements and outstanding contributions of BEFS over more than seven decades. The ballroom at the Bulgarian Club had never looked better, decked out in red, green and white balloons to honour the Bulgarian heritage, and of course it is the flag's colour. I also fondly remember attending the 70th anniversary luncheon with the member for Colton, where I was delighted to join the Kitka dancers and the children from the Bulgarian Ethnic School as they taught me some traditional Bulgarian dance moves.

As we today reflect on the history and legacy of the Bulgarian's Educational and Friendly Society, we are reminded of the power of community and the fellowship that we share with one another, and how important it is that individuals can come together to share in the traditions, language and faith of their culture. From building the community hall brick by brick to launching an annual festival to engage with the wider South Australian community, it is remarkable what strong leadership, vision, determination and community spirit can achieve.

It is a great honour today to move this motion to recognise the legacy of BEFS over the past 75 years and to wish the society and members of the Bulgarian community every success in the years ahead. With those words, I wholeheartedly commend the motion.

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

VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL

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

That this council—

1. Congratulates the Virtual War Memorial on the 10th Anniversary for establishing the online commemorative collection of personal experiences that honour all those who served our nation in times of conflict, from the Boer War through to Afghanistan;
2. Recognises that this is a commemorative collection of human experiences in honour of all those who lost their lives as a result of their service and all those who returned forever changed by their experiences; and
3. Commends the work of staff, volunteers and the many people who have and will continue to contribute to the Virtual War Memorial database, which is an everlasting reminder of all our service men and women, ensuring their courage and sacrifices will never be forgotten.

(Continued from 25 September 2024.)

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (22:03): The Virtual War Memorial is an excellent initiative with many benefits. It recognises the contribution and sacrifice of Australian service personnel, from the Boer War to the Afghanistan War. The use of a digital platform enables access to many different virtual exhibits, including podcasts and written and extensive visual material, in a manner that is easily accessible. It reveals the human face of the sacrifice of war and allows community members who may be unable to travel to physical war memorials access to this material at any time.

Importantly, the digital and visual format is one that engages the younger generation. The school program that the Virtual War Memorial conducts in collaboration with the South Australian Department for Education encourages students to conduct their own research into the war experience of a service person.

Not only does this have educational merit, it brings home to the next generation the personal experience of conflict and appreciation of the sacrifice made by former generations. It is worth reflecting on the purpose of war memorials. It is often noticed that they exist to commemorate and respect those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for a cause, or who were prepared to do so. This includes the defence of our country and the preservation of the democratic freedoms that are the foundation of our quality of life.

War memorials exist not to glorify war but to preserve the memory of the terrible cost of conflict and to honour those willing to pay that cost for the benefit of future generations. Without accessing these memories, the lessons of war may be forgotten in the passing of time. Every year

on ANZAC Day our communities gather around Australia in the pre-dawn light to commemorate the fallen and to express our gratitude for those who selflessly endured the horrors of war for our benefit today.

The Virtual War Memorial encourages and engages with the current and next generation of young South Australians, and through its unique access and learning programs reinforces the lesson that conflict should be the last resort for a civilised society as the cost is always high. The opposition obviously supports the motion.

The Hon. T.T. NGO (22:05): I thank the Hon. Ms Centofanti for her contribution and thank all members for their support of this good cause of an association that has worked so hard in the past decade to commemorate the memories and contribution of our service men and women.

Motion carried.

INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY

The Hon. S.L. GAME (22:07): I move:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges that 19 November 2024 is International Men's Day, focusing on men's health, showcasing male role models, fostering positive gender relations, and advocating for constructive expressions of masculinity;
2. Recognises the positive value men bring to the world, their families, and communities;
3. Acknowledges that men face a series of health challenges that need to be addressed to have our communities function to their fullest potential; and
4. Recognises that men deserve to be celebrated on International Men's Day to the same extent we celebrate women on International Women's Day.

International Men's Day: I am really proud to have put International Men's Day on the South Australian landscape for the past two years, with sold-out events weeks in advance of the night. This year's event raised almost \$15,000 for Lifeline, and it was heartening to hear from the CEO that every \$100 will go to an hour of expert suicide intervention services. I am grateful to Legacy for being the charity partner in the previous year.

I have always been clear that International Men's Day should not be a political event. It is pretty obvious from communicating with the public that men and women of all different political persuasions are supportive of an event like this on the calendar. I particularly thank my parliamentary colleagues from both side of politics, who this year turned out to show their support and the gracious panel and speakers who shared their stories openly and for no fee.

It was a most fantastic crowd and atmosphere that gathered on the recent evening of 19 November, International Men's Day. Times have changed and progress has been made in terms of the promotion of the acceptance of men talking about their feelings, especially if they are feeling depressed or anxious. Much work still needs to be done on available services and funding inequalities, but certainly from my observation and interactions, particularly with groups such as Men's Sheds, it is remarkable and moving to see how much more accepted reaching out for help and admitting one is struggling for men has become.

Like one stakeholder told me, it is time to move on from a focus primarily on awareness to tangible implementation of effective services and policies. I commend the government on some recent contributions and advances they have undertaken in this area, including but not limited to their financial support of a fellowship into male suicide. I remember growing up with my father trying to instil in me that stress was not real and was merely a sort of fabrication by the mind that just needed to be discarded as a malfunctioning of the brain, and to not really pay too much attention to this imagined stress. It is a great thing that times have changed and I think my father would have been shocked but ultimately comforted by the open discussions that seem to be occurring in Men's Sheds today.

But what of the conversation about celebrating men? What if, for a moment, we as a society want to take a break from the doom and gloom statistics on men and shine a light on the enormous contribution men are making to society individually and as a society at large? Are we allowed to? It

seems some would rather not. Thankfully, I believe individuals who want all men to stay in a corner riddled with collective guilt over the actions of a few are in the minority, but some of them have been given the privileged position of speaking to us at large.

I have spoken extensively about the positive contributions of men both in parliament and out of parliament as fathers, workers, members of the Defence Force, brothers, sons, friends and so on. I do feel strongly about this for my own son, for example, who is nine years old. My son is the most sensitive of my three children. His empathy and love for me and his sisters is the best gift I could have asked for and I intend to nurture it for my remaining days. I do not want my son feeling a collective guilt and shame for simply being male.

This sentiment is shared by mothers everywhere and of all political and religious or non-religious identifications. This is because it is simply about loving your child and wanting the best for them. There are many damning statistics regarding men and I will not repeat them all here. I do, however, just want to focus on a couple. Seven out of nine suicides are men and the leading cause of death amongst men aged 15 to 44 in Australia is suicide—15 to 44. This statistic instils fear into every mother and father and indicates clearly the tragedy of men who are leaving their young families and partners behind.

I have spoken of my own vulnerabilities as a young person and want to revisit that briefly. I remember sitting in maths class in year 10. I was failing and going nowhere. I have spoken of my great teacher, Mr Weathered, before and how he helped turn my life around, but there is an important person missing from the story: Toby. Toby was tall and good-looking and he was just so smart and kind to everyone. I, on the other hand, seemed and felt, quite frankly, a bit messed up and as though I were throwing my opportunities away.

Luckily for me, Toby was in my mathematics class. I cannot deny Mr Weathered's willingness to see me at recess and lunch with all my mathematical queries, but it was Toby who really took the load. Sitting in front of me and having essentially mastered four unit mathematics in year 10, he was more than willing to be on tap for any questions I had as a failing student who up until then had done away with trying at school. I changed schools in year 11, but Toby and Mr Weathered had put me in good stead and I achieved full marks in year 12 three unit mathematics.

When I bumped into Toby at the start of my first year at the University of Sydney to study veterinary science, I thought what good luck. He told me he was studying an advanced mathematics degree. I should have thanked Toby for helping me achieve my then dream of becoming a veterinarian. Shortly after, I heard from another school friend that Toby had been found at a holiday spot he frequented with his family. Apparently, he had been battling depression and anxiety, from what I gathered from a heartfelt poem he had written that was read out at his funeral. He was the only child of his grieving parents.

I know there are simply too many similar stories. The thing is, if we want things to get better we cannot simply have a conversation that only allows either the demonising of men or airspace for men to vent their mental demise. For things to get better, it is my belief that the narrative around men must change and positive conversation must be allowed. Positive events must be allowed. In organising this event, while juggling my three children and parliamentary duties during school holidays, I was notified of a disappointing local radio segment featuring two presenters. When I finally got my hands on the segment, it was worse than I had imagined. The following is a transcript from part of the segment between David Penberthy and Will Goodings:

It's this International Men's Day thing. It's not like a sort of, you know, ban all immigrants or abolish native title event, it's yeah it's, but it's One Nation organised by Sarah Game MLC. She has thrown in her lot with this International Men's Day event, which is something which as a bloke I've got to say I find it's a bit dubious.

It goes on:

Maybe when a bloke gets murdered once every four days by his partner we should start thinking seriously about it, or maybe when men won't go to court in the event that they have been sexually assaulted because they don't want to go through the process of giving evidence about their female attacker. When men have to grapple with issues like that, maybe then we need International Men's Day. Until then, maybe we don't. That's just my opinion. Many will disagree, but I don't think too many of them are female though.

I would say that many mothers, sisters and daughters will disagree, as well as many men who have also contacted me with their serious disappointment at listening to that conversation. I was going to comment further on that, but really they have said it all themselves. I am proud of this International Men's Day event and I am grateful to everyone who helped make it a success, including all of those within these parliamentary walls.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (22:15): I rise to speak in support of the motion brought to the house by the Hon. Sarah Game, which is in support of International Men's Day. This year's theme for the day is Men's Health Champions, a rallying call to enhance the health of men and boys across Australia.

Men's health is not just an isolated concern, it is a societal one. Every day in this country we lose 50 men before they turn 75 to preventable causes. These are husbands, these are fathers, these are brothers and these are friends. They are lives that could be saved if we focused on improving health services, awareness and education around men's health. It is an alarming figure and it highlights areas of our health system that disproportionately affect men.

We need to recognise that there are areas where men are falling behind in health outcomes. Men are often reluctant to seek medical help and are statistically more likely to smoke, drink excessively and delay doctor visits. These are habits that have long-term consequences, especially in rural and regional communities where men are further removed from healthcare services.

For Aboriginal men, this disparity is even greater. In Australia, men on average live seven years less than women. The national male health policy, first introduced in 2010, laid the groundwork for research and policymaking that can change these realities. The previous Coalition federal government also recognised the importance of this issue by committing \$19.7 million to the National Men's Health Strategy 2020-2030. This strategy focuses on key areas, such as mental health, chronic disease, risk taking, sexual and reproductive health, and healthy ageing. It is a framework that acknowledges the unique challenges men face and the need for targeted interventions.

Mental health in particular is a pressing concern. In Australia, men are three times more likely to die by suicide than women. In 2022 alone, 2,455 men took their own lives. That is almost seven men every single day. We need to ask ourselves, 'Why is it that men are less likely to seek help for mental health issues?' The stigma around men seeking support must be addressed. Currently, only 36 per cent of men with mental disorders seek help compared with 51 per cent of women. This gap is costing lives.

As we consider this motion, it is important to remember that this is not just a policy issue, it is a personal one. This issue hits close to home for many of us. Men's health, particularly mental health, is often overlooked in our public discourse and we cannot afford to continue this silence. There are already some incredible resources and groups working hard to support men, from organisations like Beyond Blue and the Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation to grassroots efforts such as the Mr Perfect barbecues and the Men's Shed movement. These initiatives are helping men to connect, to talk and to heal. They are creating spaces for men to belong, to support one another and to access the help they need in a way that resonates.

As we bring this motion to the floor, I encourage my colleagues to speak up and to advocate for men in their communities, particularly those in rural areas where men in the agricultural sector face unique mental health challenges due to the pressure and isolation of primary production. Their contributions to our state economy and to their communities are vital, but so too is their wellbeing. Let us use this opportunity to not only acknowledge the challenges but to actively pursue the solutions. The opposition commends this work and supports the motion.

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI (22:19): I rise to speak in support of the motion on behalf of the government. International Men's Day provides an opportunity to highlight challenges men face, including pressures of toxic masculinity and mental or physical health challenges. It also offers an opportunity to promote healthy and constructive masculinity and the role of men in advocating for gender equality and prevention of violence.

This year's theme was Positive Male Role Models. I think this was a very good theme. Examples of constructive masculinity should be promoted and upheld. We all benefit when this is the

case. It is very important that we have positive male role models given that in 2021-22 the Australian Bureau of Statistics found that 13 per cent of all Australian adults had experienced sexual violence by a man, compared to 1.8 per cent by a woman. It is very important that we have positive male role models given that, according to the data collected from the ABS from 2022-23, almost four in five family and domestic violence offenders were found to be men.

I welcome any measure to reform our society and lift men out of the struggles, circumstances and behaviour that leads them to commit violence. It is important to support efforts that redefine masculinity in healthy and inclusive ways that encourage emotional vulnerability, care for mental wellbeing and the rejection of rigid gender roles. Men's issues must also be viewed through an intersectional lens. Race, sexual orientation and other identities compound the challenges some men experience.

International Men's Day should be used to engage men as allies in the fight for gender equality, highlight the ways in which patriarchal systems hurt everyone and on support for health and other issues specifically impacting men. It should not be used as an opportunity to minimise the impact of gender inequality and violence towards women and children. I welcome any motion to constructively address the very real struggles that men face in society that are unique to them.

The Hon. S.L. GAME (22:21): I have asked that this council acknowledge that 19 November 2024 is International Men's Day, to recognise the positive value men bring to this world and to acknowledge the serious health challenges that are faced by men and to recognise that men deserve to be celebrated on International Men's Day to the same extent that we celebrate women on International Women's Day. I want to thank everyone who spoke in support of the motion: the Hon. Nicola Centofanti and the Hon. El Dannawi. I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. F. Pangallo:

That this council—

1. Notes that the Inspector for ICAC, Mr Philip Strickland SC, delivered reports to parliament of reviews into investigations into complaints on the following matters investigated by ICAC:
 - (a) review of PIR 18/E17253 and complaint of Mr Michael Fuller, April 2024;
 - (b) review of the investigation and prosecution of Mr Trent Rusby, April 2024;
 - (c) review of the investigation of Chief Superintendent Douglas Barr, April 2024; and
 - (d) the investigation and prosecution of John Hanlon, June 2023.
2. Notes that the parties named in the reports have registered with the Hon. F. Pangallo detailed submissions in writing, complaining that the reviews were attended by:
 - (a) abuse of power;
 - (b) failure to exercise power;
 - (c) failure to provide procedural fairness and natural justice;
 - (d) exceeding jurisdiction;
 - (e) mistakes of fact undermining probity of the reports; and
 - (f) failing to make findings of 'misconduct' and/or 'maladministration' in public administration in the face of clear and undisputed evidence.
3. Calls on the Attorney-General to act on the recommendations contained in the 2021 Report of the Select Committee on Damage, Harm or Adverse Outcomes resulting from ICAC Investigations.
4. Calls on the Attorney-General to order an independent judicial review, with an officer appointed from interstate with the powers of a royal commissioner, into the inspector's reports/reviews/findings in the matters of Mr Hanlon; PIR 18/E17253 and complaint of Mr Michael Fuller; the investigation and prosecution of Mr Trent Rusby; and the investigation of Chief Superintendent Douglas Barr.

(Continued from 13 November 2024.)

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (22:22): This is the last instalment of my speech on my motion into the three reviews of ICAC investigations by the former Inspector of ICAC, Philip Strickland SC. On 29 April, Strickland tabled his review into the investigation of Chief Superintendent Douglas Barr, who took his life in October 2019 while awaiting the outcome of an ICAC investigation into recruitment nepotism at SAPOL.

The Barr family have always blamed the lengthy delays in Mr Barr receiving written submissions from Commissioner Lander, which were promised to him within two or three weeks after an 11 July examination, for his suicide more than three months later. The investigation had taken a terrible toll on Mr Barr's mental condition. He was a distinguished and decorated senior police officer who had felt his entire world was collapsing in on him, and everything he had worked for was going to be taken away through an adverse finding.

Mrs Barr did not criticise the decision to investigate her husband. Her complaint was how Mr Lander undertook the investigation. Nobody would argue it was appropriate for Lander to investigate Chief Superintendent Barr and others involved in the investigation known as Recruit 313. ICAC certainly uncovered worse conduct by others than what had been levelled at Mr Barr. He did not behave corruptly.

The problem was, and which led to his suicide, Lander telling him as much in the period he had promised, two or three weeks from 11 July at the end of Lander's examination. However, ICAC's counsel assisting took far too long to finalise the submissions and was never likely to meet the deadline Barr expected from his conversations with Lander.

ICAC's senior legal officer told Strickland it was near impossible to complete in such a brief time because of the volume of material. Well, Mr Lander should have known that as an experienced barrister and former judge himself. Commissioner Vanstone told Strickland the period given to Mr Barr was always untenable and she conceded that had the false expectation not been given it may not have been so stressful for Mr Barr. She puts that ever so mildly. Stressful? It was worse than that. They would have and should have known the terrible toll it was exacting on Mr Barr and his family. A secret and suffocating ICAC investigation like this one does not have a stressful effect; it has a traumatic effect, a devastating effect.

A distinguished police officer who served his community with distinction is seeing his entire life flashing before him, approaching a dead end because he is unsure what they are going to find. He was assigned the job to find 313 recruits for SAPOL. It proved to be a difficult assignment. Guess what? It is still difficult today to fill hundreds of vacant jobs. Chief Superintendent Barr's mistake was that he asked a panel reviewing candidates to revisit one known to him that they had rejected—there was nothing criminal in that.

I will remind members that Recruit 313 found that another SAPOL officer had tampered with exam results of recruits related to senior SAPOL officers, that there was evidence of nepotism and managing conflicts of interest. If anything, it was more a case of being a disciplinary matter that could have been dealt with internally, no crime committed, but Doug Barr and his family did not know that. Unbeknownst to him, the investigation went from being one of corruption to possible misconduct and maladministration, on which, at the time, Commissioner Lander had no authority to act under the Ombudsman Act until he sought approval.

So Strickland finds that the concerns held by the Barr family over the delays were valid. He accepts the protracted investigation took a psychological toll on Mr Barr. But here is the kicker—and, again, demonstrating that Mr Strickland was never going to make a finding of fault against anyone at ICAC, particularly Mr Lander. Again, just like in the other two matters, Hanlon and Rusby, he decides that despite the three-month delay—remember, this is eating at Mr Barr night and day, 24/7—it did not amount to an unreasonable delay within the meaning of the ICAC Act. 'Within the meaning of the ICAC Act'? This is a clever way to shift any blame.

Did Strickland even consult with an eminent psychiatrist to gain an insight into what Mr Barr may have been experiencing with his mental health? You would think he would have taken the time to take evidence from an expert in mental health to gauge the sort of mental trauma Mr Barr and others subjected to ICAC investigations would experience and how their condition could be better managed and understood—a person of eminence of the likes of Chief Psychiatrist Dr John Brayley,

or respected psychiatrist Dr Sandy McFarlane—not make his own judgement. He is a lawyer with no medical expertise as far as I am aware, but that did not seem relevant to him or his minions.

He found no evidence they contravened the code of ethics for the Public Service, no evidence of maladministration in public administration by Mr Lander—funny, that. He could not bring himself to find any one person in ICAC, let alone Lander, liable or responsible for his finding of misconduct and maladministration in the Harlon case. 'It was systemic,' he said. It was the organisation of the place that was responsible for all this mismanagement of investigations, even if Lander once wrote that the buck always stops at the top when it comes to misconduct and maladministration in public office. Mr Barr was told in his summons that he was being investigated for exactly what Strickland found was going on at ICAC. It was worse at ICAC but nobody was going to be blamed for it. Perhaps a display of comedy here.

The death of Mr Barr was because of direct failure of communication between him and Mr Lander. Legally, Mr Lander may have been cleared of any wrongdoing but morally his delay proved catastrophic. Strickland went looking for every excuse to not lay any blame on ICAC's conduct—another whitewash. Maybe fairer minds might have found differently.

He accepted Lander's evidence that it was not appropriate to tell a person who did not even know they were not going to be prosecuted because it would cause that person—now, wait for it—undue stress. Mr Barr could not have been under more stress. Strickland concluded that Mr Barr should have at least been informed of the delays in finalising the counsel assisting submissions. To be told would have lifted an enormous weight off his shoulders and that of his long-suffering family. He may not have gone down that terrible tragic path.

Under the act as it existed before the reforms, Mr Barr could not even tell a medical practitioner why he was under so much stress. Mr Barr could not even tell his own children why he was so depressed, why he was not at work. Thankfully, we changed that in the reformed act, not that some in this place may have noticed that.

The family told a parliamentary committee they still hold Mr Lander responsible for the death of their loving husband and father. They still hold that view despite Strickland's findings. Mrs Barr is still hurt and traumatised about what happened to her, to her husband and to her family, and then the unannounced police raid which seized items and pieces of his uniform while he was still alive and on his way to the Royal Adelaide Hospital's intensive care unit where he remained for five days before the life support was terminated.

She told me she believes Mr Strickland was looking at ways to exonerate ICAC and Mr Lander, and does not feel the family will ever get any justice for the way he had been treated. This motion on Mr Barr is not about the appropriateness of the investigation; it is about the devastating effect that avoidable three-month delay had on him in the end.

In April 2022, *The Australian Financial Review* carried a one-sided feature which I suspect was a coordinated ICAC-inspired hit job to discredit my inquiries into ICAC. It was highly critical of me and my parliamentary committee, accusing me of creating fake news surrounding Mr Barr's death in order to justify the ICAC changes. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have strong suspicions who was behind this. The interstate reporter never had the courtesy to respond to my questions as to how he was given a copy of the still confidential Recruit 313 report, and subsequently published confidential excerpts from it.

There is substantial evidence that committee has taken publicly and in camera, which many in this place—apart from committee members—would not have read, despite forming their own views on those reforms. They will get a unique perspective if they did or if they met and spoke with any of those victims. That committee took substantial evidence from dozens of witnesses, including several other failed cases long before we heard from Mr Barr's family.

The genesis of that inquiry was not Mr Barr's death; it was the bungled ICAC investigation into the police officers at Sturt Mantle, known as Operation Bandicoot—innocent police officers who were investigated on hearsay of stealing items from crime scenes. The prosecution case against them fell apart.

Their reputations were damaged, even before they were charged and went to trial, by egregious prejudicial comments made in the media on the day of their arrest, and followed by both Commissioner Lander and former Police Commissioner Gary Burns. They were deemed guilty in the media interviews they gave in gloating about their arrests, and an investigation which was later shown to be terribly flawed.

ICAC as an institution seems to still be in some serious turmoil based on recent correspondence I have received from retired barrister Michael Fuller, whose matter I spoke about at the introduction of this motion. He writes with some concern directed at the Attorney-General which I will read from here. The heading is:

To the Attorney-General. My indictment of you as minister responsible for the basket case which is ICAC.

He writes:

1. Under your oversight ICAC is now a Ship of State without a Captain or Second in Command (both having already abandoned ship), only an Ensign left—Ben Broyd, whom you have appointed as 'Acting ICAC'.

Mr Fuller asks:

2. How did this happen?

3. It happened because you have failed as Attorney General and Minister responsible for ICAC to anticipate the contingency that Vanstone would resign her office as ICAC at short notice in protest at your conduct in not supporting her as she perceived it.

4. That failure to anticipate has exposed your unacceptable, by any standard, failure to insure against that contingency by the appointment of a Deputy ICAC to fill the vacancy in the interim since 30 June 2023.

5. This failure in office and function as Attorney General I now reveal...

6. [These are the] particulars of this my indictment of you as a failure in office...

Particulars:

8. On 5 July 2023 ICAC announced the appointment by you and cabinet of former Supreme Court Justice Michael David as 'Acting ICAC' for a number of weeks while ICAC Vanstone was absent from office on leave.

9. There was no other announcement by ICAC or by you in explanation for the necessity of an appointment of Michael David as 'Acting Commissioner'.

10. On 6 September 2024 ICAC Vanstone's notice of intended resignation as ICAC became effective.

11. On 6 September 2024 you announced the appointment of Ben Broyd, a legal officer in ICAC, as 'Acting ICAC' from 7 September 2024 until 2 March 2025.

12. Once again no other announcement in explanation for the necessity of an appointment of Ben Broyd as an 'Acting Commissioner'.

13. Hidden by these announcements was a secret withheld from publication of a truth known to you, to Cabinet, to OPI Emma Townsend, to ICAC Vanstone and to Ben Broyd.

14. That secret I have exposed in e/mail 10 November 2024 to Acting ICAC Ben Broyd and to OPI Emma Townsend, which I now request the Hon. Frank Pangallo to [table].

I seek leave to table that email.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: I continue:

15. This e/mail immediately followed an exchange of e/emails starting with my e/mail to Paul Alsbury in the mistaken belief that he was still in office as Deputy ICAC.

16. I ask the Hon. [Frank] Pangallo to now...[table] that exchange commencing with my e/mail to Paul Alsbury and then the response, particularly the words 'Mr Paul Alsbury is no longer employed by the Independent Commission Against Corruption'.

I seek leave to table that email.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: I continue:

17. What I ask is the reason for not saying that Paul Alsbury resigned as Deputy ICAC effective 30 June 2023 well before his term was due to expire 13 February 2025?

18. The answer of course is to conceal an embarrassing truth that Paul Alsbury resigned notwithstanding that his resignation would leave a vacuum in office while ICAC Vanstone was on leave.

19. One inference which can be reasonably drawn from the known facts is that there was tension if not antagonism between Alsbury and Vanstone at the time.

20. An embarrassing (to you) result of the Vanstone resignation is that there has been no Deputy ICAC in place since 1 July 2023 to date, to seamlessly occupy the vacuum in office thereby created.

21. The point about this vacuum in the office of Deputy ICAC is that had there been no vacuum then by virtue of Sect 9(6) ICAC Act there would have been no requirement for you and Cabinet to have at any time appointed an Acting ICAC—

Sect.9(6) The Deputy Commissioner may—

(a) Act as the Commissioner during any period for which—

(i) no person is for the time being appointed as the Commissioner, or

(ii) the Commissioner is absent from, or unable to discharge, official duties; and...

22. It is also the case that Sect. 9(1) ICAC Act requires that 'There is to be a Deputy Commissioner responsible for assisting the Commissioner as directed by the Commissioner.'

23. Sect 9 ICAC Act requires that there at all times be a Deputy ICAC in office. It is your duty in the office as Attorney General to ensure that this is the case.

24. Your failure to appoint a Deputy ICAC since 1 July 2023 to date is hardly compliance with Sect (9) ICAC Act.

25. You, because of this failure in compliance with Sect 9 ICAC Act, became potentially exposed to a future Vanstone resignation as ICAC and an accusation of dereliction in office by any enquirer.

26. I am that enquirer.

27. You could have, but did not appoint Emma Townsend to office as Deputy ICAC.

28. There was precedent in the elevation of Michael Riches to Deputy ICAC from Director OPI.

29. You have in the whole of the period from 1 July 2023 to date (a period of 16 months and counting) passed over Ben Broyd for appointment as Deputy ICAC, inferentially as not sufficiently credentialed, and now in extremis you appoint him Acting ICAC.

30. What a boil upon the face of the body politic!

31. If this was not enough Vanstone blames your lack of support for her resignation.

32. See her interview with [David] Bevan on ABC Radio 2 days after announcement of her intended resignation effective 6 September 2024.

33. 'I must say my relationship with him (sic you) I think has never recovered from him failing to say in Parliament that he had confidence in me in the midst of the Hanlon matter which was of course a matter that Commissioner Lander dealt with.'

Mr Fuller goes on to say:

34. You failed to manage her.

35. This failure has had consequences.

36. In the manner of her going she has bequeathed to you an ICAC, a poisoned chalice from which no eminent person, only the reckless and unsuitable, will chance to drink

37. You have not been open honest and frank with the public, instead have masked your dereliction in office by appointment of 'Acting ICAC' (twice) without any explanatory statement.

38. There is now an ICAC with no Commissioner and no Deputy with an Acting ICAC passed over twice for promotion to Deputy ICAC.

39. A sad and sorry tale.

Mr Fuller goes on:

40. Now you have appointed an ICAC Inspector Sam Abbott.

41. To do what I rhetorically ask?

42. We have a caretaker ICAC who like a Government in office upon the calling of an election can make no substantial decisions.

43. We have an OPI which cannot expect any complaint to it assessed as corrupt conduct and referred to the caretaker ICAC to be dealt with unless and until there is a permanent appointment of an ICAC or Deputy ICAC.

44. And now an ICAC Inspector to review what conduct of ICAC I ask?

45. The Inspector is a cart not merely in front of the horse, there is no horse of any description in sight!!

46. Your incompetence in office is now exposed for all to see.

47. ICAC HAS BECOME A BASKET CASE UNDER YOUR SUPERVISION AS ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE.

48. A Judicial enquiry as recommended by the 'Harms Committee', which I have been calling for now for some time, is required to shine a light on the dark places in law enforcement at SAPOL...and ICAC under Lander and Vanstone since its creation.

49. I refer you to my recent correspondence with Ben Broyd and Emma Townsend attached to this indictment as demonstration that both are now demonstrably conflicted.

I seek leave to table that correspondence where both are urged to forward to the Attorney the OPI case management system entries, portions of which are recited in former ICAC Inspector Strickland's review of the reference to him of 'PIR 18/E 17253'.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (The Hon. J.E. Hanson): Hon. Mr Pangallo, just one thing: are you seeking to table a lot of—

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: It is the third and last email.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (The Hon. J.E. Hanson): So this is the last document you are seeking to table?

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Yes.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Mr Fuller continues:

51. The refusal of each to engage with me and respond to my entreaty to forward to you the evidence of unlawful conduct is a legal impasse that only a Judicial Enquiry can in the public interest now resolve.

52. You have the political responsibility to make this happen.

53. To any such enquiry should now be added the recent scandalous and expensive exercise by ICAC Inspector Strickland in sickening substitute of sophistry for honest intellectual reasoning to find no conduct of anybody at ICAC worthy of even referral for disciplinary process over 4 Reviews.

54. You should do something or lower your head in shame!

It is signed by Michael Fuller, 25 November 2024. With that, I now commend my motion to the chamber.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. N.J. Centofanti.

LONELINESS

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. C. Bonaros:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges social connection is a fundamental human need.
2. Notes Australia's first State of the Nation Report 'Social Connection in Australia 2023' found almost one in three Australians feel lonely and more than one in six are experiencing severe loneliness, with young people and middle-aged people reporting the highest levels of loneliness.
3. Recognises loneliness is an important predictor of individual and population health.
4. Notes lack of social connection is:
 - (a) as dangerous as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day or drinking six alcoholic drinks a day;

- (b) increases the risk of heart disease by 29 per cent;
 - (c) increases the risk of stroke by 32 per cent;
 - (d) increases the risk for anxiety and depression; and
 - (e) increases the risk of older adults developing dementia by 50 per cent;
5. Recognises the link between loneliness and population health outcomes in terms of suicide rates, disease management, public health costs, absenteeism and economic prosperity.
 6. Acknowledges loneliness is an urgent public health issue requiring immediate and adequate attention.
 7. Notes the United Kingdom appointed a dedicated Minister for Loneliness in 2018 followed by Japan in 2020.
 8. Calls on the South Australian government to establish an inquiry to consider, report and make recommendations on:
 - (a) the prevalence and causes of loneliness within the South Australian community;
 - (b) the effectiveness of current programs to improve social connection;
 - (c) opportunities for increased investment in local community groups which bring people together;
 - (d) opportunities for the funding of new programs and initiatives to address loneliness;
 - (e) the development of a loneliness strategy to advance social connection;
 - (f) the creation of a ministerial portfolio for loneliness or the specific inclusion of loneliness under the ministerial portfolio for health and wellbeing or another existing portfolio; and
 - (g) any other relevant matters.

(Continued from 30 August 2023.)

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (22:47): I rise to speak in favour of the motion on behalf of the Greens. I welcome the honourable member's push for a ministry for loneliness. Indeed, this was a matter that the Greens championed in the lead-up to the 2022 state election. We challenged both of the major parties to join with other jurisdictions in supporting the creation of a ministry for loneliness and also developing a statewide loneliness action plan, so we certainly welcome the Hon. Connie Bonaros joining the Greens in that push.

It is fair to say that loneliness is one of the greatest public health challenges of our time. We need a statewide strategy to address social isolation and loneliness, one that includes adequate funding for social infrastructure and services like health care, education, justice reinvestment, housing and transport. It is also important to note that since the onset of the pandemic, levels of life satisfaction have declined. Now more than ever is the time for government to be investing all they can in mental wellbeing, and creating a dedicated ministry for loneliness is an important way of us moving in that direction.

This is not a new concept. I know some people might dismiss it as a bit of a gimmick, but I do not think that is the case. Back in 2016, the United Kingdom set up a commission on loneliness followed by the appointment of the first ever minister for loneliness in 2018 to help develop cross-portfolio responses. Now that we live with the COVID-19 pandemic and many people in our community have changed the way that they interact, it is really important that we build a community that nurtures mental wellbeing by promoting participation, connection and inclusion and minimising loneliness and isolation. Really, we encourage both of the major parties to join with the Hon. Connie Bonaros and the Greens in making this a priority.

The Hon. S.L. GAME (22:49): I rise briefly to express my support to the honourable member's motion. I also want to record my support for a minister for loneliness. I think we have all in this place, if we interact with the community, understand that loneliness is affecting people of all ages—younger and older generations. One of the biggest things that we could do in society is reconnect people and help reduce the loneliness pandemic.

For myself as a single mum with three kids, I also have times of loneliness, but I imagine what life might be like if I did not have my children or they had grown up or I was not in the workplace,

so certainly it is a major issue. I just want to repeat that the quality of your life is determined by the quality of your human relationships. I think that shows, in essence, the importance of a motion like this.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (22:51): I rise to support the motion put forward by the Hon. Connie Bonaros calling for an inquiry into loneliness and its impacts on South Australians. This motion addresses an issue that touches the lives of many in our community and has significant implications for public health, social cohesion and economic prosperity. As the State of the Nation Report 'Social Connection in Australia 2023' revealed, nearly one in three Australians feel lonely, and more than one in six are experiencing severe loneliness. This issue is particularly pronounced among young adults and middle-aged individuals, with almost one in four 18 to 24 year olds and one in five 45 to 54 year olds often or always feeling lonely. The implications of this are stark and warrant urgent attention.

Loneliness is more than just an emotional state. The opposition recognises it is a critical public health issue. Research demonstrates that loneliness can be as harmful to health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day or consuming six alcoholic drinks daily. I repeat: 15 cigarettes or six alcoholic drinks. It raises the risk of heart disease by 29 per cent, stroke by 32 per cent and dementia in older adults by an alarming 50 per cent.

Loneliness also contributes to heightened rates of anxiety and depression and disrupts sleep patterns. The physiological effects, including elevated cortisol levels and chronic inflammation, further exacerbate the risks of long-term health conditions. Addressing loneliness is not merely about fostering social connection; it is about saving lives and reducing the burden on our health system.

The economic cost of loneliness is equally compelling. Studies show a clear link between social disconnection and absenteeism, reduced workplace productivity and increased public health costs. Moreover, the emotional toll of loneliness undermines community cohesion and creates barriers to participation and opportunity.

In acknowledging the severity of this issue, it is worth noting that other nations have recognised loneliness as a national challenge. The United Kingdom appointed its first minister for loneliness in 2018, followed by Japan in 2020. Both have made significant strides in developing coordinated, whole-of-government approaches to combat loneliness and foster social connection.

This motion urges us to consider a similar strategy here in South Australia. The motion proposes several practical steps, including examining the prevalence and causes of loneliness in South Australia, evaluating the effectiveness of current programs, exploring opportunities for new initiatives and community investments, developing a cohesive loneliness strategy and considering the creation of a dedicated ministerial portfolio to addressing loneliness and incorporating it within existing portfolios.

Additionally, I wish to highlight the unique challenges faced by individuals in regional and remote areas. Isolation can be particularly acute in these communities, and we must ensure their needs are at the forefront of any strategy. Loneliness is not a new issue, but its prevalence and impacts have been exacerbated in recent years, particularly during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. We, the Liberal opposition, agree with the honourable member that now is the time to act.

By supporting this motion, we acknowledge the urgency of addressing loneliness and commit to fostering a South Australia where everyone can feel connected and valued. Let us seize this opportunity to lead with compassion and innovation. By doing so, we can improve the wellbeing of our citizens and build stronger, more resilient communities. I commend the motion to the chamber.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (22:55): I rise on behalf of the government to indicate that we will support this motion. I know the honourable member will be very excited about that. She has very well articulated the statistics surrounding the impact of loneliness, as have many other people in the chamber, so I will not go back over those statistics.

The Hon. R.A. Simms: Good idea.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: Don't say I am not a team player. While people may often associate loneliness with older people, it can impact people of any age, background or gender. In a

world where there are more opportunities to be connected than ever before, too many people are missing out on the benefits of positive interactions with those around them.

As some would say, we have phantom engagements through social media, and that is engagement through thumbs up and thumbs down, and a love heart if it is a really good day. But this can be also linked to language or cultural barriers, or a lack of income to engage in social activities, limiting interactions with the community or even access to other services or events within the community.

I am a big believer in bringing the community together, as is this government. Since 2022, we have put in a significant amount of funding to boost the number of local community centres around South Australia, with an increase of more than 60 per cent in funding. More funding than ever has been provided to these centres. This funding has provided opportunities for social connection and to learn new skills at little to no cost to attendees.

When we were elected to government in 2022, we discovered a plan by the former Liberal government to reduce funding to community centres, at a time when many needed them most, just after the COVID pandemic. As we know, COVID had a huge impact on many people's wellbeing and connection, particularly with the increased isolation and mental ill health. Community centres are vital in bringing people together, combating loneliness, improving mental health, sharing culture and building skills, so I am proud that Labor brought these centres back and had a different approach to the former government.

This different approach is delivering a record investment of \$49.5 million over nine years from 2023. We also announced that community centres will receive \$1 million per year for Adult Community Education programs, often called ACE. This is enabling language, literacy and numeracy skills for people in our community, giving them the opportunity to engage.

At the other end of the spectrum, South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020-2025 outlines meaningful connections as one of the three strategic priorities, with a vision to create a future where everyone has the opportunity, support and encouragement to maintain and develop meaningful connections.

We have seen these programs from both government and non-government agencies, that seek to bring together people of different generations, have a positive impact on our community. They help to bridge generational divides and foster knowledge and sharing from people who otherwise never have the opportunity to do so. We particularly see this with our multicultural communities or people who have come here without any other family members, not having uncles or aunts or grandparents and relationships with other people. These programs enable people to build those connections they otherwise would have missed out on.

The establishment of Preventive Health SA is another key priority in providing support for mental health and wellbeing and suicide prevention, and has been a proud government policy that we have delivered on. This is creating better health and wellbeing for our community. Preventive Health SA is also working in partnership with nine council areas across the state to create embedded wellbeing hubs. These hubs provide more opportunities to socialise and build connections with others in the community. We have seen a number of other policies delivered by the government in suicide prevention and in many other areas, and the examples that I have provided today have made sure that we are putting value on connecting people in our community.

South Australia is also leading the way in creating a more inclusive society through the Autism Strategy and the charter, with the very key values of building knowledge and understanding so that people can have belonging in our community. We also saw an initiative today, the Voice to Parliament, an incredible initiative that has been delivered by this government. The initiatives that I have mentioned today are all about bringing the community together and giving voice to people. These initiatives have helped open doors, hearts and minds across our diverse community to bring people together and combat loneliness and social isolation.

I note the honourable member has not called for the establishment of a parliamentary committee. The government has indicated its willingness to work with the mover on different options for an inquiry that could be conducted by a government agency or a body outside of government. As

reflected in my earlier comments, any inquiry would be largely consistent with the government's actions over the past almost three years, as well as with a number of strategies and programs that have been put in place to continue this work into the future. Subject to the council's support—and it clearly looks like it is supportive—the government will be happy to continue those conversations over the summer break and determine the most appropriate approach to inquire into loneliness in South Australia.

The Hon. C. BONAROS (23:01): I start by thanking honourable members for their contributions this evening: the Hon. Robert Simms, the Hon. Sarah Game, the Hon. Nicola Centofanti and the Hon. Emily Bourke. I thank them all for their contributions. The motion, as we have heard, acknowledges loneliness as a serious public health issue with significant impacts on individuals and communities and all the impacts highlighted by MPs this evening.

It always strikes me that every person you have this conversation with—and we have just heard yet another take from the Hon. Ms Game in her contribution—and every time I speak to someone about this you do get a very different perspective on this issue because it is so far-reaching. But what is certain is the underlying health impacts and social impacts that loneliness can have. It highlights alarming statistics, as were reflected in the 2023 State of the Nation Report, and notes the link between loneliness and poor health outcomes, including its role in increasing risks for heart disease, stroke, mental illness, dementia and suicide.

It also draws attention to successful international examples such as the creation of dedicated ministerial roles in the UK and Japan. I would have liked us to be the first jurisdiction to go down this path. Since introducing this motion in this place, New South Wales has actually now beaten us to the punch; they are having an inquiry in New South Wales, but we are unique in many different ways to that jurisdiction and ought to be considering this through a South Australian lens.

I impress upon those listening that the reason why I did not call for a parliamentary inquiry is that I think it is important that we look at this issue holistically and consider the modelling and the economic impacts that this has on our society as well. The Productivity Commission serves a really important function in that respect and they can provide a different view and one that perhaps we would not have the skill, expertise or insight to be able to provide through this place to the same extent that they would. So if I can impress upon those listening, in terms of what the inquiry looks like, yes, that does remain to be seen, because we cannot direct the Productivity Commission and the government cannot direct the Productivity Commission to undertake this inquiry.

I think the will of this place should reflect that, and I wish to impress upon those individuals at the Productivity Commission that that is indeed the will of this parliament, that we would like that particular body to look at this issue. In the meantime, I look forward to—in fact, I hold the minister to—those further discussions over the summer break because I know that she shares our collective keen interest in tackling loneliness.

Whatever the mechanism for the inquiry, the commitment to investigating the causes and prevalence of loneliness, evaluating existing programs, exploring new strategies to foster social connection and improving wellbeing is, from every perspective, a positive outcome that can have profound impacts on our communities in more ways than any of us in this place can imagine. For that reason, and that reason alone, I think this is a worthy exercise for us to undertake. There is nothing in here forcing anyone to do anything, of course. We want the measures. We want to see what the modelling shows and what the benefits could be.

On that note, I do thank in particular, at this point, the Leader of the Opposition, who, right at the outset when I first introduced this motion, came to see me to say that she did support this motion. She also prompted me to ensure that we included regions specifically in the motion, which I was absolutely more than happy to do because, whilst they would have been incorporated anyway, it is nice to have that distinction articulated in the motion.

So with those words, my message to the Productivity Commission, on behalf of all of us, is: let's get cracking and let's have this inquiry. I thank all honourable members for their support. I thank the government for coming on board and supporting this most important inquiry. I thank us as a chamber for our unanimous support—Productivity Commission, I hope you are listening—for this call for an inquiry into loneliness.

Motion carried.

Parliamentary Committees

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AND ACTIVE TRANSPORT

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. R.A. Simms:

That the report of the select committee be noted.

(Continued from 8 February 2023.)

The Hon. B.R. HOOD (23:07): I rise this evening to comment on the report of the Select Committee on Public and Active Transport as it relates to my portfolios of infrastructure and transport and regional roads. I commend all committee members for their work that went into this report, and I particularly commend the Chair, the Hon. Robert Simms.

I want to echo and reiterate the concerns of the Hon. Robert Simms about the government's lack of response to this report, which was laid on the table in this place more than 18 months ago. After consulting with over 100 stakeholders and hearing evidence from 50 witnesses, the committee provided 13 recommendations, covering public transport services, rail, freight and active transport.

I commend the committee for putting a strong regional lens on these issues. While it would have been nice for the committee to venture out into the regions, it was of course in the midst of COVID. That is when they were gathering evidence, so we can certainly understand the limitation that was up against the committee.

I was pleased to see that the City of Mount Gambier provided a submission in which they highlighted the enormous disparity in bus service funding between metropolitan and regional South Australia. It is certainly something that I have been speaking about since coming to this place and, indeed, since before that when I was the Deputy Mayor of the City of Mount Gambier.

As the council's submission highlighted, while metro funding in South Australia was to the tune of some \$234 per capita, regional areas attracted a mere \$11 per capita. That has corrected itself somewhat over the last 18 months since this report has come to us, but regional areas are still hovering around about the \$35 mark per capita, as opposed to over \$240 in the metro areas. That is a whopping 95 per cent disparity between city and country South Australia.

Pleasingly, the significance of this was recognised by the committee and it is incorporated front and centre in recommendation 1a, which calls on the state government to review its policies and processes to ensure improvements across the public transport system and to increase efficiencies of buses, both metropolitan and regional SA services.

In the submissions of both the City of Mount Gambier and the Port Augusta, Roxby Downs and Woomera Health Advisory Council, they rightly note that improved public transport services are not an end in themselves. Importantly, better public transport will have significant, positive flow-on effects as a contributor to the social capital within a community and will benefit the physical and mental health of those living in our regions. Improved services will also reduce social isolation, provide increasing employment opportunities, encourage active citizenship, enhance volunteering opportunities and offer many other knock-on benefits.

The committee heard evidence about the transport disadvantages across regional South Australia and highlighted Hammond as an infrequent and expensive service, with a one-day fare from Murray Bridge to Mount Barker costing over \$15. In comparison, I note that a one-way trip from Mount Gambier to Mount Barker will set you back more than \$88, although if you want to travel to Melbourne from Mount Gambier it will cost you \$10. You just have to get to Warrnambool and then you are straight through to Melbourne for 10 bucks.

We do not only need improved services between regions in Adelaide but we are also very much lacking in services within our regional centres, and there is no better example than our state's second biggest city. In Mount Gambier there has been some tinkering around the edges of our public bus contract, but it is still considered woefully inadequate by the local council and the community.

I note that I am still waiting on answers to questions submitted on notice six weeks ago regarding when the long-awaited review into regional public transport services will commence. What is the cause of the delay and when will the minister consider an on-demand public transport service in Mount Gambier, following the success of the Mount Barker Keoride trial?

The Hon. R.A. Simms: Very good question. When will we get a response?

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Simms, interjections are out of order.

The Hon. B.R. HOOD: While they languish on the *Notice Paper*, the opposition has wasted no time in announcing our own on-demand bus service in Mount Gambier, should we be elected in 2026.

Remarkably, the Keoride on-demand service, which was initiated by the Marshall Liberal government, achieved a 97 per cent customer satisfaction rate in the Adelaide Hills and encouraged more than 50 per cent of customers to no longer use their cars for trips covered by the service area. This latter finding goes on to one of the recommendations of the select committee, which happens to be the only one that I perhaps do not necessarily fully agree with. Recommendation 10 suggests that the Department for Infrastructure and Transport should review its internal policies and procedures to:

- (a) remove messaging that promotes cars over other modes of travel; and
- (b) actively promote alternatives to car travel to improve community health, wellbeing and reduce carbon emissions.

I understand where the committee is coming from in this recommendation. It sounds very fine in principle if you live in a metro area but, as I highlighted earlier, it is not practical or economical for regional people like me to jump on a bus and get to and from Adelaide.

A much better approach to incentivising greater public transport patronage is to have a service that is fit for purpose and meets the needs and expectations of the community. I read with interest in the select committee report the evidence heard about the impact of low or zero fares, especially in the context of 50¢ fares implemented recently in Queensland. It is something that I am investigating, something I am very interested in seeing what we might be able to do here in South Australia, but the committee heard that a better approach to increasing patronage is not through introducing lower fares but rather increasing the frequency of service.

Similarly, the Productivity Commission found that zero or low fares could actually divert an important source of funds away from the provision of services to potentially subsidising high income earners. Elsewhere in the report I read with interest about support for the reactivation of regional rail and extending the passenger rail network in the north and the south. That is something I will certainly be investigating into the future. These are all very worthy and much-needed recommendations as Greater Adelaide continues to grow, and from a road safety perspective it would be very much welcomed across city and country.

Sensible recommendations were also made in the final report relating to freight, including double stacking of freight rail services, a northern rail bypass, reactivating regional freight lines and for statewide strategic freight network plans. These, of course, cost a lot of money to do but where there is a will, there is a way. In meeting with freight industry stakeholders, I know they are broadly supportive of moves to increase rail freight, acknowledging the road safety benefits and broader economic and productivity advantages of this approach.

We know that we are the only capital city in the country that encourages freight trucks to pass right through our CBD on their journey and the opposition is certainly supportive of efforts to reroute our freight haulage through the Greater Adelaide area, hopefully utilising the Greater Adelaide freight bypass into the future.

I have tried to keep my comments brief and touch only on a few aspects of the wonderful report of the Select Committee on Public and Active Transport that have caught my eye. Again, I want to recognise the Hon. Rob Simms for chairing this committee and thank everyone else in this committee and the many people who contributed to it. With that, I conclude my remarks and thank the committee for their work.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (23:15): I want to thank the Hon. Ben Hood for his contribution and other members who have contributed to this discussion previously. I should recognise that it is a real breakthrough that we have seen tonight because the shadow minister for transport has clearly read and engaged with the report but the Minister for Transport still has not done so. Despite the fact that this report was handed down nearly two years ago, the minister has still not engaged with the recommendations.

The Hon. Ben Hood, the shadow minister, was not even in the parliament when this committee met, yet he has taken the time to read through the report, to look at the recommendations, to form a view and to provide a report to parliament. Meanwhile, the minister is missing in action. I do not intend to go through all of the recommendations again because I have talked to them many times before, but I will say that one of the glaring themes that runs through the report is the need to improve the frequency and accessibility of public transport, particularly in the regions.

The Labor Party talk a big game about representing regional South Australia, but I do not think you can be fair dinkum about representing regional South Australia if you do not seriously engage with the public transport question. These recommendations are not ideological. They were consensus recommendations that were supported by representatives from across the parliament. It was a committee that included crossbenchers and Labor and Liberal representatives. They were very sensible recommendations and central to them was the idea of looking at how we can expand the outreach of transport in the regions in particular. Surely, this is something that this Malinauskas government should engage with.

On the first anniversary of this report being handed out, I organised a cake with members of the committee to celebrate a year anniversary since the report was handed down, with no response from the government. As we head into February, it will reach two years without a response and I expect I will be celebrating it once again with members of the committee. We are heading into the Christmas-New Year period and my message to the transport minister is, when he is setting his new year resolutions, maybe one of his new year resolutions should be to actually read the report, to pick up the phone to the Chair of the committee and arrange a meeting to finally talk about the recommendations and to finally provide a response to the parliament and to the over 100 South Australians who took the time to engage with this report.

When people engage with these committees, they do not expect that the report just gets spat out and put in the middle of a drawer somewhere, they actually expect that the government is going to engage with the content. That has not happened with this minister and that is very disappointing.

I do have a bill before parliament that would force the government to provide responses to select committees in a timely manner, and the failure to engage with this committee demonstrates why that bill is needed and it is one I intend to revisit in the new year. I thank members for their support of the work of the committee. In particular, I thank the Hon. Ben Hood for taking the time to read the recommendations and to engage with the work of the committee.

Motion carried.

COVID-19 DIRECTION ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. R.A. Simms:

That the report of the committee be noted.

(Continued from 30 November 2022.)

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (23:20): The government notes the report and thanks the joint committee, which I was most proud to be a member of, for its work exploring South Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Between 22 March 2020 and 24 May 2022, a major emergency declaration was in place to manage the COVID-19 pandemic in South Australia. During that time, a range of directions were issued under the South Australian Emergency Management Act 2004. They were enacted to mitigate the risk of COVID-19.

South Australia has never experienced an emergency event as complex and as lengthy as the COVID-19 pandemic, and there are undoubtedly learnings that will help determine how the state manages future emergencies. I note the federal government's recent COVID-19 Response Inquiry

Report, which provides a number of recommendations to increase Australia's readiness in the event of a future pandemic, including the establishment of the Australian Centre for Disease Control. Monitoring the management of COVID-19 has been incorporated into the broader functions and responsibilities within public health and other areas of SA Health and as part of business management tools used across agencies and stakeholders to manage any infectious diseases.

I also note that the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, as minister responsible, has responded to the committee regarding this report and its recommendations. The government subsequently provided support for the establishment of this select committee and I thank the Chair and all members of this important committee.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (23:22): I thank the Hon. Emily Bourke for her contribution not only to the debate tonight but also to the committee. I recognise that one of the hallmarks of the success of the South Australian COVID response was actually that all sides of politics respected the expert advice.

I want to recognise the leadership of a former member of this place, the Hon. Stephen Wade, who was health minister during that time, during what I think would have been a very difficult time to be in that portfolio. He certainly had to make some very difficult decisions and I do commend him for the leadership that he showed at that time. I also recognise the work of the current health minister, the Hon. Chris Picton, in engaging with the committee and the recommendations, and indeed supporting the establishment of a select committee, which is ongoing and continues to hear evidence around the COVID pandemic and how we responded.

Motion carried.

Motions

FRENCH-AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. J.S. Lee:

That this council—

1. Congratulates the French-Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FACCI) which was founded in 1899 for celebrating the momentous occasion of its 125th anniversary in 2024;
2. Reflects on the 125 years of achievements by FACCI and on its remarkable milestone and acknowledges that Australia's relationship with France is underpinned by enduring historical links, with consular and diplomatic engagement dating back to 1842;
3. Acknowledges FACCI's key mission is to promote business opportunities between French and Australian companies by sharing valuable information, providing networking platforms and business support services;
4. Recognises Australia and France share a commitment to a dynamic bilateral relationship and FACCI plays a significant role to foster successful outcomes for French and Australian companies; and
5. Highlights the contributions by board members and partners of FACCI in strengthening the 'French connections' and creating business opportunities for South Australia across many industry sectors.

(Continued from 12 September 2024.)

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (23:23): It is actually with a great deal of pleasure, which is surprising given the hour, that I rise to support the Hon. Jing Lee's motion congratulating the French-Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FACCI) on their 125-year anniversary. One hundred and twenty-five years is a momentous achievement. For over a century, FACCI has served as a vital link between Australia and France, promoting economic growth, cultural exchange and enduring friendships. The story of FACCI is one of vision and perseverance. Founded in 1899, the chamber has seen vast transformations in the world around it, yet its core mission—to connect and empower French and Australian businesses—has remained constant.

Over the years, FACCI has played a pivotal role in strengthening the relationship of our two nations, including:

- facilitating trade and investment created by a platform for French and Australian companies to explore business opportunities, leading to countless successful partnerships;
- promoting and fostering cultural exchange through events, educational programs and business delegations that bring our two nations so much closer; and
- advocating for business by driving policy reforms that have benefitted French and Australian businesses, ensuring a thriving commercial environment.

I want to acknowledge the dedicated team at the SA Chapter of FACCI, led by the wonderful Florence Masters, who I have had the great pleasure of getting to know over the years through their many 'tchin tchin' events. I also want to acknowledge the SA chapter president, Wafaa Khalifa, and the state council members, as well as the many partners and members who continue to support the chamber to thrive.

Our two nations share a deep respect for innovation, a commitment to excellence and a love for the finer things in life. FACCI has an incredible legacy and a bright future. As we look towards the future, I know that FACCI will remain committed to playing its part in shaping a dynamic and prosperous relationship between France and Australia. With that focus on innovation, sustainability and knowledge sharing, the chamber is well positioned to navigate the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. With that, I say 'merci beaucoup'.

Motion carried.

Resolutions

VETERINARY INDUSTRY

Consideration of message No. 195 from the House of Assembly.

The Hon. S.L. GAME (23:27): I move:

That the members of this council on the joint committee be the Hon. N.J. Centofanti, the Hon. M. El Dannawi and myself, the mover.

Motion carried.

Bills

ELECTORAL (ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTEGRITY) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

Consideration in committee of message No. 202 from the House of Assembly.

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

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

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: I am not aware of what the amendments are. Could the government speak to them?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: I apologise. I had understood that all members of the different groupings were informed of the amendments. There was one amendment made in the lower house to correct a typographical error where it said \$8 and it should have said \$5.50 in relation to the electoral bill. The other amendments are those that were in erased type, that originated in this house as money clauses, and need to come back here as amendments to do that.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: So there is nothing in addition that had not been previously agreed to?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: No. It is the one typographical error—the number was wrong—and those money clauses that were in erased type.

Motion carried.

NATIONAL ELECTRICITY (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) (ORDERLY EXIT MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK) AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 26 November 2024.)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (23:30): I would like to thank the Hon. Ms Girolamo, the Hon. Ms Game, the Hon. Mr Simms, the Hon. Mr Pangallo, the Hon. Ms Bonaros, and the Hon. Ms Centofanti for their contributions on this bill. The government notes and acknowledges the concerns that were raised in regard to the speed in which this bill is being introduced and appreciates the cooperation of all those involved in this to have this passed through.

Questions arose of what the urgency is to pass this bill so quickly. As some members have alluded to, South Australia is the lead legislator for national energy laws, and that means there is a particular responsibility for us in this state to assist in many ways for the rest of the country. This framework, I have been advised, has been brought in place mainly to deal with Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

Given that South Australia is the lead legislator, those states have requested that this legislation be passed quickly to allow them to have an orderly exit framework in place, and that is why the ministerial council has determined that this be done at this time. In terms of the overall reason, it is reliability and security. We know that those states—indeed, all states—need reliability and security in terms of their electricity supply. As has been alluded to throughout the second reading contributions, that is a key reason for bringing this bill forward at this time. I commend the bill to the chamber.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clause 1.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: Since we last discussed this bill, I have become aware of an article in *Renew Economy*, dated Wednesday 27 November. I want to read a few lines from that and put those to the minister because I am keen to understand the implications of what has been proposed here. In so doing, I reiterate my profound frustration with the government over the way in which they have dealt with this bill, and my profound irritation in general at the way in which the government is dealing with its legislative agenda at the end of the year. I note the lateness of the hour, 11.34pm, when we are being asked to deal with a complex piece of legislation.

I find it profoundly irritating and very disrespectful to members of parliament, particularly crossbench members who the government relies on for support for their legislative agenda. It is becoming a pattern from some ministers of the Malinauskas government, might I note, who tend to approach matters in this way, and it is wearing very, very thin. Just to put it out there, I am really livid with the way in which this has been approached.

In terms of the issue I want to flag, I will read from this article, 'South Australia wants to bring back mothballed diesel plants due to lack of demand side options', which states:

South Australia's Labor government says it wants to bring back two mothballed diesel generators to act as a supplier of last resort in an admission that the state has failed to deliver enough demand side options as it charges towards its target of 100 per cent renewables...

French owned utility Engie flagged this year it is mothballing its 75 MW Port Lincoln and 63 MW Snuggery diesel generator ahead of an expected final exit in 2028 because they were no longer profitable.

But state energy minister Tom Koutsantonis wants to bring them back on standby—at least for the next two summers as part of a reserve trader mechanism.

Koutsantonis cites concerns about forced load shedding due to high demand in summer, the delays in connecting the new transmission link to New South Wales, and the lack of demand side options.

In the latest move by the state government to ensure it has sufficient dispatchable capacity to fill in short long term supply shortfalls. Earlier this week Renew Economy revealed the state is proposing a capacity market that would include existing and new gas generators, which the clean energy industry has labelled a backward step.

I am very concerned to hear that the government is contemplating bringing back two mothballed diesel generators to act as suppliers. Is that part of this legislative reform that is being rushed through the parliament at the eleventh hour?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I am advised that, no, the matter referred to is entirely separate to the matters being considered under the bill that is before us. I am advised that that matter is in regard to a reliability and emergency reserves trader provision which currently does not allow that provider to re-enter the market if they have not been out of the market for at least 12 months. That is my advice.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: It is taking the steps that are outlined in this article but just not in relation to this bill; is that correct?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: My advice is that this bill does not cover the circumstances that are outlined in the article in terms of what we have heard in this place just now.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: What I am trying to understand is: is there a correlation between what is being alleged in this article and what this legislation deals with? Again, if I had had the opportunity to actually engage in more thorough briefings with the minister's office, I would have been able to put these questions to them and understand where things fit.

Of course, we did not have that opportunity because of the lightning fast way in which the matter has been progressed. I am just trying to understand: is this something the government is actually doing? Irrespective of whether or not it is part of this legislation, are they taking the actions that are being referred to in this article?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I am advised that the matters being referred to in the article are in relation to out of market. The bill that we are discussing tonight is in regard to matters already in market.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: Is the minister seeking to do what is being alleged in this article?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I am unable to make comment on that. What I can say is that the bill that we are discussing tonight does not relate to the matters in the article that has been read out in this place.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: Does the government not recognise that there is a potential correlation if the government, on the one hand, is trying to bring back mothballed diesel power plants and, on the other, is also looking at keeping the potential for gas generators? It does paint a picture that the government is actually moving down the path of kickstarting fossil fuels in our state. That is something that we are of course concerned about in the Greens. Again, it is a complex matter. There is no time to be able to interrogate it properly, but I would invite the government to respond to those concerns to put my mind at ease.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: The bill that is before us tonight is about thermal generators that may be retiring earlier than expected and before adequate replacement capacity, including transmission infrastructure, is in place. The bill before us is not about bringing back something that has been mothballed, which, if I recall from what the honourable member read out in the article, was being referred to in that article. That is how the two matters are different.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: Yes, but it is the case that this new legislation potentially throws a lifeline for gas generators, is it not? I guess my point is there is a nexus between that and fossil fuels, and that is something we are concerned about.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: The legislation before us throws a lifeline to those who would otherwise potentially not have reliable and secure electricity available to them.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: When did the government learn that it was going to become the lead legislator for these reforms, and when did it issue the drafting instructions?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I am advised that South Australia has been the lead legislator for as long as the market has existed. The information that I have in regard to the timeframe is that the reason we are hoping to pass this this week is to enable the rules package of the orderly exit management framework to be finalised and progressed to energy ministers for approval at the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council meeting, which is scheduled for 6 December. There have been two rounds of public stakeholder engagement and then, following that, energy ministers approved the bill to establish the framework in September. It then needed to go through usual South Australian government processes in order for it to be introduced into the House of Assembly.

Certainly, it would have been preferable if we were able to provide more time. I have both noted and acknowledged the inconvenience that that has provided for members in this place. We certainly would hope that this would not be necessary, but given we are now in the final sitting week, unless we want to come back next week, and the ministerial council meeting is scheduled for 6 December, that is the reason for the haste.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: I acknowledge that the minister has recognised that, and I thank her for that. I also recognise it is not her portfolio, so I am not trying to shoot the messenger. I appreciate her acknowledgement of that. For the public record, I would be very happy to come back an additional week. Indeed, I would find it preferable than us sitting here throughout the night trying to deal with complex matters like this. I am always very happy to come back and deal with complex matters in an orderly way rather than trying to ram them through in the dead of night.

I am keen to understand, though: when did cabinet actually resolve its position on this? The reason why am asking is I am trying to understand why there was not more of an effort, if the government was working to this timeframe, to engage with members of parliament so that we had an opportunity to really get our heads around this, because the bill was only introduced into the chamber yesterday morning. When did cabinet sign off on the plan?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: The bill was actually introduced into the other place on 13 November, so it was not introduced in the other place yesterday, but we certainly acknowledge that it was passed yesterday. I do not have the dates in terms of when it was passed through cabinet.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: Regardless of the empty threats about passing this bill tonight or next week, the reality is that if this bill were to be amended in this place, your 6 December meeting is going to be dead in the water, minister. I think it is only fair for us to know the timeframe. I appreciate this is not your portfolio, but the only dates we have in our hands at the moment are the meeting that took place between ministers on 2 September and the meeting that is to take place on 6 December to effectively sign off on whatever it is that we do here, and nothing in between, other than it went to cabinet and got approval.

If we could make some better endeavours to come back to this place and allow us to appreciate when the bill was drafted and when it was approved by cabinet prior to that 13 November date, I suspect that may assist in our deliberations. So 2 September, 6 December and 13 November is when it was introduced downstairs. The two rounds of consultation, in fact, occurred in December 2023 and February 2024.

An exposure bill and a rules package were released for comment between June and July 2024. Subsequent to that, on 2 September 2024, the minister signed off on it. Subsequent to that it went to parliamentary counsel, then it went to cabinet and then it was introduced in the lower house on 13 November. That is the timeframe we have been given and 6 December is the final sign-off date. So when did cabinet approve the draft from parliamentary counsel that we have before us now?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I just want to clarify, the honourable member has referred to 2 September, in terms of the energy minister approving the bill to establish the framework. My advice is that is not correct, it was 17 September, but as I said, I actually do not have the date that it was approved in cabinet.

It was inferred that I was trying to be threatening when talking about the next week's sitting, that certainly was not my intention, it was simply an observation that many are expecting to finish this week in terms of our final sitting week.

I think we need to come back to what the key goal of passing this legislation is, if indeed we do get agreement to pass this. South Australia is the lead legislator for national energy laws. That is a particular responsibility. The work that has gone into any nationally agreed set of laws are to be led here in South Australia. There has been a great deal of work with all of the other jurisdictions. I think certainly that is not to suggest that it should be rubberstamped—that is not the implication—but it is that there needs to be, I guess, a particular responsibility that we have and therefore, when we are looking at reliability and security of the supply across the country, then that is a particular responsibility that we bear in mind.

It is also worth reiterating that this will be an opt-in framework. Jurisdictions have the ability to adopt a framework and then opt in through regulation, so again there is more opportunity there, notwithstanding that obviously the framework then would have already passed.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: I am not sure if it is actually a question to yourself or to the minister. What is the number of this bill?

The CHAIR: The number is 243.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: Yes, I do not have 243 as a bill in my bill folder, and to my observation other members do not have this bill in their bill folders. I note with irony it is called the National Electricity (South Australia) (Orderly Exit Management Framework) Amendment Bill, but we are actually debating a bill we do not even have in our bill folders at the moment. Is the government concerned that we do not actually have the bill in front of us to debate through their haste and that in fact we have nothing orderly happening here at all?

Members interjecting:

The CHAIR: Order!

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: We do not have the bill.

The CHAIR: They have only just arrived, and they are about to be distributed.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: Whilst we are receiving the bill—and just to be clear, there is no blame being cast on anyone in this place about that particular issue; the blame is all being directed fairly and squarely at the government with respect to that. In regard to the minister's position—and again I acknowledge it is not her bill—we could be the lead legislator on the death penalty or corporal punishment, it does not mean you are going to get it through here just because every jurisdiction says, 'Well, South Australia, you're the lead legislator.'

The least we could do to show some respect to this chamber is to perhaps send a text message to the minister responsible or some other means of communication for anyone who is listening—I am sure the minister is listening at home—and let us know some basic answers to some basic questions. When was the cabinet approval process? We could sit here all night asking a whole series of questions, or the minister could be useful—and I am not talking about the minister sitting before me—and could assist this process and simply let us know the actual timeframe.

So I stand corrected. My advice was the 2nd from the briefing I had. It may have been the 17th. It makes little difference in the scheme of things: 17 September, 6 December, 13 November downstairs; today is 27 November. When was cabinet approval granted for the bill we are now receiving?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: At this stage I am not able to provide that information. But certainly given the large amount of legislation that was passed through the House of Assembly in the previous sitting week as well as the large amount of legislation that we have considered here both this week and the previous week—that is my understanding of why we were not able to see this bill in this place sooner.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: If we are able to front up here as a crossbench and deliver on your workload in the timeframe we have in the last fortnight or three sitting weeks according to your agenda, then it is not a big ask for one of you to find out the date of cabinet approval. It is not you guys who have had to deliver on that workload; it is the rest of us who have had to work to your agenda to deliver to your timeframe.

So here we are now debating an issue again to your timeframe, and I am sorry but it is not acceptable to say, 'Well, we've had a big workload, and here we are two weeks later, and we just have this bill, and this is the only time we've got.' It is a simple question, one question: when did cabinet approve the bill that we are debating this evening? It is a simple question that requires a simple answer, and frankly, if nobody listening to this debate is able to provide that answer, then you do not deserve to progress this bill tonight.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: At this stage, all I can say is I certainly note the concerns and the understandable frustration that is being exhibited here tonight. I will certainly pass that on very clearly to the minister in the other place.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: I really appreciate the minister giving that undertaking. To inform the advice that she provides to the minister, I think it is really important that members of the government understand the significant pressure that their agenda places in particular on crossbench members, just to support the comments made by the Hon. Connie Bonaros because I think they are important. I know all members of this chamber work hard—there is no question about that—but it is very challenging for small teams to be able to engage with the volume of legislation that we have been required to engage with recently.

I know certainly for my part, donations reform has taken up a huge amount of time, along with the electoral reform agenda of the government and also looking at retirement villages and the plethora of other things that have needed to be done under a strict timeframe. To throw in another bill with no notice, with no time for me to receive a briefing, I think is very unfair. It has made it very difficult for us to be able to plan appropriately and get our heads around it. I understand this decision might have been made in September, but there have been a few months that have passed.

Why did the minister not pick up the phone to the Hon. Connie Bonaros, the Hon. Frank Pangallo, the opposition, the Greens, and say, 'This bill is coming down the line. Here are some of the issues that you might want to look at. I am going to arrange with my team to help you get up to speed so that we can help you consider this, because we need to get it done by the end of the year and we know that you have all of these other bills coming down the line.' Why are we not being extended that courtesy when we are dealing with complex issues like this? Trying to go through this process now at midnight really is disrespectful, I think, to members of this chamber, the work that we do and the people we represent.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I think that the points are well made by the Hon. Mr Simms and the Hon. Ms Bonaros and by others in the chamber yesterday. As I have said, I have made the undertaking to convey those sentiments to the minister in the other place.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: Will it become a common practice for the minister to introduce bills in the House of Assembly on the same day as the Legislative Council, and is this acceptable or should Minister Koutsantonis offer an apology to this chamber?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I think I did outline a little bit earlier that it actually was not the same day. The date that it was introduced into the other place was sooner than yesterday, but I certainly take on board the fact that the debate in the other place was only yesterday. I think everyone would agree that the ideal is to enable plenty of time for consideration of bills. I do not think that is under dispute. Certainly, that would be the preferred approach always.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: What industry consultation has occurred on this bill?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I am advised that consultation for the exposure bill and rules package occurred between 26 June and 24 July 2024. Stakeholders provided submissions, covering generators, network service providers and clean energy investors as well as other interested parties.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: I just want to put on the record my support and echo the sentiments of the crossbench about the enormous difficulty of coping with the volume of legislation that has been thrown at us recently and the inability to do, I feel, my own due diligence in really grappling with the volume of legislation in a small team.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Thank you. That is again well noted.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (2 to 6) and title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (00:00): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

RETIREMENT VILLAGES (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

The House of Assembly agreed to the amendments made by the Legislative Council without any amendment.

At 00:02 the council adjourned until Thursday 28 November 2024 at 11:00.

*Answers to Questions***NATIVE VEGETATION**

373 The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (28 August 2024). Can the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water advise:

1. What is the current balance of the Native Vegetation Fund?
2. What projects have been funded through the Native Vegetation Fund in 2024-25?
3. Is the government considering any increase to fees for clearance applications or any new fees and, if so, by how much and when?
4. Can you explain the increase, according to the Auditor-General, of the net assets of the Native Vegetation Fund from 19.799 million to \$25.79 million?
5. According to the Auditor-General expenditure from the Native Vegetation Fund has fallen from \$8.48 million to \$5.9 million. Why has expenditure decreased?
6. What other projects or programs will the government spend the Native Vegetation Fund in 2024-25?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water has advised:

1. The balance of the Native Vegetation Fund on 4 July 2024 was \$29,460,077.
2. Existing projects funded in the 2024-25 financial year from the Native Vegetation Fund include:
 - revegetation grants for projects in the Hills and Fleurieu region; and
 - payments to property owners participating in the Biodiversity Credit Exchange program.

Incentive payments for new Heritage Agreement owners will also be funded in the 2024-25 financial year as they sign Heritage Agreements.

3. The fees for clearance applications increased by CPI on 1 July 2024 from \$708 to \$729 and the government is not considering new fees for clearance application.

4. The increase in the total equity of the Native Vegetation Fund from \$19.77 million to \$25.79 million in the 2022-23 financial statements is a result of movements in current assets and liabilities. In particular a decrease in the cash outflows due to reduced payments for grants and subsidies.

Expenditure was reduced as a result of updated advice in the 2022-23 financial year that restricted the activities that the fund can be used for.

5. The decline in expenditure is due to a reduction in income received in 2022-23 financial year compared to the 2021-22 financial year.

6. In 2024-25 the Native Vegetation Council plans to deliver a restoration grants program across the state available to landholders and organisations to implement and manage on ground restoration and revegetation projects.

PAYROLL TAX

396 The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (25 September 2024).

1. What is the dollar amount of payroll tax collected from small businesses (five-19 employees)?

Please provide in table format, for financial years 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 for each question.

2. What is the dollar amount of payroll tax collected from medium-lower businesses (20-49 employees)?

3. What is the dollar amount of payroll tax collected from medium-upper businesses (50-199 employees)?

4. What is the dollar amount of payroll tax collected from large businesses (200+ employees)?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Treasurer has advised that, when registering for payroll tax, organisations are not required to provide information about the number of direct employees that they employ. Accordingly, RevenueSA does not collect employee numbers information.

Whilst not a typical measure to determine business size, the only financial indicator captured by the government for measuring business size for payroll tax purposes is wages paid or payable.

For the purposes of answering this question, a small business is therefore considered a business with a payroll of between \$1.5 million and \$4 million, a medium business is considered a business with a payroll of between \$4 million and \$16 million and a large business as one with a payroll of over \$16 million.

The total payroll tax collected for the financial years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 for businesses with payroll in the small, medium and large categories as defined above, and total number of businesses with payrolls in those categories is as follows:

Small—\$1.5 million to \$4 million

Financial Year	Number of Businesses	Payroll Tax Collected
2021-22	3517	\$128,732,754.00
2022-23	3578	\$137,194,218.67
2023-24	3622	\$144,665,846.73

Medium—\$4 million to \$16 million

Financial Year	Number of Businesses	Payroll Tax Collected
2021-22	3841	\$251,616,095.91
2022-23	4276	\$283,088,580.72
2023-24	4383	\$306,553,138.81

Large—Greater than \$16 million

Financial Year	Number of Businesses	Payroll Tax Collected
2021-22	4479	\$1,406,432,184.49
2022-23	4917	\$1,541,901,730.72
2023-24	5190	\$1,670,927,150.48

SOLID WASTE LEVY

411 The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (29 October 2024). Can the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water advise:

- Are there currently any plans in place to increase the current waste levy rates?
- The last five years of waste levy data in a table format including the cost, tonnes of solid and liquid disposal, metropolitan and non-metropolitan?
- Has there been recent reports of excessive stockpiling at waste disposal facilities which is in contravention of Environmental Protection Agency licence conditions?
- Why does the Environmental Protection Agency believe there has been increased stockpiling?
- Have there been any reports of abnormalities or unusual deviations in recent (i.e. the last two years) mass balance reports (MBR)?
- Have there been increases to overdue payments of the levy, increase to penalties, or overdue fees in the last three financial years?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water has advised:

- There are currently no plans to increase the current waste levy rates above the annual indexation increases that are implemented for all government fees.
- Please see table provided below.

	Metropolitan Solid Waste Levy rate	Metropolitan Waste Disposal	Non-metro Solid Waste Levy rate	Non-metro Waste Disposal	Liquid Waste Levy rate	Liquid waste Disposal
	\$	tonnes (000)	\$	tonnes (000)	\$	Kilolitres (000)
2019-2020	110 *	560	55 *	221	38.3	19.5
	140 **		70 **			

	Metropolitan Solid Waste Levy rate	Metropolitan Waste Disposal	Non-metro Solid Waste Levy rate	Non-metro Waste Disposal	Liquid Waste Levy rate	Liquid waste Disposal
2020-2021	143	590	71.50	232	39.02	21.1
2021-2022	146	588	73	222	39.73	23.4
2022-2023	149	580	74.50	226	40.5	26.75
2023-2024	156	563	78	231	42.5	26

* 1 July 2019–31 Dec 2019

** 1 Jan 2020–30 June 2020

3. The Environment Protection Authority is unable to disclose details of active investigations of alleged contravention of licence conditions. The Environment Protection Authority manages the risk of excessive stockpiling at Environment Protection Authority licensed waste disposal facilities by regulating licensees to ensure they meet the requirements of their licence conditions.

4. As per the answer to 3. above, the Environment Protection Authority cannot confirm at this time that there has been increased stockpiling.

5. Abnormalities are occasionally identified, which are often found to arise from errors or omissions in the data supplied during the mass balance reporting process.

6. There have not been increases to overdue payments of the levy, penalties or overdue fees over the last three financial years.

GREEN INDUSTRIES FUND

412 The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (29 October 2024). Can the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water advise:

1. What is the current FTE under Green Industries SA ('GISA')?
2. Who is the Chief Executive, GISA?
3. Has the budget for GISA changed since estimates earlier this year?
4. What is the budget for GISA in the current financial year?
5. How much has been expended thus far?
6. The details of the programs or priorities of GISA to improve kerbside collection systems.
7. The details of the programs or priorities GISA will likely fund in 2024-25 that will slow waste generation in South Australia.
8. Will GISA continue to support the Regional Transport Subsidies Program?
9. Has the Chief Executive, GISA, and/or the Chief Executive, Department for Environment and Water ('department') read the final report of SA Parliament's Select Committee on Recycling of Soft Plastics and Other Recyclable Material?
10. What considerations has the department and/or the minister made to the findings of the report?
11. Has the department conducted any investigations, reviews, or improvements to the government's procurement policies in efforts to reduce non-recyclable waste?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector): The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water has advised:

1. GISA's FTE budget for 2024-25 is 32.1, as outlined in the 2024-25 Agency Statement.
2. I refer you to the South Australian *Government Gazette* of 3 October 2024 for the information you seek.
3. Estimates earlier this year, GISA's revenue budget remains unchanged. The expenditure budget has decreased by \$19,000 due to the cessation of audit fee charging arrangements aligned with a whole-of-government initiative.
4. As of 31 October 2024, GISA's revenue budget is \$61.132 million, and GISA's expenditure budget is \$30.605 million for 2024-25.

5. As of 31 October 2024, GISA has expended \$15.093 million in 2024-25.

6. South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025 sets targets to stimulate action towards a circular economy, including a target of zero avoidable waste to landfill by 2030 and a landfill diversion target for metropolitan municipal solid waste (MSW) household bin systems of 70 per cent by 2025.

Green Industries SA's programs are outlined in an annual business plan that is available on the agency's website: <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/resources/business-plan-2024-25>.

The key programs targeting improving South Australia's kerbside recovery rate are:

- council modernisation grants
- kerbside food waste incentives
- statewide recycling education (Which Bin)
- regional transport subsidies
- Local Government Association of SA partnership.

GISA's programs supporting investments in resource recovery infrastructure and circular economy market development projects, as well as single-use plastics initiatives also support increasing the MSW recovery rate.

7. Reducing waste generation is a significant challenge that implementing the principles of the circular economy is endeavouring to address. South Australia's Waste Strategy 2020-2025 includes an overall target of reducing waste per capita by 5 per cent from a 2020 baseline.

All of GISA's programs seek to implement the principles of the circular economy and waste management hierarchy, which seek to eliminate waste and prioritise avoidance and reuse above recycling and recovery. For example, through implementation of South Australia's single-use plastics bans, GISA promotes avoidance and reusable alternatives wherever possible.

8. The Regional Transport Subsidies Program, which was introduced as a temporary support measure in response to the China National Sword Policy, is supported in 2024-25 and future support for the program is anticipated, noting that this is subject to budget availability and evaluated annually by GISA through development of its business plan.

9. Yes.

10. A government response to the report is being prepared by GISA.

11. Government procurement policy is the responsibility of the Department of Treasury and Finance.