

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**Tuesday, 19 August 2025**

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.

*Bills***SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION (COMMENCEMENT OF ACT) AMENDMENT BILL***Assent*

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (HERITAGE) BILL*Assent*

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT (BREEDER REFORMS) AMENDMENT BILL*Assent*

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

BIODIVERSITY BILL*Assent*

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

NORTH ADELAIDE PUBLIC GOLF COURSE BILL*Assent*

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (DEFENCES—INTOXICATION) AMENDMENT BILL*Assent*

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

*Condolence***CAMERON, HON. M.B.**

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:21): By leave, I move:

That the Legislative Council expresses its deep regret at the recent death of Mr Martin Bruce Cameron, former member of the Legislative Council and Senator for South Australia, and places on record its appreciation of his distinguished public service.

I rise today on behalf of the government to acknowledge the passing of Mr Martin Bruce Cameron, former member of this place. Mr Cameron was born on 24 August 1935 in Millicent, South Australia. He attended Scotch College before enlisting for six months of National Service in 1954. Upon his return, Mr Cameron studied a Diploma of Agriculture at Canterbury Agricultural College in New Zealand. He met Barbara there in 1958, and the pair were married on 21 May 1960 and have five children.

Mr Cameron worked on several farms in the South-East, including a property on Kalangadoo, before entering politics. On 2 March 1968, Mr Cameron narrowly lost the seat of Millicent for the House of Assembly standing against the sitting member and minister, Mr Des Corcoran, in what was

then a safe Labor seat. When I say he narrowly lost, it was by the narrowest of margins—one single vote. The Liberal and Country League challenged the decision. The election was referred to the Court of Disputed Returns and a by-election ordered for 22 June. After the by-election loss, Mr Cameron returned to his farm, amongst other things negotiating for the establishment of a vegetable processing factory, while the LCL appointed him to its state executive.

Mr Cameron was elected to the South Australian Legislative Council in 1971, after filling a casual vacancy in the Senate in 1969. He played an important role serving on several parliamentary committees and chairing various fishery and seafood committees. After retiring from politics, Mr Cameron worked at his family property and served on various government, industry and not-for-profit committees. On behalf the government, I extend the chamber's condolences to the Hon. Mr Cameron's family and loved ones.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The PRESIDENT: Before I call for a seconder, can I acknowledge in the gallery the daughter of the Hon. Mr Cameron.

Condolence

CAMERON, HON. M.B.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:23): I rise today on behalf of the Liberal Party of South Australia to pay tribute to the late Hon. Martin Bruce Cameron, former member of this place and Senator for South Australia, and to extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Barbara, to his children, Mary, Jane, Kate, Sandy and Robert, and to all who knew and admired him.

Born in Millicent in 1935, Martin Cameron brought to this place not just the voice of the South-East but the fire of a political reformer. Mr Cameron was a man who took seriously the obligation of elected office and never lost sight of the people he served. Before entering politics, Martin worked the land as a farmer, a grazier and a proud son of the South-East. He understood rural communities because he lived amongst them. He studied agriculture at Canterbury Agricultural College in New Zealand before returning home, and with his wife, Barbara, built both a family and a life rooted in hard work, principle and, importantly, a life of service.

Martin Cameron's political career was as bold as it was principled. He first ran for parliament in 1968. As the Leader of the Government in this place pointed out, he famously lost the seat of Millicent to Des Corcoran by a single vote. Undeterred by this loss, he went on to briefly serve in the federal Senate before winning election to the South Australian Legislative Council in 1971, a position he would hold until his retirement in 1990.

He will long be remembered as a founding member of the Liberal movement: the spirited push for reform within our party that helped shape the modern South Australian Liberal tradition. For Martin, principle was never optional, it was the compass by which he navigated public life. He fought for full adult franchise in the Legislative Council, an achievement he considered amongst his proudest. It was a stance born of deep conviction and a belief that representation should be equal, inclusive and fair. He took risks to advance that cause, and in doing so strengthened our democratic institutions. We should all be thankful for his efforts in this reform.

Martin served as Leader of the Opposition in this place from 1982 to 1990 and as shadow health spokesman through a critical time in South Australia's health policy debates. He was relentless, often the first voice on the airwaves each day, an advocate who brought energy and focus to the issues that mattered. He never stopped fighting for country hospitals and for those left behind by bureaucratic indifference, something which resonates with me strongly today as we so often see our regional communities left behind.

But Martin Cameron was more than a parliamentarian. He was a character. He was a bagpiper. He was a collector of porcelain insulators, of all things. He was a man whose sense of humour and larrikin streak brought levity to this chamber. He once joked that his wife preferred he

only practise the bagpipes while she was in the shower, and by all accounts that advice was heeded, I am told.

He also served the community in many roles outside of parliament: he chaired multiple fisheries boards, supported Aboriginal health work and dedicated himself to organisations like the Sailing Ship Trust and the Australian Republican Movement. Martin Cameron once said he had no intention of dying in politics—and he did not. He lived fully, served passionately and returned to the South-East with his dignity, his integrity and his friendships intact.

Let us remember Martin as the passionate reformer, the principled Liberal and the fierce advocate for rural South Australia that he was. He leaves behind a legacy not just of policy but of purpose. He leaves a reminder to all of us in this chamber that political service, done well, demands courage. Vale the Hon. Martin Bruce Cameron.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:27): I rise to place some remarks on the record in relation to Martin. I knew Martin quite well because in the middle of the 1990s he and I served together on the state executive of the Liberal Party. That was post his parliamentary service. I had the pleasure of attending his memorial service recently, at which there were a huge number of anecdotes from a range of people. It has already been said that Martin was a character. He had a keen sense of the ridiculous and he had a great twinkle in his eye. He was a really, really funny bloke.

As state president during that period he was a calm leader. I think it was under his leadership that we had the issue of the gun lobby post the Port Arthur massacre trying to stack the Liberal Party and we went through the process there of rejecting all of those memberships. One of the many anecdotes that came from his memorial was that, after he had served in the Senate, it was understood between himself and his beloved wife, Barbara, that he was done in politics, so it took a phone call from Steele Hall as leader to twist Barbara's arm into allowing him to run for parliament, which he did. He served for a very distinguished career in this place, including as leader of the Liberal Party.

At the memorial service, unsurprisingly, there were a lot of anecdotes, but his love of the land, his down-to-earth nature and his love of family certainly came through. While I will not speak to a number of the matters that other people in the chamber will, there are a couple of anecdotes that I think are worth placing on the record from my own discussions with Martin and with a long-serving party member, Mr Peter Emmerton, who would be known to most people on our side of the chamber.

I got to know Martin quite well through serving with him, and we would speak from time to time. I knew that he had a wicked partner in crime by the name of Mick Gillman, who was on a property at Woodside, and they spent a lot of time together. I cannot remember the reason why I had spoken to Martin, but I called him up on an occasion and he said, 'Barbara is overseas and she is having a birthday while she is away, so Mick and I are going to have a drink for her in the pub. But it's not just going to be us with a glass each. We are bringing a Barbie doll and we are going to stick it in the pub in the front bar and have a glass for Barbara.' At that stage, I think he and Mick would have been in their late 60s or early 70s, and he was very well aware of how that would come across to the locals as quite different.

Peter Emmerton also attended his memorial and he describes being a very young person. He was actually at the Burnside Kindergarten, and his first memory of Martin was Martin with his bagpipes descending through the mist to the Burnside Kindergarten. All the children were obviously enthralled. Peter as well enjoyed a very strong friendship with Martin over the years. He was a great bloke and he will be missed. Vale Martin Cameron.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:31): I rise today to offer my condolences on the passing of Martin Cameron, a former member of the Legislative Council, a committed servant of the South Australian people and, above all, a very good man. Martin was someone I came to know and admire, not only for his contribution to public life but for his strength of character. Principled, gracious and quietly formidable, he represented a generation of Liberals who believed deeply in personal responsibility, individual liberty and power of community, and he gave his life to serve on those ideals.

He was always a pleasure to speak with. Engaging, insightful and generous with his time, Martin had a rare ability to put people at ease and make them feel heard. I remember visiting his farm in Millicent during my own preselection. He and his wife, Barbara, were incredibly warm and welcoming, and that visit left a lasting impression on me. You saw there the full measure of this man, connected to his land, to his values, and to the people around him.

Over the years since, I have always enjoyed speaking to Martin. He was always encouraging of me and so many people here in this chamber. The final time I spoke to Martin was at the funeral of another Liberal great, Steele Hall. He was positive and engaging to the very end. Martin also had a sharp eye for talent and a deep commitment to nurturing the next generation of political leaders. One of the people he gave an early opportunity to was Lynton Crosby, now known for his success right across the world in political strategy.

As a very close family friend of Lynton's, I can say with absolute confidence just how much pride Martin took in Lynton's achievements and how much their friendship meant to them both. What began as a professional and political connection turned into a many decades long bond built on mutual respect and trust. Martin never sought the limelight, but he took quiet satisfaction in seeing those he mentored go on to achieve great things. His was a life of service, loyalty and integrity.

While he leaves behind a significant political legacy, it is also his personal legacy, including his family, the relationships he has built, the values he has lived, and the lives he has touched that may be remembered most fondly to those who knew him best. To Martin's family and loved ones, we extend our deepest sympathies. In this parliament we mark the passing of a colleague and a statesman of real substance. Vale Martin Cameron. May you rest in peace.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:34): I rise to associate myself with the remarks made by the previous speakers and to also support this condolence motion and extend my deepest and sincerest condolences to Martin Cameron's friends and family.

Martin Cameron was actually a colleague of mine. We worked together for a year, so it was with great sadness that I heard the news that he had passed. We worked for the Republican Movement back in 1999 in a long-defunct, even then, Video Ezy store. It was very dusty, full of lots of empty video store racks. Martin was, of course, the chair of the Australian Republican Movement. I was there as a young Australian Democrat, coopted into the campaign by the office of Senator Natasha Stott Despoja, who was an ambassador for the Republican Movement back then, working with Cathy King of the Labor Party, Tony Cocchiario of the Liberal Party and Greg Barns of most parties, actually, but at that time a former Liberal who was employed by Malcolm Turnbull, who was the ruler of all those who worked for the Republican Movement.

I remember Martin as a most compassionate, sincere and kind man. He often told me that story about losing an election by one vote and how you have to just keep knocking on every door and walking down every street and attending every single event. He would tell that story in a way that I think probably covered some of the pain and the trauma. Of course, I now have second referendum trauma, but the referendum trauma of that first republican referendum was made much more palatable by the effect that Martin had when he was in that campaign office or heading those campaign events.

I learnt a lot from him about kindness and compassion in politics. I also deepened my understanding of the Liberal movement in particular. I was also chuffed to see—I had not realised this—that he very happily handed over the Liberal Party leadership to the former Hon. Rob Lucas. For me, that just sums up what a wise man Martin Cameron really was. With that, vale Martin Cameron.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

GOLDSWORTHY, HON. E.R.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:37): By leave, I move:

That the Legislative Council expresses its deep regret at the recent death of Eric Roger Goldsworthy AO, former Deputy Premier and minister of the Crown and member of the House of Assembly, and places on record its appreciation of his distinguished public service.

I rise today on behalf of the government to acknowledge the passing of the Hon. Roger Goldsworthy, former member of Kavel in the other place. The Hon. Mr Goldsworthy was born in 1929 in Lameroo, South Australia. Before being elected to the House Assembly, he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Adelaide and went on to become a farmer and a teacher to secondary and adult students.

After being elected as the first member for the then newly formed seat of Kavel in 1970, the Hon. Eric Roger Goldsworthy was re-elected seven times before he stepped down. During that time, he was appointed as the Minister of Mines and Energy and also the Deputy Premier in the Tonkin Liberal government. As Minister of Mines and Energy, Roger Goldsworthy was involved in the establishment of the Olympic Dam mine in Roxby Downs and the Cooper Basin Liquid Scheme and many other contributions, which later earned him a place in the Australian Institute of Energy Hall of Fame in 2017.

The Hon. Mr Goldsworthy was the longest serving deputy leader of the Liberal Party in Australia, with 15 years of service. It was this service to politics, to the Parliament of South Australia and the community that saw the Hon. Roger Goldsworthy awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1997. On behalf of the government, I extend the chamber's condolences to the Hon. Roger Goldsworthy's family and loved ones.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:39): I rise today on behalf of the South Australian Liberal Party to honour the memory of the Hon. Eric Roger Goldsworthy AO, former Deputy Premier and long-serving member for Kavel, and to offer our deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Lynette, and their three children. We extend our sympathies to his son, Rhys, and his wife, Kirsty Goldsworthy, Roger's grandchildren, Zoe, Tom and Harry, to daughter, Caroline, and Ervins Grantskalns, and to his son, another former member for Kavel, Roger Mark Goldsworthy (affectionately known to most of us in this place as Mark), his wife, Tracey, and children, Fraser and Caitlyn, and Caitlyn's husband, Matthew Drader, as well as baby Zara, Roger's first great-grandchild. Our thoughts are with you all, and we of course extend our condolences to friends and extended family, and to all who mourn Roger's passing.

Roger Goldsworthy was born in Lameroo in 1929 and was raised in the heart of South Australia's Mallee region. He farmed. When people say farmers can do near about anything they put their mind to, Roger Goldsworthy was certainly one talented multitasker. He was a scientist by trade, a teacher by profession and a public servant in the very best sense of the word. True to his earliest beginnings, Roger's connection to the land and to South Australia's regional communities grounded everything he would do in this place and his enduring career.

Before he entered public life, Roger earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Adelaide and taught both secondary students and adults. His academic background, particularly in mining and mineral resources, was to serve him and this state well throughout his public life. Before entering politics, Roger worked as a lecturer at the South Australian School of Mines, where he earned the respect of both colleagues and students alike for his intellect and his ability to explain complex ideas with clarity and purpose.

Roger was elected to the House of Assembly in 1970, the inaugural member for the newly created seat of Kavel—a seat he would represent faithfully for 22 years. In 1982, Roger was elected Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party and, when the Liberal Party returned to government in 1993, he was sworn in as Deputy Premier. As Deputy Premier, Roger was a steady hand and a trusted, confidant to Premier Dean Brown. His counsel was always grounded in principle, in evidence and in the long-term interests of South Australia.

In 1979, he was appointed Minister of Mines and Energy in the Tonkin government. In that role, Roger brought his academic expertise and practical knowledge to bear in ways that transformed South Australia's approach to its mining and energy resources. He was a central figure in the development of policies that positioned South Australia as a serious player in the mining sector. It is difficult to overstate the impact of Roger's ministerial work. He was instrumental in establishing the Olympic Dam Project and the Cooper Basin Liquid Scheme. These developments not only reshaped South Australia's economic landscape but continue to sustain thousands of jobs and drive investment in our state.

It was Roger Goldsworthy who navigated the complex negotiations and fierce political opposition to the Roxby Downs project, a development that secured South Australia's place in the global energy and resources market. His vision, his steadiness and his conviction laid the foundation for what would become one of the most significant industrial assets in our state's history.

Outside the House of Assembly, Roger was a founding force behind the SA Chamber of Mines and Energy and served on numerous boards and government task forces focused on energy, education and industry reform. He sat on the University of Adelaide Council, chaired infrastructure studies and continued shaping policy long after he left formal politics.

In 1997, Roger was recognised as an Officer of the Order of Australia for service to politics, to the Parliament of South Australia and to the community. Twenty years later he was inducted into the Australian Institute of Energy's Hall of Fame. Yet, amid all the titles and honours, what stands out most was his enduring decency. While his public record speaks for itself, what those who knew Roger will remember most are his personal qualities. Roger Goldsworthy conducted himself with quiet authority, respect for others and a deep sense of duty: duty to the parliament, to the party and to the people of South Australia.

He was a builder of policy, of institutions and of opportunity, and his legacy is one that will echo across generations of South Australians who benefited from his foresight. It is one of public service, intellectual rigour and principled leadership. He was a parliamentarian who believed that politics was about service, about stewardship and about leaving one's community stronger than you found it.

His life's work shaped modern South Australia. His contributions to mining and energy policy, his leadership within this parliament, and his steadfast representation of the people of Kavel will not be forgotten. We honour Roger's immense contribution to public life and we thank him for it. On behalf of the opposition, I extend our deepest sympathies to Eric's family, his friends and to all of those who mourn his passing.

South Australia has lost a true statesman. This parliament has lost one of its finest sons and his family have lost a husband, a father, a grandfather and a great-grandfather who was deeply loved. May he rest in peace. Vale the Hon. Eric Roger Goldsworthy AO.

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (14:45): I rise to join my colleagues in support of this condolence motion for the Hon. Eric Roger Goldsworthy AO, known as Roger of course, despite that not being his first name, who sadly passed away on 1 July this year at the remarkable age of 95. Roger was duly honoured with a state funeral on 11 July at St Matthew's Anglican Church in Marryatville, with the Australian government announcing that the Australian national flag would be flown at half mast on that day from all of its buildings and establishments as a mark of respect; this is an honour afforded to few.

Roger was born in Lameroo on 17 July 1929 to Ottho Goldsworthy and Lillie May Nicholls. Roger undertook a bachelor's degree in science at the University of Adelaide where he studied physics, chemistry, maths and geology. He went on to complete a diploma in teaching which led him to teach secondary school students as well as adults whilst also being a farmer.

He married Lynette Chapman on 12 April 1952, with whom he had three children. Many of us in this place, including myself, would know one of his children quite well—Mark Goldsworthy, of course, formerly the member for Kavel, or Goldie as we call him.

Roger entered this parliament in 1970 as the member for Kavel when the electorate was newly formed, long before his son Mark was elected to represent the seat some 32 years later. Roger served the people of Kavel for more than two decades, which is a testament to his commitment and his success as their local member. He remains the longest serving deputy leader of the Liberal Party in the nation and was Deputy Premier during the Tonkin Liberal government from 1979 to 1982. During this period, he was also the Minister of Mines and Energy, as has been outlined by my colleagues, and there is no doubt he left an enduring legacy because of the significant work he did in this portfolio.

When the Tonkin government came to office in 1979, the prospect of developing South Australia's extensive uranium supply was a key focus, particularly due to the recently discovered

resources at Roxby Downs at the time. As the responsible minister, Roger was tasked with realising this aim and the Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) Bill was enacted in this place in June 1982, which has subsequently produced very real and, indeed, tangible benefits for South Australia since mining operations commenced in 1988.

Roger's leadership in negotiating the Roxby Downs project, now known as Olympic Dam, unlocked one of the most significant mineral deposits in the world, providing many nations access to our uranium reserves in order to power their nations' nuclear energy projects. Roger also played a central role in the development of the Cooper Basin Liquid Scheme, which transformed our state's energy security and economic future. This particular endeavour involved an expansion of facilities in the Cooper Basin, the construction of a 660-kilometre pipeline from Moomba to Port Bonython and the establishment of a treatment plant, also at Port Bonython.

The commodities produced at the plant included condensate and crude oil for domestic consumption as well as LPG for domestic use as well as export. The Stony Point (Liquids Project) Ratification Bill that facilitated this venture was enacted and passed in this place in 1981, with the construction of facilities starting the very same year and shipments leaving Port Bonython just two years later.

Amongst Roger's other political achievements is the establishment of the SA Chamber of Mines and Commerce. He was chair of the Gawler Craton infrastructure study for the commonwealth government and he held membership of the resource task force, which was set up by the South Australian government to review the mining industry in our state. Beyond politics, he was a member of the University of Adelaide Council, a member of the Resources Industry Development Board and, of course, a member of SACOME.

In 1997, Roger's contributions to the parliament and public life were recognised, as has been outlined by my colleagues, when he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia 'for service to politics, to the Parliament of South Australia and to the community' on 26 January 1997 as part of the Australia Day Honours List of that year. He was also inducted into the Australian Institute of Energy Hall of Fame in 2017 in recognition of his work as the Minister of Mines and Energy from 1979 to 1982 and his 'significant contribution to the development of appropriate energy policies and the state's energy resources'.

Roger's accomplishments have made an enduring impact on South Australia, and we are grateful for the many benefits they have bestowed upon us throughout the years. On behalf of the Liberal opposition, I extend my deepest sympathy to the family, to Lyn, Mark and all those who knew and loved Roger. He will be sadly missed.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

ALLISON, HON. H.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:50): By leave, I move:

That the Legislative Council expresses its deep regret at the recent death of the Hon. Harold Allison, former minister of the Crown and member of the House of Assembly, and places on record its appreciation of his distinguished public service.

Today, I rise on behalf of the government to acknowledge the passing of the Hon. Harold Allison, former member for Mount Gambier and Gordon in the other place. The Hon. Mr Allison was born in Sheffield in the UK in 1930 and, after migrating to Australia in 1955, he pursued a 15-year career as a teacher and librarian at Mount Gambier High School.

In 1975, the Hon. Harold Allison won the seat of Mount Gambier and remained as its local member until his retirement in 1997. During this time, he championed the regions, advocating for regional rail services and water supplies in particular. He was appointed Minister of Education in both 1979 and 1982 as well as Minister of Aboriginal Affairs in 1979.

During this time, the Hon. Mr Allison played a significant role in the implementation of Aboriginal land rights in this state, in particular the passing of what was then the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act in 1981, which allowed the title of some 100,000 square kilometres of land that we now

know as the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands in the far north-west of the state to be managed by traditional owners. In December 1993, the Hon. Harold Allison was appointed as Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly until his retirement. On behalf of the government, I extend the chamber's condolences to the Hon. Mr Allison's family and loved ones.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:52): I rise today on behalf of the South Australian Liberal Party to honour the life and service of the Hon. Harold Allison, former member for Mount Gambier and Gordon, minister of the Tonkin government and Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly. I extend our deepest condolences to his children, Fiona and Tim, and to all those who mourn his passing.

Harold Allison was born in Sheffield, England, in 1930. He served in the Yorkshire Royal Navy, worked in the steel industry and migrated to Australia in 1955, stepping off the HMS *Orontes* into what would become his new life and his new home here in South Australia. He settled in Mount Gambier, where he tried his hand at a plethora of occupations. Mr Allison was indeed one to have a go. He was an accountant, a hotelier, a real estate agent and, perhaps most importantly prior to entering political life, a teacher and librarian at Mount Gambier High School.

He spent 15 years in education, shaping young minds, before stepping forward to serve in the South Australian parliament. In 1975, Harold was elected to represent the seat of Mount Gambier, a seat which had been held by Labor and was considered unwinnable. He won it, and he held it. Harold Allison is proof that no constituency should be taken for granted, and Harold faithfully served the people of the South-East until his retirement in 1997.

Harold Allison was often thought of as a quiet achiever, but I stand in this chamber to proudly say that his impact was anything but quiet. His political career was one of action and of service. As Minister of Aboriginal Affairs in the Tonkin government, Harold played a critical role in the return of land to the Pitjantjatjara people. This was a hugely significant handover of more than 100,000 square kilometres, an area larger than Tasmania. It was a cornerstone moment for land rights in Australia, and Harold helped make that happen.

He also served as Minister of Education, bringing his classroom experience to the cabinet table. He understood what regional schools needed, not because he had read about it in a briefing but because he had lived it. He believed that every student, no matter their postcode, deserved the same opportunities—and that is a belief that the Liberal Party holds true today. Harold Allison's legacy lives on in our current party policy.

As a local member, Harold was known for his deep advocacy on issues that mattered to country people, issues such as regional rail, water supply and the infrastructure that keeps rural communities viable. He stood up for the South-East, and he did so consistently and without fanfare. He simply got the jobs that needed to be done, done. This is how he earned a reputation as a quiet achiever. In his final term, Harold served as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees. Both those roles suited his calm temperament, his attention to detail and his unshakable sense of fairness.

Those who knew Harold knew him to be a man of depth, of dignity and of principle. He did not seek headlines; he sought outcomes and he achieved many of them. He also had a lighthearted side: a fan of opera and reportedly not shy about singing along, he once featured in *The Advertiser* under the headline 'Anyone for Tenors?' There was a dry humour there and, in equal measure, a warmth that his colleagues on both sides of the house respected.

What stands out most, however, was his commitment to public service. Harold Allison believed that politics was not about power but about responsibility. I am going to repeat that: he believed that politics was not about power but about responsibility. It is what we owe, at the top level of public service, to those we have been elected to represent and to serve. Harold Allison served his constituents with care, his party with loyalty and this parliament with quiet honour. His passing is a loss, not only to his family and the community but to the Liberal tradition in South Australia. It is a loss to all who value thoughtful, principled leadership. Vale Harold Allison.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:56): I rise to offer my condolences on the passing of Harold

Allison MP and to offer my sincere condolences to his family, including his daughter, Fiona, and son, Timothy, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He was the member for Mount Gambier and Gordon, which is where I live and where I grew up. I remember, as a child, being aware of his presence. Most people knew him as a former school teacher, and he was a teacher at Mount Gambier High School for over 15 years. I must say, it was not until his passing that I became aware that he was also an accountant, a real estate agent and a hotel owner. Even more surprising is that he was apparently the cousin of Joe Cocker, the rocker. There is an article that talks about him meeting his cousin, and they could not work out whether they were first cousins or second cousins, apparently. The headline was: "'I'm baffled,' Cocker tells cousin Harold'.

Harold was a member of parliament for 22 years and he was well known in our area. He has been described in a local paper recently as, 'A politician of the people, never concerned with a person's political standing but focusing on how to aid with their personal concerns.'

When I was in primary school I had a school project. I must say, I cannot remember what the school project was, but for some reason I needed to visit the local MP's office. I remember going home and saying to my dad, who was Scottish, 'Dad, I need to go and see the local MP's office.' He said, 'That would be Harold Allison. He's not too bad.' Considering my dad was a staunch Labor man—my dad was a staunch unionist—to say 'He isn't too bad' was actually a huge compliment. I remember being quite struck by the fact of learning that, in fact, Liberals could be quite decent people.

I went down to the local MP's office—I was quite young; I was in primary school—and I remember I was expecting to meet the secretary or the office assistant or something like that, but in actual fact Harold came out and spoke with me about the project. I remember that he was very friendly and very helpful. As I recall, I got an A+ on my school project, so that is another positive in terms of Harold Allison. I think it does show the ability in regional areas to really know a local MP and for an MP to know and be helpful to all of his or her constituents. I think, in that regard, we can certainly offer our tributes to him.

Again, I offer my sincere condolences to his family and friends. We remember a life lived serving others and serving our state. Rest in peace, Harold Allison.

The Hon. B.R. HOOD (14:59): I rise to support the condolence motion and to put on the record my sympathies to the loved ones and to the family of the Hon. Harold Allison, who has been described as a politician of the people. On social media, people were reflecting that he was the best MP that Mount Gambier would have, and probably ever would have, and I would like to put on the record the deep appreciation that I have, and I know that many other people in Mount Gambier have, for the late Harold Allison.

Harold Allison was born in 1930 and was a member for Mount Gambier and Gordon in the House of Assembly from 1975 to 1997, when he retired. During that term, he served in the Tonkin government as Minister of Education and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. He also held the roles of Deputy Speaker of the House and Chair of Committees. As has been reflected today, he was known by many as a teacher and a librarian at Mount Gambier High School, and, as the honourable member on the other side suggested, even an accountant and a publican, and Joe Cocker's cousin, which is fantastic.

He was a passionate advocate for the South-East and was a valued member of the community. He was not one to seek the limelight, only agreeing to stand for parliament after nine others had declined. After accepting the nomination, Harold famously knocked on every single door in Mount Gambier ahead of the 1975 election. As the Hon. Clare Scriven was reflecting on her dad thinking he was not a bad bloke, I did remember stories that I used to hear about Harold Allison, how he would head out to the mills and talk with the workers who were also very much staunch Labor supporters and unionists, but they all had deep respect for Harold.

During his time in government, he served as Minister of Education and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, as I said, bringing the same earnest and hands-on approach to cabinet as he showed on the ground in Mount Gambier. He earned respect across the political divide for his hard work, his decency and steadfast representation of his constituents. As I said, many stories were shared online detailing

his love for having a bit of a sing. He was a fierce competitor in his hockey playing days, and he would help out family members at the car wash, just doing the final polish, and people were always surprised to see an MP there polishing their car at the end of the line.

Former Premier of South Australia the Hon. Reverend Dr Lynn Arnold AO commented that, despite being on the opposite side of politics, he always had the highest regard for Harold, and he was delighted many years after they both left politics to catch up with him again at his son's car wash at Glen Osmond Road.

Harold Allison passed quietly in his sleep on 28 June, a Saturday, just shy of his 95th birthday. He is survived by his very proud daughter, Fiona, and son, Tim, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Again, we have lost probably the greatest member for Mount Gambier that we have ever had. Vale Hon. Harold Allison.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

Sitting suspended from 15:03 to 15:15.

Parliamentary Procedure

ANSWERS TABLED

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

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the President—

Reports of the Auditor-General—

Report 6 of 2025: Update to the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2024

Report 7 of 2025: Aboriginal Education Strategy 2019-29

Adelaide Park Lands Lease Agreement between the Corporation of the City of Adelaide and Adelaide Community Sports and Recreation Association INC

—Golden Wattle Park/Mirnu Wirra (Park 21 West)

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

Reports, 2024—

Adelaide University

Flinders University

Torrens University Australia

University of South Australia

Notices under Acts—

Emergency Services Funding Act 1998—

Declaration for Vehicles and Vessels

Declaration of Levy and Area and Land Use Factors

Regulations under Acts—

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981—General

Emergency Services Funding Act 1998—Remissions—Land—Miscellaneous

Gene Technology Act 2001—Miscellaneous

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law—General

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (South Australia) Act 2010—

Professional Indemnity Insurance

Hydroponics Industry Control Act 2009—General

Mental Health Act 2009—General

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972—Protected Animals and Marine Mammals

Public Corporations Act 1993—

Distribution Lessor Corporation

Generation Lessor Corporation

Transmission Lessor Corporation

South Australian Public Health Act 2011—Notifiable and Controlled Notifiable Conditions
 Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 4 of 2025—Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance
 Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 5 of 2025—2025 Inaugural Review of Remuneration for Clerks and Deputy Clerks of the South Australian Parliament
 Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 4 of 2025—Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance
 Report of the Remuneration Tribunal No. 5 of 2025—2025 Inaugural Review of Remuneration for Clerks and Deputy Clerks of the South Australian Parliament
 Return pursuant to Regulation 49E(2) of the Police Regulations 2014 Review period: 1 July 2011—11 June 2025
 Plankton Counts SA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program
 Report of a Conciliator appointed under section 35A of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981

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

Fees Notice under Acts—
 Supreme Court Act 1935
 Regulations under Acts—
 Criminal Investigation (Extraterritorial Offences) Act 1984—General
 Legislative Instruments Act 1978—Postponement of Expiry
 Public Trustee Act 1995—General
 Serious and Organised Crime (Unexplained Wealth) Act 2009—General
 Summary Offences Act 1953—Knives and Other Weapons—No 2
 Supreme Court Act 1935—Fees in Probate Jurisdiction
 Rules of Court—
 District Court Act 1991—
 Joint Criminal—No. 8
 Uniform Special Statutory—No. 7
 Environment, Resources and Development Court Act 1993—
 Joint Criminal—No. 8
 Uniform Special Statutory—No. 7
 Magistrates Court Act 1991—
 Joint Criminal—No. 8
 Uniform Special Statutory—No. 7
 Supreme Court Act 1935—
 Joint Criminal—No. 8
 Uniform Special Statutory—No. 7
 Youth Court Act 1993—
 Joint Criminal—No. 8
 Uniform Special Statutory—No. 7

By the Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector (Hon. K.J. Maher)—

Regulations under Acts—
 Employment Agents Registration Act 1993—General
 Portable Long Service Leave Act 2024—General
 Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability) Act 1995—General
 Return to Work Act 2014—
 Employment and Progressive Injuries
 Prescribed Disease
 Work Health and Safety Act 2012—Prescription of Fee

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

By Laws under Acts—

City of Mount Gambier—

- No. 1—Permits and Penalties
- No. 2—Local Government Land
- No. 3—Roads
- No. 4—Moveable Signs
- No. 5—Dogs
- No. 6—Cats

City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters—

- No. 1—Permits and Penalties
- No. 2—Moveable Signs
- No. 3—Roads
- No. 4—Local Government Land
- No. 5—Dogs
- No. 6—Waste Management
- No. 7—Cats

Berri Barmera Council—

- No. 1—Permits and Penalties
- No. 2—Moveable Signs
- No. 3—Local Government Land
- No. 4—Roads
- No. 5—Dogs
- No. 6—Cats

Fees Notice under Acts—

- Aquaculture Act 2001
- Fisheries Management Act 2007

Regulations under Acts—

- Local Government Act 1999—Members Allowance and Benefits
- Local Government (Elections) Act 1999—Elections
- Motor Vehicles Act 1959—
 - General
 - National Heavy Vehicles Registration Fees—Regulatory Component
 - Personal Mobility Devices
- National Energy Retail Law (South Australia) Act 2011—Local Provisions
- Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Act 2009—General
- Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012—Fees
- Road Traffic Act 1961—
 - Miscellaneous—Personal Mobility Devices
 - Miscellaneous—Photographic Detection Devices
 - Road Rules—Ancillary and Miscellaneous Provisions—Personal Mobility Devices

By the Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services (Hon. E.S. Bourke)—

Inclusive SA: State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019-23, 2024

Fees Notice under Acts—

- Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016
- Disability Inclusion Act 2018
- Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005
- Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016
- Valuation of Land Act 1971

Regulations under Acts—

- Architectural Practice Act 2009—
 - Election
 - General
- Building Work Contractors Act 1995—Building Indemnity Insurance

City of Adelaide Act 1998—
 Election and Polls
 Members Allowance and Benefits
 Conveyancers Act 1994—General
 Fair Trading Act 1987—Fair Trading Regulations
 Land Agents Act 1994—General
 Land and Business (Sale and Conveyancing) Act 1994—General
 Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016—
 Fees, Charges and Contributions—Compliance Fee
 General—Community Title Land Division
 Plumbers, Gas Fitters and Electricians Act 1995—General
 Residential Tenancies Act 1995—General
 Retail and Commercial Leases Act 1995—General
 Retirement Villages Act 2016—Miscellaneous
 Second-hand Vehicle Dealers Act 1995—General
 South Australian Housing Trust Act 1995—General
 Survey Act 1992—Qualifications

Parliamentary Committees

STATUTORY AUTHORITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:16): I lay upon the table the report of the committee on its Inquiry into the South Australian Museum and the Art Gallery of South Australia.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Ministerial Statement

RECENT LOSSES FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Autism, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:22): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: In the past week, our state has endured the incredible loss of three South Australians, not connected by workplace or family but united in their unwavering commitment to serving our community. It is with deep sadness that I rise today to speak about three very remarkable individuals, taken from us too soon yet leaving behind an enduring mark on the lives they have touched: MFS Commander Adrienne Clarke OAM AFSM; former Department for Correctional Services Chief Executive Peter Severin; and Mr. John Baker AM ESM, President of Surf Life Saving Australia. Each worked tirelessly to keep our community safe and have left a lasting legacy on our state.

Commander Adrienne Clarke OAM AFSM is renowned as a pioneering leader whose legacy lives on through the SA Metropolitan Fire Service family. Commander Clarke joined the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service in 1987, making history as the state's first full-time female firefighter. For more than a decade, she was the only woman among over 650 men, and while those early years were challenging, her determination never wavered. She worked tirelessly to prove that ability, not gender, could define a firefighter's worth.

Her career was marked by a series of historic firsts. Rising through the ranks, she became the first female commander in the MFS, demonstrating not only exceptional operational skills but also the leadership qualities that inspired respect from all who served alongside her. Adrienne's trailblazing journey opened doors for future generations of women in firefighting and emergency services, leaving a legacy that will endure.

Commander Clarke's service was recognised at the highest level. In 2016, she was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal for her distinguished service and leadership. In 2019, she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, acknowledging her significant contribution to

firefighting, emergency management and the promotion of women in the profession. These honours reflected not only her skills and dedication but also her enduring impact on the community and the profession she loved.

Adrienne was more than a firefighter. She was a mentor, a role model and a tireless advocate for equality and inclusion. She worked to challenge stereotypes, encouraged women to see firefighting as a career path and supported colleagues through both the triumphs and trials of service. She embodied the MFS values of courage, service and integrity in all she did. Her passing is deeply felt by all within the MFS family and the broader emergency services community.

The emergency services community has also faced another deep loss with the sudden passing of John Baker AM ESM (also known as JB), President of Surf Life Saving Australia. JB's journey in surf lifesaving began in 1977 when he joined the Brighton Surf Life Saving Club. Only days prior to his passing, I sat with JB and his wife, Jo, at the Brighton Surf Life Saving Club annual awards dinner. His love of surf and his family were evident that night, and I want to pass on my deepest condolences to Jo and their family.

JB's service spanned more than four decades as an active patrolling volunteer and, ultimately, a life member, dedicating countless hours to keeping our beaches safe for our community. As a leader, John served as President of Surf Life Saving South Australia for 10 years and as President of Surf Life Saving Australia for the past five years. On the ground, John's operational commitment was extraordinary. Since 1994, he served as one of the longest serving volunteer crew members of the South Australian Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service, responding to emergencies and saving lives along our coastline.

His service to our community has not gone unnoticed. In 2017, John received one of our nation's highest honours, the Emergency Services Medal. In 2018, John was also awarded the International Lifesaving Citation of Merit. In 2021, he was inducted into the Surf Life Saving SA Hall of Fame, and in 2024 JB was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia. Beyond these awards, JB's legacy will endure in the lives he saved, the people he inspired and the strength of the movement he helped build.

The nation's correctional services community also is mourning after the recent loss of Peter Severin. I thank our current DCS chief executive, David Brown, for providing these words so they can forever be captured in *Hansard*.

Peter dedicated his entire career working to improve the quality of prison and correctional services in South Australia, throughout the nation and across the world. He was the Chief Executive of the Department for Correctional Services in South Australia between 2003 and 2012. He was also the Commissioner of Corrective Services, New South Wales, for nine years between 2012 and 2021. He served as Deputy Director-General in Corrective Services in Queensland, and since 2019 Peter was the President of the International Corrections and Prisons Association.

Peter started his career as a prison officer in Germany and, in total, he dedicated more than 40 years of extraordinary service. This is an astonishing achievement, and his passing is a great loss to correctional services.

Peter was an accomplished leader with extensive experience in government administration, specialising in policy development, crisis management, negotiation, budgeting and major infrastructure procurement. His wise words and guidance impacted thousands of lives. He was recognised and respected for his strong abilities and a proven track record in mentoring and coaching and a commitment to driving impactful community and social services initiatives.

It is an honour now to highlight some of Peter's many accomplishments and achievements during his tenure as Chief Executive of the Department for Correctional Services in South Australia, including:

- overseeing the commencement of the major redevelopment of the prison system, including Yatala Labour Prison, Adelaide Women's Prison, Mount Gambier Prison and Port Augusta Prison;

- overseeing the significant expansion of rehabilitation services, including the establishment of the Offender Rehabilitation Directorate;
- delivering targeted rehabilitation programs in prison and community corrections, including culturally-appropriate programs for Aboriginal offenders and the Sex Offenders and Violent Offender Treatment Program;
- reviewed and enhanced victim services to complement changes in legislation; and
- improved services for people exiting prison through systemic improvements in the provision of housing and accommodation support and through the completion of the cross-government strategy to address homelessness amongst ex-prisoners.

These are just a few of Peter's achievements; this list could go on for many pages. Peter was an exceptional leader, who regularly shared his knowledge and experience with his counterparts to improve corrections globally. He was truly respected by his peers in South Australia, nationally and internationally, and he was also a good friend and mentor to many.

At Peter's very core was a belief in the inherent value of every human being and a belief in a person's ability to change. Peter's leadership, passion and dedication to correctional services has left a lasting impact on many, and he will be greatly missed. To Peter's wife, Isabelle, and his son, Julian, of whom he was extremely proud, as well as his sister, Bettina, our thoughts are with you.

I also extend my heartfelt condolences to Adrienne Clarke's family, friends and loved ones. We hope they find comfort in knowing the profound difference she made and the countless lives she touched. Commander Adrienne Clarke OAM AFSM will be remembered not only as a pioneer but as a person of immense character, strength and compassion. Her legacy is written in the progress she championed, the doors that she opened and the example she set for those to follow.

For John's wife, Jo, his family, friends and the entire surf lifesaving community, I extend our deepest condolences: his service and spirit will never be forgotten. These three individuals may never have met, yet they will forever be connected through the extraordinary service they gave to community. Each made a commitment to serve and protect South Australians, and they did so with honour. Their names will live on forever through the lives that they have changed. Gone too soon, but not without making a difference and lasting legacy. Vale Peter, JB and Adrienne.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The PRESIDENT: I advise members of the presence in the gallery today of members from the Victorian parliamentary staff. From the Legislative Council we have Brittany Turner and Christopher Gribbin; from the Legislative Assembly we have Rowen Germain and Liam Moran. I welcome those staff members from Victoria to our parliament.

Question Time

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:45): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries on the topic of algal bloom.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: For months, South Australian waters have been gripped by an algal bloom, crippling fish stocks, shutting down parts of the fishing industry and devastating coastal communities. Yet, from the outset, the government's response has been slow, narrow and reactive. Industry and individuals raised the alarm as early as in March and April, but action was only taken by the minister and her government in mid-July after sustained pressure from members of parliament, the public and the media. The Deputy Premier in early May said, and I quote:

The only thing that is going to break this algal bloom up is a change in the weather and starting to get strong westerly winds... We need a big change in weather to break this thing up; there is nothing we can do to precipitate this.

The Premier also stated that, and I quote:

Scientists were telling the Government that this will all go away in Winter when the water's cooled down. It just hasn't happened in the way that they expected.

My questions to the minister are:

1. Which expert scientific advisers or agencies provided your government with advice that the algal bloom would be gone by May or June?
2. Was this advice given in writing and will the minister table all relevant reports, modelling or correspondence?
3. At the time that you received this advice, did the government seek any second opinion or independent verifications?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:46): I thank the honourable member for her question. The significant algal bloom of the species *Karenia mikimotoi* was identified in South Australia in mid-March this year, initially in the waters around the Fleurieu Peninsula, specifically near Waitpinga and Parsons Beach. We have had algal blooms in the past here, the most recent significant one being back in 2014 in Coffin Bay.

It's fair to say that it is difficult to predict the duration of algal blooms. The scientists have been telling us this throughout in regard to what the causes of the algal bloom are and therefore what the expected likelihood and duration of an algal bloom continuing are.

There are three specific aspects which cause algal bloom in this particular circumstance. We have been advised that the significant marine heatwave, where sea temperatures were at least 2½° warmer than the usual average temperatures, was one significant factor. The second was the significant increase in nutrients in the water due to the River Murray floods and everything that came down the river in regard to those. Also, there was a significant upwelling, and of course the weather has been such that we haven't had a lot of cloud cover; instead we have had sunshine, obviously related to the drought conditions that we have been having. So we understand from the experts the reasons for this current algal bloom.

Our advice is that the factors that can lead to the decline or end of the bloom include a change in environmental conditions. That can include things such as cooler temperatures, increased mixing and water flow, decreased sunlight and decreased nutrient availability. Because of all those reasons, the current bloom, it's fair to say, is dynamic: it's moving and it's changing. Those changes can depend on weather, ocean circulation and environmental conditions.

PIRSA has been providing the SARDI South Australian algal bloom situational updates to the commercial fisheries and aquaculture sectors as well as to RecFish SA since 11 April this year. We had our first round table with coastal councils—I think it was on 9 April. There was a working group, initially between DEW and PIRSA, back on 3 April.

We had a second round table, hosted by the Deputy Premier and myself, with coastal MPs, on 15 May. Interestingly, only one opposition member attended. That was the member for Finniss on Teams, but no-one else it seems was interested. We have had meetings ongoing from that date forward when the formalised working group was established, which included SA Health, PIRSA, EPA, DEW, the SA Tourism Commission and SARDI.

On 3 June, we had a meeting convened with 80 leading scientists from across the nation, including overseas from New Zealand, to better understand the bloom and why it had not dissipated as predicted. We have had stakeholder forums with industry and community groups. We have announced fee relief and various support packages and had a number of public forums, so I think there has been a lot of work that has been happening since this first became an issue back in the middle of March.

We have heard from the opposition quite recently in terms of the algal bloom. It seems that back in March and April, and indeed May when we had the round table that coastal MPs were invited to, they weren't interested, but now—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Not very many. What did we see from the Leader of the Opposition in the other place on this matter? Very, very little. All of the work has been happening and continuing since the algal bloom was first detected back in March. That work is continuing. We continue to draw on the expertise of those who have—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: We continue to draw on the expertise of the experts, the scientists in this field. We have had, as I mentioned, very ongoing liaison with those who have expertise in this area, including from around the world. This is a difficult time for our coastal communities. It is a difficult time for our fishers and for our regional communities. It's something that is unprecedented. Whilst we have had algal blooms in the past, we have never seen one that has been of this scale and that has persisted for so long. That's why it's important to have additional research, it's why it's important to support both our fishing businesses and also our regional communities, and that is what our government has been doing.

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:52): Supplementary: can the minister advise the chamber which experts provided advice to the government prior to June on the algal bloom, and when, and will the minister table that advice?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:52): As is the case whenever there is something that is unprecedented or unusual, there is a lot of work that goes on at the departmental level, both with interstate counterparts and others who may have expertise. I think the very fact that there were 80 scientists who were convened—

The Hon. N.J. Centofanti interjecting:

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: There were 80 scientists who were convened to be able to give their expertise to identify where there is shared understanding across the country, as well as from other places elsewhere, as well as what the knowledge gaps are. It is a really important part of developing this. I think the opposition is clearly interested in trying to score political points rather than actually be interested in addressing the issues. Having a natural disaster such as we have with the algal bloom, having something that is unprecedented, means there has been a lot of work, a lot of liaison, a lot of questions asked, and a lot more work still to be done. That is why we have been working so hard throughout this time.

You think about the fact that back from the date that I mentioned in terms of the situational updates, from 11 April, that have been available and supplied to recreational fishing, commercial fishing and aquaculture sectors, it indicates how long we have been working on this. Our focus is not on trying to make political points as those opposite want to do. Our focus is on supporting our regional communities, supporting our fishing and aquaculture industries, and working hard with those with the expertise to learn more about this bloom and how it may be able to be addressed.

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:54): Supplementary: when did the Malinauskas government first seek financial support from the commonwealth government?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:54): I thank the honourable member for his question. I would have to check the dates; from my recollection it was in July. As I mentioned, throughout the early months of the algal bloom the expectation from all of the scientists who we had advice from was that the bloom would dissipate. Certainly, that is what has happened in the past. Therefore, we continued to work on that understanding whilst still seeking additional information as time went on.

It then became clear that it wasn't dissipating as expected. Therefore, we put to the federal government a request, that request was met and we have been able to provide a \$28 million support package that includes research, industry support and more.

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:55): My questions are to the Minister for Primary Industries on the topic of the algal bloom:

1. Given concerns were being raised as early as March and April, can the minister outline what immediate actions your government took at that time to prevent the bloom from escalating to its current severity?

2. Did your government, during the initial phase of the bloom, receive any advice from the experts you consulted with about possible measures, such as clay flocculation, to control the bloom and prevent or curtail its expansion and, if so, when was that advice provided?

3. Can you advise whether your government has received any advice that the algal bloom has now reached a stage where it cannot be treated effectively?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! I didn't have to stand up. That's enough. Let's just listen to the minister.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:56): It appears that those opposite think they know better than the scientists. They think they can prevent the bloom. They think there is an opportunity to prevent the bloom. That is what they have said. What I suspect they might be referring to is there are a number of potential solutions for algal issues that have been used at various places, both within Australia and around the world. They have referred to one, which involves clay. There are others as well, which quite possibly they are not aware of because, as we know, they haven't actually delved deeply into this issue.

My advice is that, whilst all of those potential ways of mitigating algal blooms are always under consideration, those that we are aware of have mainly been used within enclosed waters—say, for example, in lakes. Obviously, the open sea is quite different. Any proposals that come to government have been and are being considered seriously where they may have the potential to improve the algal bloom situation.

But, of course, there also needs to be an understanding of what are the consequences any proposed solutions would have: would they cause additional issues for the marine environment? All of those things, I am able to say, are under consideration by the experts: those who actually have expertise in science, in the marine environment and in some of these proposals.

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:58): Supplementary: can the minister list these experts?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:58): The government has been engaging with many people across the landscape. We have had a number of approaches from individuals or from companies, all of whom, to my understanding, have received a good hearing—certainly with my department. We continue to consider any ways that this may be able to be dissipated in any way.

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:58): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing questions to the Minister for Primary Industries on the topic of the algal bloom.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: Freedom of information documents show that as early as April, when South Australians were sounding the alarm about fish deaths, collapsed catches and the economic toll of the algal bloom, their concerns were repeatedly bounced between ministers and departments—sometimes multiple times—before anyone took responsibility.

On 8 April, a fifth-generation fisher wrote directly to the Premier seeking fee relief after being unable to catch fish due to the bloom. They explained that they had already written to the primary industries minister, Clare Scriven, two weeks earlier without reply. The email was then shuffled between offices, and it wasn't until 22 April that the minister's office finally accepted the referral from the Premier.

In several instances, correspondence that clearly fell within the Minister for Primary Industries' portfolio was redirected away from her office, and this handballing occurred while fishers were without work, marine ecosystems were suffering and communities were desperate for answers. My questions to the Minister for Primary Industries are:

1. Why did your office decline correspondence from the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water's office regarding fish deaths in this state?
2. Do you accept that repeat referrals between ministers' offices delayed the delivery of assistance to affected fishers and coastal communities?
3. How many pieces of correspondence about algal bloom were received by your office between April and July, and how many of these were actioned directly, rather than referred elsewhere?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (16:00): I thank the honourable member for her question. When there is a new event, an unprecedented event, it's not surprising that new processes need to be worked through. When there is something that affects many different people within our community, it understandably affects many different portfolios within government, so I am not going to criticise the administration staff in any of our departments for seeking to attempt to clarify where is the best place or who is best suited to be able to provide information for people who write to us.

In terms of the question in regard to supposed delay in fee relief, what the honourable member appears to misunderstand is the importance of liaising with industry associations when there is a significant issue affecting their members. We have been working throughout this time with associations such as the Marine Fishers Association, the South Australian Professional Fishers Association, the Oyster Growers' Association and others, because of course if someone is actually keen to provide assistance, going to those associations you have many members who are able to report on the different impacts on them and how best a support package could be put together.

They are the people who can really assist, and of course that has involved their direct consultation in various different ways with their members, remembering that these associations generally are fishers themselves. The ongoing engagement that I, as well as other departments, have with these associations is imperative in terms of developing a package that would assist those who have been affected by the bloom.

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:02): Supplementary: did the minister give direction to her administration staff that referrals of correspondence to her office was not within her ministerial responsibilities?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (16:02): I appreciate that the Leader of the Opposition in this place has never been in government and has never been a minister. She obviously doesn't understand the relationship between the administrative functions within a minister's office and the minister. Is she seriously suggesting that I would be spending my days standing over the admin staff to see what they are doing with their file movements?

It is a ridiculous suggestion, and if she wants a simple answer, the answer is of course not. Of course I don't give directions to admin staff—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —about file movements.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: What I would suggest—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: It is quite remarkable that the Leader of the Opposition in this place imagines that a minister spends their days standing over their admin staff in their ministerial office, who are employees of the department.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Of course I gave no such direction. Administrative staff report to their office manager.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

ELIZABETH PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (16:03): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Will the minister inform the council about his attendance at the Elizabeth Park School cultural showcase?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (16:04): I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in this area. I recently had the great pleasure of attending the cultural showcase at Elizabeth Park Primary School, alongside the Minister for Education, the member for Wright, the Hon. Blair Boyer MP. The showcase was an impressive event that clearly had a sense of great pride amongst the students, parents and teachers at the school.

The students have been diligently immersing themselves in Aboriginal culture, stories and perspectives. It was inspiring to see how they translated their learning into artworks and storytelling. The presentations were not only thoughtful and creative but also delivered with a lot of heart and respect.

This kind of learning is incredibly important, and it's a cornerstone of a well-rounded education. This sort of cultural education, focusing on Aboriginal perspectives, is crucial for fostering a more inclusive and respectful society. When young people engage with Aboriginal culture in such a meaningful way, it goes beyond simply learning historical facts. You could see the beginning of the development of a deeper understanding of the world around them, their place within it and the rich heritage of our nation's first peoples.

What culminates in a showcase is actually the by-product from the process of learning that helps to break down stereotypes, build empathy and forge stronger connections between individuals from all backgrounds. The positive ripple effect of these school programs extends far beyond the classroom walls.

I want to extend congratulations to the students, staff and entire community at Elizabeth Park Primary School. What is being done here is truly important. The dedication of the teachers and the enthusiasm of the students is a testament to the power of this sort of education. The students, the teachers and the community are making a difference not just in the lives of their students but in the life of our wider community. The seeds of respect and understanding that are being planted today will grow into a stronger, more prosperous and more empathetic South Australia.

ADELAIDE COP31

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (16:06): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Leader of the Government, representing the Premier, on COP31.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: In Scotland for the Glasgow COP, while the police force in Glasgow numbered one of the largest in that nation, they had to bring in 7,000 officers, as well as dogs, horses and vehicles, from other parts of that country to mount what was the biggest police operation they had experienced. We know that this government has a projection of some 5,000 South Australian police well into the future. How does the South Australian government intend to ensure that they have the police force required to host a COP?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (16:07): I thank the honourable member for her question. I do know that this is something that the police commissioner has for some time been turning his mind to. I will gladly take the questions on notice and refer them. I suspect the police minister may be able to provide greater and better input than the Premier, but I will certainly refer them to the appropriate minister or ministers and bring back the honourable member a response.

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. J.S. LEE (16:07): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding the algal bloom.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.S. LEE: The recent algal bloom has severely impacted South Australia's marine ecosystems and shaken public confidence. Despite government assurances that commercially available seafood is safe, confusion still persists, worsened by some hospitality venues publicly refusing to serve SA seafood due to customer concerns.

It was reported that fish and chip shops reported trade drops of up to 15 per cent, and even producers in unaffected regions are facing downturns due to sourcing misconceptions. It appears that the \$750,000 public information campaign has failed to cut through, leaving industry leaders and communities calling for clearer, more effective messaging. My questions to the minister are:

1. In light of some hospitality venues publicly stating that they will not serve South Australian seafood due to customer concerns, what action is the government taking to address the reputational damage this poses to the broader seafood industry?
2. What measure has been put in place for the government to evaluate the effectiveness of the seafood safety information campaign?
3. What immediate actions will be taken to strengthen public messaging in order to rebuild consumer confidence and support businesses throughout South Australia?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (16:09): I thank the honourable member for her question. It raises a very good point in that there are a number of people and areas not directly experiencing the algal bloom, yet are experiencing the impacts, despite in some cases being many hundreds of kilometres away from the algal bloom.

I must say that I haven't heard of any venues refusing to serve South Australian seafood, if you are talking about hotels, restaurants, and so on, but certainly if there are we are happy to reach out to them directly, so, please, I would encourage the honourable member to let us know about that. Having said that, we are of course aware of particularly those who have been in the media saying that there have been some difficulties around that. Certainly when I was in Stansbury a few weeks ago on holiday, I made sure that I asked specifically for South Australian seafood.

It is important to note that there is a lot of misunderstanding around the nature of the harmful algal bloom. I will take the opportunity to put it on the record here that, when it comes to our sea life in the ocean, the algal bloom affects the gills and therefore essentially—I am using layman's terms—suffocates the fish. That is how they are affected. When fish is purchased from a store, when fish is available on a menu, all of those fish are absolutely safe to eat. I think there is a misunderstanding about how the impacts on the sea life have been experienced.

I certainly take on board, as we have been now for some months, the concerns that are being experienced and raised by the fishing industry, by the seafood sector. I pay tribute to Seafood Industry South Australia and Kyri Toumazos in particular, for the way they have been working with the government.

A number of resources are available on the algalbloom.sa.gov.au website, which venues and businesses are able to use to put in their windows, for example, to explain why South Australian seafood is absolutely safe if it has been caught commercially, if it is on the shelves to purchase or if it is anywhere to buy and consume, such as cafes, restaurants and so on.

The government has been rolling out an awareness campaign, and there is still more that's going to be happening in regard to that. It will be evaluated in the normal way, as all government advertising campaigns are. I would encourage those in this place, as well as all South Australians, to consume South Australian seafood. We have a world-renowned reputation because of our high standards, as well as our sustainability, our clean green image, if you like. All our seafood that is available for purchase is absolutely safe to eat. Overcoming the perception is something I think we could all take on board as a shared responsibility.

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:12): My questions are to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development:

1. Given that warnings were raised months ago, does the minister accept that, had her government acted sooner, mitigation measures may have reduced the severity and spread of the bloom and the impact it has had and is having on the economy of coastal communities?

2. Will the minister take responsibility for the fact that, under her government's watch, South Australia has moved from a manageable environmental problem to what experts are now describing as an untreatable ecological disaster?

3. What steps is she and her government taking to ensure that future environmental and fish stock management crises are not met with the same delays in decision and lack of urgency?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (16:13): I thank the honourable Liberal member for his question, despite the fact that his question at its core is incorrect. Notwithstanding that, perhaps he is getting used to asking a question instead of giving a three-minute explanation first. We will give him a little bit of leeway here, I think, today or this week.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: It is indeed the shortest, which I think may explain the problems with the question. But this is a serious matter. It is unclear what mitigation measures the honourable member is referring to.

As I say, I am not a scientist, which is why I and our government rely on the expertise and the knowledge of the experts. There has been no mitigation measure put forward that we are aware of that could have prevented this algal bloom or could have reduced its size in any significant way. So to suggest that there were mitigation measures available that simply weren't used is simply incorrect.

In response to an earlier question, I outlined the work that the government has been doing since early April in regard to the algal bloom, remembering that the first reports received were around 15 March. So I think the honourable member may wish to either provide some more detail about what sort of measures he is proposing and perhaps also his scientific credentials because I wasn't aware that he had any. But the question is: what is it that those opposite think could have been done that was not done?

We have worked with the experts, we have worked with all of those who have experience in terms of algal blooms, who have drawn on the expertise of people in SARDI, in national organisations, in educational institutes. I am very sorry, I don't have the 80 scientists who have been

involved early on in front of me. But the question remains: what is it that those opposite think could have been done to mitigate this that hasn't been done, and where is their scientific evidence for it?

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (16:16): Supplementary: will the minister table the names of the 80 scientists she keeps mentioning?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (16:16): I am happy to check whether that's possible, and, if so, do so.

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:16): Supplementary: can the minister say whether her experts and what the government has been looking at also included looking at impacts of the desalination plant, dumping or dredge and spoil in the gulf over the years, and other pollution in the gulf, that could have contributed to the spread of this bloom? Is that going to be covered in any research?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (16:16): My advice is that in looking at the causes of the bloom, obviously any credible contributor has been of course looked at. I would encourage members to perhaps attend some of the public forums that are being run.

The Hon. H.M. Girolamo: Maybe you should too. How many have you gone to?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Of course I have been to them. What a ridiculous statement.

The Hon. H.M. Girolamo: Not all of them; you can't say that.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I would suggest that those who actually are sincerely interested in the issue and what it means for South Australia's community and what it means going forward do attend some of those forums. We have available at those forums the South Australian Research and Development Institute. We have available the Chief Public Health Officer or representative. We have available representatives from the Department for Environment and Water and the list goes on, so that actual information, factual information is provided, and I would very much encourage those opposite to avail themselves of the factual information that is there.

FOREST INDUSTRY

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (16:18): My question is to the Minister for Forest Industries. Noting that today is National Forestry Day, will the minister update the council about the investment the Malinauskas Labor government has provided to the forest industry this term?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (16:18): I thank the honourable member for his question and I would wish everybody a happy National Forestry Day. As I have said many times in this place, forestry is the ultimate renewable. Here in South Australia, our plantation forests sequester a staggering 4.64 million tonnes of CO₂ each year from the atmosphere, creating a cleaner and greener future.

National Forestry Day is an initiative of the Australian and South Australian Forest Products Association to raise awareness of the importance of the forest industry here in Australia. In particular, I would like to thank SAFPA (South Australian Forest Products Association) for their continued advocacy and highlighting the importance and the sustainability of this industry.

This year it's perhaps even more significant as we are currently celebrating 150 years of forestry in South Australia. It was 150 years ago that George Goyder mapped out South Australia's first plantation and is indeed the birth place of the nation's forest industry in this state. Forestry is more than just growing trees. It is about jobs and economic prosperity while sustaining the environment and carbon sequestration. It is about renewability, innovation and a cleaner, greener future.

Forestry has been building our nation for the past 150 years and will continue to do so as governments around the world look to reduce carbon emissions while also building their economies. South Australia's forest industry is acknowledged nationally and internationally for research excellence, and that is why the Malinauskas Labor government is seeking to build on that by investing \$16 million over 10 years for the creation of the Forestry Centre of Excellence. I am looking forward to its opening early in the new year, when the building is due to be complete.

In addition to the centre of excellence, I have previously announced the government has provided \$2 million to develop a forest products domestic manufacturing and infrastructure master plan. Members may recall that I have spoken in this place on a number of occasions about some of the benefits of the master plan and what it has unlocked for the forest industry through the projects that have been funded: \$2.34 million to replace fire towers with new AI fire detection technology to protect South Australia's forest plantation, which is valued at over \$1 billion dollars, and \$450,000 to Tree Breeding Australia to support the construction of a new facility in Mount Gambier, further strengthening our state's reputation as a leader in research and development.

As part of the 150th year of forestry in South Australia, we are pleased to be hosting the week-long Forestry Australia Conference in October, with the theme being 'Restoring forests and landscapes and securing Australia's future'. What is worth noting is the emphasis on our future. Forestry requires long-term vision and long-term thinking. Indeed, trees that are harvested today have taken many years to grow and manage. To put this in perspective, the trees that are harvested this year were planted when the great Paul Keating was Prime Minister, when Carlton won the AFL premiership and when Telecom Australia rebranded to Telstra.

The trees that are planted today will not be harvested for use until 2055 if we are talking about our softwoods, which further speaks to the long-term vision of the forest industry. Decisions made today impact outcomes in 30 years' time. Our forest industry employs over 18,000 South Australians both directly and indirectly and contributes \$3 billion to our economy each year. I am confident the industry has a bright future ahead of it, and I am excited to continue to watch the forest industry grow further. I have no doubt future generations will be talking about the importance of forestry in our state in another 150 years. Again, I wish everyone a happy National Forestry Day.

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:22): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing my question to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development on the topic of the algal bloom.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: The toxic algal bloom currently spreading across 4,400 square kilometres of the South Australian coastline was first identified in March this year on the beaches of the Fleurieu Peninsula in response to a large group of surfers who reported eye irritations and respiratory symptoms. We are now in August, and the devastating impact on coastal areas, marine life and the fishing and tourism industry continues, with limited information.

While extensive global and local research indicates an association between brine discharge from desalination plants and the occurrence of harmful algal bloom, the government continues to make media statements denying any connection between brine and the proliferation of microalgae. However, an article on 24 May by Global Marine Resource Management expressed concerns about recent activation of the Adelaide Desalination Plant and the coincidental toxic algal bloom, concluding that:

Public statements which exclude or aim to diminish the role of desalination discharge as a cause are inconsistent with desalination plants elsewhere in the world which have been associated with harmful algal blooms.

On 14 May of this year in this place, I directed questions to the Attorney-General regarding the monitoring of brine discharge from the Adelaide Desalination plant, to which the Attorney-General responded by claiming that SA Water regularly monitors and evaluates the environmental performance of these plants as part of the licensing requirements. Given the comments made by Global Marine Resource Management and the significant increase in brine discharge from Adelaide's

desalination plant throughout January to March this year, my questions to the Minister for Primary Industries are:

1. Can the minister explain what the government means by its use of the word 'known' in its statement to FIVEaa on 29 July that there is no known connection between brine, salinity levels and the proliferation of microalgae?
2. Can the government identify the independent research it has relied on to support its denial of the connection between discharge from the Lonsdale desalination plant and the spread of harmful algal bloom?
3. According to the Environment Protection Authority's website, the last independent review of the Adelaide Desalination Plant was completed in 2014. Does the government consider this level of independent oversight to be sufficient to objectively monitor the environmental performance of the Adelaide Desalination Plant?
4. What steps will the government take to assure South Australians that desalination discharge is not a causal factor in the spread of the current harmful algal bloom devastating the state's coastline?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (16:24): I thank the honourable member for her question. I would reiterate the invitation to all people in this place, including the honourable member, to attend one of the algal bloom public forums. There we have qualified people who have expertise in this area. I am not a scientist. I could certainly say the comment was in regard to microalgae in general. Was it in regard to the specific species of *Karenia mikimotoi*? I would not be heading into that, because I am not an expert. That is why I think it's important to rely on the experts and to rely on the scientists. Professor Mike Steer is part of the presentations at the harmful algal bloom public forums.

What will the government do to reassure the public? We will continue to answer the questions. We will continue to put forward people, such as Professor Steer, who are able to answer these questions with expertise and from qualifications. I know one of the things that he has pointed out—certainly at the forum I was at in Port Lincoln on Saturday; I think it was at that forum—was that the algal bloom started about 75-plus kilometres, I think, from the desal plant. That certainly would seem to raise some questions as to how it would be linked: why there wouldn't be an algal bloom starting near the desal plant if that were a cause. However, as I say, I suggest that all of those who sincerely want to understand do avail themselves of the forums and hear from the experts.

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:26): Supplementary: is the minister suggesting that only scientists employed by the government can be considered as experts?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (16:26): No.

MINISTERIAL STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (16:27): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries on the topic of statutory responsibilities.

Leave granted.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: Under the SA Fisheries Management Act 2007, the Minister for Primary Industries has clear statutory responsibility for managing and regulating commercial, recreational and Aboriginal traditional fishing; ensuring the ecologically sustainable development of fishery resources; setting and enforcing total allowable catches and quotas; issuing and managing fishing licences and permits; overseeing fishery management plans, which must include sustainability objectives; and supporting the recovery and rebuilding of fish stocks when they are depleted.

Freedom of information documents obtained by the opposition reveal that the minister declined a referral from the Deputy Premier concerning correspondence which raised concerns about the apparent decline in the health of local fisheries and sought information on, and I quote:

How the SA government is intending to support the regeneration of marine ecosystems in the region.

My question to the minister is: given the minister's statutory responsibility for the ecologically sustainable development of fishery resources and the recovery and rebuilding of depleted fish stocks, how can the minister justify declining to take carriage of this matter? Can she confidently say she is fulfilling her statutory duties?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (16:28): I thank the honourable member for her question. As I alluded to earlier in this question time, as the algal bloom continues to develop and evolve, obviously the response that needs to come from different departments in regard to different aspects of the bloom continues also to evolve and develop.

In the \$28 million package is included funding for further research. It includes funding for specific stock assessments. Normally, for the benefit of those opposite, stock assessments occur at particular intervals. Obviously, given the significant impact on a large number of species from this algal bloom, it's imperative that we do access that information far sooner than would be the case in a normal cycle of stock assessments. All of that work continues, and we continue to be able to learn as much as we can and, indeed, share that with others around the world who are also keen to better understand algal blooms in the current environment.

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:29): Supplementary: is the minister suggesting that she is only responsible for fish stocks once they have been significantly depleted, as she has just stated to the chamber?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (16:30): I see, Mr President, you are shaking your head. I am inclined to shake my head as well, in terms of what a strange question that is. I think it's really pretty unworthy of an answer in many ways. I think it's clear what the responsibilities are as a minister.

SENSORY BUS

The Hon. T.T. NGO (16:30): My question is to the Minister for Autism. Can the minister tell the council about how South Australia is leading the way with its first sensory bus?

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Autism, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (16:30): I thank the honourable member for their question and interest in how SA is leading the way for the autistic and autism communities. I am excited to share that South Australia's first sensory bus will very soon be hitting the road and pulling up to a number of government and community events. As outlined in feedback received through consultation for South Australia's first autism strategy, we know that the autistic and autism communities have been calling for more support to participate in and attend community events.

We saw the success of a brand-new sensory space that received funding through the Autism Works in the Community Grants program at the Adelaide Oval for footy, cricket and events this year. Feedback from this space shows that just knowing the sensory space was available provided families with support, even if they didn't need to visit. Spaces like these also often mean families can attend as an entire family.

This idea of a sensory bus was born from the lived experience of Annie and Nathan Hall at the Carols by Candlelight sensory space. As parents and passionate advocates, Annie and Nathan shared their story with me about their son, Eli, who is autistic, vision impaired and can face challenges accessing public spaces. Annie and Nathan's vision for a mobile sensory unit has now become a reality. Their courage and insight have helped shape a project that will benefit countless families and people across our state.

Developed by the Malinauskas Labor government's Office for Autism, the sensory bus will provide a calming and supportive space at some of our biggest events, including the Adelaide 500, the Tour Down Under and multicultural festivals. The bus has been repurposed from an old Adelaide Metro vehicle and is being transformed by Cox Architecture and McMahon Services, with support from Torrens Transit.

I can also share that Autism SA will be operating the vehicle, ensuring the bus will be a space where autistic individuals can regulate, reset and rejoin the festivities with confidence, knowing support is close by. To ensure the bus reflects the community it serves, we have launched an artwork competition inviting autistic South Australians to submit designs for the bus wrap. Under the theme Spaces We Shape, these designs will celebrate identity, experience and sensory expressions, with separate categories for children aged five to 17 years of age and adults aged over 18. I encourage all autistic artists to visit the Office for Autism website to submit their designs or submit their paper form artwork in person at the State Administration Centre on Victoria Square. Artwork entries will close on Monday 25 August.

This purpose-built, mobile sensory space is more than just a bus, it is a symbol of understanding, inclusion and access, and I look forward to seeing the sensory bus at many of our events in the future.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:33): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney a question about the recent Standing Council of Attorneys-General meeting and its outcome on working with children check reforms.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: The Standing Council of Attorneys-General convened on Friday 15 August and agreed to fast-track several national reforms pertaining to working with children checks. Commitments made at the meeting include mutual national recognition of negative working with children decisions across all jurisdictions by the end of the year, as well as the introduction of a national continuous checking capability alongside national harmonisation of assessment frameworks. Advice suggests that while these are welcome steps, they have certainly been a long time coming. They will only be meaningful if every state, including South Australia, acts swiftly to implement them.

It was in November last year that The McKell Institute released its 'Safety not guaranteed' report on preventing young workers from experiencing predatory behaviour in consultation with the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association (SDA). Included within the recommendations of the report is a clear and urgent call for action regarding the accessibility of working with children checks, and I quote:

It is critical that any additional costs associated with protecting children at work are not borne by employees, either directly or indirectly.

My questions to the Attorney are:

1. What specific steps will the South Australian government take, and by what timeframe, to ensure the commitments made at the Standing Council of Attorneys-General are implemented in this state?
2. Acknowledging that we are amidst a cost-of-living crisis, will the government consider easing the financial burden placed on thousands of low-paid workers, including those in retail and fast-food sectors, who are expected to cover the cost of working with children checks by mandating employers to wear that responsibility?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (16:36): I thank the honourable member for her question. The member mentioned the McKell report. I was pleased, in reading the McKell report, that there was significant recognition of the reforms that we have passed in South Australia—reforms that the honourable member, along with the SDA and other interested parties,

has been significantly involved with in terms of children working with registered and registrable child sex offenders.

The working with children checks regime in South Australia—it is not the same in every state around Australia—falls within the ministerial responsibilities of the Minister for Human Services and her department. However, in relation to the two commitments that were raised and discussed at the Standing Council of Attorneys-General on Friday, it was recognised that we may be the only jurisdiction, or one of the few jurisdictions, which already has a national recognition of negative checks.

In South Australia, if someone applies for a working with children check, the first step that is done is to see if there is a negative assessment from any other jurisdiction. If there is, that is the end of the checks; that person isn't assessed any further whatsoever. What has been suggested is 'done in one, done in all', effectively, for a national regime. We already do that in South Australia, and other jurisdictions have committed to working towards doing what we do here by the end of the year.

In relation to national harmonisation, there was discussion about what that would mean. What is not anticipated is that every jurisdiction will have exactly the same elements taken into account. Again, South Australia has probably the most stringent working with children checks in terms of what is taken into account: not just convictions, not just charges that have been laid, but investigations that the police have done, child protection related notifications and a range of other things.

What was recognised in the decisions and the communiqué out of the Standing Council of Attorneys-General was working towards national recognition, but noting not to diminish the protections that already apply in other states. So, in a lot of ways, what we already do in South Australia we look forward to other jurisdictions doing.

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (16:38): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries regarding the algal bloom situation. Given that South Australian local fishers are warning that stock depletion will take years to recover, what current actions are being undertaken by the government to preserve and rebuild fish stocks in Gulf St Vincent, Spencer Gulf and any other affected areas?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (16:39): I thank the honourable member for her question, which is a sensible one, unlike what we have seen from a lot of those others opposite today. It is impressive to see that finally there is a sensible question from those opposite.

I think it is absolutely worth acknowledging also the mental strain that the concerns around stock levels are having on people, particularly, obviously, commercial fishers. Seeing the level of sea life that has been washed up onto shores is a reminder to those who perhaps don't normally come into contact with the commercial fishing industries of how important it is, both for our economy and also for our environment, that we do have a marine system which continues to work well.

There are a number of things that are already under consideration, and there are also some things that we have already announced. I spoke earlier today in question time about the rapid stock assessments. That has to be point number one, because until we actually have an objective understanding of what the impact to various species has been then obviously the ways to address that can't be put into place.

There is also a whole range of science and research which is essentially feeding into the way that fisheries can be supported going forward. Members may have been aware of the announcement that we made in the last few weeks in regard to support for artificial reefs. I am not sure if that is the correct term, but certainly it is about establishing reefs in a way that is still sustainable within the ocean—it can't just be made of cement blocks or something like that—that can therefore assist in terms of the natural increases in stock. Oysters are obviously one example, but there are plenty of others as well.

These are some of the things that have already been announced. We are continuing to work with the fishing groups, with environmental associations and with our coastal communities about all

the things that may be necessary going forward. We are very pleased that the \$28 million includes such a significant amount for research, because obviously it needs to be evidence-based to be able to assess the best way in terms of potentially restocking or providing the environment that enables that natural uplift in terms of the species that have been affected.

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:42): Is the minister considering using the SARDI West Beach facility to breed and restock affected fish species?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (16:42): There is already a breeding program for snapper, which of course may well be one of the species that has been affected, so we have a degree of expertise there. It will depend on the individual species. We know that a large number of different species have been affected. That work that is being undertaken to assess the particular impact on each species, the current stock levels and so on will inform what is possible going forward.

It is perhaps worthy of mention that different species have different success in terms of humans trying to breed them. For example, snapper is a long-lived species and we have a reasonable degree of history in successfully breeding snapper fingerlings and releasing them. For some other species, according to the advice that I have received so far, we don't have the same level of expertise, or indeed it may be that they don't take well to that kind of environment. It is very much a matter of understanding first of all the stock levels, secondly the impacts on each individual species and then thirdly the options for helping in terms of replenishment.

SOUTH COAST ALGAL BLOOM

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:43): In relation to that \$28 million that the government is using, can the minister say how much is actually going towards tourism and encouraging people to not cancel bookings in coastal areas and in places like Kangaroo Island that are suddenly experiencing a downturn in visitors?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (16:44): I thank the honourable member for his supplementary question. I can't recall off the top of my head how much is going towards tourism, but obviously campaigns around encouraging people to visit our regional coastal areas are a part of that. I would encourage the honourable member to go onto the government website, where a lot of this information is available. Certainly, small business grants are accessible by those who are affected in coastal regions, and obviously that will include a lot in terms of various tourism businesses.

It is important also, though, that we realise that this algal bloom may continue. We don't yet know whether it will dissipate in the next few weeks—obviously that would be the best outcome for all concerned—whether it will go away and then re-emerge, potentially during summer, or whether indeed it will stay throughout the coming months right into summer.

So the government is planning for all of those scenarios because we don't know which one will actually eventuate. There is a summer plan that is under development, which would address issues, including for tourism operators, if the algal bloom does continue for that period of time. I look forward to being able to provide further information as time goes on.

Members

MEMBER'S LEAVE

The PRESIDENT (16:46): I inform members that, pursuant to standing order 33, 20 weeks maternity leave has been granted to the Hon. M. El Dannawi commencing on 19 August 2025. I table the letter from the honourable member notifying me of the period of maternity leave of absence.

Ministerial Statement

REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (16:46): I table the ministerial

statement relating to the report of the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence made during our question time by the Premier in another place.

Bills

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 18 June 2025.)

The Hon. B.R. HOOD (16:47): I rise as the lead speaker for the Liberal Party opposition on this bill today to indicate our support and welcome it as an important move in protecting South Australians in times of emergency. The Emergency Management Act has been used a lot more in recent years, with emergencies becoming more complex and lasting longer. There have only been 10 declarations made in the act's 20-year history, with three of them occurring in the last four years. Prior to COVID, the longest emergency declaration period lasted just four days. It was 793 days for COVID and 118 days for the River Murray flood.

This bill is the result of the first full-scale review since the act was created in 2004. The review involved 15 government stakeholders, 74 public submissions, including from former Premier Steven Marshall, former Minister for Health Stephen Wade, and member for Finniss, David Basham. The review produced 28 recommendations, which have been largely informative in drafting this bill.

Notably, the bill introduces a dedicated State Recovery Coordinator, a position which has always been made in an emergency, but now the role will exist outside of an emergency period also. The bill also introduced a new declaration category—state of alert—for upscaling and downscaling emergencies. We see this as important in sending the right message to the public.

Whilst we are in support of this bill, we do have some concerns. We want to ensure that this piece of legislation is meeting the expectations of the review and of the recommendations. There are now fewer restrictions on recovery operations on private property. There needs to be an attempt to contact property owners before carrying out work on private property, and we need assurances that there will be guidelines for operating emergency response on private property.

There is also the need to ensure there are protections for vulnerable people, which is the subject of our first amendment. We know that vulnerable people are at much higher risk in an emergency—age, disability, chronic illness, homelessness, etc. Recommendation 1 of the Emergency Management Act independent review was that the guiding principles should reference that specific planning for vulnerable people is required. The government's bill does not mention that specific planning is required for vulnerable people.

The review draws attention to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, which considered the specific impacts of emergencies on vulnerable people. The commission noted that nearly half the people who died in those terrible bushfires were classed as vulnerable because they were aged less than 12 years or more than 70 years, or because they were suffering from acute chronic illness or disability.

The commission considered it necessary for the state to recognise the needs of vulnerable people who might need early warning assistance or separate consideration. Submissions to the review highlighted the importance of considering vulnerable people in the emergency management space. SAPOL's submission stated that there was a need to specifically consider vulnerable communities and, as per the recommendation, the act's objectives and guiding principles should explicitly reference that specific planning is required for vulnerable people.

The government has said that it accepts all 28 recommendations, including two in principle. If it does accept recommendation 1, the bill should acknowledge vulnerable people and require specific planning to address their needs, which again is the subject of our first amendment. We will attempt to make a slight amendment to the Hon. Connie Bonaros's amendment also, potentially, to insert 'agricultural environments' as well as the marine environments that the honourable member

has included in her amendment. With that, I will conclude my remarks in support, broadly, of this amendment bill.

The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:51): I rise to speak on the Emergency Management (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024. This bill, as we know, has been around for some time, but is also our response to what were unprecedented times when our state, the country and the world was confronted with COVID-19. As has just been outlined, following that pandemic a review of the relevant legislation was undertaken. About 28 recommendations were made, all of them accepted in principle by the government. This bill is the end result of that, dealing with those 28 legislative recommendations. They are intended to strengthen the said legislation by improving clarity, strengthening roles and responsibilities and introducing new elements to support responding to future known and unknown events in emergencies.

It is quite timely that we are dealing with this, given that we are dealing with another crisis that is unprecedented in this state. The act provides for the framework and principles for coordinating activities before, during and after emergencies. It assigns key responsibilities and gives necessary powers for response and recovery operations, and it serves as a last resort piece of legislation that is only utilised once the powers available under surrounding legislation have been exhausted. That is a critical point in this legislation and this framework we have in this state.

I note previous comments about the fact that our legislative arrangements in this state do not necessarily align with other jurisdictions, but we do have other pieces of legislation, including the South Australian Public Health Act. The idea is that we do not trigger the Emergency Management Act in this jurisdiction unless and until we have extensively exhausted the avenues available to us via those other pieces of legislation. I was on the committee that reviewed the South Australian Public Health Act post COVID as well, and note some of the changes we made to that legislation at the time as a result of COVID-19 and our responses to it.

One of the points that I am particularly pleased to see included in this bill is this step-down or step-up approach that has been recommended and agreed to by the government. If we think back to COVID, powers that are exercised under this and the state of emergency can last, as we saw, for a very, very long time.

Aside from the fact that it creates a level of confusion in the community, I think it also undermined and watered down some of the risks that were presented to community. So after a while, once the immediate dangers had not disappeared but had lessened, we all became quite immune to declarations that were in place. That is certainly something that I think ought to have been addressed and I am glad to see it has been addressed. I think the way the government has approached this in line with the recommendations is a sensible one in terms of stepping up and stepping down those issues.

We are discussing this now, again, in the context of algal bloom, and we can see that the same sorts of issues—indeed, a lot of them were canvassed today during question time—do exist when we have these sorts of situations and the need for us to be able to deal with them effectively. I think there are a lot of lessons that have been learnt by all of us in relation to how we responded to COVID.

I will take this opportunity to commend the way that this parliament dealt with COVID-19. It was something that was not only unprecedented but new to all of us. The fact that we have an independent coordinator who is removed from politics and not influenced by, and should not be influenced by, political parties and their decisions of the day is critically important in this. Having the Commissioner of Police act in that capacity is intended, very deliberately, to ensure that we do not politic with something as critical and deadly as COVID-19. So they are hugely important factors and I am glad to see that some of them have been addressed in this bill.

There are things that we did wrong through COVID, from my perspective, that simply will not be addressed through this bill, through any amendments to this bill, or indeed through any legislation. I think if you spoke to any family who lost a family member during COVID-19, they will know only too well what it is that I am speaking of. My only hope is that if we are, as we may inevitably be, ever confronted with an issue like this again, the one thing we never repeat and something that cannot be

dealt with by legislation are those elements of our response that were completely devoid of empathy, of compassion and of heart for the families who were effectively left to pick up the pieces of COVID.

They have lifelong impacts on families and I think, despite the fact that we had this amazing record of how we came out of COVID, the one thing that saddens me to this day is that those measures, whilst good on paper and in principle, were, as I said, absolutely devoid in many instances of the empathy and compassion that we ought to have exercised. That is not something you can legislate for. I think it was David Penberthy who probably hit the nail on the head post COVID around those sorts of impacts.

Again, if anyone has been touched by this, as my family was, I cannot begin to describe to you what it would be like having a family member who passes from COVID and the sorts of restrictions that were placed on families, on their kids, on their parents, when it came to spending their final moments with a family member. I cannot imagine the grief of families knowing that they had family members who were in aged-care and retirement facilities and the fear that those family members would have been confronted with, particularly if there were things like dementia at play and Alzheimer's and all sorts of conditions.

That fear would have plagued those people in the final hours of their lives, and I certainly hope we have learned our lesson from that because, for my part, that is the one thing that we did absolutely fail at when we dealt with COVID. Again, I think it was David Penberthy who hit the nail on the head for me personally and more broadly when he wrote of this. I do not want to see us go back there again. Those things though, like I said, cannot be dealt with by legislation. There has to be an element of give and take and flexibility, just like we have been talking about today around the algal bloom, when it comes to dealing with the human side and human elements of something as confronting as COVID-19.

The only other thing I will say with respect to that is that, I think if you were in this place and you lived through COVID the way we did as members of parliament, you would know that there is absolutely a need for very quick responses. This parliament dealt with those as expeditiously and effectively as it could under the circumstances, but we were all in the same position: we did not know. That does not mean that we did not set up the frameworks around the response committees and whatnot to deal with them. On that particular note, I think I will take this opportunity to commend the work of the former health minister, who I thought did an exceptional job at guiding us through what was a very difficult time for our state.

I was going to say more about COVID itself, but I think I will leave it at that. The only other thing I will mention is that obviously we are dealing with and now being confronted with another crisis of unprecedented terms that we have not seen in this state before, certainly not at the magnitude that we are seeing today, and that is one that we have heard about today and for months now around algal bloom. I do note that, on that front, I have filed one amendment to this bill. It is not specifically or explicitly related to algal bloom, but it is explicitly related to our marine environments, including our marine flora and fauna.

For those members who are not aware, we have a piece of legislation here that sets the framework underpinning that legislation. Of course, it is the SEMP, the State Emergency Management Plan, as well as a number of other guidelines and documents that underpin this framework. It is within that particular State Emergency Management Plan that we list the sorts of things that qualify as a natural disaster. The list includes fires, it includes rains, it includes extreme weather, and it includes environmental damage.

I have sought to include one amendment that would require us to explicitly list in the things that are canvassed by that plan strategies relating to emergencies that cause or threaten to cause damage to marine environments, including marine flora and fauna. The algal bloom outbreak in this state might not be the only one; we do not know what is to come. That is the point of this legislation. It has to be broad enough to anticipate the sorts of things that might come and our ability to deal with them effectively.

As I said at the outset, this is a piece of legislation of, for want of a better term, last resort; that is, there are other pieces of legislation there that we exhaust fully first before we turn to the emergency management plan. But when we get to the Emergency Management Act and the

framework that underpins it, including the plan, then there can be no question as to whether something like algal bloom or whatever else it is that gives rise to marine environment damage is included in the framework. That is the purpose of this amendment, and I am hopeful that it will be supported across all sides of the chamber today.

With those words, I think I will speak to some of the amendments that others have proposed when we actually get to them. Again, I thank the government for their time on this bill and also for ensuring that those 28 recommendations that were made were covered. However, I reaffirm the plea that I have made that, as we are seeing now, there is a human toll and a human cost to things like COVID and indeed the algal bloom crisis, and it is really critical that we respond to the human toll, the human cost and the mental health toll in an appropriate way. I do not think we have done that well in the past. I think we have a lot to learn from the way we have conducted ourselves previously and the way we have gone about these things, and I am very hopeful that we will not repeat the same errors going forward.

The Hon. J.S. LEE (17:05): I rise to speak in support of the Emergency Management (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill. I welcome this bill as it is the product of a thorough review of South Australia's emergency management framework that reflects the evolving nature of the risks that our community faces, from bushfires and floods to pandemics, natural disasters and cyberthreats.

The scale and complexity of recent unprecedented emergencies, particularly the Black Summer bushfires, the COVID-19 pandemic, the River Murray floods and now the algal bloom, tested the limits of our existing legislation. These devastating events show that our emergency management arrangements must be more agile, more coordinated and much more recovery focused. I recognise the importance of the introduction in this bill of a statutory State Recovery Coordinator, which will help ensure that recovery is not treated as an afterthought but as a core part of emergency management.

The recognition of volunteers and the identification of vulnerable populations in planning is also a meaningful step forward. Volunteers are often the first to respond and the last to leave. Their local knowledge, commitment and resilience are invaluable. The victimisation protections in this bill reflect the vital role volunteers play in emergency management and recovery. I also note that the Hon. Connie Bonaros mentioned compassion and the human elements that need to be considered; those are certainly very critical.

The proposed state of alert mechanism is a significant reform. It allows for earlier and more flexible responses to emergent threats even before a full emergency declaration is warranted. This could be particularly useful in situations where escalation is uncertain but risks are real, such as slow-moving floods or emerging cyber incidents. However, I do question the functional distinction between a state of alert and a declared emergency.

While the bill outlines that the powers under a state of alert mirror those of a full declaration, including issuing directions and overriding laws, the threshold of activation is lower. Is this simply a matter of changing the public messaging around the threat of the emergency? It could be seen as a way of activating the extensive powers of emergency declaration at a much lower threshold. I note that the final report of the independent review stated, and I quote:

If a new declaration type is introduced, it must be clear and have defined limits. It should include requirements that the use of a State of Alert or similar declaration is required to be clearly communicated and accessible for people so that it can be understood by everyone in the community.

It would need to strike the balance of increasing the agility of the [Emergency Management] Act and its powers, while maintaining appropriate safeguards and appropriately interfacing with other legislation.

While I fully support the need for additional flexibility to allow for the scaling up and scaling down of emergency responses, and greater ability to prepare for and recover from emergencies, it would be really helpful if the minister could outline exactly how this legislation achieves this important balance.

It is also worth noting how the nature of emergency declarations in South Australia has changed over time. Historically, declarations under the Emergency Management Act were short-lived, often lasting only a matter of hours or days, but more recently we have seen a shift. The COVID-19 pandemic required a major emergency declaration that remained in place for 793 days—more than two years—and the River Murray flood declaration lasted 118 days. This shift reflects a

new reality: emergencies are no longer always sharp, short and manageable events. They are increasingly prolonged, complex and compounding, requiring sustained coordination, clear leadership and flexible powers that can scale with the situation.

The reforms in this bill, particularly the introduction of a state of alert and the statutory State Recovery Coordinator, are a direct response to the new norm. They provide a tool to manage long duration emergencies more effectively while maintaining appropriate checks and balances. As a member of the select committee on the River Murray floods, I have heard and seen firsthand evidence provided to us about how critical it is to have clear lines of responsibility and coordination during recovery.

I note that many of the recommendations in this bill align with the concerns raised during the inquiry and detail in the committee's report, particularly around recovery, leadership and the need for better integration across departments. I also want to acknowledge the extensive consultation that informed this bill.

Feedback was received from 75 agencies, organisations and individuals, including emergency services volunteers, local government and community groups. Importantly, 98 per cent of the submissions supported or partially supported the introduction of a new class of declaration to support scaled emergency responses. This level of engagement reflects a strong consensus across sectors that our emergency management legislation must evolve to meet contemporary challenges.

I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to former Premier Steven Marshall and to former Minister for Health and Wellbeing the Hon. Stephen Wade, who were leading figures in guiding South Australia through the COVID-19 pandemic. Both of them have made incredibly compassionate and thoughtful contributions to the independent review that informed this bill, along with many others who were at the forefront of confronting the challenges of the time. I acknowledge and thank them all for their input and engagement in shaping our emergency management framework.

While the government accepted, or accepted in principle, all 28 recommendations from the independent review, I wish to briefly comment on one recommendation that was not adopted in full. The review recommended incorporating 'an explicit mechanism in the Emergency Management Act to facilitate the mobilisation of the public sector workforce when necessary to respond to a declared emergency'. This recommendation was accepted in principle, but the bill goes further, allowing the Premier to direct public sector resources at any time not connected to a declaration.

I understand the reasoning for wanting to ensure flexibility in mobilisation, particularly in the early stages of a slow-moving or compounding event; however, it does raise important questions about how and when significant government resources are deployed, and under what level of scrutiny. As we move towards implementation, I encourage the government to provide clear guidelines on how this power is used, so that mobilisation decisions are transparent, proportionate and responsive, and aligned with the intent of the act.

I am offering some constructive feedback here to highlight the need for ongoing refinement as we respond to increasingly complex emergencies. The six-year review clause is a prudent safeguard, giving parliament a chance to revisit how these powers are applied.

I look forward to further clarification throughout the committee stage and will consider all proposed amendments by all honourable members on their merits. In conclusion, I indicate my support for this bill and its intent to modernise our emergency management legislation, ensuring that agile response and planned recovery are under full consideration.

The Hon. S.L. GAME (17:14): I rise to speak on the Emergency Management (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024. It appears that the extraordinary powers used by the executive government under the Emergency Management Act and the South Australian Public Health Act to close borders, lock down the state, impose social distancing restrictions, mandate vaccines and mask-wearing, and arrest noncompliant citizens are not enough for the current Labor government. The Malinauskas Labor government needs more power and they need it now.

But according to the Minister for Emergency Services, the people of South Australia should not be alarmed. These amendments to the act will only be used to empower the government to meet the unique challenges of cyberterrorism, climate change and natural disasters. Once again, we have

the 'nothing to see here' approach from this government: the all-too-familiar spin and stonewalling while in the meantime this extraordinary bill is catapulted through the House of Assembly without opposition and arrives in this place to be rubberstamped.

And it is an extraordinary bill: a bill which further entrenches and broadens the excessive powers obtained under the South Australian Public Health Act in 2022 during the COVID-19 pandemic, with limited parliamentary oversight or safeguards and complete disregard for individual rights or freedoms.

This is a dangerous piece of legislation—one that should be ardently opposed by all members of this parliament, given that we are here to represent the will of the people and to provide some check on executive power, especially in the face of such an extraordinary proposal which can only be described as a brazen assault on the rights of the South Australian people under the guise of emergency protection. Students of history will be aware of how this strategy has been employed by various totalitarian regimes in the past to exert control over individual citizens and political opponents. In short, never let a good crisis go to waste.

However, under this proposal before us the government has introduced a new mechanism that will trigger its emergency powers before the emergency has even occurred. By inserting section 21A, it is now possible for the State Coordinator to declare a state of alert if it appears that an emergency 'is likely to occur, or is likely to occur if steps are not taken to prevent it, and it is necessary or desirable to exercise powers'. The extension of emergency powers to encompass what the State Coordinator considers a potential emergency is deeply concerning, given that there is no requirement to provide the evidentiary basis for such a declaration.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the government issued an emergency declaration that lasted 793 days without providing any evidentiary justification to the parliament. If this power is extended to 'likely emergencies' it must come with appropriate parliamentary oversight, including not only the tabling of evidence to justify the declaration but also a limit on how many times this declaration can be extended.

Under my proposed amendment 21AA, if a declaration is made or extended the minister must provide a report to both houses of parliament summarising the advice that was relied on in making or extending the declaration. This is a reasonable measure that will provide an appropriate level of parliamentary oversight and disclosure without obstructing the need for government efficiency in a time of a legitimate crisis.

Under the government's proposal, the new 'state alert' mechanism will also be applied to emergency declarations made under section 24A of the act for any public health incident or emergency. Given the concerns regarding government overreach during the COVID-19 pandemic and the disputed science over social distancing, mask-wearing, mandated vaccines and extended lockdowns, any future public health emergency or state of alert should immediately require the establishment of an independent advisory council consisting of members from a wide range of experts, leaders and professionals who can objectively advise the government of the day on any incident or emergency related to the health and safety of the community.

In this way, the people of South Australia can have some confidence that the science surrounding any declaration of a public health emergency or alert will extend beyond the bureaucratic corridors of the government. With my proposed amendment to section 88 of the South Australian Public Health Act 2011, I will be seeking to suspend orders to compel the minister to establish an advisory committee to provide independent advice to the Chief Public Health Officer and the State Coordinator. This committee will consist of persons with expertise and relevant experience and must include persons who are not state public servants.

Above all, my greatest concern—shared by the Law Society and many in the legal profession—is the extraordinary powers given to the State Coordinator and authorised officers under section 25 of the act and further consolidated by the government's proposed amendments.

Back in 2022, I opposed the retention of emergency powers under section 25 while removing any safeguarding legislation. Well, here we are again, and for the avoidance of doubt these extraordinary powers currently allow for the State Coordinator or authorised officer to enter, break

into land, building, structure or vehicle; to remove or destroy any building, structure, vehicle, animal or thing; to submit any person to decontamination procedures; to isolate and segregate people; and to direct people to undergo medical observation, diagnostic procedures or treatment, amongst other powers.

The most concerning clause included in this extensive list of powers under section 25 is subclause (2), which provides for the exercise of any prescribed power. The Law Society and many in the legal profession have called for the removal of this clause or the inclusion of a proportionality clause to counter the clear excess of such a broad provision. To address the issue of proportionality, I have included an amendment to section 24B(1) to ensure that powers exercised under this section must be reasonable in the circumstances.

Nevertheless, as stated previously, such unaccountable powers are clearly not enough for the current government as it seeks to reaffirm the excess already evident in the act, as well as remove any smidgen of possible restraint, as can be seen by the government's proposed removal of the simple phrase 'using such force as is necessary'. Such an intentional removal of a clause that requires authorised officers to apply force only to an extent that is necessary should concern all South Australians, as it highlights an intention to use force indiscriminately and without restraint.

In a further extension of section 25 powers, proposed subclause (5) allows for authorised officers to discharge power, even if to do so would contravene another law of the state. In addition to this, subclause (5)(c) states that directions or requirements given by authorised officers, which may be issued orally, by SMS or by email, may apply to a person or class of persons in any place during any period and may require or allow a person or class of persons to act in contravention of another law of the state and may affect the lawful rights or obligations of any person or class of persons.

This is nothing short of chilling, especially when you consider the absence of any safeguards or any reference to proportionality or oversight, and certainly no mention of individual rights other than to state how such rights may be violated. If this was not enough, the proposed insertion of section 26AB outlines how regulations may modify or dispense with procedural requirements, law, procedural fairness.

While the dispensing of procedural fairness will only occur on the request of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, we must nevertheless ask ourselves in what sort of system an independent judicial officer becomes complicit in the removal of a citizen's fundamental rights. What sort of dystopian nightmare does the government envisage for the future of South Australia? Whatever the future may hold for South Australians, our experience with the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that it is not so much the virus itself but the response that will ultimately cause the greatest harm to ourselves and the community.

The people of South Australia do not have the benefit of legislation which protects their human rights, and in the absence of appropriate parliamentary oversight it is a great concern that this proposal puts the rights and freedoms of all current and future South Australians at risk. This is why I will be seeking suspending orders for the establishment of an emergency direction, accountability and oversight committee that will require the minister to report on the reasons for issuing a direction, as well as providing either house of parliament with the power to disallow a direction.

It is my sincere hope that the government and members of this place will consider the importance of parliamentary oversight and proportionality when voting on this proposal, because the people of South Australia deserve a government and parliament that will protect them not only from potential disasters or public health emergencies but also from the excesses of any current or future authoritarian bureaucrat who might abuse these emergency powers to persecute and oppress their political opponents.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:23): I rise to speak briefly on the Emergency Management (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill and to indicate that I will be supporting the bill on behalf of the Greens. The bill makes a series of important changes to implement the recommendations of the 2024 independent review of the Emergency Management Act, and in doing so it ensures that our state can effectively prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters.

It introduces the new category of 'state of alert' to enable the State Coordinator flexibility in their response to emergencies and to more effectively manage public messaging during extended periods of emergency management. The bill also establishes a State Recovery Coordinator with responsibilities and powers to lead and coordinate recovery efforts, and it further recognises the contributions of volunteers and the crucial role they play in emergency management.

I would like to note that the Emergency Management Act specifies that an emergency may include an event that causes or threatens to cause 'harm to the environment, or to flora or fauna'. I do question, therefore, why the government has not already used this provision in the act to declare an emergency in relation to the toxic algal bloom crisis which has engulfed our shores over the past few months. It is the most significant environmental disaster in the modern history of our state. It has spread across our coastline, it has killed many thousands of sea creatures and it has taken a major toll on businesses, tourism and the mental health of all those who live and work on our coast.

I know my colleagues in Canberra, in particular Senator Hanson-Young, have been calling for the federal government to declare a national emergency, but indeed it makes sense for such an emergency to be declared here in South Australia. Scientists from the Biodiversity Council have warned that the wildlife impacts of the marine heatwave that has driven the catastrophic algal bloom are likely to be equivalent to those from the Black Summer bushfires and would need a similar level of response from government. Instead, the state government has been slow, ambiguous and flat-footed. This has contributed to deep public uncertainty about the scale of the crisis, the risk to the community and what support may be provided to communities that have been impacted.

Legislative frameworks for emergency management are only useful if the decision-makers are willing to pull those levers when a disaster occurs. The accelerating climate change is driving natural disasters like the toxic algal bloom. It is essential that our state has the resources, the capacity and the legislative framework that enable effective emergency responses to keep South Australians safe. We must also remember that unless we act urgently to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, these events will become more frequent and more damaging to our ecosystems, our communities and the industries that rely on them.

A number of speakers have touched on our collective experience dealing with COVID-19. I think it is fair to say that a number of decisions were made in often quite a rapid-fire way, and sometimes some of those decisions had curious or unintended consequences. In particular, in the health space, families were prevented from being able to visit loved ones who were in hospitals or experiencing significant health events and the like.

I know, in retrospect, a lot of those decisions can seem heavy-handed or cruel or potentially really lacking common sense, but I think also we do need to remember that governments and those who were charged with administering the act were doing so with the best of intentions, and their overarching intention was to save lives. Indeed, the Marshall government, which was leading our response to COVID-19, I think did lean very heavily on the expert advice at the time, and that was supported by the opposition and by other political parties in this place, so I do not make any criticism of the Marshall government for the work they did in managing that, at least at the initial stages. I think where things started to go awry was when they moved away from some of the advice and perhaps opened up the borders at a time when preparation had not been done.

The Hon. Ms Game has made a number of quite shocking claims about the dystopian future that awaits us if this bill passes the upper house. I do not share her pessimism about the future of our state should this fairly non-controversial bill pass through the upper house, but I did note that the member wants more protection for human rights of South Australians. I hope that she will support the Greens' push for a human rights charter. There was a parliamentary inquiry into this recently. All political parties present at the inquiry of the Social Development Committee, chaired by the Hon. Ian Hunter, recognised the benefit of some level of human rights protection.

The One Nation political party has traditionally opposed human rights and any form of human rights framework. Now that the Hon. Ms Game is free of the shackles of the toxic One Nation brand, I hope that she will consider that with fresh eyes, because human rights protection would certainly ensure that all South Australians are protected and probably allay many of the concerns that the honourable member has. With that, I conclude my remarks.

Before sitting down I might, just to save time, indicate my position on the amendments. I understand the Hon. Connie Bonaros is advancing an amendment to make expressly clear that these powers can be used in relation to marine life. My reading of the bill was that is already in prospect, but I think this amendment makes it crystal clear, and in light of current events that is helpful. I also understand that the Liberals are moving some amendments as well regarding protections for vulnerable people in emergency situations, and I have indicated that I am supportive of those amendments as well. I am not supportive of the Sarah Game amendments, and I am not sure whether others will be advanced on the floor, but I will certainly watch the debate.

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (17:30): I rise to speak in support of the bill that is before us here. Like many other speakers, I am going to address some of the aspects of that—there will be some crossover as I do, I am certain. The Emergency Management (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024 amends the Emergency Management Act 2004, and the aim of that obviously is to modernise and, as other speakers have already outlined, strengthen our emergency management framework. The Emergency Management (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill implements all 28 legislative recommendations from the 2024 Independent Review of the Emergency Management Act 2004, which ensures the act remains fit for purpose in the face of what are some pretty increasingly complex and evolving emergency scenarios.

If we look back over how the Emergency Management Act has been used since about 2004, there was a commonality of it being used for that great poetry aspect of Australia, which is fires and floods. We had the Wangary fires, we had the Mount Osmond fires, we have had the Virginia floods and the Sampson Flat fires, but very quickly we started to move to an emergency management declaration for the statewide blackout. Obviously, we had the COVID-19 outbreak, we have had Tropical Cyclone Tiffany—there was an emergency management declaration for that—and the River Murray high-flow flood, which is a fairly extraordinary declaration that has gone on also for over 100 days.

What we are seeing is a complexity of these emergency management scenarios, which requires us to react. We have climate change, we have cyberthreats, we have prolonged natural disasters, and the review found that the Emergency Management Act is largely effective in dealing with them and has supported South Australia pretty well in managing its emergencies. Its recommendations aim to enhance the act by clarifying the responsibilities, strengthening that fantastic thing, governance, and introducing new provisions to prepare or better prepare for the future challenges, which are quite clearly coming at us all the time.

The key objectives of the Emergency Management (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill are to:

- enhance the clarity and accountability in emergency roles and responsibilities;
- introduce new mechanisms for flexible and scalable emergency response;
- strengthen recovery operations and planning; and
- ensure legislative adaptability to future emergencies as they arise.

The Emergency Management (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill updates the Emergency Management Act to ensure South Australia's emergency management framework reflects the lessons learned from recent disasters and positions the state better to manage future emergencies through improved coordination, flexibility and recovery planning.

The bill and the proposed amendments do not compromise the existing strengths of the Emergency Management Act, which is well understood by the emergency management sector, and provide flexibility to carry out emergency activities across a pretty broad spectrum of hazards. The bill addresses all the recommendations of the independent review. Attachment C outlines all the relevant clauses implementing each recommendation.

I will go through a couple of aspects of the bill now, which other members have touched on somewhat. There is the introduction of the state of alert declaration. The bill introduces a new type of emergency declaration, which is the state of alert, based on models currently used in other states—I think Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. This declaration can be made before

or after the major emergency or disaster and allows for scaled emergency activities, which include public messaging.

The state of alert is designed to address emergencies with nonlinear trajectories. For instance, obviously we have the COVID-19 pandemic as a pretty clear example of that, but in juxtaposition to that, if you like, we have the state blackout, which had a fairly obvious end, which was once we got the power back on.

The establishment of a permanent State Recovery Coordinator is another aspect of the bill. A major amendment is the creation of a permanent state recovery coordinating role. That position will have defined powers to lead recovery efforts, including access to land and authority to build or remove temporary structures. These powers can be exercised only by authorised officers during a declared emergency or through regulation outside of one. To ensure clear accountability, the State Recovery Coordinator will report to the State Coordinator throughout the declared emergency.

The ministerial powers to modify procedural requirements are probably something that also bears some scrutiny. The bill will empower ministers to modify or, indeed, dispense with procedural requirements of any other act during a declared major emergency or disaster. This is actually already used in the National Emergency Declaration Act 2020. It is attempting to mirror those provisions and what the commonwealth already has in place where that is appropriate. Safeguards are included to exclude certain acts and, indeed, court proceedings, unless requested by the Chief Justice that there be a change to that factor.

In terms of public sector mobilisation, the bill empowers the Premier to direct the mobilisation of a public sector workforce and information sharing for the emergency response and recovery efforts. Indeed, as we are seeing with many of the new aspects of emergencies which are facing us, I think it is pretty clear that communication is key, and that would be the basis of that.

There will also be expanded powers for information gathering. The bill introduces powers to require information or documents to support emergency planning and decision-making. There are updates to objectives and the guiding principles in this bill, which will apply to the act. The amendment ensures that the act recognises the importance of mitigation, the role of volunteers as key contributors in emergency management and the need for specific planning for people at increased risk in emergencies, including vulnerable people. Other members have already gone to that, so I will leave that there.

At the statutory review clause, it requires a formal review of the Emergency Management Act within six years of this bill's commencement. There are additional amendments; I will not go to them now. They clarify definitions and roles. They update provisions related to electricity supply in emergencies. There is introduction of protections against victimisation for emergency volunteers, and there is an increase in penalties for breaches of confidentiality and impersonation.

I will just go quickly to the consultation which surrounded these amendments. The review was informed by pretty extensive consultation, including with SEMC, relevant emergency management stakeholders, state agencies and, indeed, local government bodies to understand what parts of the Emergency Management Act worked well and what parts could be improved. A senior executive reference group comprising emergency management stakeholders and legal experts advised the review on emergency management to give a more balanced view on potential areas for reform.

A formal consultation process for review commenced mid-November 2023 via the YourSAy website and concluded on 30 January 2024. A discussion paper was provided as part of the consultation documents to help individuals and organisations engage with that review. Through public consultation, the review received 40 written submissions and 25 survey responses, which included 35 submissions from community members, 19 submissions from state government agencies, 11 submissions from non-government organisations and 10 submissions from local government and representative organisations.

With all that said, I think this is a pretty functional amendment to a bill which is seeking to take an act which does work well but also, looking forward, is going to face new challenges in a new world environment of new emergencies, and I support it.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (17:39): The Emergency Management (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024 amends the Emergency Management Act 2004 to modernise and strengthen South Australia's emergency management framework. The amendment bill implements all 28 legislative recommendations from the 2024 independent review of the Emergency Management Act 2004, ensuring the act remains fit for purpose in the face of increasingly complex and evolving emergency scenarios such as climate change, cyberthreats and prolonged natural disasters.

The review found that the EM Act is largely effective and has supported South Australia well in managing emergencies. Its recommendations aim to enhance the act by clarifying responsibilities, strengthening governance and introducing new provisions to better prepare for future challenges. The key objectives of the EM amendment bill are to enhance clarity and accountability in emergency roles and responsibilities, introduce new mechanisms for flexible and scalable emergency responses, strengthen recovery operations and planning, and ensure legislative adaptability to future emergencies.

The amendment bill updates the EM Act to ensure South Australia's emergency management framework reflects the lessons learned from recent disasters and positions the state to better manage future emergencies through improved coordination, flexibility and recovery planning. The bill and the proposed amendments do not compromise the existing strengths of the EM Act, which is well understood by the emergency management sector and provides flexibility to carry out emergency activities across a broad spectrum of hazards.

The amendment bill addresses all the recommendations of the independent review. The bill introduces a new type of emergency declaration, called a state of alert, based on models used in Tasmania and the ACT. The declaration can be made before or after a major emergency or disaster and allows for scaled emergency activities, including public messaging. The state of alert is designed to address emergencies with nonlinear trajectories, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

A major amendment is the creation of a permanent State Recovery Coordinator role. This position will have defined powers to lead recovery efforts, including access to land and authority to build or remove temporary structures. These powers can be exercised by authorised officers during a declared emergency or through regulation outside of one. To ensure clear accountability, the State Recovery Coordinator will report to the State Coordinator during declared emergencies.

The bill empowers ministers to modify or dispense with procedural requirements of other acts during a declared major emergency or disaster. This is similar to provisions in the commonwealth National Emergency Declaration Act 2020. Safeguards are included to exclude certain acts and court proceedings unless requested by the Chief Justice. It empowers the Premier to direct the mobilisation of public sector workforce and information sharing for emergency response and recovery efforts. It introduces powers to require information or documents to support emergency planning and decision-making.

In updating the objectives and guiding principles, the amendment ensures that the act recognises the importance of mitigation, the role of volunteers as key contributors in emergency management and the need for specific planning for people at increased risk in emergencies, including vulnerable people. It requires a formal review of the Emergency Management Act within six years of the bill's commencement. It also clarifies definitions and roles and updates provisions related to electricity supply emergencies. It introduces protections against victimisation for emergency volunteers and increases penalties for breaches of confidentiality and impersonation.

The review was informed by extensive consultation, including with the SEMC, relevant emergency management stakeholders, state agencies and local government bodies, to understand what parts of the EM Act worked well and what parts could be improved.

A senior executive reference group, comprising emergency management stakeholders and legal experts, advised the review on emergency management to give a balanced view on potential areas for reform. A formal consultation process for the review commenced in mid-November 2023 via the YourSAy website and concluded on 30 January 2024. A discussion paper was provided as part of the consultation documents to help individuals and organisations engage with the review.

Through public consultation, the review received 40 written submissions and 25 survey responses. This included 35 submissions from community members, including current and former members of parliament; 19 submissions from state government agencies; 11 submissions from non-government organisations; and 10 submissions from local government and representative organisations. So you can see that extensive public consultation took place to ensure that we get it right in this bill. I urge everyone to support the bill.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Autism, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (17:45): I thank all members for their contribution today. I can see that there is resounding support for the sense of why this is needed and why this review was undertaken. I look forward to discussing this further, in detail, through the committee stage.

Bill read a second time.

Standing Orders Suspension

The Hon. S.L. GAME (17:46): I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move an instruction without notice to the Committee of the Whole Council.

The PRESIDENT: The issue is that you need an absolute majority to pass that. There is not an absolute majority in the council, so that will lapse.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Clause 3.

The Hon. B.R. HOOD: I move:

Amendment No 1 [Hood-1]—

Page 3, lines 13 to 14 [clause 3(2), inserted paragraph (b)]—Delete 'persons at risk in an emergency' and substitute 'vulnerable persons at risk in an emergency and require specific planning to address those needs'

This amendment seeks to look at the wording around some of these amendments in regard to specific planning and vulnerable people, which was, as I understand, a reference in recommendation 1 of the independent review. I will have some questions for the government in clause 3 as well.

The CHAIR: While you are on your feet, do you want to ask your question?

The Hon. B.R. HOOD: Recommendation 1 of the EMA independent review was that the guiding principles should be referenced: that specific planning for vulnerable people is required. This clause only regards the particular needs of the persons at risk. The question is: why does it not acknowledge that specific planning is required?

The review states that in the 2009 Victorian bushfires nearly half of those who died were considered vulnerable because they were under 12 or over 70, or suffered from a chronic illness and disability. Given the broad definition of a person at risk during an emergency, why does this clause not use instead the term 'vulnerable people'?

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: In regard to the bill that is before us today, it is designed to be as flexible and agile as possible. There are instruments that support this bill, including the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP), which is able to specify those vulnerable people and which agencies are responding, considering what emergency has been identified. The bill before us today is, I guess, the foundation which talks to its other relevant tools, including the SEM. We will not be supporting this amendment.

Amendment negatived; clause passed.

Clauses 4 and 5 passed.

New clause 5A.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: I move:

Amendment No 1 [Bonaros–1]—

Page 4, after line 14—Insert:

5A—Amendment of section 5A—State Emergency Management Plan

Section 5A—after subsection (3) insert:

- (4) The SEMP must include strategies of a kind referred to in subsection (1) relating to emergencies that cause, or threaten to cause, damage to marine environments, including marine flora and fauna.

I have already spoken to the amendment. It effectively seeks to ensure that the SEMP include strategies relating to emergencies that cause, or threaten to cause, damage to marine environments, including marine flora and fauna.

As I have already outlined during the second reading, there exists now a capacity to address aquatic disasters and marine issues, and indeed even marine pollution in the plan. The amendment mandates that the SEMP deal with marine environments—those sorts of forms of emergency. It makes it explicit that the plan must do that. We are seeing in real time the impacts of a marine environment disaster right now in our state. It is impacting our fisheries, our tourism and our regional coastal towns in unprecedented ways.

As I said during the debate, the current framework requires us to exhaust all other relevant legislation before we get to the Emergency Management Act, but it is a critical tool and one that we may need. It may not be in relation to algal bloom; it may be in relation to some other marine environmental disaster, and that is something that has not been anticipated in other pieces of legislation, which we know have to be exhausted first under the existing framework.

There is, of course, an argument that it is already covered and not necessary. That may very well be the case, depending on what is listed in the plan at the moment, and the list is quite extensive, but the amendment eliminates any question as to whether that is the case or not. It makes it explicit. It is entirely in keeping with current drafting and expectations and, given the current situation, I think it actually provides a lot of certainty, which is really what the community needs and wants at the moment. It is for those reasons that I hope it will be supported.

The Hon. B.R. HOOD: I move to amend the Hon. Connie Bonaros's amendment as follows:

After 'threaten to cause, damage to', insert 'agricultural environments or'.

The amendment would then continue. We certainly support the Hon. Connie Bonaros's amendments because we understand that, although she is not explicitly talking about a certain ecological disaster that is currently happening, this would ultimately frame that in being an emergency because it is threatening to marine environments.

It has caused the opposition to reflect on the fact that we have seen another unprecedented environmental tragedy in this state, namely a long-term drought. When we look at the definition of 'emergency' currently in the State Emergency Management Plan, we do see 'disruption to essential services'—one can say that the production of food in this state is an essential service—and 'the destruction of, or damage to, any property' and any 'harm to the environment'. It is the opposition's view that if we are talking about damage to the marine environments and explicitly stating this here in this amendment bill, then we should also do the same with agricultural environments as well.

The CHAIR: I was actually going to find out from the Hon. Ms Bonaros whether she was attracted to the amendment to her amendment before I asked the minister to comment on how she felt.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: I think it would be useful for the minister to comment at this stage about the amendment itself.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: We are supportive of the original amendment that has been put forward by the Hon. Ms Bonaros. We are not supportive of the amendment from those opposite. We

are finding out about it on the floor of the chamber. This is a bill that has been around in the parliament since November. This is not a new addition that has just found its way onto the floor in minutes: it went through the other chamber in November and has now found its way here. There has been plenty of time for an amendment to be put forward and not to be drafted on the go and on the run on the floor of the parliament.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIR: Just sit down. Minister, continue.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: I understand that primary industries, including agriculture, already have robust emergency management frameworks under agencies like PIRSA. PIRSA administers a raft of legislation relating to primary industries, including the Biosecurity Act 2025 and a number of acts, including the Fisheries Management Act 2007. These are specifically designed to manage risks in the primary industries sector like diseases and outbreaks or biosecurity threats.

The Emergency Management Act 2004 is designed as a broad high-level framework that applies across all hazards and all sectors. It does not go into specific individual industries because it is meant to be flexible and adaptable to any emergency situation. By specifying particular industries, you are making the bill more complex and taking away its agility. The State Emergency Management Plan is another framework that goes with this bill, as I said earlier, but it does not go to the intent of what this bill is to highlight particular industries.

The Hon. B.R. HOOD: I thank the minister for her response, although I find it a little strange that she would be calling out an amendment made to an amendment that was filed today at 10.40.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: At least it is on a piece of paper.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: That amendment may have been filed today, but I did my homework last week.

The Hon. B.R. HOOD: We are amending an amendment. We do have the ability to think on our feet as we are doing these things. It is ultimately up to the government whether they support our amendment to the amendment or not, but we will continue to support the Hon. Connie Bonaros's amendment if we are not successful.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: Given it is my amendment, I guess I should speak to it. I understand the intent of what the opposition is seeking to do here. It is an issue that the Leader of the Opposition in this place has promoted in this place and argued strongly for—indeed, prior to the algal bloom outbreak I think we had these debates in this place. My suggestion to the Leader of the Opposition right now is: this is my priority and I do not want to see that compromised or sacrificed in any way.

I do take on board, though, the advice of the minister in relation to this. It is something that I have had lots of discussions with the Leader of the Opposition now about. The way that this amendment was framed was very broadly 'marine environment'. It does not focus on one particular issue or cause or outcome, and it is in keeping and consistent with the drafting that is in the plan at the moment.

I think the minister does have a valid point in terms of whilst certain words have been discussed during the course of this, and I think it is a lot better than before, whether we are talking about sectors or industries, as opposed to whether we are talking about environmental factors, the plan is very clear in terms of listing those factors, such as extreme weather, urban fire, rural fire, marine pollution, floods, rains, water contamination and so forth, as opposed to anything that can be industry specific or sector specific.

Marine environment—and this is why this was very carefully crafted and I did my due diligence and homework—can include the fishing sector but is not in any way, shape or form defined by or limited to the fishing sector. That is key to this amendment. As I said before, there is already an argument—and the government's response may not be one that the Leader of the Opposition is willing to accept—that environmental harm, as is currently drafted, could already include drought. Environmental harm could already include marine environment.

My point is that I am going to use this opportunity to make it explicitly clear that there are no limitations when it comes to that environmental harm insofar as it relates to our marine and aquaculture environments and marine and aquaculture flora and fauna. That is the purpose of the amendment. If there is further work to be done, then I suggest that is something that be looked at separately, but I am not in a position to actually compromise something that I would like to see inserted in this bill if there is no certainty on the part of the government that it will not cause any other issues.

I do note again, as I said at the outset and as I think the minister just reiterated, that there are other pieces of legislation. This is our legislation of, I call it, last resort, for want of a better term. Unlike those other pieces of legislation, we cannot be certain in this case that everything we need is covered when it comes to marine environment issues. That remains my position.

The Hon. B.R. HOOD: I acknowledge the comments that the honourable member has made. I think that is the point, I guess, to where we have been going. The amendment to the amendment is a place of last resort at the end of the day, because we have a drought and it will not be declared an emergency or disaster by those opposite. Hence why we have sought to make a very small amendment to this amendment by the Hon. Connie Bonaros. We certainly appreciate that she wants to see the intent of her amendment seen through. Again, we will certainly be supporting that, irrespective of whether our amendment is accepted by the committee or not.

The committee divided on the amendment to the amendment:

Ayes6
Noes.....11
Majority5

AYES

Centofanti, N.J.
Hood, B.R. (teller)

Game, S.L.
Lensink, J.M.A.

Girolamo, H.M.
Pangallo, F.

NOES

Bonaros, C.
Hanson, J.E.
Maher, K.J.
Simms, R.A.

Bourke, E.S. (teller)
Hunter, I.K.
Ngo, T.T.
Wortley, R.P.

Franks, T.A.
Lee, J.S.
Scriven, C.M.

PAIRS

Henderson, L.A.
Hood, D.G.E.

Martin, R.B.
El Dannawi, M.

Amendment to the amendment thus negated; new clause inserted.

Clauses 6 to 17 passed.

Clause 18.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: I move:

Amendment No 1 [Game-1]—

Page 7, line 1 [clause 18, heading]—Delete 'section 21A' and substitute 'sections 21AA and 21A'

Amendment No 2 [Game-1]—

Page 7, after line 2—Before inserted section 21A insert:

21AA—Advice in relation to a declaration

- (1) If a declaration is made, or the period of a declaration is extended, by the State Co-ordinator or the Governor under this Division, the Minister must, as soon as

practicable, provide a report to both Houses of the Parliament summarising the advice that was relied on in making or extending the declaration.

- (2) If a declaration made under this Division in relation to an emergency remains in force (whether as made or as extended) for a period longer than 4 weeks, the Minister must establish an advisory committee to provide advice to the State Co-ordinator in relation to the emergency.
- (3) An advisory committee established under subsection (2)—
 - (a) must consist of persons with expertise or relevant experience in matters relevant to the emergency; and
 - (b) must include persons who are not State public servants.

Basically, new section 21AA—Advice in relation to a declaration, firstly, provides that if the State Coordinator or minister declares an emergency, the minister must then provide a report to both houses of parliament summarising the advice that was relied on in making or extending the declaration. Secondly, if the declaration goes for longer than four weeks, the minister must establish an advisory committee to provide advice to the State Coordinator in relation to the emergency.

The Hon. B.R. HOOD: While we acknowledge the intent of what the honourable member is doing with these amendments, it is my advice that these amendments were not formed from any recommendations that came out of the review. As they were filed last night, we have not had a fulsome time to consider all seven pages of those amendments. Again, I would say, though, that I certainly acknowledge the intent of what those amendments are trying to do here and thank the honourable member for them.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: I thank the member for putting forward these amendments but, as has been highlighted by the Hon. Ben Hood, this bill in its foundation is designed to be agile and swift and able to react to dynamic situations, and unfortunately the amendments she is putting forward take away that agility. They provide unnecessary red tape and will slow down the process and how to respond to an emergency. The government will not be supporting any of the honourable member's amendments.

Amendments negatived.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: I move:

Amendment No 3 [Game–1]—

Page 7, line 21 [clause 18, inserted section 21A(2)(b)]—After '14 days) and' insert ', subject to subsection (2a),'

Amendment No 4 [Game–1]—

Page 7, after line 23 [clause 18, inserted section 21A]—After subsection (2) insert:

- (2a) The Governor may not approve a further period under subsection (2)(a) that would have the effect of extending the period of the declared state of alert beyond a total of 6 months unless—
 - (a) the Minister has provided a report to both Houses of the Parliament in relation to the declared state of alert that details the reasons for the proposed extension; and
 - (b) each House of the Parliament has had at least 3 sitting days (including the day on which the report was provided) to consider the report; and
 - (c) neither House of the Parliament has resolved to oppose the extension of the period.

The first amendment refers to the Governor's power to extend the emergency declaration by 14 days, which must be subject to proposed (2a), which states that the Governor may not extend the period of a state of alert beyond a total of six months, unless (a) the minister provides a report to both houses of parliament, giving reasons for the extension, and (b) that each house of parliament sits for at least three days to consider the report, and (c) neither house of the parliament opposes the extension. This allows for an extension of emergency powers, but with parliamentary oversight.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: As indicated, we will not be supporting this amendment.

Amendments negated; clause passed.

Clauses 19 to 22 passed.

Clause 23.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: I move:

Amendment No 5 [Game-1]—

Page 8, line 25 [clause 23, inserted section 24B(1)]—After 'requirements' insert 'and in a manner that is reasonable in the circumstances'

It refers to the power to require information or documents. It currently states, 'Powers under this section must be exercised in accordance with any prescribed requirements.' I would like to add the additional wording of 'and in a manner that is reasonable in the circumstances'.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: As indicated previously, for the same reasons we will not be supporting this amendment.

Amendment negated; clause passed.

Clause 24.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: I move:

Amendment No 6 [Game-1]—

Page 9, lines 40 and 41 [clause 24(4)]—Delete subclause (4) and substitute:

- (4) Section 25(1)—delete 'he or she thinks appropriate' and substitute:
are appropriate in the circumstances

This amendment relates to powers of the State Coordinator and authorised officers. It currently states that when an emergency is declared the State Coordinator 'must take', and we want to insert 'actions that are appropriate in the circumstances', so this will delete what he or she thinks is appropriate to provide proportionality to the actions taken by the State Coordinator.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: We will not be supporting this amendment.

Amendment negated.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: I move:

Amendment No 7 [Game-1]—

Page 10, after line 2—After subclause (5) insert:

- (5a) Section 25(2)—delete 'of the opinion that it is' and substitute:
it is reasonably

Again, it currently states at subsection (2) that if the State Coordinator is of the opinion that certain actions are 'necessary', and I would like to replace it with 'it is reasonably necessary' to insert some proportionality into the State Coordinator's actions.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: The government will not be supporting this amendment.

Amendment negated; clause passed.

Clause 25.

The CHAIR: We have amendments Nos 8 and 10 to 13. The Hon. Ms Game, they are amendments for which you needed to secure an instruction to the committee, which we were not able to do, so you cannot actually move those amendments. You can move amendment No. 9 [Game-1] at clause 25.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: I will not be moving that amendment.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (26 to 41), schedule and title passed.

Bill reported with amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Autism, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (18:17): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

SPICER COTTAGES TRUST (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 1 May 2025.)

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (18:17): I rise to speak about the Spicer Cottages Trust (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2025, introduced in this place by the Attorney-General on 1 May this year. The proposed changes reflect commonsense improvements as it no longer acts as a landlord. The proposed changes enable the trust greater flexibility to use its funds for a wider range of charitable functions.

The proposed changes to schedule 1 expand the objects of the trust to provide assistance to individuals in poor, needy or difficult circumstances, which may include housing, education, allied health services or other forms of support. The bill also takes into account modern methods of communication and meetings, and also allows appointment of trust members by resolution, and enables greater flexibility of appointments.

The opposition agrees that in this case, standing order 268, which stipulates that hybrid bills of this nature should be referred to a select committee, can be suspended for this bill. The proposed changes will enable this trust greater flexibility and effectiveness in the work in providing assistance to those less fortunate in our community, and therefore the opposition is happy to support the proposed bill.

The Hon. T.T. NGO (18:19): I rise to speak in support of the Spicer Cottages Trust (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill provides another means of helping to address our current housing crisis and is very much welcomed.

Firstly, I will provide the necessary background to this bill so that the benefits become clear. Spicer Cottages Trust (Spicer Trust) was originally established in 1897 to provide affordable housing support for Uniting Church ministers and/or their spouses in retirement. It was created by benefactor Edward Spicer, and in 1897 the first three row cottages were built at numbers 37, 39 and 41 Fourth Avenue, St Peters.

These cottages were located across from the Spicer Uniting Church, formerly East Adelaide Methodist Church, which was renamed Spicer Memorial Church after Edward Spicer's death. Between 1934 and 1938, parliament passed the Spicer Cottages Trust Act incorporating the trustees as a body corporate and extending their powers. Then, in 1978, the Spicer Trust Act reconstituted the trust and set out the trust's powers and functions in a single declaration of trust.

At this time, the trust owned and managed multiple dwellings, including units at Payneham, Magill, Athelstone, Rostrevor and Felixstow, where eligible clergy and their spouses or widowed spouses lived. More than a century later, the Spicer Trust found the support for the ministers and their spouses was no longer required and, as a result, made the decision to sell their property portfolio to the Adelaide Benevolent Society, whose mission aligned closely with the original purpose of Spicer Trust.

In 2021, Spicer Cottages Trust sold properties to the Adelaide Benevolent Society, including five two-bedroom units at Payneham and Magill, two adjacent three-bedroom townhouses at Athelstone, and standalone three-bedroom dwellings at Rostrevor and Felixstow. The sale was made with a condition that existing tenants may stay as long as they can live independently. There is now no need for ministerial housing and no eligible individuals currently requiring accommodation.

After the properties had been sold, Spicer Trust found themselves in the unique position of being able to assist other organisations to meet their affordable housing objectives. Spicer Trust now aims to direct its funds to assist affordable housing programs in the best possible way. In its efforts to reach the broader community, the trust also seeks to expand its services and offer broader community support through the provision of other essential services for people facing hardship.

To enable this shift in mission, this bill proposes to modernise the trust's structure and operations. Without amending the act, the future work of the trust is very much limited. The current act narrowly defines retired ministers and spouses as the only people who can benefit from the trust. It also restricts the trust to only assisting people through the provision of accommodation.

With the greater flexibility that this bill brings, the trust can manage its finances and assets to ensure that it operates efficiently and responsively in addressing emerging community needs. The bill will expand the trust's objectives to allow it to provide greater support to people in difficult circumstances, not just through housing but also through access to education, training, health, and allied services. It will allow administrative processes and technology to be updated to accommodate modern communication methods, such as email and videoconferencing.

The trust recognises that hardship is rarely caused by one thing. This bill will allow the trust to offer community connection through safe housing, along with health support, education and training, skills, and work pathways. The Spicer Cottages Trust (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2025 will ensure the trust can continue their mission to help the disadvantaged in our community to rebuild their lives with dignity and as quickly as possible. With that, I commend this bill to the chamber. I hope it gains the members' support.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (18:25): I thank all members for their indications of support for what is a reasonably straightforward piece of legislation.

Bill read a second time.

The PRESIDENT: This bill is a hybrid bill and, in accordance with standing order No. 268, should be referred to a select committee.

Standing Orders Suspension

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (18:25): I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable the bill to be proceeded with as a public bill.

Motion carried.

The PRESIDENT: I note the absolute majority.

Committee Stage

Bill taken through committee without amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (18:26): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL 2025

Introduction and First Reading

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

MENTAL HEALTH (COMMUNITY VISITOR SCHEME) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

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

AGEING AND ADULT SAFEGUARDING (REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

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

At 18:29 the council adjourned until Wednesday 20 August 2025 at 14:15.

*Answers to Questions***WATER ALLOCATION**

433 The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (1 May 2025).

1. How much water entitlement (gigalitres) is held by the minister?
2. How much water allocation (gigalitres), which the minister is responsible for, has been utilised?
3. What was the water used for in the following financial years?
 - 2022-23
 - 2023-24
 - 2024-25 (1 May)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I am advised

1. 1.17 gigalitres.
2. 0.96 gigalitres.
3.
 - 2022-23 research purposes, stock and domestic.
 - 2023-24 research purposes, stock and domestic.
 - 2024-25 research purposes.

PLANNING AND DESIGN CODE

436 The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (4 June 2025).

1. Could the minister please detail how many regulated and significant trees have been removed from state school sites in the last five years?
2. How does the minister anticipate the proposed changes will be received by the general public who made submissions to the contrary to the implementation review of the Planning and Design Code, and by the expert review panel who recommended that the exemption be removed from state school sites?

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Autism, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): The Minister for Planning has advised:

The regulatory framework which provides that development approval is not required for the removal of regulated or significant trees from state school sites has been in place since 27 January 2017. Its introduction and retention is reflective of government position, that the safety of school students is paramount.

The introduction of the exemption, as evidenced in the public discourse, has not resulted in the wholesale removal of trees on state school sites. Schools and their communities value trees and the benefits they bring, including to a play-based learning environment, and do not seek their removal or pruning unless clearly required.

Schools, including the parents, teachers and support staff and students, are integral members of their local community and best placed to determine how trees are managed on school sites.

The government is consulting on a regulatory change that will ensure there is no difference between tree controls applying to a government school site and a private school site.

It is acknowledged that the expert panel for the Planning System Implementation Review made a recommendation (No. 43) that tree regulations apply to all state government projects. The government response at the time supported the recommendation in principle subject to undertaking further investigation.

As part of those investigations, the government is firming in its view that all schools are sites where trees can, in some cases, pose a significant risk to student safety. As a result, the government considers that where required, tree removal or significant pruning should be able to be easily undertaken regardless of whether it is a government or private school.

The government is consulting on this regulation change and will consider feedback on the matter before formally determining whether to proceed with making the regulatory change.

PUBLIC HOSPITAL DOCTORS

437 The Hon. S.L. GAME (18 June 2025). Can the Minister for Health and Wellbeing advise:

1. The average and median wage figure for full-time male and female doctors working in the SA public health system over the past five years?
2. The average hours worked by full-time male and female doctors within the SA public health system over the past five years?
3. Data showing the number of GP clinics that have been operating outside of regular working hours over the past five years?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has been advised:

1. Doctors across SA Health are remunerated according to their conditions as outlined in the Salaried Medical Officers Enterprise Agreement 2022. This includes their base salary and applicable allowances, overtime, penalties and superannuation.

Doctors, as per all public sector employees, are paid equally for the same job regardless of gender—however, different employees will have different positions, overtime, penalties and allowances under the enterprise agreement.

As at August 2025 the average salary for female full-time doctors over five years was \$204,164.55 and the average salary for male full-time doctors over five years was \$270,829.46.

The Auditor-General Annual Report—Agency Audit Report includes a summary of employee remuneration, including medical officers for the relevant financial year.

2. As per the conditions set out in the Salaried Medical Officers Enterprise Agreement 2022, it is not a requirement of all doctors to complete timesheets.

As such the average of hours worked by all doctors is not available.

3. Data for the number of GP clinics operating outside of regular hours is held by the commonwealth Department for Health, Disability and Ageing. This question is best directed to the federal Minister for Health and Ageing.

SPORTING FACILITIES

In reply to **the Hon. S.L. GAME** (29 October 2024).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): The Treasurer has advised:

The inaugural AFL Gather Round was conceived in 2022 and held in April 2023. The Summit Sport and Recreation Park was opened in April 2021, well in advance of AFL Gather Round, and was developed to significantly advance the establishment of new sport and recreation facilities by the Mount Barker District Council to meet local community needs.

Following the success of the 2023 Gather Round, the AFL and the state government partnered on planning the future delivery of Gather Round infrastructure and services, in consultation with the SANFL. A review identified an opportunity to establish a venue in the Barossa Valley that would meet the specifications required of venues hosting AFL competition matches, whilst also maximising tourism and economic benefits in the region. This coincided with a project being planned by The Barossa Council to develop key infrastructure assets that would support growth in economic, social, community and environmental outcomes. The Lyndoch Recreation Park was selected as the suitable venue for this development.

As well as hosting AFL Gather Round fixtures, the Lyndoch Recreation Park will be the main sporting and recreation hub of the southern Barossa, catering for local cricket, tennis, football and netball clubs in the area.

The venue will also be used to bring new events and festivals to a high-profile regional location that is within close proximity to metropolitan Adelaide, increasing awareness of this iconic part of South Australia and driving visitation to the state. The precinct will also interlink with the Lyndoch village green to support events and the community in the southern Barossa.

This project will bring a range of economic, social and environmental benefits. A venue of this scale at Lyndoch has the potential to further contribute to the Barossa as a tourist destination, offering the means for both large-scale signature events and smaller scale community events.

LIQUOR THEFTS

In reply to **the Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (6 February 2025).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): I am advised that specific data on liquor theft offences is not collected.

I have engaged the South Australian Law Reform Institute to undertake a review of the operation of the Bail Act 1985. SALRI's review will assess its practical operation and role in the criminal justice system. In addition to this and arising out of the Young Offender Plan which I released in March, consideration is being given to strengthening bail laws in relation to serious repeat young offenders.

SEXSOMNIA

In reply to **the Hon. C. BONAROS** (6 February 2025).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): I have been advised:

My office is currently considering the broader implications of the interstate decisions where sexsomnia has been raised as a defence and potential opportunities for legislative reform in South Australia.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has advised that sexsomnia is very rarely raised as a defence to the offence of rape or sexual assault and was unable to recall any recent occasions of it being raised in the South Australian jurisdiction.

COP31

In reply to **the Hon. T.A. FRANKS** (6 February 2025).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): The Premier has advised:

The Malinauskas Labor government has announced an investment of more than \$8 million to begin preparations for Adelaide to play home to one of the world's biggest events—the COP31 climate change conference to be held in November 2026.

The commonwealth government has selected Adelaide as its preferred city to host the United Nations event, should Australia's national bid for the conference be successful.

In order to secure host status ahead of larger cities, the state government commissioned a feasibility analysis which confirmed Adelaide has both the capacity and capability to host the event, which would bring tens of thousands of business travellers to the city.

Analysis found hosting the event would deliver a potential benefit to South Australia of \$511.6 million. This includes economic activity generated by tourism, trade and investment as well as improvement to the brand of Adelaide and South Australia worldwide.

The South Australian Business Chamber has advocated for Adelaide to host the COP, pointing out it would boost the economy and further cement the state's credentials as a world leader in renewable energy, enhancing Adelaide and South Australia's global image.

South Australia is a global leader in decarbonisation, with 75 per cent of its energy coming from renewable sources and a target of net 100 per cent renewables by 2027.

COP31 offers a unique opportunity for our state to display its credentials as a leader in the transition to a carbon neutral economy on an international stage and provide an exceptional boost for our economy.

WHYALLA EMPLOYMENT

In reply to **the Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK** (20 February 2025).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): The Minister for Energy and Mining advises:

GFG Alliance made a series of staff cuts in 2024 citing a prolonged downturn in the global market and planned redundancies consistent with their mine transition plans. In total, we are aware of approximately 400 job losses, directly or indirectly relating to the Whyalla operations.

Since then, underpinned by the state and federal government's co-investment to fund the administration, we have been advised that the administrators are working to convert some of their contractors to permanent staff and are also creating approximately 63 additional full-time roles.

The South Australian and Australian governments have developed a comprehensive support program to support Whyalla and affected staff, which is in addition to supports usually offered. This includes, mental health and family support, financial advisory services, the Spencer Gulf Jobs and Skills Hub, the Regional and Industrial Partnerships Program, career transition services, free accredited training, the Apprentice Retention Program and more.

Numerous means of outreach have been undertaken, including community and workforce forums and representation by unions and other organisations. We have ensured widespread knowledge of these support programs and will work with those impacted at whatever time they are ready and/or able to engage with these services.

The South Australian and Australian governments are investing to secure the long-term future of the Whyalla Steelworks and jobs in the region.

WHYALLA AIRPORT

In reply to **the Hon. F. PANGALLO** (4 March 2025).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): The Premier has advised:

Travel was undertaken in January to the Eyre Peninsula, Upper Spencer Gulf and Far North. This region is of critically high importance to the economic prosperity of the state and has been visited regularly by the Premier and members of cabinet since the 2022 state election. So far this includes nine visits by the Premier and more than 30 by ministers.

Methods of transport included a combination of Qantas commercial flights, ministerial vehicle travel and privately operated flight to the Santos Moomba plant, on the occasion of the opening of the new carbon capture storage facility.

No travel was undertaken as a guest of Sanjev Gupta.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

In reply to **the Hon. J.S. LEE** (5 March 2025).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): I have been advised:

The last inspection of the Whyalla Steelworks by officers of SafeWork SA was on 29 July 2025.

I am regularly briefed by SafeWork SA on work health and safety matters.

COURT BACKLOGS

In reply to **the Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (20 March 2025).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): I have been advised:

Although Operation Ironside resulted in arrests and criminal charges being laid in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia; South Australia had a far higher number of criminal offences laid against individuals. In South Australia, 115 persons have been charged with a total of 1,537 offences. To compare, the state with the second highest number of offences laid was New South Wales with 356. South Australia also had the highest amount of drugs seized at 2,223 kilograms compared to the next highest, again NSW, with 2,069 kilograms. Our courts are now dealing with more than four times the offences that were laid in NSW, and the government is providing funding to the courts and Director of Public Prosecutions to manage the prosecutions resulting from Operation Ironside.

ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNIT

In reply to **the Hon. J.S. LEE** (20 March 2025).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has advised:

Following hospital-wide consultation, the Central Adelaide Local Health Network identified the infectious diseases clinic as the most suitable for relocation.

This decision was made by the chief executive of CALHN, Dr Emma McCahon, based on the balance of clinical needs within the hospital and will enable co-location of the respiratory and thoracic medicine teams within the RAH.

The matter was arbitrated before the South Australian Employment Tribunal (SAET) in March 2025 and the outcome supported CALHN's decision for relocation.

The new location on level 1, 21 North Terrace will include 16 consultation and treatment rooms designed to the Australian Health Facility Guidelines standards, and the infectious diseases clinical will move in with other CALHN outpatient services who have been providing clinics from the site since July 2024.

I am advised by CALHN that the majority of patients accessing the service are ambulant and community-based, with minimal reliance on inpatient or acute service care. Despite this, the RAH will continue to manage individual patient needs as appropriate and high-quality care will continue to be delivered to all patients.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT

In reply to **the Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK** (3 April 2025).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): I have been advised by the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT):

Total housing applications have increased by 16 per cent since 1 July 2024.

Tenant application volumes have remained relatively stable, averaging 104 per quarter. There has been a 7 per cent increase in average tenant applications received from quarters 1 and 2 2024 to quarters 3 and 4 2024 and quarter 1 2025.

Excessive rent applications also peaked in quarter 4 2024, following amendment to section 56 but the number of applications dropped in quarter 1 2025.

CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES, WORKPLACE CULTURE

In reply to **the Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition)** (13 May 2025).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): The Minister for Consumer and Business Services has advised:

A new Director, Operational Reform is currently being recruited to assist CBS to implement the recommendations. That position will be for 12 months. It is anticipated the recommendations will be implemented within that timeframe.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL

In reply to **the Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK** (4 June 2025).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): I have been advised:

Ms Watkins was appointed as a Commissioner of the South Australian Employment Tribunal (SAET) to fill a vacancy created by the commonwealth government's appointment of former Commissioner Jess Rogers to the Fair Work Commission.

Prior to her appointment to the SAET, Ms Rogers had a background representing employees. Accordingly, Ms Watkins' appointment maintained the existing balance within SAET between members with experience representing employees and those representing employers.

Ms Watkins satisfied the requirements of section 16(3) of the South Australian Employment Tribunal Act 2014 insofar as she has extensive knowledge, expertise and experience in industrial relations matters for which functions may be exercised by the tribunal.

The President of SAET was consulted as required under section 16(4) of the act and was supportive of the appointment of Ms Watkins.

The remuneration of SAET commissioners is currently fixed at \$157,681 per annum.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE

In reply to **the Hon. J.S. LEE** (4 June 2025).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): The Minister for Police has advised:

1. A commissioner's inquiry is only held following major police incidents, and examines the application of policies, procedures and training to assess whether improvements are required, or if failures occurred, in any of those elements.

An inquiry examines the use of force by the attending police officers and if any racial bias is identified during the police interaction, that will be referred to the SAPOL Internal Investigation Section.

2. There are currently no grounds to suspend the officers involved. If anything is identified during the inquiry indicating it is necessary to change the duties of any officer involved, it will be addressed at that time.

3. Incidents of this nature are subject to multiple layers of internal and external scrutiny to ensure community trust and confidence in police.

Any unlawful conduct identified from the incident will be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions. This matter is also subject to a police complaint investigation by Internal Investigation Section into any potential breaches of the code of conduct. The complaint investigation is overseen by the Office of Public Integrity.

CHILD PROTECTION

In reply to **the Hon. T.A. FRANKS** (5 June 2025).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): The Minister for Child Protection has advised:

Based on legal considerations, advice from South Australia Police, and advice from Mr Hyde at the time of submitting his report, the government determined not to consider public release of the report until the conclusion of all related court proceedings. This remains the government's position.

WHOOPIING COUGH VACCINATION

In reply to **the Hon. J.S. LEE** (17 June 2025).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has advised:

Pertussis (whooping cough) epidemics generally occur every three to four years. The current spike is part of the natural cycle of the disease and is expected, even with our very strong immunisation programs. Both national and state governments are committed to managing normal spikes in disease rates.

Most hospitalisations and deaths from whooping cough occur in infants under six months, and, as such, significant measures are already in place to protect those most vulnerable to whooping cough disease, such as administering the first whooping cough vaccine from six weeks of age. This change was implemented due to outbreaks and a desire to provide earlier protection for infants, who are most vulnerable to severe complications from the disease and has been in place for over 10 years. Building on the early protection created by this first dose, the National Immunisation Program (NIP) provides further vaccinations to protect against whooping cough at four months, six months, 18 months and four years of age and again in adolescence (around 12 years of age) through the School Immunisation Program.

The vaccine is also funded and recommended in pregnancy from 20 weeks gestation to help protect the mother and newborn and it is funded as part of a 'catch-up' program for all Australians up to the age of 20 years and also for all refugees and humanitarian entrants aged 20 years and over.

A public awareness campaign was delivered in 2024 to raise awareness of whooping cough among the general public, and encourage pregnant women and parents/caregivers to get themselves and their children vaccinated against pertussis. Social media messaging aimed at parents/caregivers and pregnant women as part of this campaign reached more than 170,000 South Australians.

The South Australian government is proactively increasing access to immunisation services for the community. For example, we are implementing changes to support pharmacists to provide immunisation services and also implementing an RSV infant and maternal vaccination program through primary care and birthing hospitals—thereby ensuring ease of access to this important vaccine for pregnant women.

Every year, SA Health undertakes a comprehensive winter wellness campaign. This campaign highlights for the community the importance of immunisation and other key measures for the prevention and spread of respiratory disease, such as influenza, RSV, and whooping cough. A significant proportion of the campaign is also focused on educating health professionals about the importance of receiving vaccines and the promotion of immunisation to those they provide care for. SA Health regularly provides updates through professional newsletters and recently included a whooping cough article in the GP News update in August, which is read by more than 4,000 South Australian GPs.

SA Health constantly monitors and evaluates all infectious diseases and has the capacity to scale up public health measures as required. With regard to the current higher numbers of pertussis—this is expected, it is part of the natural cycle of the disease and occurs as a result of the fact that immunity to pertussis wanes over three to five years, regardless of whether this immunity was induced by actual pertussis illness or by vaccination. Whilst these regular peaks in disease numbers may be expected, SA Health continues to promote disease prevention advice to further reduce whooping cough disease. This includes providing advice for exclusion for people who are exposed to the disease for childcare, preschool, school and work. Prevention strategies that are also promoted include cough/sneeze etiquette and regular hand washing promotion.

VICTIMS OF CRIME FUND

In reply to **the Hon. D.G.E. HOOD** (18 June 2025).

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State): In response to this question, I advised that I would check the year in which payments from the Victims of Crime Fund exceeded the revenue into the fund.

I have been advised that since 2017-18, this has occurred in the 2017-18 and 2022-23 financial years. I am further advised that payments from the fund are expected to exceed revenues in the 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years, as a result of the state government's commitment of \$135 million over two years to the National Redress Scheme.