

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 15 May 2018

The **SPEAKER (Hon. V.A. Tarzia)** took the chair at 11:00 and read prayers.

The SPEAKER: Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of this land upon which this parliament is assembled and the custodians of the sacred lands of our state.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from 10 May 2018.)

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Narungga, I remind members that this is his first speech, and accordingly I ask members to extend the traditional courtesies to the member. The member for Narungga.

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (11:02): Before I proceed into my maiden speech, let me offer my personal congratulations to you on your election to such high office. I am sure that you will perform the role in a dignified and balanced manner. Similarly, I would also like to offer my congratulations to all the new ministers in the new government, as well as to all new members from both sides of the aisle who have taken up their seat in this parliament for the first time. We owe our electorates and the state at large resolute and determined representation. I thank His Excellency the Governor for opening this, the Fifty-Fourth Parliament of South Australia, and for the excellent speech he delivered to mark the occasion. I wholeheartedly support the motion to adopt the Address in Reply.

It is with great humility and pride that I take this seat in parliament as the member for Narungga. It is a somewhat surprising development that I find myself taking my seat in this place after having never sought an elected office of any sort prior to my nomination for preselection in the seat of Narungga. I have long been an interested observer in politics and business, and indeed a card-carrying member of the Liberal Party since my initial year of university, but never anticipated a turn as a member of parliament.

I owe the retiring member for Goyder a great deal of thanks in this regard. I met with Steven Griffiths—he is in the gallery today—and discussed with him politics, the representation of Goyder, parliamentary procedure and a great deal more. He was in the midst of what would turn into his final term of parliamentary service. This spurred my interest to new heights and, ultimately, to serious consideration of seeking election at the conclusion of Steven's term sometime in the future. However, as it turned out, that opportunity presented itself a great deal quicker than either of us had anticipated, with Steven deciding to retire from the role not all that long after that initial discussion.

Fortunately for me, I sought preselection and was successful. I will be forever thankful to the Liberal Party members for giving me the opportunity to represent them and to the people of Narungga for putting their faith in me. I will briefly mention my background, which I hope will explain why the Narungga Liberal Party members endorsed me as the candidate to stand for election.

I was born and raised in Kadina on Yorke Peninsula to a wonderful family. I will never take for granted the environment in which my parents, Michael and Kaylene Ellis, raised me and my brothers. It was without controversy or scandal and completely enjoyable. I cherish the memories I have of growing up in regional South Australia, hanging around the sporting clubs—be it football, basketball or cricket. Spending countless hours at the football club, particularly, was a great thrill as a child and great learning in a number of fields. I still play footy and basketball for Kadina to this day, with only a few seasons spent elsewhere thus far in my playing career. The wonderful community spirit and local community events often organised by local service clubs is something that I love about country towns, and it gives me great pleasure to serve the Apex Club now that it is my turn.

I have fond recollections of going camping in all corners of our wonderful state, with nothing but a camper trailer, camp stove and basic supplies. These trips were great lessons in patience—with three brothers cramped in along the back seat for hours at a time—in resourcefulness and finding things to do out in the bush with no screens or technology to distract us, and in preparing our own food from basic ingredients. They were great lessons indeed, but, unfortunately, I am not sure I mastered any of them, particularly not the cooking lessons.

My mother's family was from a farm near Bute and I feel incredibly fortunate to have had a lady like my Nanna Anne in my life. She was a single parent who lived in a lonely farmhouse with three children, but who remained a stoic parent and grandparent. Nanna did it really tough for some years but dealt with the circumstances as they came and just got on with the job. Nanna was determinedly individual right to the end, and I am sure she will be smiling down on me today.

My father's family owned and operated the local newspaper, and the *Yorke Peninsula Country Times* would sustain our family's life as well. I attended school at Kadina Primary School and Kadina Memorial High School, which have since amalgamated. I have fond memories of walking to and from school and of mateships formed at school, which last today, and of caring teachers and staff. Indeed, three of those close friends—Brad Toole, Chris Flavel and Duncan Curnow—would go on to help on election day, while many others offered their support, which is evidence of the bonds formed.

I then went on to attend Prince Alfred College, which was an awakening of sorts. While I had been able to coast along in Kadina, I now found that more was expected of me. I like to think I rose to the occasion. I was captain of boarding in my final year, and a school prefect, and managed to achieve a grade sufficient to enter law school. Prince Alfred College is a magnificent school and has played a significant role in getting me to where I am today. Similarly, the bonds formed at Prince Alfred College will endure the test of time, with Will Latchford, Bill Sandow, Matt Rohde, Justin Graetz, Matt Gillespie, Adam Perryman and Henry Goode all helping in various capacities throughout the election campaign.

After five years of study at university, I was admitted to the Supreme Court of South Australia, ready to practise law, but at that point I returned home and became a fourth-generation Ellis to start work at the *Country Times*. For four days a week, I worked with a camera, pad and pen as a journalist and on Tuesday, which is printing day, I put on the boots and ink-stained shirt and worked on the printing press. I have been very fortunate to have had a wonderful grounding that has prepared me to enter this place.

It became all the more apparent that the relationship I had formed with Steven Griffiths was, and will continue to be, a valuable and cherished one, as upon entering campaign mode he was quick to offer his support for my campaign and help form a volunteer campaign committee of dedicated, community-minded local Liberals and then to lead that group as my campaign manager.

I should note a few other valuable contributions to that campaign committee that played a big role from the outset. In addition to Steven's contribution, I was fortunate to have the services of Jamie Smith—who is in the gallery today—a man whose advice I have grown to hold above just about all others; Narrunga SEC president, Graham Mattschoss; my partner, Courtney; and Rosemary Cock, who has gone on to join me in the electoral office. Each of those five people offered sage advice and counsel, presented ideas for campaign activities, organised many fundraising and engagement events and so much more. I was exceedingly lucky that they were willing to selflessly donate their time toward the cause for Narrunga.

I also mention my colleagues in this place who visited the electorate during the campaign in support of my efforts: the now Premier, Steven Marshall; the first female Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Vickie Chapman; new ministers, the Hon. David Ridgway in the other place, who visited multiple times and whose advice I sincerely appreciated, David Pisoni, Tim Whetstone and Stephan Knoll. I very much appreciated their support of Narungga.

I also would not be in this place without the motivated, hardworking Liberal branch committee members, and I mention the presidents, who led so admirably: Anthea and John Kennett in the north patch; Chris and Beth Butler on southern YP; Richard and Trish Konzag over at Mallala, covering the Adelaide Plains; and Don Davey in the central part of Yorke Peninsula. There are 30 polling

booths in Narungga, and all were covered on election day by willing volunteers who believed in the cause.

There are so many others worthy of mentioning. In no particular order, they are: Peter Oswald for his help fundraising and on campaign day; Ryan Kelly, who controlled the beautiful town of Wallaroo almost single-handedly; Neil and Dale Sawley, Glenys Blacker, Meredith Westbrook and everyone else who helped in the Kadina-Wallaroo-Moonta area; Malcolm, Ben and the entire Eglinton family for their advice and help whenever it was needed; Helene Daniel and Peggy Gardner for both continuing to help in Moonta despite being in their 90s; Grantley Dodd and Paul Dee for flying the flag in Stansbury; and Howard and Jan Hill for ensuring that Ardrossan was conflated.

I will be forever indebted to Katrina and Ashley Nankivell for their help and guidance, and I look forward to continuing to work with them going forward. Tania Stock continues to be a voice that I value, and I am thankful to her. I thank Dean and Judith Hoare, particularly Judith, for manning Yorketown in difficult circumstances; Ian Jenkin at Dublin; Jeff Cook at Minlaton; Dean Dolling at Port Broughton; Jane Butler at Yorketown and on pre-poll; and so many others who are worthy of mention but will miss out due to time constraints. Finally, I thank the wonderful Donna Stephens for driving from Adelaide to help on pre-poll and in Edithburgh on election day. I will be forever grateful to you all.

The campaign for Narungga was a fascinating one and, indeed, a steep learning curve for both myself and my campaign committee. Despite not having a preselected opponent for some months, I was driven to meet weekly goals I had set, and for months I was out doorknocking without opposition, hosting and attending community forums and events and preparing content for promotion. Those in this room may view that as a luxury not afforded to all candidates and, in hindsight, I wholeheartedly agree. However, at the time I vividly recall lamenting the shadow-boxing and eagerly anticipating a sparring partner. As they say, be careful what you wish for.

Eventually, I was joined by a raft of other candidates and the campaign began in earnest. At that point, I was thrilled to have the counsel of a number of people who provided invaluable moral support. Primarily, my family, parents Michael and Kaylene, who unfortunately could not be here today but I anticipate are watching over the live stream, were always available for inspiration and motivation when doorknocking or letterboxing seemed onerous or difficult; and my brothers, Nelson and Giles, were always only a phone call away and kept my feet on the ground as only brothers can.

My partner, Courtney, made a contribution to my campaign and, more importantly, to my life that is beyond description, but I shall attempt it nonetheless. Unfairly, Courtney shouldered an obscene amount of work around keeping our home habitable, which is no mean feat when living with me at the best of times. She provided invaluable moral support and comfort even when the stress manifested itself in an unfair outburst once or twice. She organised booths on the day, came to functions and so much more. It is impossible to list everything you did, but thank you; you are amazing. My grandmother, Jennifer, who is in the gallery today as well, helped on pre-poll, helped on election day and provided great endorsement when needed. I will be forever indebted to you.

Equally important was the support of existing members of parliament, a few of whom I would like to highlight. Terry Stephens was a guiding light from right after I decided to nominate for preselection and continues to be until this day. His advice about what to expect from the opposition, what to do about maximising my chances of achieving my goal, physical, on-the-ground campaigning and a calming influence when the stress began to mount up was of paramount importance to the success of my campaign. I appreciate this contribution even more when considering Terry was in the midst of his own bid for re-election, a bid that I am pleased to see was rewarded.

Likewise, Stephan Knoll, the member for Schubert, and Sam Duluk, the member for Waite, were valuable resources. They offered advice and semiregular conference calls, when it often felt as though they were playing good cop, bad cop, but they had my best interests and the best interests of the party at heart, and for that I am sincerely appreciative. I would also like to put on the record my thanks to two other people; the member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey, and the Hon. Alan Ferguson, former senator for South Australia. Both went out of their way to help me win the election, with advice, feedback and introductions always forthcoming. To them I say thank you. I look forward to continuing

to work with Rowan to provide great outcomes for the people of Narungga, and I look forward to continuing to call on Alan for his wise counsel.

I also want to acknowledge the support and help of Kendall Jackson, the Liberal candidate for Frome. Despite being in the middle of a campaign of her own, she was always willing to help and, in the final months, Kendall and I were talking on the phone at least weekly and often more regularly. We would talk about how each of us were doing during that week and compare notes on how we were going. It is with great sadness that I acknowledge Kendall, for the people of Frome would have been far better served by a member of a Liberal government. I am sure she will return better than ever.

Although a long campaign can be draining at times, there was never any doubt in my mind that the opportunity to represent Narungga was worth fighting for. A significant number of my colleagues have claimed over the past few days that they represent the most beautiful electorate in the state. I regret to inform each and every one of them that this cannot be true, as Narungga is the clear leader in this category: the most beautiful beaches, especially in Innes National Park; rolling countryside; neat, tidy and welcoming towns; and, most importantly, high-quality people. I hold that honest belief, and that is why the seat was worth fighting for.

It is my driving force to improve the lives of people who live and work in my part of the world, who are as passionate as I am about its future, and for keeping and building its reputation as a prime location for food and agriculture, fisheries and tourism. I do not believe any other party—be it major, minor or independent—can do the seat justice like the Liberal Party can. My family has significant roots in the area, and I would like to touch on them briefly if I may.

Thomas and Mary Ellis arrived in Moonta in 1873 after emigrating from Cornwall, just like a lot of Cornish did in those days, to work in the recently minted copper mine. They brought with them, on that long and dangerous voyage from the UK, their infant son, William Ellis, who would never learn to read or write after starting work in the mine as a 'picky boy' as a pre-teen. Through sheer determination and perseverance his son would go on to start work at the local newspaper, eventually working his way up the hierarchy before taking part ownership and eventually full ownership of the Moonta *People's Weekly*, as well as other newspapers.

Thus Cecil John Green Ellis started our family business, the *Yorke Peninsula Country Times*, a regional newspaper that serves the entire Yorke Peninsula with its weekly news. My grandfather and father went on to continue to build that business into what it is today, a major and respected newspaper, winner of the past two Regional Newspaper of the Year awards and a local employer. My grandfather dropped out of school midway through grade 9 and my father matriculated without ever gaining any tertiary qualifications. It just goes to show that there is no replacement for hard work and dedication.

Although Cecil got the business started, I do not want to underestimate the importance of my late grandfather, Trevor Ellis. Trevor was a well-respected community member from Moonta who continued the wonderful legacy that Cecil started. A former citizen of the year in the Copper Coast Council, he was renowned for public speaking and the ability to connect with anyone from any walk of life. He was famous for having an outstanding rapport with his staff—partly because he always favoured hiring people from the Moonta mine—and the question that always carried the most weight when he was interviewing prospective employees was whether they could spell the word 'fiery' correctly. Trevor was a great man, and it was an absolute privilege to have spent time in his gentle care. He is missed every day.

We were well versed in the Ellis family story from a young age; my grandfather was an avid family historian and it resonated strongly with me. Shining out was an outstanding work ethic, care of family and community, and a driving need to serve both with integrity. There are two things I take from the Ellis family story: that Cecil worked his way from nothing through sheer determination and hard work and the incredibly fortunate position I found myself in.

The story of Cecil building the newspaper into a generational family business inspires me to attempt to implement an economic environment that allows other families to do the same. In building his business, neither Cecil nor any of his descendants relied on government handouts or subsidies in order to get ahead, rather he set about building a business that was resilient, self-sufficient and

sustainable. I worry that this is becoming an unattainable reality for many small business owners, crippled by overbearing rules, regulations, tax imposts and utility costs. If we want to ensure that business continues to operate and that new start-ups continue to arrive, it is imperative that we make a change from the previous government and empower the small business sector.

Similarly, I feel incredibly privileged to have grown up in regional South Australia, and I am motivated to ensure that this continues to be possible for future generations. I am excited about the Marshall government's acknowledgement of the importance of our regions—which is a welcome change, I might add—and their role in our state economy. I am driven to advocate for the rest of South Australia, the part of South Australia north of Gepps Cross, for continued investment in vital infrastructure.

Although a descendant of Cornish copper miners, I still felt compelled to join the Liberal Party. It became clear to me, after growing up in an area governed by Labor, that the smaller and less obtrusive government is the better off its constituency will be. The Liberal Party is a party of individual freedom and free enterprise, both sorely lacking in South Australia at this time.

It is enormously satisfying that my first term as an MP will be as part of a Liberal government, and I have to acknowledge that my predecessor, Steven Griffiths, toiled away for 12 years in opposition without such an opportunity. I have a sense of urgency to use the solid foundation of this Liberal government to build, progress and instigate great change to make a difference for the people who have placed their faith in me and I sincerely hope to build upon the work that Steven Griffiths did for our electorate over his 12 years to build a wonderful Narungga.

I owe a lot of people from the Liberal Party a most sincere thankyou for their help during the campaign. It certainly was a team effort and everyone chipped in and played their part. Firstly, to former premier and current president, John Olsen, I say that, thanks to Mr Olsen's ties to Yorke Peninsula, I was in the fortunate position where I was able to seek out his advice and guidance prior to nominating for preselection. From that point forward, John was a most appreciated contact for any advice and led the party admirably to victory as well. Director, Sascha Meldrum, and her team deserve special thanks for the way they organised the entire campaign, with special thanks to Lena Lail as my point of contact and Julia Ebbs for her design work.

Finally, important thanks go to Alex Antic for his repeated efforts to help build the Narungga campaign over the course of the campaign. These efforts resulted in opening the all-important Kadina polling booth with me on the morning of election day—Alex, thank you. Similarly, the Rural and Regional Council of the Liberal Party, led by Nicola Centofanti, was an amazing help. I had the great benefit of hosting the council in Moonta for a day of campaigning and I will always be appreciative for their contribution.

The Young Liberal branch, led wonderfully by Jocelyn Sutcliffe, was a significant help as well and supplied volunteers on an as needed basis. Thanks to Jack Newton, who is in the gallery today, Jack Clayfield, James Moriarty, Will Van Dissel and others for all of their help. It was much appreciated. Similarly, the federal branch of the Young Liberals deserves thanks for its contribution toward my campaign.

Narungga is one of the newly named electorates after last year's redistribution, going from Goyder to the new name, and with that came an extra 1,000 square kilometres. While it was wonderful to pick up new areas that I have a growing affinity for, it is a shame to lose towns like Owen, Hamley Bridge and Balaklava, and I will have to think of a new excuse to go and watch the mighty Balaklava Peckers play football.

I am proud to say that Narungga is named after, and is a commemoration of, the local Narungga Aboriginal people, who are the traditional owners of Yorke Peninsula. Narungga country extends southwards down the peninsula from a line running approximately between the towns of Port Broughton and Port Wakefield and the meaning of the word 'Narungga' is campsite.

I am also proud to be the youngest person to have represented my electorate in its history. I humbly hope my involvement can inspire and generate renewed interest from young people in parliamentary processes, in our system and in the all-important responsibilities it carries to encourage them to be a voice, not to be apathetic to its necessary systems and to understand the

importance of having a go and doing what you can to help others. I think regional communities are best placed to see what can be achieved when like-minded community people gather together for a cause because we are just used to getting on with making things happen if we want them to. It is one of the best things about living in the country.

I am proud to follow in the footsteps of equally strong advocates for our region who worked hard as representative members in this place. Since its creation in 1970, Steven Griffiths was a serving Liberal from 2006 to 2018. Fellow Liberal, Mr John Meier, who was also forthcoming with advice and guidance, served for 24 years prior to that from 1982 to 2006 and, before that, there was Independent Liberal, Mr Keith Russack, from 1977 to 1982. Going back further, well-known names adorn my region's honour board, including the long-serving Raymond Steele Hall and David Boundy. All believed in the need for my electorate to have a strong voice and I intend to follow their lead to the best of my ability.

I also take this opportunity to highlight the important and exceptional diversity that we currently enjoy within the Liberal Party. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge that our party room can represent every cross-section in our state. I am the youngest member at 25 years of age, but we have a member in our party still representing their community excellently who first entered parliament 10 years before I was born.

We are a party of teachers, lawyers, small business owners, and everything in between. We have someone from just about every walk of life—male, female, old, young, different vocations—with valuable insights and previous life, business and community experience. We are a truly diverse range of people representing a truly diverse constituency. It is important to have such diversity in order to govern properly, to feel empathy and to represent every cross-section of society. I am sincerely excited about the group of people who have assembled under the Liberal Party banner to usher in a new era of governance for the people of South Australia.

Government's primary responsibility is to provide essential services and infrastructure, and in regional South Australia, I believe that can be done better. While I was on the campaign trail, the same essential services continued to be brought up on doorstep and community forums. Regional roads are falling into a state of disrepair and I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to get to work fixing these problems. After covering in excess of 40,000 kilometres during the election campaign, I can personally identify the Minlaton to Arthurlton stretch and the council-controlled North Coast Road as but a couple of the roads in desperate need of repair and reseal.

Regional roads need to be safer so that truck drivers carrying vital grain export to port can do so safely, tourists coming to the most beautiful electorate in the state can enjoy the voyage and local drivers simply have enough room to keep four wheels on the road when there is a truck coming the other way. Daily, there are near misses as drivers of all sorts of vehicles are forced off the road, often without a shoulder, to allow the passage of a truck. To listen to elderly community members tell of their fear that the jarring ride in the back of an ambulance for an X-ray will do more harm than putting up with the ailment the doctor has ordered the X-ray for is just not good enough.

Then there is the issue of whether they can get the health care they need in a somewhat timely fashion, such as the eye test before the driver's licence expires or how to wait four years, in the case of a hip or knee replacement, when every day is a struggle. There is worry, too, about not affording the cost of travelling far away for treatment not available in the area and in the difficulty filling out the PATS forms and then the fight to receive adequate compensation.

Health care is continuing to deteriorate in regional South Australia and I would like to continue the great work of Steven Griffiths in fighting for services and hospitals. Our government is investing in Yorketown hospital and Ardrossan hospital and will be continuing to improve the circumstances of all hospitals in the electorate of Narungga, particularly Wallaroo hospital, which is in desperate need of an upgrade to cope with a swelling population.

The availability of efficient health services locally is a number one priority for people deciding where to live or to retire, to stay or to go, and without confidence in available services we know that populations decline and whole communities die. We simply must decentralise and build our regional areas. One's postcode should not determine the level of health care that is affordable and accessible. Currently, everything revolves around Adelaide, to the detriment of everywhere else. I look forward

to being a part of the solution and ensuring rural and regional hospitals are fully staffed with the complete complement of equipment they need.

It is also vital that young people stay in regional areas to live, work, marry, build families, support services and spend at local businesses, all to shore up the future of communities in regional areas. Without a healthy regional South Australia, there would be no Adelaide. As a young person, I am passionate about the need to stop the drain of energy and talent that is leaving our regional areas never to return. For this, there must be jobs growth, new industries created and new businesses encouraged.

I believe that Narungga has an exciting future and I believe that exciting opportunities can be created with the correct policy settings. It is interesting and pleasing to see in this place the many MPs in the 25 to 35-year-old age bracket, particularly on our side of the aisle, and that augurs well for the future. This place can truly become the voice of a young generation. More young people are realising that government cannot be relied on for job creation and it is time to empower the private sector to fill the void that exists in South Australia.

There is one last thing that I would like to touch on, and that is the debate that has been going on for some time in Narungga and elsewhere in the state. The debate between agriculture and mining continues to place undue stress on primary producers as the uncertainty over the sovereignty of their own land lingers.

The Liberal Party is the party of individual freedom, and I look forward to working with the party to ensure that individual landowners are better supported in their endeavours. There is no public interest in a government dictating that certain private enterprise occurs on any particular parcel of land, and more needs to be done to give farmers peace of mind. In Cecil John Green's office at the *People's Weekly*, there hung a sign that read:

Each day I come to do my tasks;
Eager and glad to work;
Grateful for the accomplishment of the past;
But mindful that today demands the best that is in me.

I am eager and glad to work for the people of Narungga, grateful for the ample accomplishments that the constituency has achieved in the past but mindful that I need to give my absolute best each and every day to ensure that we continue to overachieve. I will carry that message from that sign forward into this house as I represent the people of Narungga.

I would like to finish by saying that I am here for small regional towns, I am here for the people of Narungga and I am here for regional South Australia. I think by logical extension of that, I am here for South Australia at large. As I said, it is immensely satisfying that I serve my first term as a part of the Marshall Liberal government, and I look forward to working for Narungga to deliver every single promise that was made during the election campaign.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Badcoe, I welcome to parliament today the former member for Goyder, Mr Griffiths; the member for Grey of the federal parliament, Mr Rowan Ramsey; and there were students here from Rostrevor College, who were guests of mine.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Debate resumed.

The SPEAKER: In calling the member for Badcoe, I remind members that this is the member's first speech, and accordingly I ask members to please extend the traditional courtesies to the member.

Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (11:32): I acknowledge that we meet on the land of the Kurna people and we respect their long and enduring connection with this land. Congratulations to you, Mr Speaker, on your appointment and re-election, and congratulations to all those who I am privileged to serve alongside in this 54th parliament.

They say everyone has a story to tell. I have spent most of my working life telling other people's stories. Today I thought I would tell you some of my own, how it has shaped my values and led me here to this point today. I am a somewhat unlikely parliamentarian. My parents, grandparents and extended family, some of whom are here today, never would have guessed that one of their own would be standing in this place.

My upbringing is a tale of fluctuating fortunes, tough times mingled with good luck, hard work mixed with opportunity. None of my relatives have been MPs or judges or anything remotely similar. I do not even know how my parents vote. No-one is a party member, and political debates in our home were rare. But curiosity, an interest in current affairs, compassion for those less fortunate and an ethic of working hard were instilled in me from an early age.

I learned by the example of my parents to work hard and then harder, to persist through adversity so that when your sliver of good fortune comes along you can make the most of an opportunity. When I was born, way back in the early 1980s in the northern suburbs of Perth, my family seemed to be on the cusp of cracking into a fairly comfortable middle-class lifestyle. My dad, a manufacturing worker, at the age of 14 had started a canvas goods business. My mother had left her job as a bank teller to have me, her first child. In fact, it was still pretty much expected at that time that a female bank teller would leave her job once she fell pregnant.

My parents worked hard at their small business, mum doing the books while dad cut and sewed the canvas. They employed people, contributed taxes and created useful things to make other people's lives more comfortable. In my younger years, hot summer days were often spent on the cool concrete of the factory floor. My younger sisters and I would fashion things from strips of discarded canvas, pop rivets and twisted eyelets. We were often underfoot of workers and apprentices, a time when OH&S was certainly a lot more lax. Occasionally, we would relish the chance to grab dad a vanilla slice and a Coke from the lunch bar down the road—our little adventure.

Once a week, we transformed, replacing smudged hands and knees with elegant pliés. Next door to dad's factory was a ballet school. My sister Nell and I would put on our lolly-pink leotards and jiffies, scrape our hair back into little buns and go to ballet practice. I loved it. I still have the little sequined costumes my mum so lovingly crafted for weeks on end: an elephant, a teddy bear, a Christmas elf. They were only worn once before being tossed in the dress-up basket. But ballet ended when dad shut down the business. It had taken a toll on his health and his finances and, with Chinese hands increasingly able to make sales of awnings and blinds so much cheaper, it was tough to turn a profit in small-scale manufacturing in outer suburbia.

Soon enough, we moved well out of Perth to the hopeful coastal hamlet of Yanchep. My parents bought a block of land just a few streets back from the beach, and with that purchase they also invested their hopes of building a dream—a dream home—in this idyllic retreat. The beach featured a narrow strip of reef just metres off the shoreline. Sunny days were spent tiptoeing across the jagged surface, collecting starfish and inspecting brightly coloured creatures stranded in the rock pools. Despite the sun lashing my alabaster skin, the beach was a joy.

In the late eighties, a lot of blocks around Yanchep were owned by none other than Alan Bond and a few of his decadent tycoon mates. They pitched grand visions for dolphin theme parks, marinas and trendy shopping centres, a playground for sun-lovers and for aspirational working families like ours. But amid a haze of corruption and excess, Bond's vision never materialised and, sadly, neither did my parents'.

The economy turned, and my parents were hit hard with unemployment and underemployment. They were forever reskilling, taking any job they could, each holding several different casual jobs at a time then sometimes no jobs at all, all while bringing up a young family that now numbered four girls. As budgets got tighter, things were sold. Someone bought the TV one night. It was unplugged and carried away right as we were watching *Home and Away*, and we were horrified.

An honourable member: Shame!

Ms STINSON: Shame! The family holidays stopped, and it was a strain to afford school camps. That block of land that held my parents' dreams was lost. Our Christmas stockings no longer bulged, instead looking deflated on Christmas Day. I remember the Salvos coming to the door just before Christmas one year and offering my mum gifts to give us kids. I thought, 'This is excellent. How cool—free presents,' only to see mum politely press the door closed while telling the good Samaritan that we did not need her help. I begged mum to take the gifts, but she calmly explained that there were people out there who were much worse off than us and we should leave the presents to them; that we were very fortunate to have parents who loved us, food in our bellies and a roof over our heads.

I do not know if my mum remembers that moment, but it was something that I never forgot: the realisation that we were lucky, but also the realisation that others were not and that we should do what we could do to help. So, despite dining on macaroni cheese for weeks on end, I knew that we would never go hungry; despite my parents' tense kitchen conversations about bills, I knew that we would always be loved; and despite wearing our clothes until they just fell apart, I knew that my parents would do anything to ensure that my sisters and I had opportunities that we needed in life.

To that end, trying to carve out some better employment opportunities, my mother studied, enrolling in uni for the first time by distance education when she was in her 30s. I remember her sitting on the bed with books and papers strewn all around on the doona. She would constantly be interrupted by us chatty little girls, but she was always calm and always had time to answer our endless questions.

No doubt there were many nights when she handwrote essays into the wee hours after we were all put to bed. I was so proud to see her graduate many years later. It made me see the value of education and how it can transform a person's life and the fortunes of their family. I have no idea how my mum studied full-time, worked full-time and looked after us full-time. Later, when I struggled at uni or work, I would remember mum sitting on the bed and remind myself that I had it easy.

When my grandfather on my dad's side died, it sparked another phase of upheaval and relocation. Two of my sisters and I crossed the nation, going to live with my maternal grandfather and my step grandmother in country New South Wales for a while. It was a different life: strict rules, strange food—we were always finding creative ways to get rid of those brussels sprouts—and going to Scripture. Eventually our family was reunited, this time at a place called Herons Creek, a timber-milling town with one street on the mid-north coast of New South Wales.

I look back on that period now and realise how lucky we were to have my grandparents. They had already raised their families, but here they were in their 60s, bringing up little girls again. We were hard work, but they loved us and cared for us. I know now, especially through my work as a journalist and now as the shadow minister for child protection, that not every child grows up with people who care for them so deeply, people who sacrifice things for them and parents who make decisions in their children's best interests.

My parents had both faced difficulties in their young years. My mother lost her mum to a blood disorder when she was very little—I think she was around six. Her dad was a schoolteacher and raised her and her brother by himself. My mum's aunties, including Ros, who is here today, also helped to raise her. I am still very close to Ros and Gwen, and I am named (my middle name) after my grandmother Marion. I often wonder what she was like. She lives on through my mother and my aunties, and I know she is probably looking down on us now, being very proud of my mum and the daughters she raised.

My father grew up in a home plagued by mental illness and violence. As the eldest child, his younger siblings relied on him. He started working in the family trade when he was 14. He did not have the opportunity to finish high school or even do an apprenticeship, so meeting mum, falling in love, was certainly an opportunity for a bright new future. They married and moved to Perth to start a family. I went to six primary schools. I might have been a shyer girl, but I had to build confidence and learn how to make new friends and adjust to change. I was a good student, always keen to learn new things but somewhat a chatterbox in class if I was bored.

I did high school in Port Macquarie. I had plenty of friends and was into everything. I played six sports at one point because mum told us that we were allowed to play anything that was free and that she did not have to drive us to. Sport has been pretty pivotal in my life. It is one of the ways I have made new friends and fitted into so many new communities. It is also a great equaliser. No-one cares if you are rich or poor on the volleyball court or in the swimming pool; values like hard work and tenacity and, of course a little bit of skill, are far more important.

I was a school council representative. I raised money for local charities and I organised school events. I was very involved in our community and I got a buzz from helping people or making some small difference. I got myself a job at the age of 15 as a checkout chick at a discount grocery warehouse. I joined the union, the SDA. I remember getting my first pay packet. I bought a Billabong surf brand T-shirt. It was the first brand-name thing I had ever owned and I think I wore it almost every day of high school in our little surfie town.

By high school, I was pretty certain I wanted to be a journalist. I loved writing and hearing people's stories, though I was also very interested in visual art and the law, too. I did my year 10 work experience with local TV stations but also with my local MP, a Nationals bloke called Rob Oakeshott, who was then the captain of my surf club. He took me to Parliament House in Sydney for two weeks. I loved watching Bob Carr in question time and hanging out with the reporters—people like Leigh Sales and David Penberthy, who were covering that round at the time.

After school, I went off to Charles Sturt University, also known as Mitchell College, the same place my grandad did his teaching degree about 50 years earlier. I loved journalism and I still do. I wanted to be a newspaper reporter, but one lecturer encouraged me to take up broadcast because, he said, I had a deeper voice than most of the other girls. He said I would have a natural advantage in the very tight race for a job, and he was probably right. I got through uni on scholarships and working as a waitress. Although things were getting better financially at home, with mum getting a job as a public servant, my parents could not really afford to pay my way. I did my internships at Network Ten and Sky News in Parliament House in Canberra.

While a delegate on the National Youth Roundtable, I met a young, blonde senator from South Australia. I had seen her in *Dolly* magazine sporting Doc Martin boots. I was thrilled to meet Natasha Stott Despoja, a woman not too much older than me at the time. She offered me work experience over summer. It was just secretarial support, but I loved being in the middle of all the political machinations—and there were more than a few going on at that time in the Democrats. I am forever grateful to Natasha for giving me that opportunity. It was a window into a world I had barely seen before and it spurred a love of politics.

When I was little, Carmen Lawrence was the Western Australian premier. I never questioned that women could be in politics, but as I grew up I realised that that was an anomaly. Meeting Natasha, working for her and seeing that she was a real person I could relate to—someone who was passionate and intelligent—encouraged me and reinforced to me that women could be in the world of politics, too, as reporters or as politicians. You simply cannot be what you cannot see, and for me seeing was believing. I want to see more women in politics and I will be following Natasha's lead, encouraging younger women to have a go and showing them that they can do it too.

I went on to work for the ABC, Network Ten and, most recently, Seven News. I have worked in every mainland state and territory, including oil rigs off the coast of the Pilbara and remote communities out the back of Alice Springs. I also worked overseas, in India, Africa and Cambodia. Working internationally makes you realise the value of free speech and that not everyone, or even every journalist, has the right to speak freely or even report basic facts. I went to Cambodia after being made redundant from Network Ten, which was almost a rite of passage in the South Australian media industry. The irony did not escape me when I found out that I had won best TV reporter that year while at the same time I was completely jobless.

I used my redundancy payout to live in Phnom Penh for three months, working as a radio reporter at the nation's only independent radio station. Last year, it was shut down by the government. To work alongside Cambodian reporters who are risking their lives simply by being journalists makes you realise how lucky you are. They work under such incredible constraints and risks, but they do it because they believe in democracy and they believe in truth and in justice. I wish them all the very best in these incredibly troubling times that are now facing journalism and

democracy in Cambodia, and I hope that my former colleagues know that there are people all over the world who are with them in their fight.

There are many stories I have covered as a journalist, from driving through cyclones in north-west WA and feeling the gusts of wind lift the four-wheel drive wheels off the road as I drove, to covering the shameful atrocities that Aboriginal people endure in Central Australia. I have done crosses from the ASEAN conference in Phnom Penh with Barack Obama, I have been entrusted with the story of the survivor of a senseless shooting spree and many men and women have shared with me their stories of suffering sexual abuse. The stories are many and varied and each one teaches us something.

As journalists, we are lucky to see the world through others' eyes and to have a window into other peoples' lives, even just for a day. Each of those stories informs my view, the way I see the world and the way I would like the world to be. It is what drives a passion in me for fairness and equality and justice.

There are so many people who do not have a voice. My job as a journalist was to give a voice to those people, and it is really not too different as a local representative. My job is to be the voice of my community and to fight for them but also to achieve change, to make life that little bit better for those people around me. Quality journalism is integral to the fabric of our democracy but, for me, it became frustrating to be a witness, a bystander. I felt a growing urge to act, to get involved and to change things for the better.

I am passionate about equality because I know how inequality deprives not only individuals but also our whole community from being the best it can be. I am passionate about gender equality because girls are just as good as boys and we are missing out as a community and as an economy if we cannot see that. I am passionate about job creation because my family knows what it is like to suffer the indignity and strain of unemployment and the joy of having a job. I am passionate about justice because being heard is part of healing. I am passionate about democracy and the right to free speech because I have seen what happens without it.

I am so lucky to have found a home here in Adelaide, in Black Forest in Badcoe, the seat I am so proud to represent. I have lived all over Australia and the world and I really do think that this is the best place to live. When I moved to Adelaide for a six-month contract almost 15 years ago, people my age said that it was so boring in Adelaide: there was nothing to do at night, the good bands never came here, there were no career prospects and no-one would want to stay there. But I did stay. Adelaide promised an affordable life with a good job, the ability to buy a home, not to spend all day on the train getting to work and to save enough money to travel.

The night-life has become a lot better: Adelaide Oval has brought the city alive, Leigh and Peel streets are filled with energetic small bars, the upgraded Entertainment Centre started getting the big acts, the trams were extended, the train electrified and the economy strengthened, despite the challenges. So, far from being a young person fleeing this state, I am someone who has chosen a life here for all its opportunities.

Some of my family have moved here since I arrived—my aunties and cousins who are here today—and I am working on the rest of them. My sisters are tuning in today from London and Hawaii and Bremer Bay in WA, and I thank them for their love and support. I am hoping to lure them all here for the promise this place offers to young families. After all, it is one of the most livable cities in the world. I intend to make it an even more attractive place to live in my time as the member for Badcoe.

Badcoe is a place that is compassionate, especially towards those who need a hand, a place that is affordable and comfortable, even if your life did not start out that way, and a place that offers good education, health services and job prospects. As a candidate, it has already been an honour to fight for and achieve better sporting and community infrastructure, such as the new grandstand soon to be built at Goodwood Oval, better educational facilities at every public school in Badcoe, and the little things like new air-conditioners at Active Elders in Ascot Park.

In the last 12 months, my team and I secured more than 20 wins for Badcoe and, with the help of Jeremy and Joel in my office plus our dedicated volunteers and our fantastic sub-branch, we will achieve even more. Nothing is done alone. I want to thank my campaign team—they ran an

excellent campaign and the numbers show just how hard they worked—Jimmy, Bridget and Sean, plus Arabella, Grace, Sarah, Leah, Yan-Li, Olivia and Jen.

Thanks to more than 150 people who volunteered throughout the year-long campaign. Many of you are here today. To Dean, Claire, Barbara, Michael and Bruce, I thank you very much. You are gems. I would like to thank everyone who donated their hard-earned cash, too—no-one ever tells you how expensive it is—your faith in me is very humbling. To all the community and sporting groups and all the individuals I met on the campaign trail, thanks for your warm welcomes and the great conversations we had. I have learnt so much from you and I am looking forward to learning and doing even more for you in Badcoe.

I would like to thank the crew at party office, especially Reggie and Aemon, and the bunch at the SDA, ably led by one of this state's great leaders, Sonia Romeo.

Thank you to the labour movement. I have not always been a member of the Labor Party, but I have always shared our values of sticking up for working people. I would like to thank everyone in the former premier's office. You guys did some remarkable work for our state. I would like to thank our former premier, Jay Weatherill. You led by example, and your work ethic, your remarkable intellect and your passion to fight for South Australians rallied our team and showed me the way—thank you.

Thank you to my former bosses, who are now my colleagues: Zoe Bettison and Tom Koutsantonis. I have learned so much from you, and I am so glad to now be working alongside you. Thanks also to Chris Picton, to Michael Brown, to Blair Boyer, to Stephen Mullighan and to Emily Bourke. We have been friends and workmates over the years, and I look forward to working together with you. Thank you for all your advice.

Thanks to Mick Atkinson and Mike Rann, plus Rik Morris, who gave me my first gig in state politics, to Kate Ellis, whom I worked with federally—she will be a loss to the federal parliament—and to Brendan O'Connor. My work with Brendan was the most gruelling of my life so far, but it was a joy to serve on the team of such a great man. I look forward to seeing him as a minister again very soon.

Thank you to Steph Key and her team, Carol and Geoff in particular. Steph was an excellent local MP, and I will be lucky to be as well respected as she is by our local community. I would also dearly like to thank Peter Malinauskas, a bloke who took me seriously when I said I thought I had something to offer in politics. Your faith in me makes me want to work harder. I am so grateful for your advice and the opportunities you have given me, and I know you will be a wonderful premier. Our state is very lucky to have you, and I look forward to serving as part of your team.

I would like to thank a guy who has not had much to do with the campaign at all, an exceptionally smart, sweet and modest man, who reminds me of all the other great blessings in life and puts it all in perspective—plus, he feeds me delicious home-cooked food. Thank you very much to my partner, Ash. I love you very much.

Thanks to my parents for coming from Queensland today and for always being only a phone call away with advice, support and encouragement. Now that I am older, I realise all the things that you gave up for us, and I want you to know that all the things you have sacrificed for your kids have been worth it. We are each very happy, healthy, successful individuals, independent young women who are now giving back to our communities in our own ways and building our own families. We can never repay you, but we will live out what you taught us about hard work and perseverance, about justice and equality, about compassion and about using our good fortune to improve the fortunes of others.

The final thankyou goes to the people of Badcoe. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for this great honour, for the opportunity to serve you, for the chance to make our wonderful patch of Adelaide even better. It is the greatest blessing of my life, and I will not let you down.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Heysen, I remind members that this is the member's first speech, and accordingly I would ask members to extend the traditional courtesies to the member. The member for Heysen.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (12:00): Mr Speaker, first, I congratulate you on your election to high office. I wish you well in your role. You are, and I am certain you will continue to be, an ornament to this house and to this parliament.

First, I thank the electors of Heysen for the confidence they have shown in me. It is the greatest honour of my life to represent the people of Heysen in this place. I acknowledge the presence in the chamber today of friends, colleagues, supporters and volunteers on our recent campaign. I acknowledge, too, those constituents, friends and family who may be tuning in to the streaming broadcast. I hope my parents, who could not be present today, might be among them. I have, I think, explained to mum and dad how to stream it at least four times: hope is a constant in my family. I especially want to say hello to those school students throughout Heysen who are online viewing this, my first speech, in this place.

On 17 March 2018, South Australians voted for change. They did so decisively, and their decision is reflected by the outcome on the floor of this new parliament; that is significant. The goal of democratic systems is to reflect the will of the people in the composition of a government and in the seats won on each side of this house. In the course of the last generation, South Australia has fallen short on this count, but this 54th parliament is different: its government truly is the product of the people's will.

As we know, the Liberal Party won clear majorities of the statewide vote in both the 2010 and 2014 elections but did not secure a majority in the House of Assembly; 2018 was different, and that difference came about from two significant developments. First, in December 2016, the Electoral District Boundaries Commission found that, as a result of a longstanding electoral imbalance in our state, new district boundaries should be drawn so that, as far as practicable, the party winning the majority of the statewide vote should form majority government.

Prior to the 2016 commission, the conventional wisdom was that somehow electoral fairness in South Australia might have been a theoretical ideal but not a practical goal. The argument went that this might be due to our state's geography, coupled with the high concentration of population in Adelaide. The commission found, however, that any such mythology was wrong, that fair boundaries could be drawn and that they should be drawn in the interests of fairness. Indeed, the commission determined that redrawing the boundaries in this way was necessary in order to address a 40-year imbalance in our state's electoral map.

Secondly, in February last year, a five-member Full Court of the Supreme Court unanimously held that the commission's redraw of the boundaries was both necessary and appropriate. As a barrister for the Liberal Party, I am proud to have worked on achieving these outcomes in advocating before the commission and in the Supreme Court.

I was part of a team. I want to acknowledge Tom Duggan of senior counsel. Tom led our case for the principle of fairness. He led it eloquently and effectively. I also want to acknowledge our instructor, Morry Bailes; Sam Hooper; and my friend the member for Davenport. Together with Liberal Party state director, Sascha Meldrum, we were a formidable team. We never set out to do the commission's work in drawing the boundaries but, rather, to advocate for the principle of electoral fairness. I am proud to have been part of proving that fairness could be achieved, that it could be done and that, at long last, it should be done. I believe the result of the March election bears out the importance of electoral fairness. Our government now has the legitimacy of its electoral mandate.

It is a great honour to serve in this parliament. When we look about us in this chamber, we are reminded of the long and stable history of democracy in South Australia. It is a proud history, but we should never take it for granted. We live in a time when democratic systems are in retreat in many parts of the world and when public faith in democracy is in decline. The preservation of democracy and the preservation of public confidence in democracy is a profound responsibility for all of us who serve here. I hope that I may fulfil my responsibilities in this house, to our democracy and to the communities of Heysen.

In opening this 54th parliament, His Excellency set out the program of the new government. There are more than 300 individual policies to make South Australia a place of enterprise, opportunity and confidence. I want to recognise the service of His Excellency and Mrs Le. Together, they bring grace, dignity and a sense of joy to Government House. They also embody our values as South

Australians: a generous, open and welcoming people. I have been fortunate to have known His Excellency since his time as Lieutenant Governor and chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission.

Heysen is more than 1,000 square kilometres of the most beautiful and most productive parts of our state. The Heysen Hills are comprised of more than 20 local communities, each built on the efforts of local people—from Willyaroo, Sandergrove, Woodchester and Strathalbyn in the south-east; to Ashbourne, Willunga Hill and Yundi, in the south; through the middle, from Macclesfield to Meadows, Kuitpo to Blewitt Springs, Kangarilla and Clarendon; and north, from Echunga to Mylor, Bradbury and Longwood, Bridgewater to Aldgate, to Ironbank, Stirling and Crafers.

The local enterprises that create jobs and opportunities in Heysen include a wide range of producers of world-class fresh food and wine, farmers, restaurateurs, artists, nurseries and schools. Of course, many people living in Heysen have jobs or enterprises in different places across South Australia but choose to raise their family in the Hills. Heysen is blessed with great natural beauty, including some of the most remarkable parts of the wonderful Heysen Trail.

Volunteers play a great role in the life of the Hills communities. They are to be found in groups such as Meals on Wheels; the CFS, where the Hills brigades carry the lion's share of annual volunteer call-outs not only to fires but also, importantly, to car accidents on the South Eastern Freeway; our local RSL sub-branches, which are led by some of the most dedicated individuals one could hope to know; as well as conservation groups, friends of which work tirelessly to preserve and enhance our environment.

Organisations such as these, alongside our sports clubs, churches, school communities, business associations, community associations, health networks and recreational clubs, bring people together and strengthen the fabric of community life. This government has come into office with a strong ethos of respecting these institutions and strengthening their role in the decision-making that affects our communities.

One of the greatest joys for my family living in the Hills is our long association with local community organisations, sports clubs and activities, including the Stirling Comets Netball Club, Crafers Tennis Club, Deb Twining's art classes, Stirling Districts Football Club, Crafers Netball Club and our local primary school. I am also proud to be the patron of the Courier Cup-winning Bridgewater-Callington Raiders Football Club.

There is a larger point relating to community life here in Heysen and in the electorates across our great state. With these institutions of civil society, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. We are in an age of increasing fracturing of community life: the pressures on families, the growing problem of loneliness and social isolation, the echo chambers and filter bubbles of social media and the loss of face-to-face contact in daily life. These clubs and community groups enrich our lives and build connections between people of different ages, backgrounds and beliefs. They do work that no government can do. It is such an important part of our work as elected representatives to do all that we can to strengthen these organisations and the bonds of community life.

The recent Liberal campaign was a campaign for and by local communities. I want to share a story that exemplifies this campaign and the strength of our local communities. It is the story of Kalimna Hostel at Strathalbyn. Kalimna was built 30 years ago with funds raised by the local Strathalbyn community. Its purpose was to provide for ageing residents of Strathalbyn so they could stay near to their family, friends and neighbours. In January 2017, the former government closed Kalimna. That decision was made with no consultation with the local community. Upon its sudden closure, residents were relocated—not to a new facility elsewhere but to wherever a vacant bed could be found across the region. It was a traumatic experience for both the residents and their families.

The community felt a sense of outrage and betrayal. They came together and acted with solidarity and resolve. They established a working group to investigate Strathalbyn's growing aged-care needs, and through extensive efforts they reaffirmed a clear principle: local people should be able to access care without being removed from their community. The government is acting on this principle through our \$8.7 million commitment to invest in local aged care to build a new high-care facility and to restore and reopen Kalimna. We are also acting on many more fronts. After 16 years

of a city-centric Labor government, there is so much that needs to be done for families in Heysen, from investing in our regional roads, mobile blackspots and public transport to restoring investment in local health, aged care and schools.

To be South Australian is to know and love one of the most vast and remarkably diverse natural environments in the world. The environment is a key focus for many Heysen families, from local volunteer groups such as the Friends of Woorabinda, Friends of Scott Creek and the GWLAP to farmers and our thriving community of gardeners. I have been actively involved as a volunteer with Nature Foundation SA over recent years, and I have seen firsthand the great environmental outcomes that can be achieved when scientists, landowners and volunteers work together. The government is committed to working together with communities to restore confidence in our system of natural resource management.

As the new member for Heysen, I want to recognise and pay tribute to my predecessors, the honourable David Wotton AM and Ms Isobel Redmond. David Wotton served as the member for Heysen and the member for Murray for a total of 27 years, until 2002, and Ms Redmond as the member for Heysen for the last 16 years, before retiring at the recent election. Both served our state with great distinction. Both were sources of counsel to me throughout the campaign, as well as being active supporters.

As leader of our party, Isobel Redmond was the first woman to lead any major party in this state. Isobel is proud to have advocated for the establishment of an independent commission against corruption, against strident opposition from the Labor Party. She described it, alongside her leadership, as being probably the most significant achievement of her time as the member for Heysen. In government, we are now moving again against strident opposition from the Labor Party to make the ICAC more transparent. Isobel was, above all, a person committed to the community of Heysen. She described the opportunity to represent the people of Heysen as the greatest privilege of her life. I share that feeling as I seek to continue her legacy.

I wish to thank all those who participated in our campaign for Heysen. It was a tough contest. We prevailed, I believe, because we listened to the community and we demonstrated our commitment to the community. As I said very often at the door, 'Whether you vote for me or not, I will work to represent all and every person in Heysen to the best of my ability.' Our win in Heysen was a team effort. I want to thank the Premier, who regularly visited and doorknocked with me—always in good shape, relaxed, interested and quietly confident. I thank the Heysen SEC and all who committed to the campaign. In particular, I want to recognise my campaign manager and national treasure, Jeff Mincham AM, a mentor from day one. Thank you, Jeff.

I thank also Ian Wall OAM and Pamela for their support. I also thank for their extraordinary volunteer work Mike, Chris, Zachariah, Bryan, April and my dad, who was a constant by my side throughout the campaign. I owe each of you a great debt of gratitude. I thank also our central campaign volunteers: Scott, Brendan, Alex, Ben and especially state director, Sascha Meldrum, and state president, John Olsen AO. I thank also the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Hon. Stephen Wade MLC. Stephen is a lifelong friend. He is a man of great integrity and exemplifies the best qualities of serving in public life: humility, hard work and tremendous focus. Stephen was at the core of so much of our campaign that I often said at the door, 'If only to ensure Wade is in charge of Health, vote Liberal.' Thank you, Stephen.

I particularly want to acknowledge our candidates who did not win their seats. I am especially sorry not to be seeing in this chamber four of our candidates whom I got to know well in the campaign: Andy Gilfillan, Therese Kenny, Luigi Mesisca and Stephen Rypp.

I am a proud South Australian. I grew up in Adelaide, completing my schooling at St Peter's College. I studied law at Bond University in Queensland and at Duke University in the United States before completing my graduate certificate in legal practice at the University of South Australia. I commenced practising as a solicitor at MinterEllison in Sydney. I subsequently returned to Adelaide with MinterEllison before practising for three years in Stockholm, Sweden, with Hammar skiöld and Co. In 2005, I returned again to Adelaide to join the South Australian bar and I have practised as a barrister in South Australia since then. I was fortunate to serve as the Honorary Consul of Sweden for South Australia from 2009 until retiring from that role earlier this year.

I bring to this new role my experience in the legal profession and, more particularly, the last dozen years as a barrister, as a member of Bar Chambers and of the South Australian Bar Association. Representing clients in commercial litigation has inspired a deep interest for me in so many different areas of endeavour, from our state's economic development and attracting investment to small business, resources, farming and scientific research.

Through my years at the bar I have developed a deep respect for my colleagues' commitment to our system of justice. Our system of justice is a cornerstone of a society that upholds the rule of law. The independent bar is sometimes known as the private bar. That, in my view, is a misnomer. Members of the independent bar owe a duty to their client and, importantly, also to the court and the law. Their livelihood depends upon the system functioning efficiently, but they have no control over either the courts or the administration.

We do well to remind ourselves that the justice system could not function without them. Never again should they be politicised, singled out for criticism for simply doing their job, as they were, regrettably, repeatedly, by the previous government. The justice system must also be properly resourced. I have enjoyed immensely working with my colleagues at the bar. I have learned a great deal from them and I am proud to count myself among their number. I thank in particular the Hon. Tom Gray QC and I thank all of my colleagues at Bar Chambers. I am sure that I will continue to seek their counsel from time to time.

One perspective I bring to political life is a deep confidence in the common law and the process of its development. Our system of common law has played such an important role in the evolution of our democracy, yet it is often poorly understood, particularly in many of our parliaments. The system of common law has developed incrementally over many hundreds of years through decisions that built on a body of established precedent.

I have often thought that the common law provides us a valuable precedent for the wider process of reform and policy-making, one which tests new facts and circumstances against established precedent and progresses incrementally. Sometimes, radical change may be necessary because of new facts and circumstances, but change is often more likely to be sustained if it builds on what has gone before, as we see in our system of common law.

I am most fortunate in my life to have been brought up surrounded and supported by a family with diverse interests and vocations, well grounded but with many eccentricities and a strong ethic of public engagement and service. My recent forebears are South Australian and Western Australian. My grandparents, Colin and Kath Teague, were South Australians. Colin Teague, born at Napperby in 1911, grew up at Port Pirie. He was the grandson of Cornish migrants, Simon Teague and Martha (nee Chapman), who had come to the Mid North in 1879 and 1880.

The Teague men were stonemasons and builders, and Colin continued in that line, serving his apprenticeship at the building firm of his father, Arch, in the late twenties. In December 1934, in the midst of the Depression, he moved to Adelaide. He met on the Glenelg jetty, during the extraordinary heatwave of January 1939, Kath Readett, the daughter of German and English forebears—Eckermanns and Ahrns from Mecklenburg and Dangars and Readetts from New South Wales. They were married in 1941. Colin went on to establish himself as a builder based at Somerton, where together they raised their three children.

My grandparents, Ted and Bette Packard, were Western Australians. Ted, born in 1915, the fifth child of Reg Packard and Harriet Emily (nee Chescoe), grew up at a farm called the Broadwater at Busselton, his parents having moved there in 1911 from their home at Coolgardie. In 1936, after receiving an inheritance, Ted bought a Francis-Barnett motorbike and planned and equipped himself to ride from Busselton all the way across Australia to Sydney. This was, in 1936, an epic journey. He was perhaps the first to ride solo across the Nullarbor and back again, the whole trip taking six months.

Bette Holloway was born at Bendigo, but at age seven travelled with her parents to WA. Ted and Bette joined the Australian Defence Force, Ted as an Army officer with the engineers and Bette in the Air Force. Ted was in uniform when they married in Busselton in 1944, before he sailed to Borneo, where he served on the active front. After the war, they raised their three children, farming and milling timber at Sparkling Springs near Yallingup and then near Frankland at Nardrup.

Besides farming sheep and cattle and sawmilling, Ted was one of Australia's early bulldozing contractors, and later Ted and Bette owned and ran a mechanical workshop and service station. Practical, enterprising and hardworking people, they also shared a strong Christian faith, which was at the centre of all aspects of their lives and which they instilled in their children and their grandchildren, including me. I am, to a large extent, the product of, and significantly influenced by, the history I have briefly described.

At the end of primary school I spent a term in WA at Frankland. The school goes to year 6 these days—WA, along with the rest of the country, having now made the move to year 7 in high school—but back then I joined in year 7. It was then a school of about 26 students. Frankland was a mixed farming area in those days, mainly sheep and some cropping, and it was particularly hard hit by the end of the reserve wool price, as the member for MacKillop described last Thursday.

I lived during that time with my grandparents, uncles and aunts. They were all particularly influential on me and remain so. Mum's younger brother, my uncle Butch Packard, a shearer, farmer and mechanic, was and remains a particular source of inspiration for me. Back in SA I recall telling my year 8 teacher, Jack Curtis, when asked to tell the class what I would like to do when I grew up, that I would be a fitter and turner and a farmer. I suspect that my 13-year-old self might be disappointed by my subsequent choice of a legal career, but I guess there is always time for a career change.

I am fortunate indeed to have had many teachers, mentors and friends who have supported me on my life's journey. I wish to recognise and thank, in particular, my house master for six years, John Lambert. I am honoured by his presence today. I thank also my friend Tim Dixon who, over the last 20 years, has been a constant counsel on the importance of public life.

The greatest influences on me have been my mum and dad. They have taught me to live with hope, joy and, above all, with love. I honour them and I will continue to endeavour to live the example they have given me in great abundance. Dad served as a senator for South Australia in federal parliament from when I was aged about three until 21. My childhood and our family life were immersed in that vocation. In his valedictory speech in the Senate, dad restated the core principles that had underpinned his career in federal politics: truth and justice, compassion, excellence, practical common sense, equality of opportunity and the Australian sense of a fair go. I would do well in my time here to emulate his commitment to those core principles.

My mum, a schoolteacher, recently spoke to the St Dominic's Priory College graduands in memory of the great Sister Maryanne Holland. Her words capture the ethos with which she has lived her entire life and which has inspired me and my brothers Matt and Nathan:

We have a responsibility to serve others, and to welcome others. That is expressed in loving most, the smallest and weakest—the outsider, the vulnerable, the poor. And we do well to remember, that as a community, as Australians, as people in the 21st century world, we are only ever as strong as the weakest among us.

Finally, and for me most importantly, I am profoundly fortunate to share my life's journey with my wife, Maria. Maria, in the words of her father Erik, who sadly died in 2012, is 'like the glistening water'. Anyone who has seen a lake in Sweden in the summer will understand the deep and exquisite beauty that is there. Maria is a woman of great depth, sincerity and integrity. We are blessed with three children, Emily, Astrid and Victor, of whom we are both very proud. Being a parent is the single most rewarding, challenging and worthwhile endeavour of my life, of our lives.

In the words of our Premier, I am here to participate in a battle of ideas. I believe in the enterprise of the South Australian people and our ability to be the best in the world at whatever we choose to dedicate ourselves to. It is time for bold ideas, vision and action. I relish this opportunity to work for the people of Heysen while I have the privilege to serve my community and my state in this chamber.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank the member for Heysen. I ask that members take their places, please. It seems like the place is full of Cornish miners today; there is another one, in the member for Ramsay, I think.

Ms BETTISON (Ramsay) (12:31): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Yes, I think we might start a club of the ancestors of Cornish miners.

Let me start with my congratulations to the Marshall Liberal government. You are now the state government, and with that great honour comes the leadership and the responsibility of running our state. I would like to recognise that history has been made with the elevation of our first female Deputy Premier, and I congratulate the member for Bragg on her new role.

As a former minister, I reflect on the four years in which I was the minister for communities and social inclusion. It was a role in which I met a diverse range of South Australians, all with a common purpose of serving people who needed support, assistance and guidance. In particular, I want to pay tribute to our multicultural community. They did keep me busy. With almost one out of two South Australians with a parent who was born overseas, this community is not 'the other': it is us. In my time as minister for multicultural affairs, I saw both skilled migrants start a new life in South Australia and humanitarian migrants who found safety and security here.

As well, of course, there are our communities, who have been here for many generations. What stays with me the most is the warmth of the different communities in welcoming me to share in their celebrations and commemorations and, most importantly, their shared characteristics of being bold and brave in moving away from family and starting a new life in Australia.

The ability to remain connected with family overseas through the use of technology and the decrease in cost of international flights changes the level of knowledge and understanding of everyday life here and back home. It does, however, place pressure on many here who regularly give support to family back home, and it can also make the ability to connect harder, as the links to home are so strong. This is vastly different from the experience of those who fled past wars and conflicts, who often were unable ever to return or who were unable to visit until many decades later and who lived on written letters for word of news.

Leadership within multicultural groups is taken by volunteers, and I take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication and their commitment. I also take this time to acknowledge the continuing leadership of His Excellency, who holds the annual Governor's Multicultural Awards. He and his wife, Lan, are regular attendees of many events. This is an added pleasure for many communities, several of whom have known His Excellency from his time as chair of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission.

I recognise the role that the Premier has taken as the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and, of course, the ongoing commitment from Jing Lee in the other house as assistant minister in this role. She and I spent many hours, weekends and nights together and I acknowledge her dedication to our community. But I would not be here without the people of Ramsay, and I want to take this opportunity to thank them—the people who live in Salisbury, Salisbury North, Salisbury Downs and Paralowie—for re-electing me to the South Australian parliament. This was my third election, and I am deeply humbled to represent this area.

Campaigns can be exciting and engaging, but they cannot be delivered without a team around you. In my local area, I want to give thanks to my campaign manager, Cathy Perry, and my volunteer manager, Kamal Dahal. With an increased use of social media this campaign, I was delighted to be shown support through endorsements from people in the fields of small business, sport, education and the veteran community.

I would like to thank Adam and Marta, with their small business Miss M in the Parabanks Shopping Centre; Sarah Caldwell, a leader in our school governing council; Jennie Dansie, heading up our athletics; Geoff Ambler of the bowling club; and Mick Lennon, a legend of Salisbury and a former president of the RSL. Special thanks also go to Des Jenkins, who opened his home to us and was quite a character when we talked about Tesla batteries and our plans for Housing SA.

But what stands out to me the most is the diversity of the volunteers who gave their time for my campaign. For many, it was their first time being involved in an election campaign, and they were enthusiastic to help. It was amazing to see people who have not had the opportunity, because of history or because they were not able to, participate in the democratic process and it is amazing to see how that opportunity presents to people.

However, the most significant thanks go to my family. My mum and dad have together been my rock solid supporters always. They said that they are retiring now from campaigning, at the ages of 75 and 71, but they said that four years ago, so I do not actually believe them just yet. They quite like being at the centre of it, but dad says, 'No more putting up corflutes.' At 75, that is off the table.

To my husband, Issac, and my son, Hugo—you are the joys of my life. Thank you, Issac, for your many hours of volunteering and your unwavering support during my very demanding schedule when I was a minister. I reflect now that my son was only one when I entered parliament in 2012 and he has grown, blossomed and changed—he is into taekwondo and soccer—but it was a big commitment to make and I thank him for his support.

I am now looking forward to the challenges of my new portfolio as shadow minister for trade, tourism and investment. It is an exciting time to be working in such a dynamic area and I would like to acknowledge the previous ministers, Leon Bignell and Martin Hamilton-Smith, for their amazing work and their commitment to this portfolio. I am sure that the new government will reap many rewards both from the positive relationships that have been formed with stakeholders and economically via the projects and programs already underway.

Not only is Adelaide one of the most livable cities in the world but it is a fabulous tourist destination. It plays a significant role in our economy throughout the whole of South Australia. Many are drawn to a particular event, the Tour Down Under, which we just heard today, in its 20th year, generated \$63.7 million for this state.

Mr Bignell: Hear, hear!

Ms BETTISON: Hear, hear! To those who had the foresight to start the Tour Down Under and for those who continued to develop it, I say congratulations. Many also visit Adelaide for other events, such as the Adelaide Fringe, the Adelaide Festival, WOMADelaide, the AFL, or the cricket. Our challenge is to encourage them to stay for longer, for a drink or two or three at one of our famous small bars or a day trip to the cellar doors of the Barossa, the Adelaide Hills, McLaren Vale or one of the other 15 wine regions where they can stay.

Along with the well-known Australian icons, the rock, the reef and the Opera House, is our very own Kangaroo Island. It is nature at its very best, alongside a developing food and wine culture. Our investment in the development of the airport, whilst not supported by all, will be a catalyst for the next stages of development. The recent launch of the new Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail adds rigour to the diversity of experiences to be had.

When you think of South Australia, you think of the 12 regions that we have to offer. There are opportunities for domestic and international travellers to find their own special South Australian memory. Tourism is kicking many goals. In 2017, the total expenditure recorded reached its highest, at \$6.6 billion, up 4 per cent. Under Labor, South Australia welcomed a record-breaking 462,000 international visitors in 2017, spending \$1.1 billion. This reflects a rise in expenditure of 18 per cent, well above the national growth rate of 8 per cent. In fact, we are punching above our weight in regard to a range of benchmarks, including overall visits and overnight stays. Tourism in South Australia directly employs 36,000 people and this has increased by 15 per cent since the state tourism plan targets were set six years ago.

South Australia itself contributes 6 per cent to Australia's total tourism consumption. This is something for us to be proud of. But, of course, to build on this Labor legacy we need to continue to build this area. Labor has revitalised our CBD with the redeveloped Adelaide Oval, Riverbank Precinct, Adelaide Convention Centre, Festival Plaza, and laneways and small bars that have put Adelaide and South Australia on the world map. In 2017, *Lonely Planet* named South Australia one of the top regions in the world to visit. We have cultivated our nation-leading reputation as the festival state with a year-round calendar of events.

In the state budget of 2017-18, we committed a \$14.5 million boost for the events and convention bid funds. These bid funds have been a key driver behind South Australia's record-breaking tourism figures. They have put South Australia on the map as a world-renowned host of major events and conventions. The forecast is that they will inject more than \$500 million into the local economy and create 4,500 jobs. To date, 38 leisure events have been secured, with forecasted

economic benefit of more than \$120 million, and 63 business conventions have been secured, with a forecasted \$370 million in economic benefit.

In the business area, we would expect to see more than 75,000 people come to our great state. Adelaide Airport continues to develop as a major economic generator. It contributes 2.1 per cent to our gross state product. It directly employs more than 8,700 people and indirectly employs an additional 9,000. Passenger numbers have doubled since the Airport's establishment in 1998, and we have now reached eight million, well ahead of original budgets. International passenger numbers have more than quadrupled over the same period, and we anticipate that this will reach one million per annum by the end of 2018.

We now have excellent one-stop connections across Asia, Europe, North America and Africa via global hubs such as Singapore, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Dubai, Doha, Auckland and Kuala Lumpur. In recent correspondence from the managing director of Adelaide Airport, Mark Young noted to me that:

Our 'Team Adelaide' relationships that we've had with SA Tourism Commission and other State agencies, under the leadership of your colleagues when in Government, has seen us attract top international airlines such as Emirates, China Southern and Qatar Airways, all in just the past five years.

As a major business centre, Adelaide Airport is making significant progress attracting major companies including OZ Minerals, Kennards Self Storage, Otis, Aldi and Australian Clinical Laboratories in the past 12 months alone.

Tourism is a sector that delivers enormous benefit to the economy. Events and conventions drive job growth, increase vibrancy and put South Australia on the world stage. Hosting major conferences and events has already injected hundreds of millions of dollars into our visitor economy. Tourism is a super-growth sector and our \$70 million investment to market South Australia interstate and abroad has contributed to reach more than \$6 billion in the visitor economy. The results speak for themselves.

Our state's tourism operators are world class and our events are renowned internationally, but we cannot stop. We must keep going, and our goal is \$8 billion for our visitor economy in 2020. We have to keep going because we have great things to offer. In A Strong Plan for South Australia, the Marshall government has identified key areas in this tourism portfolio to continue to increase the number of tourists.

The Events Bid Fund is a key part of that, with funding between the Major Leisure Events Bid Fund and the Convention Bid Fund. The Adelaide Convention Bureau's Billion Dollar Benefit plan will target conventions, encouraging delegates to linger longer; a focus on ecotourism in national parks, beginning with Innes National Park, encouraging people to stay in our national parks and enjoy our beautiful environment; the Great Southern Bike Trail, a world-class cycling trail, to link South Australia and Victoria to have 1,000 kilometres, similar to our walking Heysen Trail. We know how well we have done in the TDU and the idea is that will leverage off that.

We know that tourism is a massive economic growth area, and I am certain that every elected member of the South Australian parliament is equally committed to seeing it continue to grow and flourish. I look forward to seeing continued growth in this sector, and I trust that it will continue under a Marshall Liberal government. But let's be clear: I will be watching, because we often hear, as we have heard in many of the first speeches, that we have an Adelaide-centric belief. If there is one part of our economy that supports the whole of South Australia, it is tourism. Although I was absent last week, I understand that many people expressed the beauty of their own electorates. Of course, we are very proud of the areas we represent, whether it be the Mallee, Yorke Peninsula or other areas of our state.

We also have a strong record in terms of increasing our exports and investment. In 2017, more South Australian companies than ever before exported their goods and services overseas. The 2018 Annual Investment and Trade Statement showcases the support provided to South Australian companies during the last 12 months, assisting them to embrace the opportunities that arise from doing business on the world stage. This year's statement highlights companies experiencing success in doing business in the state, nationally and internationally and how new horizons are bringing

opportunities for economic growth in sectors such as information technology, renewable energy and space industries.

A key to increasing exports and state investment is to build strong international connections and engagement to welcome new people, new ideas, new investment, new business and partnerships. Exporting is a critical component of South Australia's economy. Our commercial ports provide a gateway to the world and are equipped to handle a range of containerised and bulk cargoes. Adelaide Airport has international services connecting Adelaide with all the major Asian hubs, as well as Europe and the US.

South Australia's export performance has been gathering momentum since the global financial crisis. Our export performance has seen strong growth recently in the value of wheat, metal ores and refined copper. In 2015-16, South Australia's overseas goods and services export market was worth \$14 billion. India, China and Malaysia continue to grow strongly as markets for South Australian exports. While our traditional export strengths are in wine, cereals, meat and the automotive manufacturing industry, this is obviously changing as the traditional manufacturing landscape continues to transform. These are now augmented by exports of minerals, scrap metal and metal ores, and IT products and services.

With almost half our exports going to the Asia-Pacific, the world's fastest growing region, South Australia is strategically positioned to be an export base, but this did not happen without the support of the South Australian government. A range of policy measures have contributed to South Australia's growth in export and investment. South Australia has commercial representation in key target markets. Our overseas staff members provide export assistance to South Australia through our international trade offices. We have stand-alone offices in China and the United Kingdom, and we are embedded in Austrade in Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

One of the absolute highlights of the Labor legacy that I speak of today is the business missions that we partake in on a regular basis. This year, we have business mission delegations planned for the Middle East and North Africa, South-East Asia, China, Europe, the USA, North-East Asia and India. I have been very fortunate to have the opportunity to go on three of these missions, to India in 2013 and 2017 and to Malaysia in 2016.

We have had interesting commentary from across the chamber about these missions: 'It is just an opportunity to get a photo,' 'You are not supporting people,' and, 'They are not worth it.' I completely and utterly disagree. These business missions provide people with the opportunity to have business-to-business matching sessions facilitated by Austrade and the SA government, meet local distributors and importers, secure international orders for products and services, meet potential investment partners, enhance their international profile and better understand their cultural and regulatory requirements in international markets.

I will be watching very closely to see that we continue the regularity and the certainty of these business missions. If there was one message that was given to me when I went on these missions, it was that you must come back; you must repeat the opportunity for people to understand who you are and what you offer.

I would like to talk about Investment Attraction South Australia. Its key focus is to capture foreign direct investment, which leads to job creation and business growth. It is tasked with attracting large interstate and overseas companies to relocate to or expand their operations in South Australia. The agency can also provide support to new projects that deliver significant economic benefits to the state.

The 2017-18 budget committed an additional \$60 million over four years to attract new businesses to the state, promote job creation and develop key industry sectors. It comprised \$30 million in grants over 2017-18 and 2018-19 and \$30 million in low-interest loans over 2019-20 and 2020-21. Some early successes of Investment Attraction include new jobs at international aerospace company Boeing, IT giant NEC, food processor Inghams and IT services provider Datacom. The strategic focus is on specific growth industries: shipbuilding and defence; renewable energy and mining; tourism, food and wine; health and biomedical research; IT and advanced manufacturing.

Since 2015, Investment Attraction South Australia has assisted 16 companies and secured more than \$1 billion worth of investment projects to the state and created more than 5,600 direct and construction jobs for South Australia. The success has been achieved primarily through case management assistance, with only eight projects having received financial support. The Labor state government worked hard to make South Australia the best place in the country to do business.

We are the lowest cost state, centrally located with excellent infrastructure. With world-class education institutions and graduates, and cuts to business taxes, it makes sense for multinational corporations to do business here. The additional investment in Investment Attraction allows the agency to offer targeted incentives to get businesses over the line and convince them to make the move to South Australia, bringing new capital and longer lasting jobs of the future. In particular, we look forward to the future in defence. We know that we have invested heavily in this area and we look for that to continue in the future.

Of course, one of the key areas we have is international education, and we see continuing growth, increasing students from 28,000 in 2013 to more than 35,000 in 2017. But it does not just happen without support and involvement, including the International Education Office (IEO), which is part of the former Department of State Development's International Engagement division. We must continue to have that involvement.

Through its relationships with South Australian and Australian international education providers, the IEO taps into their international connections to identify new international education and training opportunities. It works very closely with StudyAdelaide in raising the profile of South Australian international education and training.

StudyAdelaide is principally funded by the South Australian government, the Adelaide city council, the University of Adelaide, the University of South Australia and Flinders University. It also receives funding from TAFE SA and 40 participating member institutions. StudyAdelaide promotes South Australia as a premier learning city and undertakes marketing of Adelaide as an education destination, including targeted global digital campaigns. I seek leave to continue my remarks another time.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 13:59.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Premier (Hon. S.S. Marshall)—

Remuneration Tribunal—No.5 of 2018—Auditor General, Electoral Commissioner, Deputy Electoral Commissioner, Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner Determination

By the Minister for Industry and Skills (Hon. D.G. Pisoni)—

South Australian Training Advocate—Annual Report 2017
Training and Skills Commission—Annual Report 2017

By the Minister for Environment and Water (Hon. D.J. Speirs)—

South Australian—Victorian Border Groundwaters Agreement Review Committee—
Annual Report 2016-17

By the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government (Hon. S.K. Knoll)—

Local Grants Commission, South Australian—Annual Report 2016-17

By the Minister for Planning (Hon. S.K. Knoll)—

Approvals to Remove Track Infrastructure—Annual Report 2016-17

*Ministerial Statement***ELECTRICITY METERING SERVICES**

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:01): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: I am pleased to report to the house on progress to address community concerns around the access to timely metering services in electricity. On 1 December 2017, as part of the national Power of Choice reforms agreed by the previous government, responsibility for metering services switched to energy retailers. This meant that a role previously undertaken by SA Power Networks (SAPN) would now be undertaken by a customer's retailer.

This reform process was overseen by the Australian Energy Market Commission. While some steps were undertaken by the market commission and the market operator to provide for a smooth transition of metering providers, the result of the change has been that many customers have faced lengthy and unacceptable delays in obtaining new or replacement meters since this date.

This is not a reform process initiated or overseen by the current government. It was a long time in coming and could have and should have been appropriately planned for by the electricity industry as a whole. These issues around timely delivery of services have occurred since the reforms commenced over six months ago.

I was concerned about the cases brought to my attention of new home owners delayed from occupying their homes, new businesses paying rent while unable to trade and customers waiting weeks for a new or replacement meter, particularly in regional South Australia. My concern was confirmed by advice from our local authorities, the Essential Services Commission and the Energy and Water Ombudsman about increased levels of complaints, and of inadequate services.

I want to thank my colleagues who have raised their constituents' concerns and assisted their constituents by their representations to energy retailers and by providing constituents with information about how to approach the Energy and Water Ombudsman of SA. Federal minister Frydenberg has proposed amendments to the national rules to define time lines for small customers receiving new electricity meters and to ensure they are informed of their rights and dispute resolution options. However, the rule change process may take some time, and I expect to see improvements in services to South Australians before that time.

I instructed my office to work with my agency, ESCOSA and the Energy and Water Ombudsman, to seek improved outcomes for consumers. ESCOSA and EWOSA have met with and written to energy retailers and SAPN to encourage them to take immediate steps to improve customer outcomes pending the changes to the national rules. This resulted in an agreement amongst the sector to work together to improve customer outcomes.

The agreement includes measures that will result in better coordination of information between SAPN and retailers to improve information flow to the customer and achieve a faster meter exchange process. There is also an expectation that industry participants will ensure they have appropriate resources to deal with customer complaints and issue resolution. I welcome the work of the sector with ESCOSA and EWOSA and will continue to monitor progress against the industry's commitments, with the aim of improved customer outcomes.

The level of disruption has been unacceptable, and insufficient action was taken in South Australia to protect South Australian consumers during the transition to the national framework. I urge consumers who are experiencing difficulties in resolving metering matters with their supplier to approach the Energy and Water Ombudsman for assistance. I will continue to monitor this matter closely with ESCOSA and EWOSA to see whether these steps are sufficient to improve the provision of this essential service.

*Question Time***EMERGENCY SERVICES, MEMBER VISIT PROTOCOL**

Mr BOYER (Wright) (14:07): My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. Can the minister table a copy of the strict process in place that prevents members of parliament giving doughnuts to firefighters on International Firefighters' Day?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Before I call the minister, the minister will be heard in silence. The member for Schubert is called to order. The member for Mawson is also called to order. Minister.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:07): I thank the member for his question and appreciate his interest in the emergency services and the fact that he recognises how important they are to our state. They do a marvellous job and we really do appreciate all the work they do. Like the member opposite, I am sure he doesn't want to cause any harm to any emergency services workers, he doesn't want to get in the way of the emergency services workers, and that is why—he knows full well—a protocol is in place to make sure that when people visit emergency service centres everything is all above board and nobody is going to impede upon the work that they do—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER Order! Order!

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —and that a process needs to be followed. I know that he did go and visit—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER Order!

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —a fire station, and I am very much informed that they enjoyed his Krispy Kremes.

EMERGENCY SERVICES, MEMBER VISIT PROTOCOL

Mr BOYER (Wright) (14:08): Supplementary: when will the minister table a copy of the strict process?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:09): I thank the member for his question and again acknowledge his interest in the emergency services. I know on that side—

The Hon. V.A. Chapman interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier is called to order.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —of the chamber he has worked for many Labor MPs before—in fact, one that was working in the emergency services sector. If he would like a briefing on what the protocols are, I am very happy to give him a briefing.

Members interjecting:

AUSTRALIAN SPACE AGENCY

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:09): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the house on what action the government is taking to bid for South Australia to become home to the National Space Agency?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:09): As you would know, sir, the last time we met in this chamber I provided an update on what was contained within the federal budget. We on this side of the house—and I think we are joined by all members of this parliament—congratulate the federal government on their budget, and in particular their decision to establish a

national space agency. Where we are going to be working very closely together is on this issue of putting our best foot forward to bring that national space agency here to South Australia.

I updated the house last time we met that I had already met with the Prime Minister, I had met with the defence minister, I had met with the defence industry's minister and I would like to update the house today that I have now met with Michaelia Cash from Western Australia. She is the minister for industry, science and innovation and also jobs and employment. She has a very important job, especially because she is the minister responsible for the establishment of the National Space Agency. You guys better be nice to her because we need this to come to South Australia.

I note that the Leader of the Opposition himself has said that he will take on the defence and space portfolio. I welcome that. I think it's now time for us, as a parliament, to go back to where the defence industry started when it was originally envisaged by the former government to work in a bipartisan way to advance the cause of bringing work to South Australia. I certainly welcome the Leader of the Opposition's interest in this area and the interest of many other members on that side of the house.

I read with interest the member for Playford's contribution in his maiden speech. I commend him for that speech. I wasn't able to be present in the chamber at the time, but I certainly read your speech and I congratulate you on that speech, in particular where you say that you have an ambition also for the National Space Agency to come to South Australia. Admittedly, he said that he wants it in his electorate—and quite rightly so.

Here you go. This is our great opportunity in South Australia to come together as a parliament to seek this National Space Agency to be based here in South Australia. Megan Clark, the former head of the CSIRO, has been appointed as the interim chief executive. Her office is going to be based in Canberra. She is going to be writing a report for minister Cash on this issue as to where the space agency should be based. We are going to be working very hard in trying to put forward the very best case for that agency to be brought to South Australia.

I think there are plenty of reasons as to why it should be here—number one, we've got an incredible history in terms of the space industry right here in South Australia. It was 50 years ago that we sent our first satellite up from Woomera. Next year is the 50th anniversary of the first rocket launch from Woomera. We have the right geography but, most importantly, we have the best capability right here in South Australia. We are very fortunate to have a strong defence sector in this state, and we know that there are huge commonalities between the defence sector and the space sector—the players are often the same—and we will be putting our case forward to the federal government.

In addition, I use this opportunity to acknowledge one other person who has been very instrumental in putting forward the case for (1) the establishment of a space agency and (2) for it being based here in South Australia—that is, Dr Andy Thomas, the wonderful astronaut from South Australia. I was very fortunate to visit him at NASA in Johnson in 2016. We will be using every opportunity, every personnel we can, to make sure that we bring that opportunity here to South Australia.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Wright. I call to order the member for Lee and also the member for Light. I call to order and warn the member for Port Adelaide and I remind the Premier to please make your remarks through the Chair. Member for Wright.

EMERGENCY SERVICES, MEMBER VISIT PROTOCOL

Mr BOYER (Wright) (14:13): My question is again to the Minister for Emergency Services. As an SES volunteer and member of parliament, do I now need to seek ministerial permission to attend SES training at the Salisbury MFS SES station?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER Order! Minister, before I call you, the member for Hammond will not interject before the minister speaks. Minister.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:14): Thank you,

Mr Speaker. I do appreciate the member's question again and I reiterate how important it is. I hope that he has an ongoing interest in the emergency services because they are vital to the wonderful work that happens here in South Australia. I stress to him again: if he would like a briefing on the protocol—although he has actually put this protocol in place himself in a previous life—I'm happy to give him a briefing and let him know what he needs to do.

EMERGENCY SERVICES, MEMBER VISIT PROTOCOL

Mr BOYER (Wright) (14:14): My question is again to the Minister for Emergency Services. What other acts of kindness has the minister banned?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER Order! Minister.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:14): Sorry, sir, I just have to stop laughing. Again, if the member has an issue or wants to know more about the protocol, please, please seek me for a briefing. I'm very happy to inform the member and can educate him on what he needs to know.

Mr Bignell interjecting:

The SPEAKER Order! The member for Mawson is warned. The member for Elizabeth.

EMERGENCY SERVICES, MEMBER VISIT PROTOCOL

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:15): My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. Excuse me.

Members interjecting:

Mr ODENWALDER: I don't eat doughnuts; I need permission. Did the Golden Grove MFS raise any concerns about the member for Wright's visit before the minister sent his email?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:15): I thank the member for his question and note his interest as well in emergency services. We know that they do an outstanding job in our community. What we need to be aware of here is when members go out to somewhere like the MFS and they've got operational matters in place, we don't want to be getting in the way. That is the strong point that I put to the member who attended. Also, to the member for Elizabeth, if you want to go and have a tour or have a visit, please contact my office. I'm happy to oblige the member and also organise a meeting—no problems at all.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, the member for Elizabeth is called to order and warned and I also call to order the leader. The member for Elizabeth has a new question.

EMERGENCY SERVICES, MEMBER VISIT PROTOCOL

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:16): Thank you sir; thanks for the call. When was the minister made aware of the member for Wright's visit and who alerted the minister to the visit? The question was for the Minister for Emergency Services.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:16): I was informed on the day that the member wanted to attend the MFS. On very short notice, my office was informed. As I stressed to the member, if he wants to go to any emergency service operation, please just contact my office, and I'm happy to organise an appointment.

Mr ODENWALDER: Supplementary, sir.

The SPEAKER: Supplementary.

Mr Boyer interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Wright is called to order.

EMERGENCY SERVICES, MEMBER VISIT PROTOCOL

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:17): If the minister was aware on the day, why did it take him 10 days to send an email to the member for Wright's office?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:17): Sorry, I'm not—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The minister will be heard in silence.

The Hon. S.K. Knoll interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert is warned.

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley is called to order. Minister.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: I thank the member for his question. I know as a shadow minister he hasn't been in the ministry office as yet, and I know he is looking forward to that day. Funnily enough, a lot of correspondence does come through the office.

The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner: He's been able to say more in the last week than in the last eight years.

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is called to order.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: A lot of correspondence does come through the office, and I get back to people in due course. If you want or need a briefing on anything that is happening in this portfolio, please contact my office and that will be arranged.

EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY

Dr HARVEY (Newland) (14:18): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the house on the government's plan to reduce the emergency services levy and how this will ease cost-of-living pressures for families living in my electorate?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:18): It's a great pleasure for me to address this question, a real question, not 'doughnutgate' or 'golfgate', like those opposite. You can tell a lot, sir, about the tenor of the questions from the opposition. I know that because I was in that position for a very long period of time, too long according to the people of South Australia. The questions that you ask in parliament really give an indication of the level of interest on that side of the house. They are not concerned about jobs—

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Leader.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —or the cost of living—

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Playford!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —or creating a future for the next people of South Australia, but these ticky touch-wood issues about who brought the doughnuts. The reality is that while those opposite—

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader is called to order.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —wish to major in the minors—

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader is called to order.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —we will be concentrating on the big issues.

The SPEAKER: Point of order.

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: Sir, the Premier is debating and making personal reflections on members.

The SPEAKER: I am sure that the Premier will bring it back to the substance of the question. Premier.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Premier will bring it back to the substance of the question.

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Leader!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Thank you, sir. It was an important question from the excellent member for Newland who is focused on the big issues for his electorate, and one of the big issues for him, after 16 long years of incompetent government in South Australia, was the rising cost of living pressures on households and businesses in the electorate of Newland, just like every single electorate across South Australia.

Well, unlike those opposite, we are doing things immediately to provide some relief for households, relief for small business. The first of these that the member for Newland quite rightly points out is the area of the emergency services levy. As you would be all too well aware, sir, just a few weeks after you came into this chamber those opposite, who were then in government, decided to massively increase—in fact, double—the emergency services levy on every single household and every single business in South Australia, and they did that without warning.

Well, we are going to reverse that. In fact, I am very proud to lead a government that will pass through a \$360 million relief package in terms of the emergency services levy in this state. We are going to do this as quickly as possible, and the first tranche will start on 1 July. So the good news for the people of South Australia is that we are only a few weeks away now from relief from the very high cost of living presided over by those opposite.

Can I say that, whilst we are on this side of the chamber, we will do everything to grow our economy, to create jobs, to keep our young people in South Australia, and part of that, of course, is lowering the costs of living and that is exactly and precisely what we will do.

The SPEAKER: The member for Lee.

EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY

Mr MULLIGHAN (Lee) (14:21): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have a supplementary to the Premier. Does the Premier stand by his commitment on his Strong Plan website to reduce the emergency services levy to its previous level?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:21): We have been very clear about this. There was a \$360 million hike that was put in place by those opposite when they removed the remission on the emergency services levy. We have made it very clear that we will putting that \$360 million back in place as soon as possible. The first tranche of that will begin on 1 July, and that is because we want to provide relief.

Under the previous administration there was a massive increase in every single household's electricity bill, there was a massive increase in every single household's water bill in South Australia and, of course, as we know a massive increase in the emergency services levy. So we will be doing what those opposite failed to do: put the people of South Australia first with a \$360 million injection back into the economy.

We are doing this to put more money back into the pockets of hardworking South Australians because, unlike those opposite, we know that when people are given that money they know how to spend it best, but those opposite believe that government knows how to spend it best. We would

rather lower tax, lower costs and let people make their own decisions for themselves, for their families, for their business on how they spend their hard-earned money.

EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY

Mr MULLIGHAN (Lee) (14:23): A further supplementary to the Premier: so the Premier is not standing by his commitment on the Strong Plan website to reduce the emergency services levy to its previous level?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Point of order, sir.

The SPEAKER: I will hear the point of order.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: This is in breach of standing order 97 and it is not a supplementary, either.

The SPEAKER: Yes, I do agree with that. Member for Enfield.

The Hon. V.A. Chapman: You couldn't answer questions. Now you can't even ask them.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Premier is called to order and warned. The member for Enfield.

POLICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUMS

Mr RAU (Enfield) (14:23): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Police. When will the minister table the notes taken by his staff member at the southern suburbs forum, and when were those notes logged for the purposes of the State Records Act?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:23): I thank the member for his question and note that, having checked the State Records Act, those notes were compliant 100 per cent with the act, and he has every manner to go about receiving them and he knows how to do that through FOI, I think.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Is there a supplementary question from the member for Enfield? No supplementary. The member for Elder.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER Order!

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Ms HABIB (Elder) (14:24): My question is to the Minister for Environment and Water. Will the minister detail to the house how the state government is supporting the recycling industry and local government in response to China's National Sword policy?

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (14:24): I thank the member for her question and recall our time serving on Marion council, where innovative waste management was something I know she had a passionate interest in.

The waste management industry is a very important one for South Australia. It's an industry that we have known leadership in not only nationally but internationally. Over many years, we have led the way with waste management, developing opportunities and creating jobs in that industry, and that is a body of work that has been led by successive governments of different political persuasions in this state. We know that our state led the way with the introduction of container deposit legislation some 42 years ago and, more recently, banning plastic bags. This is something that we are good at and something we should continue to be driving forward.

We also know that in December 2017 and again in March 2018, China imposed strict contamination standards for a range of recycled materials that were exported to China. We know that China has taken a significant proportion of the around 5 per cent of our recycled products that get shipped overseas each year. Now, while 5 per cent by itself seems like quite a small amount,

when you are talking about a commodity like waste, and when suddenly 5 per cent of that commodity's market falls away, that does require some significant adjustment.

When I became the minister, there was already a small working group in place involving members of my department, particularly Green Industries SA (the successor organisation to Zero Waste SA), the local government sector, the waste management sector and the EPA. That group came up with a range of recommendations for me to consider and an adjustment package to take forward to the cabinet, which I did.

Stakeholder engagement has been very important in developing this strategy. It has been good to meet with key leaders in the waste management sector, particularly speaking regularly to Gayle Sloan, the Chief Executive Officer of the Waste Management Association of Australia, and working with local industry players, including the EPA, Green Industries SA, local government and other members of the Waste Management Association here in the SA chapter.

On the weekend, it was a pleasure to be able to head down to the Daws Road Recycling centre to launch our policy. The Daws Road Recycling Centre is an example of an organisation that, in partnership with CDL Solutions SA, has been able to drive forward innovation in the waste management sector. We saw a new piece of equipment there that automatically sorts CDL products and enables people, through a type of ATM, to get their money back there and then.

We launched the assistance package down at the Daws Road Recycling centre and that package is very clearly built around industry assistance, recognising that this government wants to create the sort of environment in which industry can continue to thrive and innovate. Our package has a \$5.8 million grant funding component for industry and local government for new and upgraded infrastructure. We have a \$5 million loan scheme, a \$0.5 million transport subsidy for regional councils recognising the difficulties that they face in transport in particular, and then \$1.1 million for education and marketing around ensuring our waste produce is of the right quality.

This is a good announcement. It helps the industry adjust and will hopefully continue to ensure that the waste management industry in South Australia continues to innovate and create jobs.

The SPEAKER: The leader! Member for Enfield.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Enfield will be heard in silence.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Members on my right will be quiet. Member for Enfield.

POLICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUMS

Mr RAU (Enfield) (14:28): My question is to the Minister for Police. When will he table the notes that he undertook to table last week when asked questions in the house?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:29): That is the same question that he asked just a few moments ago. As I pointed out, I have complied with the act, as he pointed out, and it is right there for the member to apply for through the act—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader is warned.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —as he knows full well, unless he is being too lazy to do so. Please—

The Hon. S.S. Marshall interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Premier is called to order.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: You have every rhyme and reason to access them as you see fit.

POLICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUMS

Mr RAU (Enfield) (14:29): A supplementary question: as I recall, the minister undertook to the house that the notes in question would be tabled, and I am simply asking—

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I hear the point of order, but I think the member for Enfield is taking a little while to get to the question, so can we have the question, please, member for Enfield?

Mr RAU: I am asking when he will be complying with his undertaking and tabling the notes.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Point of order, Mr Speaker: it is unparliamentary to ask the same question twice. Three times is surely one step too far.

The SPEAKER: I will allow it one more time. Minister.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:30): I thank the member for his question again—a third time. I stress the point again: he is free to check *Hansard*, and he is free to have a listen to what I said. Those notes have been kept in accordance with the act, and he is free to apply for that as he sees fit. Don't be lazy. It's an FOI.

SPORTS VOUCHERS

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:30): My question is to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. Will the minister inform the house how the government is reducing the cost of living for families and making it easier for primary school aged children to participate in sport and recreation?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:30): I thank the member for Narungga for his question and commend him for his maiden speech today. He is an absolutely outstanding member who is working hard for his community in his short space of time in here and he is very focused on important things in this place, and that is reducing the cost of living and getting better services for his community.

The question that he puts forward is a very good question. I am very proud to talk about this policy that we took to the election. I know that South Australians, in particular the people of Narungga and the community around the Yorke Peninsula, will be very happy, as they will right across South Australia, because this sports voucher program has been a very positive program. As I get out and speak to people in my community right across the board, what they say to me is—

Mr Bignell: Sit down.

The SPEAKER: The member for Mawson is warned a second and final time. Minister.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: As I was saying, before the member for Mawson jumped up and bounced around, what people say to me is how good this is and how much better it is going to be now that the voucher has been upped from \$50 to \$100 for primary school students, and that is again thanks to this side and the Marshall Liberal government. We are very conscious of how important and how tough families are doing it out there, and giving them that money towards helping their primary school aged students get into sport is absolutely wonderful.

What we have also done is expand the criteria to include dance—or 'dance' as we like to say. Something came across my desk in the lead-up to the election which was very concerning. A mother wrote to me and said, 'This is the situation. My daughter has just started playing football with Auskick, which is fantastic. The AFL have done a great job, and the SANFL, in getting young people active and young women active in football. But my son is doing dance, so my daughter can get it playing football but my son can't get it doing dance.' So we have decided to incorporate dance into this project as well—again, doing all we can to keep young people active.

The member for Narungga, too, makes a very good point that in the communities and in the regions we want to get people involved in sport at every opportunity. So, by bringing the costs down and providing better services, as we set out to do at the election and as we are delivering now in

government, I think South Australians are very appreciative of that. I know he is receiving the same feedback.

If we can develop fine young people and get them active in sport, it is good for their mental health and wellbeing as well. We want to get that balance right between getting people active and getting them healthy, keeping them fit, and working with education as well to make sure people are progressing and that we produce fine young people like the member for Narungga. Wouldn't you like to have him at centre half-back or centre half-forward of your football team, wherever you are playing? Again, we know that young children playing organised sport learn wonderful skills. It brings the community together, it gets coaches involved, it gets young people out there being active and engaging with one another. That is a really important thing.

You hear so often when you are doorknocking in the local communities about kids who are getting trapped in technologies and iPads, etc. I know it is a battle, I have it in my house, when you want to get your kids out and playing sports. This is just another way because the impediment that families say to me is that the cost of living in South Australia is too high. Under the previous government, the cost of living was what was strangling people. They were having to choose between whether their kids played sports or whether they didn't.

With this voucher, we know that this will allow more people to get their kids active and get them playing sports. We want to grow these community clubs, we want to grow these sporting clubs, we want to get all people—boys, girls, everyone—more active in sports. This is just a great way that we can do it—right through the suburbs, right through the regions, right across South Australia. This is a wonderful policy, and I look forward to the new sports voucher program being implemented on 1 January 2019. It will be a huge success.

POLICE STATION OPENING HOURS

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:34): My question is to the Minister for Police. Given that the Minister for Police has ruled out instructing the police commissioner, has the minister asked Commissioner Stevens to reverse his decision on police station operating hours?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:35): I appreciate the question from the leader. As I have said in this place before—I give the same answer to the same question—I have sat down and had conversations with the police commissioner. We keep talking through it. We took a policy to the election. We made it very, very clear. I will work through that with the police commissioner and we will deliver on our policy.

POLICE STATION OPENING HOURS

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:35): A supplementary question: has the police commissioner provided advice to the police minister indicating his willingness to reverse his own decision on police station operating hours?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The minister will be heard in silence.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:35): I thank the leader again for the question and appreciate his interest in the services. As the former police minister, yes, he would know how this works. You sit down with the police commissioner. You have conversations.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister will be seated. Sit down. It's your question time, opposition members. The clock is ticking. Minister, please continue.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: I get the question. I'm sure it's one that has been repeated to me three or four times before, and I'm sure it has to do with the police commissioner and also police station opening hours. I stress the point again to the Leader of the Opposition that we took a very

clear policy to the election. We will follow through with that policy. I will have conversations with the police commissioner and—

The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is warned.

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader is warned for a second and final time.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: I will have conversations with the police commissioner, and we will work through our policy.

The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is warned a second time.

POLICE STATION OPENING HOURS

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:36): My question is to the Minister for Police. Why does the Minister for Police think a police commissioner is going to change his own mind on police station operating hours?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:37): Because I will be sitting down with the police commissioner. I thank—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister will be heard in silence.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: I thank the member for his question again, and I will give him the answer again. I will be sitting down with the police commissioner, having conversations about what it is we can do in police. We have put our policy forward and made it abundantly clear what our policy is. I will be sitting down with the police commissioner and working our way through how we can deliver on that.

POLICE STATION OPENING HOURS

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:37): A supplementary question: when does the police minister expect the police commissioner to change his mind and reverse his decision on police station operating hours?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:37): I thank the member again for his question. As I have said for the fourth, fifth, sixth time, I will be sitting down and discussing with the police commissioner—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —what our policy is, what our policy was that we took to the election, and we will deliver on our policies.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader is on two warnings and so is the member for Morialta.

ELECTRICITY PRICES

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:38): My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Will the minister update the house on how the government's plans for energy storage will help reduce energy costs for households?

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:38): Thank you to the member for Heysen, who also gave an outstanding maiden speech today. I welcome his interest in electricity and making electricity cheaper for households. It follows on from

a question from the member for Morphett last week. I note that the opposition has not yet asked the government one question about energy, about electricity. It is the third week of parliament. We have probably had 50 or 60, maybe more, questions in parliament—not one question yet. The shadow is trying to dream one up now as—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: They are consulting at the moment to see whether they dare go near this topic.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: Mr Speaker, let me tell you, we on this side of the house are focused on what is best for South Australians—

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader is on the edge.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —focused on reducing cost-of-living pressures—

Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for West Torrens is called to order and warned.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —focused on delivering cost-of-living pressure reductions and focused on cheap electricity. We are not asking about doughnuts. We are not asking about what members do in their private time. We are not asking about staffing arrangements. We are talking about electricity.

Let me just tell you, we are going to deliver more affordable, more reliable electricity for the people of South Australia, and we are going to do it, in part, by focusing on storage: household storage and grid-scale storage. This has been a very consistent position. The Premier and I, and the former opposition, consistently said to the previous government, 'You must attach storage to intermittent renewable energy.' We said that for three or four years. We are now in government. We are going to deliver it. The previous government waffled around with political targets to try to suit certain interest groups.

We are going to deliver cheaper electricity. We have allocated \$100 million of taxpayers' money to household storage programs. We have allocated \$50 million of taxpayers' money to grid-scale storage programs. These are things that experts throughout the industry have called for, the previous opposition called for and Chief Scientist, Professor Alan Finkel, called for, as did the market operator, the Energy Security Board—all these organisations.

The only people who don't understand are the opposition. We will deliver through these programs. We will deliver 40,000-household battery storage. They will allow households to store their electricity from peak generation time, early afternoon, to peak demand time, early evening, thus taking the top of the peak off for the entire state. Not only will the people have the batteries and the solar benefit, all consumers across South Australia will benefit through lower prices.

When it comes to grid-scale storage, instead of spending \$50 million of taxpayers' money on the battery at Jamestown, as the previous opposition urged the previous government to do—and in the dying days of their government, they finally agreed to do it—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —we will put money towards a wide range of grid-scale storage. It might be battery, it might be pumped hydro, it might be hydrogen, it might be solar thermal. It might be any one of those things to deliver cheaper electricity prices for the people of South Australia, who know that they deserved it 10 years ago.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the leader, I warn the member for West Torrens for the second and final time, as well as the member for Lee. Leader.

SCHOOLS, RANDOM DRUG SEARCHES

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:42): My question is to the Minister for Police. Does the Minister for Police stand by the government's commitment that they will instruct the police commissioner to dispatch the drug squad and undertake random inspection in our public schools? With your leave, and the leave of the house, I will explain my question. On 11 August 2017, the Premier publicly announced, and I quote, 'I will instruct the police commissioner to develop protocols for SAPOL to conduct random inspections of schools by the drug squad.'

The SPEAKER: The Premier.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:42): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order on my left! Members are called to order. A number of members are on two warnings.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I think, sir—

The SPEAKER: The Premier will be seated. A number of members on my left are on two warnings. If they continue in this regard, they will be departing the chamber under 137A(1). The Premier will be heard in silence. Premier.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Thank you very much, sir. I think this is what the previous treasurer used to refer to as faux outrage. We saw that demonstrated in the chamber only a few moments ago. The Leader of the Opposition asked a sensible question. We've had a lot of questions which haven't been that sensible so far today, but it was a sensible question that the Leader of the Opposition asked.

He was referring to comments I had made, which are comments I stand by. We will be directing the police commissioner to develop a protocol for the ability for the police to go into our schools, where required, to make sure that drugs are not present in the schools. This is something that we are not ashamed about. In fact, we are very proud because we think that the incidence of drugs in South Australia is way too high. In fact, when we look at the incidence of drugs in South Australia, we are very concerned, and I don't know why those opposite don't join with our concern on this particular issue. The incidence of drug offence in South Australia is actually double the second highest in Australia—that's outrageous.

When we look at the wastewater treatment monitoring that is done in South Australia, it shows that the prevalence of drugs in our wastewater is way, way too high. This is a problem in metropolitan Adelaide and it's a very significant problem in regional South Australia. So we will be doing every single, solitary thing that we can.

We would prefer to have the support of those opposite, but we don't think that the concept of sending a police sniffer dog into a school to check whether drugs are present is a massive intrusion. They are not going to be rifling through bags within classrooms. They will be doing it in a reasonable and respectful way. This is not something new to the police force in South Australia; they already have the ability to do it. So I find it surprising that the Leader of the Opposition would ask a question on this because I was going to write a question for one of my backbenchers to ask me a question on this tomorrow because we are very proud about this.

What I think this does demonstrate is that those opposite have run out of questions. We saw a little bit earlier the member for Lee sort of freelancing, just jumping up and asking a question, and the member for Enfield jumping up and asking a question that somebody previously—

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Point of order. The Premier will be seated.

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: This is just now debate, sir.

The SPEAKER: Yes, the Premier is now I think debating, but I think he is wrapping up.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Thank you, sir. Again, I would just reiterate to the chamber via yourself, sir, our absolute resolved position to do everything we can to keep our children at school free from the insidious opportunity that some people take to sell drugs at schools. We want to stamp it out. If it is in schools, we want to identify it. Once we identify it, we want to take action.

Those opposite had their chance. They had 16 years. They sat on their hands. They had a casual attitude towards drugs in schools and drugs in society in South Australia. We will not be complacent. We will work very hard, and I look forward to the opportunity of doing everything we can to keep our children safe.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call the leader, I welcome to parliament today Mr Tony Pasin MP, the federal member for Barker, and also the Hon. Roger Goldsworthy, former deputy premier and also member for Kavel. Leader.

Question Time

SCHOOLS, RANDOM DRUG SEARCHES

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:46): A supplementary question to the Premier, and I thank the Premier for his previous answer and reiterating his intention to instruct. The supplementary question is: when will the Premier be seeing to the minister tabling the instruction to the police commissioner, as is the requirement under the Police Act?

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Point of order.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:47): I thank the member for the question. As previously identified, the Stop the Scourge in Schools policy falls under the responsibility—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: He is answering the question.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: —of the Minister for Education.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: He is answering the question.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: As the leader would know, if he had more than five days' experience in the house—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I think he is answering the question.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: —any member of the cabinet can answer the question, especially when the member of the cabinet is the one responsible for delivering the outcome.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER Order!

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: When those opposite were in power, there were ministers who didn't answer a question for several years.

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order: this is debate, sir.

The SPEAKER: This is debate. Just to clarify for newer members, any minister can answer a question put to any other minister, but with all respect—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Order! The minister will return to the substance of the question. Minister.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I am very pleased to. I thank the leader for the question. It's a question that was asked on the first sitting day, or the second sitting day, perhaps, and I will give a similar answer. It is a matter of responsibility for the Minister for Education to deliver this policy. We had a meeting with the police commissioner, with the CE of the education department—

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Point of order—let's hear it.

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: Standing order 98: relevance, sir.

The SPEAKER: Yes, minister. Again, I ask you to return to the substance of the question please, minister.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Well, the question is: when are we going to be speaking to the police about it. We spoke to them on 12 April.

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order. The question was very specific: when will the Minister for Police table his instruction?

The SPEAKER: I think the minister has finished. Member for Davenport.

ELECTRICITY PRICES

Mr MURRAY (Davenport) (14:48): My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Will the minister update the house on how the government's plans for interconnection will help reduce energy costs for households?

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:49): Thank you again, member for Davenport. On this side of the house we are focused on the cost of living, getting electricity prices more affordable and making electricity more reliable, and an interconnector between New South Wales and South Australia is a key part of our plan.

As members opposite would know, if they had paid attention in the lead-up to the election, it is one of the core planks of our policy. We have interconnection between South Australia and Victoria already, which is very valuable and very important to us, but it is not enough. Also, South Australia and Victoria have much more similar weather patterns. Weather is very important in energy, particularly when so much of energy generation is based on renewable energy, and it also goes directly to demand, as we all know—different days of the week, hotter, colder, that sort of thing.

So then we need interconnection with New South Wales to access a different market to get us part of the interconnection loop, rather than just being at the end of the line. We also want to connect to a state that has much more different weather patterns to us. Very importantly, when it is dark in Sydney and Melbourne, we can still be generating here in South Australia and contribute export electricity into those markets, just as at other times we would like to import electricity.

Let me say, this is not a new idea. This is not a new idea. It is an idea that we are committed to. We've got money on the table and we will deliver. But there are people who have supported this view. There are people like Professor Alan Finkel who support this view. The AMC, the AEMO and others are all looking into this very seriously. Let me give you a quote:

It would be a wise investment to build a greater interconnection between South Australia and New South Wales.

All Australian consumers would benefit from greater interconnection because it would create more competition between wholesale suppliers.

A third quote:

South Australia is paying a different price than they are in New South Wales...the reason they're doing that is because there's no interconnection between New South Wales and South Australia. So it's not really a national market at all. So you're right, there's a massive disadvantage here and that's why we need to...upgrade interconnection into New South Wales.

All those quotes come from the last two years, and they come from the member for West Torrens. The member for West Torrens, the current shadow minister for energy, the former failed minister for energy, the minister who delivered the highest electricity prices in the nation and the least reliable electricity in the nation used to think it was a good idea.

The SPEAKER: Point of order.

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: The member is not responsible for my remarks.

The SPEAKER: He is definitely not responsible for the former minister's remarks.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER Order! Minister, please return to the substance of the question.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: Mr Speaker, I take your advice, and I expect that everybody sitting behind the member for West Torrens is glad they are not responsible for his remarks either. This is a key part of our policy. It is supported by the overwhelming majority of experts in this area. We have put money on the table. The former Labor government supported it for a while, but as soon as we announced it they didn't support it. This plays to the politics of energy in the opposition. It was a good policy, but not when they were so keen on delivering. But then we announced—we said we would deliver it—and then they said they didn't like it.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I think the minister is wrapping up. Has the minister finished?

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: Nearly, Mr Speaker. So we will deliver interconnection to New South Wales from South Australia. It will benefit both states. It will deliver cheaper electricity prices because it will help supply and demand be matched up better and it will increase competition.

POLICE COMMISSIONER PROTOCOL

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:53): My question is to the Minister for Police. Given the Premier in the parliament of the state has just announced his intention to issue an instruction to the police commissioner, when will the minister fulfil his responsibility and comply with section 8 of the Police Act and table the instruction?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The minister will be heard in silence.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:53): I think we are lining up to answer this question because it is a repeat of the question you have asked a number of times.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER Order! The member for West Torrens is on two warnings. The member for Lee is on two warnings. Minister.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: As I have made abundantly clear, we have made an election commitment, I will be conversing with the police commissioner, we are having constant dialogue, we will negotiate and we will deliver on our election commitment.

Mr MALINAUSKAS: Supplementary question, Mr Speaker.

Mr Bignell interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Mawson will depart the chamber under 137A(1) for half an hour.

The honourable member for Mawson having withdrawn from the chamber:

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader will be heard in silence. Supplementary from the leader.

POLICE COMMISSIONER PROTOCOL

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:54): Supplementary: given the Premier's almost unprecedented commitment to instruct the police commissioner—

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Point of order: contrary to standing order 97 by having argument and it is also not a supplementary question.

The SPEAKER: I will hear the point of order. Would the leader like to amend the supplementary so that it does not contain any potential argument?

Mr MALINAUSKAS: Is the police minister aware of the last time section 8 of the Police Act was enforced?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:55): No, I can't say that I have looked over section 8 to that nth degree. What I can say to the leader—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader is on two warnings. Leader, you are on two warnings. Minister.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: What I can say is, as I have said in layman's terms so that people can understand it, I am not here to instruct the police commissioner. If the leader wants to listen again and clear out his ears, I have said that I am not going to instruct the police commissioner. I will sit down and negotiate with the police commissioner. We have made our election policies abundantly clear. I will sit down with the police commissioner, work through our election commitments and negotiate right throughout the act whatever is needed and we will deliver on our commitments.

POLICE COMMISSIONER PROTOCOL

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:55): Does the police minister stand by the remarks made by the Premier only a few moments ago regarding instructing the police commissioner?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The leader will depart the chamber for half an hour under 137A(1). He has been on two warnings for a long period of time.

The honourable member for Croydon having withdrawn from the chamber:

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order: this is unprecedented.

The SPEAKER: No, it's not.

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: You can't just throw the leader out.

Members interjecting:

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: Transparency is it? Transparency. Throw out the leader.

The SPEAKER: Be seated. The member for West Torrens, order! If the member for West Torrens continues, he will be departing the chamber under 137A(1). The Premier will continue.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:56): It's hard to remember what the question was, sir. I think it was something about the faux outrage from those opposite about commitments that we made in the lead-up to the election, which we stand by. The reality is that we said we would ask or direct, instruct the police commissioner—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Can you just all sit quietly.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I know you are all excited. Some of you haven't had a question yet, so submit them. You might have a process being developed over there. There's not much evidence of it so far, but maybe over time.

The SPEAKER: The Premier will continue with the answer.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Thank you, sir. In the lead-up to the election, we made it very clear that we would be directing the police commissioner to develop a protocol. I have already had a meeting with the police commissioner about this. I have raised this issue with him. Let me tell you, the police commissioner doesn't have a problem whatsoever to develop a protocol for being able to make sure that our children in schools are safe.

It beggars belief that those opposite want to argue about the issue of keeping our children in schools safe, because that is exactly what they are doing. They are not saying, 'How can we work with you in the government to keep our children safe?' They are not coming in here saying, 'What legislation is required to keep our children safe?' They are not saying, 'We will do everything within our power to jointly work together to deal with this scourge of drugs which is affecting the next generation in South Australia.' That's not what they are doing.

I can see the embarrassed looks on some of the reasonable opposition members' faces at some of the behaviour of those people who are trying to make politics out of keeping our children safe. Some of those members opposite would like to see their party get back to looking after the people we are all elected to serve.

POLICE COMMISSIONER PROTOCOL

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:58): Supplementary: does the Premier's protocol development require an instruction from the police minister?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:58): I have answered this question in other forms but, to be clear, the police commissioner, the police minister, the CE of the education department and I met and we discussed it. Subsequent to that, representatives of police have met with representatives of the independent school sector, the Catholic school sector and members of my department. We are currently working with police on developing the protocols. It is quite clear that this policy will be delivered by this government. I note the outrage of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. It's confusing to me because when the Labor Party was in power—

Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Point of order, let's hear the point of order.

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: This is debate.

The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta will hear the point of order.

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order, sir: the minister is not responsible for the motives or the reliance of the opposition.

The SPEAKER: Yes, that is right.

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: He should keep his remarks to what the government is doing.

The SPEAKER: That's right. The minister will not respond to interjection.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Okay, I take your guidance, sir, and I'm very pleased to receive it.

The SPEAKER: You're on two warnings.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I am even more pleased for the reminder. The fact is that the operations of police visiting schools have happened before. When we announced the policy that we wanted to have the opportunity for police dogs to visit schools, particularly those where the police thought that there was a benefit from doing so, the outrage of the Labor Party at that stage was confusing because there were schools where this process had taken place. We want to make it easier for schools and the police to work together. We want to have a clear set of guidelines and understanding of how these processes can operate.

There were a number of points that were raised and discussed when we met with the police commissioner. In fact, the police were very happy to work with the education department in developing these protocols. They raised questions that we were able to provide answers to, about what the government's desires were in relation to achievement of this policy, and we were able to respond within the framework of the policy that we took to the election and which the people of South Australia voted for. Why those opposite seem so intent on blocking the intent of the South Australian people is beyond me.

Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: This is debate. I think the minister has finished. Member for Elizabeth.

NOISE MANAGEMENT

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (15:01): My question is to the Minister for Police. Minister, did the police commissioner authorise the Minister for Police's public announcement that STAR Group officers would be dispatched to respond to teenage parties in the southern suburbs?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:01): I thank the member for his question. I think I know what he is referring to and I think he may be misquoting.

Mr Odenwalder: I didn't quote anything.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: You may be misreferencing or misconstruing what was—

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I did not do any of that, minister.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: It is a fair point: if you are not quoting, it is argument and the question is invalid, but I will elaborate anyway. I think what the member is alluding to are some of the incidents down south. The police commissioner made very clear his instructions and the operational measures that he took. I conferred with those operational measures and outlined exactly what the police commissioner outlined that he was doing down south to deal with that situation.

CHILD PROTECTION REGIONAL VISITS

Ms LUETHEN (King) (15:02): My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Will the minister please inform the house about some of her recent regional visits as Minister for Child Protection?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The minister will be heard in silence.

The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (15:02): Thank you, Speaker, and I thank the member for King for her question and for her long-term interest in child protection; she's been a very strong advocate in her electorate. It's been an absolute joy to visit the regions, to visit not only with my office staff. I visited Kadina, Port Pirie, Gawler, Murray Bridge and Berri to meet with many of the other service providers while I was in the regions. I also obviously took the opportunity to meet with NGOs and service providers, such as ac.care, Uniting Country SA, Relationships Australia, Life Without Barriers. I also visited many residential care facilities.

I planned my trips in the school holidays so that as many children as possible would be available to meet. Many of the officers that I visited invited in foster care children. Some of them have their youth councils, where I met some of their members, who were absolutely amazing young people. I also met foster carers and kinship carers so that I could discuss issues that have been raised with me over four years as the shadow minister. It was a wonderful opportunity, but in particular visiting children in their homes where they live in residential care facilities.

We know the absolute disaster that occurred at Oakden. As a minister, that will never happen on my watch. I will make sure that I do visit where my children live to see the conditions they live under. I can't say I'm entirely happy with the conditions that they are living in, but it is early days and there's a lot of work for me to do to make up for 16 years of a failed Labor government in this area.

I also had a teleconference with staff from the far regions in Coober Pedy, Ceduna, Whyalla, Port Lincoln and Port Augusta, and I do plan to visit those officers as well as soon as possible. I have had a very, very busy schedule and it has been quite difficult. I have met with dozens and dozens and dozens of people. As any new minister would know, you get hundreds of requests.

I have prioritised, I believe, meeting my own staff in the departments; that is a high priority for me. Many of them have never met a minister. In fact, several of them have said that the last minister they met was the member for Cheltenham, and that was four ministers ago. So it is an absolute shame and disgrace that many of the ministers who preceded me took little or no interest in their departments to even go out and visit their own staff.

When I was visiting, I met staff members who have been in their positions for up to 18 years. Many of them are very proud of the work they do, and, whilst they all acknowledge that this is a very, very difficult department to work in and a very difficult area of child protection, they go to work every day because they want to make a difference. They believe in the work that they do and they seek to do the best possible job. So what we need to do as a new Liberal government is to resource them properly.

We know that the PSA union for four years was threatening strike action due to a lack of staff. We have taken a policy to the election of diversification of the workforce in order to widen the breadth of qualifications. We are working with both the AASW, who I have met with, and the PSA, who I have also met with, to discuss what qualifications they believe would be secondary—of course, social work is still the preferred degree for employment. However, rather than having empty FTE vacancies around the state, which puts all the staff under pressure—and we have seen how they have not been able to manage—we are working with all the stakeholders to get better outcomes for our children.

The SPEAKER: The member for Badcoe.

CHILD PROTECTION

Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (15:06): Supplementary to the Minister for Child Protection: has the minister now met with the Guardian for Children and Young People?

The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (15:06): I had a lovely meeting with the Guardian for Children and Young People yesterday, Penny Wright. We had a great discussion, and we will have regular meetings. She was off to Perth yesterday. I saw her before she left, along with the commissioner, who is in Perth, so I will be meet with her on Thursday.

The SPEAKER: The member for Elizabeth.

SCHOOLS, RANDOM DRUG SEARCHES

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (15:06): Thank you, sir. My question is to the Minister for Police. Has the minister sought any advice as to the drafting of a direction to the police commissioner in relation to sniffer dogs in schools?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:07): I thank the member for his question, and as I said eight times already today I am in constant conversation with the police commissioner—

The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta will depart for the next 20 minutes.

The honourable member for Morialta having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —and we are discussing the issue and we will deliver on our election commitment.

The SPEAKER: The member for Elizabeth.

SCHOOLS, RANDOM DRUG SEARCHES

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (15:07): Supplementary: has the minister sought any advice from anyone about the drafting of a direction—

The Hon. S.K. Knoll: That's the same question.

Mr ODENWALDER: No.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr ODENWALDER: Has the minister sought any advice elsewhere, other than from the police commissioner, about the drafting of a direction?

The SPEAKER: Minister.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:07): Thank you, again. I repeat my answer to the member on the other side. I have had constant conversations. If I need to seek that direction, I will when I so choose. But, as it stands, I am having constant conversations with the police commissioner. We will be delivering on our commitments as promised.

*Grievance Debate***CURTIS ROAD**

Mr GEE (Taylor) (15:08): I rise today to speak about the unsafe conditions on Curtis Road. There are a number of issues about this road that are raised with me daily by local residents. It is an important issue in our local area, but it is really part of a much larger problem. I will be speaking about Curtis Road regularly in this place, as well as about other dangerous roads and traffic hazards that affect residents in the electorate of Taylor. Today, I am going to speak about the section of Curtis Road that runs between Main North Road and Stebonheath Road.

Curtis Road has become one of the main transport links in Adelaide's northern suburbs, running from Main North Road through to Angle Vale Road. Curtis Road is currently a single-lane road with a large median strip and fronted by a mix of residential homes and apartments, retail developments and wetlands. There is a very wide median strip that has been retained to allow for easy duplication of the road.

This road carries thousands of vehicles every day as residents and other motorists, and many heavy vehicles, use the road to access schools, businesses, the Northern Expressway and travel towards Main North Road in the east and to South Australia's fastest growing communities of Angle Vale and Virginia and access to Port Wakefield Road to the west.

Residents experience significant congestion on this road, as mentioned by my friend and colleague the member for Light in his Address in Reply. Curtis Road forms the boundary between Taylor and Light. The duplication of Curtis Road is part of the state Integrated Transport and Land Use Plan, as is the grade separation, or the separation of Curtis Road from the Adelaide to Gawler railway line. It is claimed that current traffic volumes are not above the level acceptable for a single-lane road, but Curtis Road has become inadequate at managing its current traffic load, so action is required now.

The Playford council currently manages Curtis Road and, after years of inaction, is considering approaching the Local Road Advisory Committee to have Curtis Road reclassified as a state government managed road. This is really a cop-out by the City of Playford, who should instead be working with the state and federal government to prioritise the upgrade of this road.

Amazingly, I have written over a thousand letters to Playford council on behalf of our residents about problems with, or associated with, Curtis Road. I call upon the state government and the City of Playford, with its mayor, Glenn Docherty, who is a former Liberal Party candidate, to work together and approach the federal Liberal government to secure funding for this project. The member for Light and I are going to continue calling on the City of Playford and state government to fund the upgrades to this road and its many intersections for as long as it takes.

I urge the local Playford councillors to stand up for their residents to ensure that action is taken in relation to the duplication of Curtis Road. We have both consulted widely with our communities and there is almost universal support through Andrews Farm, Davoren Park, Munno Para, Munno Para West, Smithfield and Smithfield Plains for the road to be duplicated and the grade separation at the railway line, plus safer access to shops and schools for pedestrians and footpaths that run all the way to the Northern Expressway.

In response to a survey I conducted in 2017, more than 98 per cent of respondents supported the duplication of Curtis Road and 91 per cent of respondents supported some sort of change at the railway crossing. I know that residents and businesses in Munno Para and Munno Para West want to see a solution and that they want to see it sooner rather than later, as Curtis Road is the main exit and access from Munno Para and Munno Para West. Munno Para contains the local shopping centre, two local schools and many businesses, including the Stretton Centre and town park, where the skate park and a water play area see large numbers of young people having to interact with traffic.

While the member for Light and I continue to fight for this upgrade and other road safety improvements across our electorates, I encourage residents to be patient and to drive to the road conditions and take care, especially during school times. I am writing to the new Minister for Transport to ask him to examine this issue with a view to making it a priority.

HENLEY AND GRANGE ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:13): I wish to take the opportunity today to acknowledge the service the Henley and Grange RSL sub-branch provides our western suburbs community each and every year through the staging of the annual ANZAC Day dawn service. As always, this year we were provided with a respectful and dignified service, this year being particularly pertinent given that we were celebrating the centenary of the end of World War I, or the Great War, and importantly the return of peace from that time.

The dawn service is held each year at the Henley and Grange Soldiers Memorial Hall, which was opened in 1922 and is located on Seaview Road, very close to the beach, with the RSL conveniently tucked in just behind the hall. I am not certain of the number, but it was certainly the biggest in recent years. I know the weather kept a few away last year—it was particularly windy, it was a horrible morning last year and there was a lot of rain—so it was great to see the number up this year. I am told that the unofficial estimate is somewhere in the range of 6,000 to 6,500, so it was a very well-attended event.

This year also featured a video screen in tribute for the very first time. It was prepared by a local school class. It was particularly moving and a great addition to the service at Henley. The Henley and Grange dawn service is particularly special; it always has been. I mentioned before how close the service is to the beach and at times during the silence you can hear the sound of the waves crashing in which, as for many who I have talked to over the years, leads you to ponder what our Diggers would have faced when they landed at Gallipoli.

ANZAC Day morning is one of those times, and there are many, when the community of Henley and surrounding suburbs comes together. Most choose to walk, and it is a sight that I have never grown tired of seeing when locals walk mostly in silence through the side streets and down Seaview Road as a mass of people grows outside the hall.

One thing I particularly like about the Henley and Grange service, and it should be commended for this, is that every community group that wishes to place a tribute is accommodated from local community leaders, and I thank the local RSL again for the opportunity to lay a wreath in honour this year, to our local sports clubs—Henley Sharks, the Henley Lifesaving Club, representatives from the local Western Hospital and service clubs like Rotary—but also young leaders and young people who are particularly interested in thanking our service men and women for their service.

We had representatives from schools: St Michael's, Star of the Sea, Henley High, West Beach Primary, Henley Primary and St Francis School, just to name a few. It was fantastic to see how many young South Australians attended the event this year. Once the service concludes, the RSL puts on a hot breakfast, coffee, tea, and the choice of something harder for those who are keen

to dabble. Seeing the community sharing a meal while raising much-needed funds for the RSL is a sight those who think community spirit is dying must see.

We are also very lucky at Henley to stage a youth vigil and we have been a part of that for the 12th or 13th year that the youth vigil has taken place at the Henley Memorial. I was pleased the night before on ANZAC Eve to spend some time with the young people who stood guard overnight. Luckily it was not too cold for those young people this year.

I talked during my maiden speech in this place about local legends who live in the Colton electorate, and one of those local legends is a lady by the name of Kaye Moseley who is the secretary of the Henley and Grange RSL. She goes about her business quietly but she plays such a pivotal role each and every year in organising the service and keeping everyone at the RSL organised. I want to put on record my thanks and the community's thanks to Kaye. I must also thank the president of the Henley and Grange Returned Services League sub-branch, Mike Domarecki, and the whole board of the RSL. As I mentioned, they do such a fantastic job each and every year.

Finally, it came to my attention that Kaye's husband has not been so well over the last week or so, and I wanted to wish him all the very best, and that I hope he gets well soon. I look forward to attending the ANZAC Day dawn service next year. I am sure it will be just as good.

Time expired.

LIGHT ELECTORATE

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:18): I would like to use this opportunity to discuss a few events in my electorate to reflect on the wonderful work being done in the electorate of Light and surrounding areas to improve the quality of life of people in our community. Firstly, I would like to talk about the annual School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences prize ceremony that I attended, which is hosted by the University of Adelaide at the Roseworthy campus. These annual awards are designed to showcase and acknowledge the contribution made by very successful students in the various programs at Roseworthy in terms of animal behaviour and veterinary sciences.

I am proud to say that the veterinary science school and animal behaviour program at Roseworthy is a world-class program. It is one of the newest (if not the newest) veterinary science schools in Australia and it attracts candidates from right across Australia to study there. Additionally, because it is a modern facility it also attracts some of the best academics from across the world. I have met many of them over the last few years and their track record is quite impressive in both research and teaching.

The school has also introduced a new program, a Bachelor of Science (Animal Behaviour), which will start later this year. The school prizes and scholarships cover all the programs offered at the school and, as I said, are designed to make sure those students who excel in their studies are acknowledged for their work.

I was also invited to officially open the Injury Hub in Willaston just off Gawler's main street. It is a new service provided by David Giles and Jamie Phillips, who previously ran the Physioactive service in Gawler. This is a small business and, as I said on the night at the opening, small business is a very tough ask of anybody. Opening a new business is actually very risky, but these two gentlemen, David and Jamie, have done an excellent job in bringing together a number of people in the medical sciences and allied health areas to provide a hub of services to people who require them. I will go into that in a moment.

I would also like to mention that, on the night, I met up with Maureen Costin, who is the former owner of the premises. For those people who know Gawler, it was a building that burned down. The new owners have done a wonderful job to protect the heritage of the building, renovate it and make it of use today. In addition to the physio services provided at the Injury Hub, there is a dietician providing dietician services, exercise physiology, and a spinal assessment and rehab clinic provided by Professor Matthew McDonald. There is a neurosurgeon on the site who is also an orthopaedic surgeon, Dr Andrew Comley. You can also find at the hub an exercise and sports physician, Dr Kevyn Hernandez. Bringing these services together helps people to get better more quickly. I would like to commend the investment by the two individuals mentioned in this great venture in Gawler.

With the time remaining, I would like to mention a major community event in my electorate that happens this Thursday, the Biggest Morning Tea put on by the Gawler Cancer Council. The morning tea is ably led by Gwenda Green, the chair of the group, with about 15 volunteers. Why is it important? This group annually raises around \$15,000 towards cancer research from each morning tea. They certainly make their contribution to ridding cancer from our society. They have sold 350 tickets, and the event has sold out already. The Cancer Council, with the support of the Lions Club of Gawler—and I should mention an interest of mine; I am a member of the Lions Club of Gawler—hosts this morning tea.

Importantly, every cent made goes to research because every item sold on the day is donated. There is no cost involved in running this event. The venue is provided by the Gawler Jockey Club through the Terrace Function Centre, with additional volunteers through the Gawler 15 Project, which is an education unit within the Gawler and District College. The students there provide catering and waiting. Sponsors like Elders Real Estate, Millard Conveyancing and Pauline R. Murray Accountants provide prizes for the raffle. I would like to commend those volunteers for a job well done to raise \$15,000 towards cancer research.

SKILLICORN, MR E.K.

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (15:23): Today, I grieve the death of E. Keith Skillicorn AM, a longstanding former Florey constituent, who passed away on 13 April this year, aged 94, at Gaynes Park Manor, Joslin. Keith was a truly selfless, humble, compassionate and loving man with a deep desire to help others, especially the most marginalised, poor and needy. Keith was a noted Australian who spent 31 years in India and Bangladesh with, and strongly supported by, his wife, the equally remarkable Ruth who passed on 12 May 2008. They were both cited with an Order of Australia on their return to Adelaide in 1988 for service to agriculture and the management of leprosy in India and Bangladesh—an abridged statement of their selfless work for others.

Keith was born on 13 June 1923 in Sydney and grew up in Melbourne. His family were not well off, and they struggled to see him through high school, so university was out of the question. During World War II, he was an aeronautical electrician posted to Charters Towers to replace wiring in aeroplanes damaged in war sorties.

During this time, he saw films of actual war events. These hit him hard, particularly images of native grass huts being bombed and burned, with people on fire running out of them. He felt very keenly that he was in part responsible for their torment, even though he was not serving on the front line, because by fixing the planes he had made it possible. Consequently, he determined to be trained to become a missionary at the Churches of Christ, College of the Bible in Glen Iris, Melbourne, so he could compensate for his contribution to the suffering during the war.

Fast-forward to the 1950s, which saw Keith posted to the forgotten region in India, an area where there were few services and which had a high population of native-born Indians and others of the lowest caste. The people in the region numbered about 150,000. Keith's home base, his clinic and mobile clinic provided the only assistance available through his organisation, the ACDP, which provided education and training in agriculture, animal husbandry, rural education, transport and public health.

For today's information I am indebted to Carole-Anne Fooks from the Modbury Church of Christ, and Paul Skillicorn, Keith's middle son. Both gave a wonderful tribute at the memorial service. Keith's innovative use of his resources achieved close to universal immunisation coverage, unheard of in India. He also built common infrastructure—dams, irrigation works and roads—that worked to bring communities closer together.

The infrastructure ACDP provided covered the full region. During famines, Keith pioneered search algorithms designed to identify, save and serve the most at risk members of the larger community: the elderly, the bereft, the outcasts, the chronically ill, female infants and the female infant twin child.

It was health care and medicine, however, where Keith truly excelled. Presented with all manner of maladies, he simply fixed or cured them. He prodigiously read medical and healthcare-related textbooks, probably 10 times what any top-ranked doctor might ever have managed to study,

and he covered a greater spectrum of cases. Few knew more about medicine and public health than Keith, and no-one has done more with the knowledge they possessed.

Unconstrained by allopathic medicine, institutional and peer constraints, Keith was free to venture into homeopathic as well as Ayurvedic and Yunani medicine. He extracted and blended the very best from all four legitimate forms of medicine. He performed appendectomies, flesh and skin grafts, and even reconstructed faces. He extracted thousands of teeth and dealt with many cases involving cancer, particularly of the mouth and larynx. He built an entire TB ward, treating and curing hundreds of TB patients.

Over the years, he and his immediate team immunised hundreds of thousands of patients, notably against smallpox and DPT. Keith ushered in nutritional care for pregnant women and modern midwifery while also dramatically lowering the prevalence of the postpartum shun inflicted on new mothers. Keith pioneered nutrition as a critical element of treatment and public health long before hospitals and doctors even began thinking of doing so. Over the years, he treated and rendered functional literally thousands of people and became famous for this with whole extended families coming from hundreds of miles away through jungles just to be treated by him.

It was leprosy, however, where he truly excelled and where the foundation of his legacy lies. Over the years, it is estimated that Keith and his immediately supervised teams treated and cured 30,000 patients. This transcends by a full decimal point what any other person or immediate group or team has ever treated and cured.

Keith's lifetime of selfless work led to stunning achievements, all across the very broadest of spectra and all done with a personal posture of absolute humility. Other tributes at Keith's funeral were given by family and friends, including a heartfelt acknowledgement of Keith's compassion and inclusiveness from the Hindu community of Adelaide.

E. Keith Skillicorn was a man of exceptional talent, generosity of spirit and intelligent development in agricultural methods and in medicine, especially in the treatment of leprosy, but above all he was a loving and compassionate human being who aimed to be an ambassador for Christ through his actions and love for others. He and Ruth will always be remembered and truly missed.

KERSBROOK PLAYGROUND

Dr HARVEY (Newland) (15:28): I would like to reflect on an event that I was fortunate to attend a few weeks ago on 29 April, which was the official opening of the 1841 Maidstone Playground in Kersbrook. This is the playground located behind the Kersbrook Public Hall in the centre of town. It was an important local community project, entirely driven by the local community with some help from the Adelaide Hills Council and also some federal funding from the disaster recovery fund.

A teddy bears' picnic was organised to celebrate this opening. It really was a great event, bringing everyone together in the community. Many are still recovering from the Sampson Flat bushfire that devastated the town a number of years ago now, and so many of the community got together and got behind this project. In particular, the Kersbrook Public Hall committee drove it. Long-time stalwart and president, Joan Playford, was particularly key in driving this project.

Other local community groups, such as the Torrens Valley Lions Club, many local businesses and other local groups—even other local residents—got behind this important project. It is so great at times like these, when there appears to be a sense of fragmentation in so many parts of our community, to at least see the community really getting behind each other and helping to support this important project.

I would also like to congratulate Tea Tree Gully Gymsports on their participation in the national championships, to be held in Melbourne, starting on Monday next week. There are 26 participants, both male and female athletes, and they will start with the artistic gymnastics event early next week. A week or so later, they will be getting involved in trampoline and tumbling (I have never been capable of or even close to participating in any of those activities) and they have done themselves very proud and done a fantastic job.

I would really like to congratulate the athletes on making it to the national championships. I congratulate their coaches, their families and all their other supporters. Tea Tree Gully Gymsports is a fantastic local club, being the largest gymnastics club in South Australia and the second largest in the country. In fact, they also have the largest Kindergym in Australia. I would also like to congratulate the board chairperson, Steve Crompton, on his job, and the role of the rest of the board in keeping that fantastic club going.

I would also like to congratulate the Tea Tree Gully sub-branch of the RSL on their once again wonderful dawn service held on ANZAC Day. It is a great local club, led by Wayne Langford and also a number of other people who do a really good job there. The City of Tea Tree Gully always provides a great deal of support for that very well-organised event. I would like to acknowledge the council and Mayor Kevin Knight for the role they play in that service, as well as the Ridgehaven Scouts, who have a long-running involvement in this service, making the wreaths and camping out, usually in the rooms, and the Tea Tree Gully CFS that always provide such a fantastic barbecue on the morning. You can smell the bacon and sausages in the cold air first thing in the morning.

VIRTUAL POWER PLANT

Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (15:32): Prior to the election, our Labor government had announced the rollout of a virtual power plant program that could save up to 30 per cent of a participant's energy bills and take the pressure off our grid—a program that has been canned by the new Premier within days of coming into office. For what reason?

In 1998, the now Liberal Treasurer was the then treasurer in the Olsen Liberal government. Under that administration, ETSA was sold, and with it went our energy security and any control that we had over our pricing. It is now 20 years on, and it is only because of our previous Labor government that we own any electricity assets at all.

Following the storm-related statewide blackout in late 2016, and that disgraceful load shedding event early last year, the then premier, Jay Weatherill, and energy minister, Tom Koutsantonis, announced an energy plan to take back control of the energy future. This included the world's largest battery, the Renewable Energy Fund, a state-owned emergency power plant, increased powers so as to direct the market in emergencies, and mechanisms to increase competition. Incentivised gas exploration was also on the cards and an energy security target. The energy plan is already delivering and is predicted by the independent national regulator to deliver \$300 in annual price reductions to householders over the next couple of years as a minimum.

In February, the then premier, Jay Weatherill, announced that a total of 50,000 solar panel and storage units would be networked to form the world's largest virtual power plant. Five-kilowatt solar panel systems with 13.5-kilowatt Tesla Powerwall 2 batteries were to be installed at no charge to the householder to 1,100 SA Housing properties as a trial to begin with. I understand that the 1,100 units that were contracted are underway, which means that the Liberal government will honour their completion. But what does that mean for the remaining 48,900 systems? We know that this network of 50,000 systems was very different from the 40,000 subsidised battery systems announced late last year by the Liberal Party.

The Liberal plan would cost the state \$100 million and cost householders around \$8,000 each, with the plan subsidising an average of \$2,500 dollars per battery unit. To be eligible, the home would have to already have solar in place. This Marshall plan targets only those who can afford it. The Labor plan costs the taxpayer the cost of the initial \$2 million grant and a further \$30 million loan from the Renewable Technology Fund. The remaining \$800 million was from private sector investment. The Labor plan targeted those who needed it the most, with 25,000 of the participating homes being Housing SA stock.

Steven Marshall must end the uncertainty for thousands of low income households across this state by committing to the full rollout of these household solar power and battery kits on Housing Trust properties and then to the general public. About 25,000 Housing Trust properties would receive free household solar and batteries if Mr Marshall committed to the world's biggest virtual power plant. This virtual power plant is expected to lower energy bills for the participating households by 30 per cent. SACOSS rated the initiative as the most likely to benefit the broadest number of households on lower incomes.

This call comes as Mr Marshall had made this sudden about-turn on renewable energy, taking part in a media opportunity to plug Australia's largest solar panel installation on shopping centres in South Australia. If Mr Marshall now supports large-scale rollouts of renewable energy technology for businesses, he must commit to this continued rollout of the virtual power plant and end uncertainty for thousands of vulnerable South Australians. Mr Marshall's sudden support of renewable energy follows an embarrassing backflip regarding the virtual powerplant project with, on the first day, Mr Marshall trying to kill off the project.

The SPEAKER: The member will refer to members by their electoral name or their title.

Ms COOK: Sorry about that. I got carried away with myself. Thank you for your advice. The Premier told ABC's *RN Breakfast* program that former premier Jay Weatherill 'was doing it for Housing Trust homes in South Australia...that's not part of our plan'. He was then forced to backtrack on those comments, saying that he would honour any contracts entered into by the former government. Well, keep going, Mr Marshall. Prove that you can care about social issues—

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Point of order: the member is ignoring your ruling.

The SPEAKER: I think the minister will—

Ms COOK: —and reinstate the program.

Ministerial Statement

ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:38): I table a copy of a ministerial statement on the Royal Flying Doctor Service made earlier today in another place by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption (resumed on motion).

Ms BETTISON (Ramsay) (15:38): I talked about StudyAdelaide and its student engagement program ensuring that international students have a rewarding experience when they are here in Adelaide. They talk to them about the practical information about studying, living and working in Adelaide and host organised events, such as a welcome on arrival, and wideranging social and cultural activities.

The student ambassador program also provides opportunities for international students to experience studying in Adelaide for a limited period. During my time as minister for multicultural affairs, I met many people who started their time here in South Australia as an international student, loved living here and continued to stay. Many met their future partners while they were studying at the universities. We have a very diverse network of people and a diverse network of countries that people come from. Of course, our Chinese student population is the most significant, followed by most of the other South-East Asian regions.

I want to touch on the industry capability network in South Australia that provides a pivotal connection between major projects and South Australia's best suppliers. It fosters opportunities for local businesses to capitalise on the dollars in major projects underway and the incoming pipeline of work. It has powerful tools, like the ICN Gateway, a database containing more than 65,000 supplier records. It has contributed to contracts, valued at more than \$2 billion, being awarded to South Australian companies and the creation of more than 28,000 jobs. This list of local businesses with demonstrated capacity to meet the requirements of major international, national and local developers matches the businesses, their skills and their expertise with projects and developers.

What does the Marshall Liberal government propose? In this area, it is proposing new trade offices in Japan, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, the US and Shanghai and an additional embedded office in Guangzhou for an export-led recovery.

Time expired.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for King, I remind members that this is the member's first speech, and accordingly I ask members to please extend the traditional courtesies to the member.

Ms LUETHEN (King) (15:40): I would like to thank His Excellency the Governor for his excellent speech. Thank you. It was heartening to hear that you have such confidence in our new government and heartening to hear you restate the priorities of this new Liberal government: more jobs, lower costs and better government services for South Australians. Mr Speaker, warm congratulations on your election to the Chair. You clearly demonstrate a deep community contribution and I am certain, Mr Speaker, that you will keep the members of this house focused on the best interests of South Australians.

To our new ministers, parliamentary colleagues and my friends and family in the gallery, I am grateful to be elected as a servant and voice for my local community. I congratulate all new members and all re-elected members. It is evident to me that the recent election was won through hard work by the Liberal Party candidates and staff and by the candidates' commitment to engage and listen to the people of South Australia. In King, my campaign strategy was simple: to knock on doors personally to ask my constituents what was most important to them, and then at night I telephoned those people I could not catch at home.

Knowing what matters most to my community is most important to me. I am proud of Premier Steven Marshall and the Liberal members for demonstrating to South Australians that we care deeply about people and about a much better future for South Australians. It is such a great honour and privilege to stand here today as the first member for the new northern suburbs electorate of King. I pledge my commitment to my community to serve tirelessly and be a strong advocate for the people who live in King, no matter how they cast their vote in the March 2018 election.

Parliamentary colleagues, listening to your Address in Reply speeches, I have been so thankful to learn more about your electorates and to hear about your journey to parliament. Our journeys to this house have certainly been very different, and that will be our strength, as it will help us to better represent the diverse communities that we serve. My community told me that they want us to be respectful leaders in our community, and in this house they want us to find common ground and keep focused on what is good for South Australia. This is real leadership.

I would like to take the opportunity to inform my colleagues and the electors of King who may read or listen to my speech about what I have learnt about the electorate of King. King is a new seat created by the redistribution in 2016 and was contested for the first time at the 2018 state election. King has over 27,000 electors. Many times during my doorknocking, people looked surprised when I said that I was the Liberal candidate for King. Many people had not heard that they were living in King. I will be mindful in the future of the importance of communicating any electoral boundary changes to those impacted in my community.

Many, many times during the 10 months of doorknocking, I repeated the suburbs of the electorate of King and restated my view that King is the most beautiful electorate. King spreads north across a very large geographic area in the north-eastern and northern suburbs. King suburbs include Golden Grove, which for those of us who have lived locally for over 20 years proudly remember was once named the world's best suburb. Golden Grove is where our new King electorate office is now located. Also, King includes Greenwith, Salisbury Heights, part of Salisbury East, Salisbury Park, Hillbank, One Tree Hill, Uleybury, Yattalunga, Bibaringa, Gould Creek and part of Surrey Downs.

King has a wonderful mixture of metro and rural living. When my husband, son and I first started letterboxing in rural King, my husband and son were so taken by the rural countryside and the paddocks full of sheep and kangaroos that they soon started talking of moving to the country, which is actually only 15 minutes' drive from our house in Golden Grove. In autumn, many streets in King have stunning green, red and golden leaves on the beautiful tree-lined streets.

King has oodles of natural habitats, such as Cobbler Creek Recreation Park, Para Wirra Conservation Park and the Little Para Reservoir. King also has sensational wineries, rambling creeks and rolling hills. We are lucky to have many large popular recreational grounds such as the Carisbrooke Park at Salisbury Park, the Kites and Kestrels adventure playground at Salisbury East, Jo Gapper Park at Hillbank, Tilley Reserve at Surrey Downs and Goldenfields at Golden Grove.

King also has the most welcoming community. For example, while campaigning, I was invited by a lovely group of ladies that I met at the Old Spot farmers markets to join a walking group called the Walkie Talkies. These locals from across King meet each Sunday morning at the One Tree Hill General Diner at 8am and set off around different parts of the beautiful landscape of King. When we return, we have a coffee, we say hello to the locals who are heading into the diner to pick up their Sunday papers and grab a bag of the most delicious freshly baked rolls you will ever try.

There are so many wonderful community volunteers and volunteer groups in King. I am a member of the Golden Grove Lions Club, whose ethics I appreciate, as they very much match my own values. At each meeting we read out and remind members of the ethics. An excerpt that particularly resonates with me is:

- Always to bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state, and my community, and...
- To aid others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.
- To be careful with my criticism and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.

In addition, I attend the Para District Zonta events, where a small but passionate group of women dedicate their time and resources to the advancement of women. At their recent handover meeting, an example of their good work was when they handed over 29 handmade quilts to the northern domestic violence centre. I am a member of the Friends of Cobbler Creek, who volunteer their time to preserve the Cobbler Creek Park for future generations to enjoy.

We have so many community-focused individuals and groups who invest their time in our community. The most remarkable show of community spirit I have seen was during the Sampson Flat bushfires. When my family were evacuated and safe at my parents' house, I went back to the evacuation centre. I commend all community members who worked together to help fight the fire, to save people, houses, animals and habitat. I thank the local community and businesses for their generosity, and I thank everyone who has helped in the recovery efforts.

King has many thriving community sporting clubs across all sports, including the Golden Grove Football Club, with Australia's biggest junior membership. Each club president I have met talks about their club's role in connecting our community members together, and they see their role as a community service.

On Friday nights after my son's games at the Golden Grove Central Districts Baseball Club, we certainly enjoy hanging with the other families to chat amongst ourselves in the clubrooms after the games. Not all clubs in King have these facilities today to bring people together, and this is certainly an opportunity for us to help connect more community members and enhance our sense of community.

King has an abundance of fascinating history, including many early settlers' ruins. I would like to see us find ways to signpost and communicate this history so that everyone knows about it and it cannot be forgotten. King is a stunningly, naturally beautiful electorate and I cannot imagine living anywhere else.

During my time as a City of Tea Tree Gully councillor and during the state campaign, I found the people of King to be thoroughly decent, caring, compassionate and hardworking community members. Additionally, we have many capable industrious business owners. While campaigning, I spoke to residents and businesses and said, 'I want to understand what is most important to you,' and I was moved by the vast number of people who talked to me with compassion about the hopes and aspirations, not only for themselves but for the broader South Australian community.

So many people told me what they most wanted to see was more jobs for young people in South Australia. So many people told me they wanted a government that really listened and would truly care for and protect our most vulnerable community members. So many people told me they wanted a fairer and tougher justice system and penalties, and many people asked that we find more ways to help our younger generation to attain home ownership.

Caring health professionals living in King invited me into their homes and spent considerable time explaining the vast challenges of our current health system. These health professionals told me

their ideas to improve our SA health services at our local Lyell McEwin and Modbury hospitals. I recorded these ideas and I have passed on these ideas and their experiences to our health minister.

Likewise, people waiting for elective surgery expressed to me their frustration about how long they have been waiting. A man at Hillbank told me that he has been waiting six years for an eye operation and another lady five years for a hip operation. These pensioners cannot afford private health care to speed up their operations. These waits are preventing these community members from living their best life possible.

An elderly couple from Greenwith told me their recent story of how they had to rush to the hospital at 4.30 in the morning when the 94-year old husband was in immense pain. Then they waited for six hours at the Lyell McEwin Hospital. His wife told me that she was petrified the whole six hours because they were seated right next to a man in handcuffs who was under police arrest during the entire visit. My elderly resident was frightened that this man was going to jump up and put his handcuffs around her neck. Sadly, they left the hospital in despair and went to see the doctor as they were still fourth in line to be seen after six hours. This is shameful.

I am grateful that the people in King were open and honest with me about their frustrations, often starting a conversation with, 'Oh, you don't want to hear what I have to say', and I said, 'Yes I do. That's exactly why I'm here.' People told me they wanted the South Australian government to stop wasting public funds. They wanted greater transparency and increased accountability from our government. They told me they wanted a government that would prioritise jobs and growth and support, especially in the northern suburbs.

Everybody raised skyrocketing and unaffordable electricity bills, rising council rates and cost of living as key concerns. Many people were so angry at rising council rates, questioning where councils are spending their money and questioning why their rate money was not being spent on footpaths, fixing broken kerbs, cutting verges or surfacing roads. Pensioners described how they were battling to pay their electricity bills.

While doorknocking one day on a 43° day, I met an elderly lady in Golden Grove who was absolutely petrified of putting a fan on in her sweltering home because she just could not afford the electricity bill. Her hands were red and swollen from the heat. I recognised the swelling as I had taken my son to the doctor the day before for the same reason. She also had no telephone because she could not afford one. I visited her last week to check on her and she now has no TV as it has blown up. She was not complaining. She is accepting of her situation. I think a person who has contributed so much to our community and raised a family in South Australia deserves much better.

I also met couples in their 30s and 40s who told me that they have good jobs but are still struggling to pay their bills. A school principal of an independent school told me that they are having more parents withdraw students and more parents asking for fee repayment plans because of the struggling cost of living. Cost-of-living pressures in SA are impacting parents' choice of education for their children. Furthermore, the shift of students from independent schools to public schools could impact the capacity and effectiveness of our public schools. As a governing council member of the Golden Grove Primary School, I have witnessed this shift year on year in the past three years.

Sadly, I met local King residents who had also sold their home because they had to move interstate to find jobs. I have a friend in King who has moved interstate to get work and she has had to leave her teenage children behind with their father so as not to disrupt their lives. People told me that crime was an issue. I met people who had sold their homes because of recurring episodes of break-ins in their street. I gave out lots of Neighbourhood Watch bin stickers and I have just received another box for my electorate office to give out to anxious residents. I regularly attend Neighbourhood Watch meetings.

I have monitored and communicated my concern over diminishing hours at police stations across the northern suburbs, whilst observing worrying trends in crime in my local area. I met countless small business owners who shared their frustration at rising costs, outdated regulation and unnecessary red tape. Business owners asked for lower costs, modern solutions and support. Parents of children with disabilities asked for more support so that their children can also live the best life possible in the future.

Sadly, I came across people living in fear in our community. One day while doorknocking, I approached a middle-aged woman in King in her very neat front garden. She was under a beautiful tree pruning when I introduced myself, and she said to me, 'My husband thinks he controls me. He doesn't really, does he? We women do matter, don't we?' I said to her, 'You matter very much to me.' I asked what her husband did and she said he was a police officer. I gave her my card and told her I was running for this election because I wanted to help her and I offered my support to her.

I was speaking to another woman at her front door when a male voice aggressively yelled out from inside the house, 'She doesn't want to talk to you.' The door slammed so loudly and violently shut that it shook the porch.

In the past 12 months, I have met three different parents who told me that their children had been sexually abused by other children while attending my local schools. Each of these parents felt that their child's school had not adequately handled the incident. I gave each of these parents the Department for Education policy document for 'Managing allegations of sexual misconduct in SA education and care settings'. I wanted to ensure that these parents were empowered with the information on the support they should be given and the process the department should follow in these heartbreaking situations.

In another lovely street of well-kept gardens with rows of bright colourful roses, I met a young mother who told me that two of her four children were fathered by her brother. She told me how her parents had covered up the abuse. She told me that her brother is now a married man, a father and a community leader. Another young father in his garden told me that he wanted tougher penalties for child sexual abuse and then confided in me that he, too, is an adult survivor of child sexual abuse.

A severe lack of mental health services and support was also raised many times. I met parents, police officers and nurses who all told me we desperately need more mental health service support in the northern suburbs. A nurse told me mental health patients have hanged themselves in one of our local hospitals while waiting for help. One mother told me her family is on constant watch to stop their daughter committing suicide, and she is mortified that there is not adequate service support for struggling 16 year olds in our community today. This mum needs to take all sharp instruments from the house to work every day. Her daughter is receiving texts from peers, telling her to kill herself, and she is not going to school.

Last week, a mother of a 15 year old who had been raped at a party told me how hard they had struggled to find her daughter appropriate counselling and care because she was under 16. On a couple of other occasions, after listening to these upsetting stories from my constituents, I cried when I left their home and I was just unable to knock on the next door. On these occasions, when I sat in my car collecting myself, I thanked my husband for taking my call and listening and reminding me that these stories were the reason we were fighting for a change of local representation and state government.

As Liberals, we believe good governments care for and support those who need help to get back on their feet and live the best life possible. I will work tirelessly with my colleagues to improve services for our community. I thank people in King for these open, honest discussions and for speaking up to me. I am inspired by your strength, bravery and hope for a better and safer South Australia. I have been thankful that so many King residents are coming to see me for help since the election. Every time someone asks for help, this warms my heart with the opportunity to help people living in King.

So, how did I end up here in the House of Assembly? I was born in Australia and I grew up in the northern suburbs and I attended great public schools. My late grandparents worked on wharves and in factories. My mum and dad are in the gallery today and they are extremely hardworking. My dad is a skilled fitter and turner and a workaholic who finished up recently at Holden's, and even though he is 69, he has no plans to retire. Likewise I do not remember a time when my mum was not working throughout my childhood. She only recently retired from the South Australian police force.

Working hard and providing for our families is in our DNA. My mum has always spoken her mind, a trait that I think has rubbed off on me. My mum and dad have just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, and I thank the member for Port Adelaide for sending them her

congratulations. Throughout my childhood, my parents always worked hard, gave generously and volunteered to several sporting organisations for which they are now lifetime members.

Growing up, my parents took my friends into our home when, for various reasons, they had no place to go. My childhood memories include being given all the toys I asked for as a child. I was adventurous. I raced go-karts. I owned three trail bikes which I used to ride around the fields in Golden Grove before the development.

The next part of my childhood I will share is not as pleasant for you or my family to hear, but it is so common in our community that I believe it is important to share. It is also one of the key reasons I have chosen this path and have a fire in my belly for change. I am cautious and mindful as I share this with you, as I know it is not the done thing for any family to air their dirty laundry. I mean no disrespect to my parents who I love so dearly. I am choosing to speak up and share a glimpse of other memories because I believe these experiences are still commonplace. I want to prevent these experiences from being passed on to our children.

There was violence in our home. I have vivid memories of hugging my little brother in the bathroom as my parents fought. My memories include relatives drinking too much and fighting at family gatherings. I remember having to run next door to get our neighbours to stop violence in our home, and I remember being sexually abused as a small girl by a close relative. I apologise for making you feel uncomfortable but, for you, this discomfort may only be for a moment. For me, and many abused children and children growing up in violence, we will probably feel uncomfortable forever. I startle easily and often jump as people approach. In professional settings, you may notice me trying to laugh this off.

Notwithstanding these childhood experiences, today I could not love my parents more. My mum is my best friend and my confidante. My mum and dad have always provided for us, and my parents are my biggest helpers and supporters. My son loves staying at their house. On 18 March, while my husband and I drove out to the far southern suburbs to pick up my son from relatives who looked after him during the final frenetic stage of the state campaign, my parents were out all day taking down my posters. I believe my parents did the best they could with the skills they had at that point in time.

We have in our community cycles of abuse. I am telling my story today because I wish to be part of a change that creates cycles of opportunity. I am thankful for my struggle because without it I would not have found my purpose and my strength. I am an advocate for children achieving success because of a safe, healthy childhood. Because my parents have always worked so hard, I followed in their footsteps and studied extremely hard at school and university. I completed two university degrees, a diploma in marketing and international accreditation in change management, and I forged a successful career in banking and energy industries and served on boards, all while raising a family.

I commenced my career in accounting and then commercial banking, and I moved on to business re-engineering projects focused on delivering large-scale efficiency outcomes. I proactively sought out mentors and said yes to all new opportunities, which grew my skills and experience. I led and delivered change that was customer and people-centric. After years of establishing new organisational capability, I was given the role of leading change in communication for the BT Financial Group.

Simultaneously, at Westpac, which is a leader in diversity initiatives, I became passionate about initiatives focused on advancing workplace outcomes for all employees, particularly for women and employees with carer obligations. I put up my hand for the opportunity to chair an employee action group, whose goal was to mainstream workplace flexibility initiatives across the Westpac Group for over 36,000 employees. I chaired this group while doing my day job, leading change nationally. We made great progress in listening to employees, leading cultural change and negotiating solutions that work both for the business and the employees.

Personally, I believe that there is more we must do to support men and women to work flexibly. Our family's experience has been that it can be difficult for men to access flexibility in the workplace so they can play a partnership role in raising their family if they choose to. My husband chose to resign from his full-time job last week so that he could be available for the drop-off and pick-

up of our son from school while I am in parliament. I thank him for his dedication and tremendous support of me and his shared ambition to create a safer community.

In my 40s, my career at Westpac took a powerful and purposeful change in direction following an executive coaching session with a man called Kamal Sarma. He insistently asked me what I wanted to do next in Westpac, and I repeatedly answered, 'I just want to help people.' He then asked me what really Ps me off—using a less polite term—and I surprised myself by answering, 'Children being hurt.' In my forties, my more unsettling childhood memories had begun to bubble to the surface. Weirdly enough, at the same time my mum found my childhood diaries and, when I read through these, my mind brought back memories I had forgotten for a very long time. In my mid-forties, I said, 'Me, too.'

While still working hard in banking, I completed my own research into the prevalence of child abuse and neglect in Australia. I became absolutely outraged by South Australia's child protection failures, with report after report and inquiry after inquiry and little action implemented. To create awareness of the risk to children in our community, I designed a 'Keeping children safe' wellbeing presentation for the Westpac employees and delivered this across Adelaide and Sydney with the help of an organisation called Child Wise.

I reached out to learn from and collaborate with child protection professionals and advocates across Australia, and I consulted a counsellor specialising in child sexual abuse to better understand the impacts of my own childhood abuse. One of those impacts was working so hard that I had little time to feel and think about what could be troubling me inside. Shutting off your own feelings also means you close yourself off to others. I feel so much more now since the counselling. The counselling service provider, Uniting Communities, then invited me to tell my story at a launch of a handbook for survivors of child sexual abuse. I have told my story many times now and, every time I tell my story about child sexual abuse, people come up to me afterwards and say, 'Me, too.'

Importantly, in 2013 I chose to dedicate the next stage of my career to serving the South Australian community and finding a way to help make South Australia the safest place for children to be raised. I sought out a meeting with shadow minister David Pisoni before the 2014 election and asked him what he would do to make South Australia safer. He said to me, 'What will you do?' and here I am, with the blessing and support of the party, its members, my family and my community. Thank you to David for your question that day and for your ongoing counsel ever since.

Family, domestic and sexual violence is a major health and welfare issue. It occurs across all ages, and all socio-economic and demographic groups. Violence costs our community billions of dollars and it may just rob people of the chance to live their best life possible. The statistics for domestic violence are alarming. One in four women and one in six men report emotional abuse by a partner. One in six women and one in 17 men have experienced physical violence by a partner. In 2018, ANROWS reported that women who, as children, witness partner violence against their parent were more than twice as likely to be subjected to partner violence themselves. In Australia, White Ribbon tell us, one in four children are exposed to domestic violence—one in four.

I am passionate about, firstly, South Australia implementing early years interventions to break the cycles of abuse and, secondly, children being heard in matters where their safety is in question. I believe this is essential to help us achieve a substantial and sustained reduction in child abuse and neglect in South Australia. It is absolutely outrageous that in 2017, in South Australia, more than 14,000 calls to the child abuse hotline went unanswered. It is outrageous that the statistic for child sexual abuse in Australia is one in five children.

Mr Speaker, imagine attending a full school assembly in your electorate. You are looking out over a large group of 500 innocent primary school students seated for the assembly. Now think that 100 of those vulnerable young children are being sexually abused, most by someone they know and trust. How can we expect these children to learn each day and reach their full potential when they are experiencing abuse?

One man told me that his abuse only stopped when he was old enough to push his toybox against his door each night. We must give children a voice. When a community is silent about the sexual abuse of children, it gives sexual perpetrators permission and access to our children.

Together, we can break the silence. As the member for Davenport said in his speech: if not us then who? If not now then when?

I am so proud to be part of this caring Liberal government and extremely heartened by our Premier's commitment to child protection and the appointment of our hardworking Minister for Child Protection, Rachel Sanderson. I am heartened by our new Premier's decision to appoint a caring and committed Assistant Minister for Domestic Violence, Carolyn Habib. I look forward to working with these ministers and my new colleagues on both sides of the house who have expressed their commitment to a safer and more respectful community.

When I was a little girl, I did not know that it was inappropriate for a family member to touch my private parts. I did not have the knowledge, the language or the opportunity to speak up. Today, I am speaking up for all children in our community who are victims of abuse. I am asking this parliament to find a way to give them the knowledge and a voice as early as possible in their childhood—and I am speaking up for everyone experiencing abuse today.

Today, our most up-to-date research is still telling us that most people do not contact the police after partner violence, yet the South Australian police are still responding to almost 30,000 domestic violence incidents, and one in four children is watching and listening to this violence. Real change is needed to break the cycles of abuse. This parliament can work together to take us to a time when nobody must say, 'Me, too.' There is so much we can do.

As an employee of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, I joined the White Ribbon steering committee to work with colleagues across agencies to embed White Ribbon workplace policies and procedures. When we communicated to our staff that we wanted to help victims to speak up, people began to ask for help.

At Service SA, I asked for and gained a budget and support to put the Domestic Violence Safety Cards in every Service SA Centre across South Australia. The cost was less than \$700—a very small price to pay to raise awareness and offer support across the state. Now my new electorate office in the seat of King has Domestic Violence Safety Cards on the front counter, and our King office telephone will always be available for any community member who safely needs to make calls for help. We can all do this in our electorates. The future is bright. There is so much that we can do together. Having heard your speeches in parliament, I believe that we are the change that the community has been waiting for. The time is now. I now touch on the many thanks that I have to convey.

My election to parliament was made possible by the efforts of many people who stood with me to advocate for a better, safer future. I would like to thank my wonderful family: my dad, Ken Hannam, my mum, Maria Hannam, and my husband, Ian Soper. My husband is just as passionate as I am about a better future for our children in South Australia. He worked extremely hard to support the campaign and helped me earn the trust of King electors. I thank my beautiful, smart and hardworking 22-year-old daughter, Brooke Luethen, who is currently in her last year of uni. I hope that the good work of this government will create so many new jobs in South Australia that she has the choice to stay here with us.

I thank my eight-year-old son, Max Soper. He has given up so much of his mum's time so that we can do this fight to make the community better for many. On his last report card, his teacher wrote, 'He is one of the most caring children in his class.' I tell him that this is one of the most important values, to care deeply for other people, and it seems to be rubbing off. Thank you to my brother Bryan; thank you for helping us on polling day.

During the campaign, we were fortunate to attract many new friends, all so passionate about South Australia's future. These friends helped me to letterbox the electorate many times over, waved with me, introduced me to their friends, made my family meals as it was so crazy, watched over my son, put up and took down so many posters, provided moral support and supported me in just every way possible. I am grateful to many people, and I am grateful especially to a small group whose efforts went above and beyond and who were generous and a constant support.

Thank you to minister David Pisoni, Elyse Falkenmire, Paul Barbaro, Danyse Soester, Adrienne Williams, Ellen Gillespie, Silvia Rulla, Gavin Denton, Mick Cearns, Amit and Neelam Katiyar, Liam Goodrich, Lyn Petrie, Grace Paterson, Bernadette Tutor Tabayan, Patricia St Clair

Dixon, Domenica and Michael Ferraro, Margaret and Peter Watson, Mary and Mick Coric, Sandra Davies, Belinda Valentine, Cristina Magnante Marello and Steven Rypp. Thank you all so much.

Furthermore, I wish to thank the Liberal Party. As members of the King community presented to me their concerns and aspirations, you made it so easy for me to offer our well-considered policies and plans to demonstrate we were listening, ready to govern and ready to deliver real change. Thank you to the Premier, Steven Marshall. Your hard work, focus and discipline are a constant source of inspiration. Thank you to the honourable federal minister Christopher Pyne, Deputy Leader Vickie Chapman, minister David Pisoni, minister David Ridgway, minister David Speirs and minister Stephen Wade for your visits to King and for doorknocking with me to meet community members in the King electorate.

Thank you to my co-councillor Bernie Keane in the Pedare Ward, City of Tea Tree Gully, for his support and mentoring along the way. Thank you to the staff at the City of Salisbury, the City of Tea Tree Gully and the City of Playford who actioned so many council requests for me as I worked my way around the electorate. My biggest thanks and heartfelt gratitude goes to every person and business owner who opened their door, took my calls, waved, honked, signed a petition and, finally, voted for me to be standing here today. Thank you.

To those people in King, I reiterate that I have listened to and recorded your priorities that you communicated to me during the campaign. These include delivering more jobs, better services and lower costs of living, and, in addition, more locally, finally fixing Golden Grove Road. Locals raised this with me when I first doorknocked for council, and it took me three years of lobbying and petitioning to gain the commitment from government to fix this road. Thank you to everyone who signed and honked for this change. We also promised to add a slip lane into Skyline Drive. Thank you to Hillbank residents for signing the petition. We are committed to fixing SADNA car park parking, which will benefit so many people who visit the South Australian Districts Netball Association courts at Golden Grove and the residents who live around it.

We will be investing in Modbury Hospital, which will provide better services for every resident of King and take the pressure off Lyell McEwin. Finally, we will deliver more car parks at Golden Grove park-and-ride so that more people can easily use public transport. We will deliver for the people of King. As a Liberal, I am committed to building the capacity of the South Australian community. I am committed to a South Australia where every individual can live their best life possible. I am here to help you, your family and your business. I am your servant. Your challenges and your aspirations are my priority.

Lastly, I wish to touch on one last opportunity for our community. I ask for colleagues, and anyone listening to my speech, to reflect on the aim that our House of Assembly is meant to be a representative body for our South Australian community. The government's decisions and policies shape the quality of lives in our community. I argue that since women know their situation best, they should participate equally to have their perspective and life experience incorporated. It seems intuitive that there are just some issues that are more important to women and affect them more. I believe women's collective life experience as women is very important.

Women were granted the right to stand for parliament in South Australia in 1894. It took another 65 years, until 1959, for Joyce Steele to be elected to the South Australian House of Assembly. On 18 December 2019, South Australia will celebrate 125 years since the passage of a bill granting women the right to vote and to stand for parliament. The campaign to gain public support for women's suffrage was a collective effort. With the local government elections coming up later this year, I urge women to consider running for council. I ask our community to consider who they vote for in the elections and if this will help elect a representative body.

When I was elected to local government in 2014, I said to another elected member, who had been there for a very long time, that I thought the 15 per cent female representation at our council was too low. I said that I would like to encourage more women to run in 2018 and the elected member replied to me, 'Don't let the boys know you're trying to take their jobs away.' 'Deeds not words,' said Emmeline Pankhurst. It is my position; it is time for change.

Mr Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to speak, and thank you to the people of King for the opportunity to serve.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Kavel, I would like to acknowledge a number of special guests with us today: the Hon. Alexander Downer AC, former minister for foreign affairs; Mark Goldsworthy, the former member for Kavel; and the Hon. John Doyle AC, former chief justice of the Supreme Court. We also have with us the former member for Wright, Jennifer Rankine; the former Speaker of the house, Mr Michael Atkinson; and Tony Zappia, the federal member for Makin.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Debate resumed.

The SPEAKER: I now call the member for Kavel.

I remind members that this is the member's first speech, and accordingly I ask members to extend the traditional courtesies to the member.

Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (16:29): Mr Speaker, I have much pleasure in supporting the motion, and I thank you for the opportunity to address the chamber. I express the hope that I will do nothing in the future to unsettle your even-tempered ways. Representing Kavel is the greatest privilege of my own life, and I am deeply grateful to my community for their support. It will not be forgotten in this place.

I am the fourth member for Kavel. Serving before me has been the Hon. Roger Goldsworthy, deputy premier; the Hon. John Olsen, premier; and Mr Mark Goldsworthy, whose grace and good nature I would do well to replicate here and in my electorate. I acknowledge that the Hon. Roger Goldsworthy and Mr Mark Goldsworthy were both in the gallery today. Mr Mark Goldsworthy leaves parliament without an enemy. Very few leave on those terms. I wish also to say that his friendship and encouragement have been fundamental in setting me on this path.

I acknowledge the generous welcome I have received from both sides of the house and congratulate new members. I also understand that it is customary for members in my position to reflect on their arrival here, if not by way of apology then at least by way of explanation. I acknowledge those guests who are now entering the gallery. I acknowledge, too, the generous welcome, as I mentioned, that I have received from both sides of the house.

My parents were schoolteachers and believed in an ethic or spirit of public service. They did not place any emphasis or premium on money, fame or good looks; in any case, such advantages have so far eluded me. However, watching mum and dad as community organisers, I absorbed, despite a lengthy teenage resistance, the first and most valuable lessons in local politics: work hard, treat people with respect, show some courage and be frank wherever possible.

My political hero, Charles Hawker, was also frank wherever possible and utterly fearless in politics—after all, he faced greater trials: Hawker was a survivor of the First World War. He carried deep physical scars. Liliias Needham, Charles' sister—and, in ways I will later explain, my benefactor—records that Charles was wounded twice at Ypres as a result of which he lost an eye. After recuperating from 14 operations, and although classified unfit for service, Hawker insisted on returning to the wretchedness of the trenches. Life was precious to him, and he understood very well the risks he faced.

On 4 October, in Belgium Charles was paralysed from the waist down by machine gun fire. After a series of operations, he was able to walk with two sticks, although his legs remained in surgical irons. Charles left to enter politics, becoming the youngest minister in the Lyons' cabinet but was killed in a Kyeema air crash. Hawker, a veteran of Ypres, would, I feel, have understood how arbitrary the Fates can be. You will know, Mr Speaker, that in Greek mythology the Fates preside over human life and death, spinning our destinies as if they were mere threads. At times, I am sure we have all felt that events are somehow beyond us, particularly at times of unexpected or cruel tragedy.

Opposition leader John Curtin believed that Charles Hawker had been on the threshold of great achievements. Harold Holt, himself later to die in office, said that Charles Hawker was the most inspiring man he ever knew. Some of Hawker's estate was, through his sister, ultimately invested in a scholarship fund that put me through Adelaide University and created the opportunity for me to later follow in Hawker's footsteps and study at Cambridge. In no way would I claim on arriving there that I was even close to Charles Hawker in stature or in service. Charles finished his studies, after all, following the war and with his body broken.

At the time I received the benefit of a Charles Hawker scholarship, my stepmum had advanced multiple sclerosis and, as you know, it is a hard disease. There were three other children still at school and one teacher's salary in the house. I know I would not have made it to university without the scholarship, but following in Hawker's name comes with responsibilities, including the responsibility to serve your community wherever possible.

As I have suggested, Hawker's example is nearly impossible to follow. He was not only brave physically but brave intellectually. At a time when protectionism was described by Sir Keith Hancock as a faith and dogma, Charles was amongst a small group who recognised that protectionism usually serves only special interests. In fact, it usually results in wealth transfers to what firebrand Labor premier Jack Lang described as 'rent seekers'.

In this way, Charles Hawker became a mentor to Bert Kelly, who much later campaigned against Jack McEwen's protectionist agenda inside the federal Coalition and in this process earned the moniker 'the modest member'. You will know, Mr Speaker, that 'Black Jack' McEwen was a fearsome political gladiator. At the end, the free-trade agenda, which Charles and Bert had kept alive even in the face of Jack McEwen, was embraced by Hawke and Keating and Howard and Costello.

The importance and value of Charles and Bert's lessons can easily be measured. As Ray Evans has observed, in per capita terms Australia and New Zealand were the wealthiest countries in the world at the time of Federation. After Federation, we slid down the per capita income ladder. By 1980, Lee Kuan Yew, president of Singapore, said to us as a friend that we were at risk of becoming the poor white trash of Asia. In that year, we were 22nd or maybe 23rd on the income ladder and falling. Only the economic reforms of the 1980s and 1990s arrested this trend.

In South Australia, our export performance has been a painful disgrace over the last 16 years. When Labor came to office in 2002, South Australia was supplying 7.4 per cent of the nation's merchandise exports. We now supply 4 per cent. Had we retained today in a proportional sense the same share of merchandise exports as in 2002, these exports would be worth \$9 billion.

We have the best wool, wine, meat, fruit and seafood in the world. Our manufactured food and other products have few equals. If we are to succeed as a state, we need to find and cultivate new markets. I am proud that our government will open new trade offices. We need to look closely to the success John Key enjoyed as Prime Minister of New Zealand. Over a decade, Mr Key transformed the New Zealand economy, an economy which looks very similar to the economy we have inherited from Labor in South Australia. I am sure that I will speak again on this subject.

As you know, Mr Speaker, Kavel is an electorate of great physical beauty. You can see much of the seat from the eastern slopes of Mount Lofty or, alternatively, from Mount Barker summit. Within Kavel is Piccadilly, Carey Gully and Mount George, Verdun, Hahndorf, Paechtown, Mount Barker, Littlehampton, Nairne and Hay Valley and the Onkaparinga Valley, including the Onkaparinga Valley towns of Balhannah, Oakbank and Woodside. Also within Kavel are the townships of Blakiston, Brukunga, Charleston, and Dawesley. Hans Heysen, Australia's most respected landscape artist, lived in Hahndorf within my electorate, and he was right to make that choice.

I wish to reflect, too, on the deep belief in community that exists throughout Kavel. Margaret Thatcher once said that there was no such thing as community or society, just individuals and families. She did not visit Kavel. From the CFS, the school councils, sports clubs, service clubs, church markets, fetes, country shows, environmental groups and support groups to street parties and book clubs, Kavel believes in the principle that you should wherever possible help your neighbour. As our district grows, it is important to share this ethic with newcomers.

Although a place of great beauty and real volunteer spirit, we face local challenges in Kavel. Members opposite, despite the clear objections of my community, rezoned large areas of Mount Barker for rapid housing development. We referred that decision to the Ombudsman. The minister of the day, the Hon. Paul Holloway MLC, resigned sometime after the rezoning decision. Despite Labor's many commitments to support the growth they had created by executive fiat, Labor effectively abandoned my community. My electorate, not just in Mount Barker but elsewhere, including Nairne and Littlehampton, is now growing rapidly. We are the fastest growing community in the state.

From opposition, and with the assistance of the federal Liberal government, we were able to deliver the Bald Hills interchange, the largest infrastructure investment in the district for a generation. Such an investment was not made because we were a marginal seat. It was made because a majority federal government was able to see through its program of works and following the patient, determined and diligent advocacy of the former member, Mr Mark Goldsworthy.

I am also pleased that we have made a number of significant commitments to improve my community, including opening a Service SA office in Mount Barker, upgrading the Nairne intersection, funding the 24-hour doctor service at the Mount Barker hospital and working with the Women's and Children's Health Network to enhance paediatric services. We are also committed to cutting the ESL, capping council rates and reducing power costs—a platform that we welcomed in my electorate and elsewhere.

Of substantial concern to my electorate is the present condition of local infrastructure, including roads. We need to invest in infrastructure in the Hills and Fleurieu growth corridor. Our Royalties for Regions plan is a substantial commitment to divert 30 per cent of state mining royalties into a special purpose roads and infrastructure fund over a decade. Long-term planning of this type is welcome in Kavel and throughout rural and regional South Australia.

In this election, we have lost from the upper house a great advocate for the rights and needs of disabled people and their carers. Kelly Vincent was not a member of my party; nevertheless, I have great respect for her, her party and also for her candidate in Kavel, Cristina Rodert. I mentioned that my stepmum has multiple sclerosis. She uses a wheelchair. Occasionally, she loses her sight. My dad, after training as an English teacher, later worked as a special needs teacher. My uncle was a disability care coordinator. Perhaps as a result, and also after working in my electorate, I understand the need to be a strong advocate for the rights and needs of disabled constituents, and I intend to be. I believe it is the proper role of government to use its resources to help those genuinely in need.

As well, I bring to this house a personal story and a prayer for change. My godbrother committed suicide at 18. Many other young men in my community commit suicide. I have known several others, including a schoolfriend whose memory is very dear to me. It is not only young men, but it seems it often is. The Premier has acted early on his commitment to preventative health and wellbeing with the establishment of the Premier's Council on Suicide Prevention. It is an unhappy fact that more people in South Australia take their own lives each year than die on our roads. South Australia's suicide rate exceeds the national average.

One of the most practical ways I can address this issue as a local member is to speak widely about suicide prevention in my community. I encourage other community leaders to do likewise. We need to make plain to young men in country South Australia—and to all young people—that they are deeply valued by their communities and that, whatever hardship or anguish befalls them, the value of their own lives is incalculable. I encourage the government to continue to fund practical help. On these and other issues, I hope to find common ground with members of the opposition.

I say in this place, too, that, though it is now fashionable to embrace hyperpartisanship, I have never been very fashionable, and I look forward, as a result, to working with opposition members wherever possible. I am, of course, a member of the Liberal Party. The philosophical heritage of our party is substantial. It draws on some of the most impressive intellectual movements of the 20th century: liberalism and conservatism.

I am a classical Liberal. Classical Liberals jealously protect individual freedom, tolerance, markets, the rule of law and an autonomous civil society. Departure from these ideas, while on

occasion seductive, ultimately diminishes the standing of any Liberal democracy. I believe, too, the best way to ensure the ongoing relevance of our party is to reflect more deeply on the value of these principles in crafting new solutions for the problems of our state.

As you know, Mr Speaker, being a classical Liberal also comes with its drawbacks. As P.J. O'Rourke famously said:

One of the annoying things about believing in free will and individual responsibility is the difficulty of finding someone to blame your problems on. And when you do find somebody, it is remarkable how often his picture turns up on your driver's license.

Further and more seriously, I have been alarmed at times by the readiness of many parliaments to compromise principle, reason and science for expediency.

As a solicitor, working on occasion to defend people's very real liberties from encroachment by the state, long-established principles of English and Australian law are the only thing I have been able to fall back on. In this context, I was taught by a chief justice that, as a general rule, people who are popular or powerful or who enjoy the support of the majority either do not need or do not have any difficulty in securing the protection of the law. The people who need that protection are the weak, the friendless, the people who are accused of crime or other disgraceful conduct, people who can appeal only to the law to protect and vindicate their rights.

On our best days we are the party that defends the rights of individuals against the state and against injustice and inequity wherever it lies protected, and on every day we stand for something else: the rejection of the class logic that our opponents are captive to. In an age when, as the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP has remarked, people increasingly refuse to be bound by outdated concepts or preconceptions about how they fit into society or where they sit in the pecking order of the economy, socioeconomic mobility is the new normal.

When tradies can earn more than lawyers, millennials change career every few years, and with women taking on more than 60 per cent of all new jobs, we are seeing a realignment of the challenges and opportunities available to every person in every community. There is no class logic left in politics and our politics can, I hope, be much nobler as a consequence of that.

Finally, I record in this place my gratitude to the people who have done more for me than I can adequately acknowledge: my campaign manager, the Kavel campaign executive, members of the Young Liberal movement who gave to me much more than I could have reasonably expected, serving and retired parliamentary members, my parents, Jen's parents and the volunteer members of my party who have worked so hard to ensure our success.

I know that you have not placed me here so that I can make a statement of your names. Instead, and adopting for myself the sentiments of the Hon. Christian Porter MP, rest assured that every late night and early morning in service of Kavel is also meant as a small repayment of the substantial debt that I owe to you all. To Jen, your love and kindness has made all the difference. Mr Speaker, thank you for your indulgence. I understand that I am the last of the maiden speakers from my party in this parliament.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Wright. I note that it is his maiden speech, and I ask that all members apply the appropriate courtesies. Thank you.

Mr BOYER (Wright) (16:49): I, too, rise to support the motion before the house and, in doing so, thank His Excellency the Governor, the Hon. Hieu Van Le, for opening parliament nearly two weeks ago now. I acknowledge that this land is Kurna land, and I pay my respects to the elders past and present. I would also like to thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, on taking your office. I am sure this 54th parliament will be in very safe hands. Can I also congratulate the member for Dunstan on becoming the 46th Premier of the state. To my fellow class of 2018—the member for Playford, the member for Badcoe and, of course, the member for Croydon on this side, and the 11 new members opposite—congratulations, and I look forward to working with you all.

There being a disturbance in the gallery:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Wright, if I can just interrupt. People in the gallery, please remove yourselves quietly while the debate is occurring. Thank you.

Mr BOYER: My great-great-grandfather William Blair arrived in Adelaide from Scotland in the 1840s. I do not know a great deal about his circumstances, but I assume that he, like so many others, was desperately seeking a better life. Many others here today have shared similar stories of immigrant families seeking opportunity that was denied them in their land of birth, making a tentative, faltering beginning in this young country, perhaps coming perilously close to disaster, but persisting and, as William did, finding a degree of economic success and security and, even more important, a sense of belonging and place.

When I arrived here from Victoria in 2011 to work for then minister Jennifer Rankine, while it would be putting too fine a point on it to say that it was a Blair family homecoming, the significance of the fact that, in some way, part of my family had come full circle was not lost on me, nor was the realisation of the enormous opportunity that South Australia has bestowed upon me, first as a member of a vibrant, progressive community and, second, for the incredible privilege of representing the people of Wright in this place.

Adelaide's north-east has a reputation for being a great place in which to raise a family, and that is certainly the experience of my wife, Catherine, and me. We spend a lot of time in the parks and playgrounds with our three young daughters: Evelyn, four years of age, and twins, Billie and Rose, who are two. I know that many of the residents in my electorate chose to live there for that very reason. But there is nothing like doorknocking in 40° heat for days on end to focus one's thoughts and contemplate: why am I doing this? The question inevitably led me to consider the things in life that I value, the path I have taken in acquiring those values and the people who were instrumental in instilling in me some very important lessons in life.

I grew up on the family farm in south-west Victoria in a small coastal town called Narrawong, an hour from Mount Gambier, where I played a lot of my junior football. In many ways, it was an idyllic childhood surrounded by an extended family in a very beautiful part of the world but, as anyone associated with farming will know, it has its challenges, and success or failure is often determined by the strength of the character of the farmers. I know what it is like to spend days sweltering in a shearing shed; what it is like when farmers are offered what amounts to a fraction of the cost of production for their stock, and there is no option but to accept because there is no feed left; what it is like when the rain does not come, and dwindling hay supplies have to be rationed among starving cattle.

But I have also seen the camaraderie and togetherness when people work together to achieve worthwhile things. I have seen the heroic persistence of people like my grandparents, Bill and Maggie Boyer, who married at the height of the Depression, lived in a tent for many months while they built a home, cleared 60 acres of bush by hand—no machinery, just an axe and a draught horse—went on to have 11 kids, never had two bob to rub together, but always considered themselves lucky. Not once did I ever hear my grandparents complain.

That was one side of my childhood; the other was vastly different. Every holiday, we would visit my maternal grandparents, Ken and Peg Ingram, in Canberra, where my mother grew up. Mum's dad had been principal parliamentary reporter to the federal government. In that role, he sat beside 13 prime ministers, from Lyons to Fraser, and recorded what they said. He was an erudite man whose opinion was always considered and balanced.

Ken came to Australia with his parents from Scotland in 1926 and settled in Canberra. He went to school with Gough Whitlam. In fact, they wrote school plays together. When grandpa died in 1999, I answered the phone for my grandmother and heard the voice of Gough calling to offer his condolences on the passing of my grandfather. At 5pm each evening, my grandparents in Canberra would be sitting down to a whisky and biscuits and cheese.

An honourable member: Hear, hear!

Mr BOYER: Hear, hear, indeed! This ritual often included friends who had dropped in for a visit. I found out later in life that these friends included High Court judges and several who had served in senior Public Service or diplomatic roles in Canberra. Meanwhile, at 5pm in Narrawong, my other grandparents would be feeding the chooks and horses and bringing in the cows for milking.

As you can see, their worlds were vastly different but, as I have grown older and looked back at those days, I have realised that, in terms of values, my grandparents were incredibly similar,

perhaps because they all lived through a Depression and a world war in which both grandfathers lost a dear brother. There was never any feeling of entitlement, just a quiet acknowledgement that they were fortunate to live in a free country and that not to do your allotted job to the best of your ability would be an insult to the memory of those people who sacrificed their lives to achieve it.

Perhaps it was in Canberra where I developed an appreciation that politics, with all its failings, can change people's lives for the better, but it was on the farm in Narrawong where I began to form my opinions, especially the importance of those who work to produce the things we need, and the self-respect and dignity that come with having a secure job that puts the spuds on the table, as the old saying goes. From both sets of grandparents I have learned the value of hard work and persistence, even when the odds are stacked against you, and how being part of a team is not only more productive but also an enriching experience.

But most important of all was the focus on honesty and integrity. In this regard, there was no room for compromise in any aspect of my upbringing. In Canberra, it was expressed via articulate discussion and debate. On the farm, it was a blunt proclamation that sat above the fireplace: 'If a man is not honest, he is not a man at all.' These values were certainly instilled in my parents. They informed not only the careers they chose but also the way they went about their work.

As the 11th child in his family, my father readily acknowledges that he had significantly more educational opportunities than his brothers and sisters. He became a teacher of English and history and taught in public schools for almost 45 years. He never left the classroom despite the lure of more money in leadership or administrative roles. When you start teaching at the tender age of 21 in a country town, it is not long before you are teaching the offspring of past pupils. By the time dad finished at Portland Secondary College, he was teaching the grandchildren of some of his earlier students.

As a teacher of history, dad made sure that my brother, Campbell, and I were conscious of the fact that the land on which our family had farmed had a long and different past from the mere dot in time that represents white occupation, that this continent had in many cases been violently ripped from its traditional owners, and that this disquieting historical truth is something that our nation is yet to fully acknowledge and reconcile.

Despite the fact that we lived in a traditionally conservative place and in an area known as the birthplace of white Victoria, the history I was taught was not only of the trials, tribulations and pioneering spirit of white settlers but it was also one of learning that, from 1834 onwards, it was a frontier marked by many atrocities committed against the Gunditjmarra people. Dad taught us to be fiercely proud of our country but not to harbour chauvinism and ignore wrongs not yet put right that can easily lead to prejudice and injustice.

My brother, Campbell, and I were lucky enough to have mum at home with us until I was in grade 6. The older I get, the more I appreciate just how fortunate I was. When she re-entered the paid workforce, she worked for the local council coordinating rural respite care for carers of people with a disability. Mum took immense pride in her job and rightly so. She became a friend to many of her clients and, as was the case with dad, would be stopped in the street and thanked. Again, seeing up close the sincerity with which these people who had been dealt such a tough hand in life thanked my mother showed me the real personal satisfaction that one can gain from a role or a career in community service.

It was a proud day for my family when I was accepted into arts and law at Monash University. They were great years, too, with many fond memories, too many to mention, but the one that stands out the most of course is meeting my wife, Catherine, in our first year. She was from a small family farm as well, the youngest of seven children. I am proud to have her in the gallery with her parents, Ray and Maureen, who have put aside their distrust of all the commies in the Labor Party to love me like a son.

There are a couple of notable experiences during these university years that had a real impact on my world view. I volunteered my time, as part of my studies, to help at both the Springvale Monash Legal Service and the South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault. These were eye-opening experiences. There was a drop-in service where law students provided free legal advice and, even though my advice was free, I am not sure I would describe it as good value.

My first client was a sex worker, who had been in a consensual ménage à trois that had, at some point during the 72-hour assignation, become non-consensual. The client took me through the events in graphic detail for about 45 minutes before abruptly stopping and asking if I had any questions. I think I mumbled something about being from the country. The experience certainly opened my eyes to the need for an affordable legal system. Session after session, I had desperate clients come to me seeking legal advice regarding matters that should not have come across the desk of a fourth-year law student but, instead, an experienced solicitor.

It is not when people are loudly complaining about the cost of accessing our legal system that we should panic: it is when they complain no more because they have simply given up on seeking its assistance. I honestly fear that we are now at that point. That said, my articulated clerkship was spent at a small suburban firm in Footscray that practised in a few areas of law, but notably in personal injury, on a no-win no-fee basis. Here, I got to see our firm provide excellent legal representation to many migrants who barely spoke a word of English who had suffered debilitating injuries at work.

I also got to see up close the importance of a strong union. To say that these workers were vulnerable would be a gross understatement. They did not speak English, nor did the few family members they had living near them. Their knowledge of their rights in the workplace was completely non-existent, and their trust in the legal system, based upon experiences they had had in their country of birth, was zero.

I grew up in a very pro union household. Both my parents were proud members of their respective unions for their entire working lives. Seeing how threadbare the safety net was for many low-paid workers crystallised for me why a strong union movement is just as important today as it ever has been. While those opposite enjoy nothing more than to castigate the parliamentary Labor Party for its affiliation with unions, as someone who has worked in that parliamentary party I have seen the role they continue to play in tethering us to the real world. Without that affiliation, we would be forever lost in the bubble that is politics and disassociated from the priorities of everyday Australians.

As I walked from door to door in the beautiful district of Wright, sometimes pausing to admire the view out to the Adelaide Hills or down across the Plains to the gulf, I had time to reflect on those values I had witnessed and learned in my upbringing and how they resonated in the many conversations I had with people each day. It would be of no surprise that the most common sentiment was to do with the issues of trust, honesty and transparency, at times expressed in anger and confrontation but more often resolutely respectful. There was certainly no escaping the depth of feeling about things people perceived as the failings of government.

There was, though, a collective appreciation for what we have here in this state, not just for the beauty of our city and the regions but for the strength and resilience of our community and what has been achieved by setting aside differences and working together. In Wright, the examples of this are too numerous to mention—from the many sporting clubs, to the Wynn Vale Community Garden, to the Salisbury SES, of which I am a proud member. There is no shortage of collective will and talent to build an already thriving community into an even stronger one.

On the other hand, I did notice a tempering of the optimism of many I spoke with and a noticeable disquiet about what the future holds—perhaps even some grieving for what has been lost. All of us here in this place must have an empathetic ear for the concerns of those parents who fret about their children having a secure job. There is no doubt in my mind that this is not an easy matter to solve and that it will require more than clever slogans and a one-sided rearrangement of trading hours. It will require the type of creative, innovative and courageous approach that characterised the Weatherill government, of which I will always be proud to have played a small part.

It should be noted that the electorate of Wright now includes the suburb of Salisbury South, which brings with it many small to medium-sized businesses and also some iconic South Australian enterprises, including RM Williams and Bickford's. I will certainly be doing all I can to support those industries to grow and provide secure employment for more South Australian workers. While I am talking about grieving for what has been lost, let me sound a word of warning about growth.

As one who studied and worked in Melbourne and watched it balloon into the almost unrecognisable metropolis that it is today, I saw firsthand the price that was paid for that growth. The price was the loss of ease of movement and affordability for which Melbourne was once renowned. Such is the sprawl and expensive housing in Melbourne today that any of those celebrated attractions made possible by population growth are quite simply out of reach of Melburnians.

We must decide collectively what we are willing to sacrifice in the pursuit of growth. Of course, we want the big attractions—the sporting, cultural and arts events that Melbourne and Sydney have—but are we willing to trade our precious livability for them? When we engage in one of these ubiquitous debates about how Adelaide can attract the same events that Melbourne and Sydney currently enjoy, we must remember this: there was no secret formula or stroke of policy genius that brought those events to the Eastern States. Quite simply, it was a critical mass of population.

Years and years of population growth provided the critical mass needed to support all those events, large and small. It is population growth that attracted the high-end retail stores. It is population growth that attracted the luxury hotels. However, years of unchecked population growth brought other things too: amplified housing density, urban sprawl, permanently gridlocked traffic and an exponential increase in housing prices. It is the last point that I would like to dwell on, momentarily. We often talk about relative housing affordability between the states, but let's compare like with like.

Modbury Heights in the seat of Wright is some 18 kilometres away from this place. Today, the median house price in Modbury Heights is \$387,000. Eltham, a similarly leafy part of Melbourne's north-east, is 26 kilometres away from the CBD. Today, the median house price in Eltham is \$930,000. I am sure that all in this chamber would agree that cost of living was a key issue at the last election, and it will be a key issue for many elections to come. With the notable exception of wage growth and employment, is there a more important cost-of-living measure than housing affordability?

It is time we let go of the inferiority complex and acknowledge that what we have now in South Australia is actually a truly remarkable balance of livability and affordability and the kind of cosmopolitan living we have traditionally associated with bigger cities. The new Adelaide Oval, the redeveloped Riverbank Precinct, the revitalised CBD and the huge investment the Labor government made in public transport have transformed Adelaide.

So often I have heard people bemoan the loss of our young people across the border, and I, too, want to do whatever I can to ensure that South Australia is a place where our young people want to stay. However, at the same time, I know there are many, like my wife and I, who have come to this great state from Victoria because of the fantastic opportunities that it offers people, particularly for young families like our own. We are now proud and parochial South Australians, and I relish the opportunity to tell my friends in Victoria—who invariably complain about the cost of a house, the terrible traffic and the fickle weather—that they should move to South Australia.

But we must always work to make things better, and my years as a staffer in the Rann and Weatherill governments were spent trying to do precisely that. My time as minister Rankine's chief of staff was nothing if not eventful. Just seven months after beginning in the role, the member for Cheltenham became premier and we moved out of the child protection, disability and housing portfolios into community safety. Fourteen months later, amidst the Debelle royal commission, we were moved into the education and child development portfolio and regained child protection.

It was an unrelenting year, and Jennifer and her staff were tested in every way imaginable, but there were some proud moments, too—being a part of the negotiations with the commonwealth government to sign up to the historic Gonski agreement and watching as Prime Minister Julia Gillard and the member for Cheltenham made South Australia a signatory to that agreement. After the euphoria of the 2014 election win, we hoped for some clean air to continue the reforms outlined in the Debelle royal commission, but it was not to be.

I can still remember as clearly as if it were yesterday being told that a government carer had been arrested for sexually abusing children in state care. The 12 months that followed affected us all in lasting ways. This occurred across the two years in which my three daughters were born. Coming home from days spent reading the nightmarish details of what Shannon McCool had done to

children—children the same age as my own—brought everything into very sharp focus for me. But there is no place for self-pity in this story. Nothing we went through could begin to compare with what those children and families endured. The only solace one can find is that, in the hope that from all the changes that have been made since, we make sure that this never happens again.

To the member for Cheltenham and his Chief of Staff, Daniel Romeo, who is here today, to work in your office for almost three years was a privilege. I was particularly proud to play a role in the formation of our Building Better Schools policy, which if honoured by the new government will have a positive impact on generations of students to come.

So, too, was I proud to play a role in legislative changes that enabled same-sex couples to access IVF and surrogacy and to register their relationships and adopt, and I acknowledge those opposite whose support made this possible. More recently, I worked on getting agreement for a set of industrial relations election commitments of which the whole labour movement could be proud.

The more things change the more they stay the same, and that is certainly true of political campaigning. We live in an age of amazing technology. The prevalence of social media is breathtaking, and there is no doubt that people consume news and information in a manner vastly different from the way they have in years gone by. But it is for this reason that personal engagement with constituents is actually more important now than it ever has been, and in that sense the Labor Party's campaign for the seat of Wright was a very old-fashioned one indeed.

Collectively, we knocked on 20,000 doors and made 7,500 phone calls. This required a very loyal and hardworking team, who gave up hundreds and hundreds of hours of their own time, often family time, to volunteer. We were a well-oiled machine and relished the opportunity to prove our commitment to the task by doorknocking on all those cold, wet winter days and scorching summer days, too, when I learned the true value of bike shorts and talcum powder.

I must say that I am relieved that I have the opportunity now to thank my team as the member for Wright. To my campaign manager, Andrew Love, Josh Weidenbach, Kristianne Foreman, Martin Foreman, Lia Lawrie, Bia Delaney, Tom Mooney, Michael Hicks, Joni Carthew, Matthew Hillard, the member for Makin (Tony Zappia, who is also here today), Karen Grogan, Tom Kenyon, the member for Ramsay, James Peikert, Alycia, Bec, Leighton, Tahlia and Candice, I owe you all a debt of gratitude that I can never fully repay. This is especially true if one considers that my reward for the team's effort is a seat in this place, but for some of my volunteers who worked for the previous government their reward has been unemployment.

And there are others who have supported my family and me from the very first day I arrived in South Australia, none more so than the previous member for Wright, Jennifer Rankine. Where do I start with my gratitude? Thank you for the opportunity to work for you through the hardest but most rewarding portfolios of government. Thank you for the personal support you have given me, the mentorship, the opportunities to see our beautiful state but, more than all those things, thank you for the support that you have given Cath and my three daughters.

Thank you also to Michael Atkinson, who has taught me much about South Australian history and whose commitment to one-on-one contact with his constituents I will try to emulate, although I suspect it will never be matched. I would like to offer my heartfelt thankyou to Kyam Maher in the other place. Kyam has been a loyal mate from my very first day in South Australia, and that mateship has extended to his wife, Carmel, and three kids. I would not be where I am without Kyam's advice and support, but perhaps the biggest opportunity he has given me is a place in what could only be described as Adelaide's premier Tuesday night C-grade amateur basketball side, the Desert Dogs.

I would also like to congratulate the new deputy leader of the South Australian Labor Party, the member for Port Adelaide. She is a constant reminder to me that intelligence, respectful discourse and a steady hand can still achieve things in politics. Along with the new leader of the party, the member for Croydon I am excited about the future and it is very uplifting to join a team that has so uniformly endorsed its leaders.

There are other long-time friends of both me and my family I would like to acknowledge today. Mick and Janice Cusick, Andrew Carter, Claude and Jeannette Long, Jos Mazel and Jane Covernton, Cheyne and Anne-Marie Rich, Joe Szakacs, Simmone Reid and Ben Whitlock, Chris Burford and Lucy Wozniak and Jarrad and Lucy Pilkington, I do not take your support for granted,

and I sincerely hope that this is just the start of many years working together to deliver a progressive Labor government for South Australia.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Dave Gray from United Voice, who showed enormous faith in me and entrusted me with the task of holding the seat of Wright. I should not forget to thank Joe Helper and Tony White, who gave me my very first job working with the Australian Labor Party, and all my loyal friends in the sub-branches of Wright, Portland and Ripon, who have been with me for many years.

I acknowledged earlier some people who have been friends to me since moving to South Australia, and none more so than Nina and Gus Gerace. Nina took Cath and I under her wing and has always been there when we needed her. She is the closest thing we have to family here in Adelaide.

To my family, who have cheered me on from afar: my aunt Margaret Ingram, who has been teaching me about politics from the day I was born; my aunt Kate, who is just shy of 80 but who drove over from Portland and stood all day on polling booths to support me; and the whole Kleinitz clan, whom I love dearly. To my parents, who have never, not once, let me down. I know that having devoted their working lives to helping others they would tell me that all I have achieved to this point is an opportunity, an opportunity to help others who are less fortunate than me.

Finally, to my wife, Catherine Rose, whom I first met when I was 19 and who has been my partner for 17 years. Her belief in me regularly dwarfs my own, and without it I would be lost. I asked far more of Cath than was fair. With three kids under three and heading into a marginal seat campaign, it would not have been unreasonable for her to have resented me; instead, I got nothing but love, support and motivation.

I did not grow up in a religious household. I know that my mother, particularly, was cognisant of this and would sometimes lament not providing us with a guiding set of morals. Dad would ably fill this void. An avid reader and part-time poet, he often recited Shakespeare, Henry Lawson, Banjo Patterson, Lewis Carroll and Robert Frost. However, there was a particular stanza by one bush balladeer that has followed me around.

In my first job working for the Australian Labor Party, I would walk past his statue on Spring Street every day, and on family trips to Mount Gambier we would read the obelisk at Blue Lake that told of his famous jump there on horseback. Now I find myself in the South Australian parliament where he served more than 150 years ago, so I give the last word to Adam Lindsay Gordon and the lines from his poem *Ye Wearie Wayfarer* that have served me so well for so long:

Question not, but live and labour

Till yon goal be won,

Helping every feeble neighbour,

Seeking help from none;

Life is mostly froth and bubble,

Two things stand like stone,

Kindness in another's trouble,

Courage in your own.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I ask the minister to begin, I ask those people leaving the gallery to please do so quietly.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (17:18): It gives me great pleasure to be able to rise today to give, I guess, my first significant speech in my role as the state's Minister for Environment and Water and to do that through my response to the Governor's address to parliament here in South Australia a couple of weeks ago.

The Governor is someone I have the utmost respect for. He is a man who has given a significant amount of service to South Australia and he is someone I personally admire. It has been

a great thing for me to see him flourish in his role as Governor. He was not the Governor when I was first elected to this place, but he has moved from Lieutenant Governor to the governorship of this state and he has done so with great flourish. To be able to work alongside him in service of the state is a great honour. I would like to pay tribute to our Governor and his wife, Mrs Le, and their continued service to the state. Whether that be long or short, I am sure that it will be of great calibre.

My re-election to this house is certainly not something that I will ever take or have ever taken for granted. I was unsure whether I would be re-elected on 17 March 2018. I was one of those people who had a very substantial change to the electoral boundaries of my seat following the last redistribution. I thank the member for Heysen for his involvement in that. It certainly went a long way to delivering government to the Liberal Party, but it made my life much harder in terms of my re-election, with a 40 per cent change to my seat, the abolition of the seat of Bright and its replacement with the new seat of Black—very much a seat cemented in the southern suburbs as opposed to the previous seat of Bright, which was more a south-western suburban seat.

That resulted in a dramatic demographic change and a winding back of the margin that I had in the seat of Bright of 3.3 per cent. My margin went back to 2.3 per cent on the 47 boundaries, but, of course, on a fifty-fifty boundary that seat was wound back to being a Labor seat by a handful of votes shifted to the Labor side of the pendulum. So I was given a significant challenge in winning the new seat of Black. While I embraced that challenge, and embraced it with the support of a band of volunteers locally, it was a challenge that I was not sure that I would necessarily be able to overcome.

The result, however, was substantially in my favour on election day, and I am incredibly grateful to the electors of the seat of Black for putting their faith in me for another four years. The result, a 6.2 per cent primary swing, was the largest to a Liberal candidate or member of parliament and it has been something that hugely humbled me. Becoming the state's Minister for Environment and Water, and seeing the Liberal Party form government for the first time in 16 years, was a great thing, but for me, personally, getting re-elected to the new seat of Black and having that overwhelming endorsement in the community that I have called home for the last 16 years actually surpasses becoming a minister or seeing the Liberal Party form government. It is with a sense of great humility and gratefulness that I take on the role as the member for Black.

The seat of Black stretches along Adelaide's coastline from the suburb of Seacliff in the north, through Kingston Park and Marino, through to Hallett Cove in the south. It then moves inland, covering the suburbs of Sheidow Park, Trott Park and O'Halloran Hill and then comes back down the hill through Darlington and across what I would describe as the escarpment suburbs, which are south of Seacombe Road, through Seacombe Heights, Seaview Downs and Seacliff Park.

The electorate is very much middle Australia, making up a community that would probably be described electorally as being comprised of Howard's battlers: people whose concentration and motivation is very much focused on paying off the mortgage, being able to afford the bills, trying to get kids through a decent school and, hopefully, having a bit of money left over to put some aside or have a holiday once a year. It is very much a suburban electorate and an aspirational electorate, comprised of people who are keen to get ahead and see their kids and grandkids get ahead, and who are loyal to South Australia and loyal to the concept of community and not wanting to worry about government.

Very few people in my electorate are passionate about politics or passionate about government. They are keen to be able to get on with their lives and let government get on with its work. I am hopeful that our government will create an environment that lets them do that, a no-nonsense government, a simplified government that gets out of the way of community, gets out of the way of individuals and lets them survive and thrive but provides a safety net to catch those who cannot catch themselves.

That is my political philosophy. That is the sort of government I want to be part of and that is the sort of government that I think the vast majority of people in my electorate want, no matter who they voted for on election day. That is the character of my electorate. I hope that I reflect that character, and I strongly believe that this government is the sort of government that can deliver that going forward.

In the state election, I was confronted with several opponents. My main opponent was a man called Randall Wilson. Today I want to pay tribute to Mr Wilson for executing his campaign with integrity and decency. Mr Wilson was largely unknown in the electorate but went about his work with a quiet resilience, and my interactions with him, though few and far between, were respectful and wholly decent.

I thank Mr Wilson for his contribution to the political process in putting his hand up for the candidacy of the new seat of Black. While the result did not go his way on election day, I congratulate him for taking part in the process. I think democracy is a great thing and the system of government that we have here in South Australia is one that is to be substantially envied, so I thank Mr Wilson.

I also thank my other opponents on election day: the Greens, the Dignity Party, the Australian Conservatives and the Independent candidate who stood. I was not someone who had a challenge from Nick Xenophon's party, SA-Best. Mine was one of only 11 seats that did not have that particular complication thrust upon them, and I congratulate the members in the 36 seats who had that challenge on their achievements, whatever side of the house they were on, in the midst of that added complexity.

It is a complexity which I do not think is particularly good for democracy. I think the populism that was being offered by Mr Xenophon and his candidates was not what we need in South Australia. I do not think it leads to good government, and I do not think that South Australia would have benefited from a government of either political persuasion where the balance of power was held by Mr Xenophon. It would have diminished good policy, it would have diminished reform in this state, and I think both major parties are better off with Mr Xenophon not holding the balance of power in the lower house.

Of course, he has two members of parliament in the Legislative Council. They join a quite significant crossbench of people who this government will respectfully work with, as well as working with the Independent members of the lower house as well, who have been rightfully elected and should be respected and worked alongside.

In reflecting on my local election, I want to pay tribute to a number of people who have helped and to put their names onto the record. I think this is an opportunity to celebrate their involvement. Some of them did so for political reasons, others were involved because of particular relationships they had with me and/or agreed with a particular stance that I was taking to the election.

I want to thank my booth captains, in particular Meg MacKenzie at Hallett Cove South Primary School. Meg, who works for me, managed to achieve our 10 per cent plus primary swing in Hallett Cove South, and that was a particular achievement that I am sure her team on the day contributed to. Brenda Calder at Hallett Cove central and Kaye Gaskin at Hallett Cove east both managed to muster swings above 9 per cent in the primary vote. Steve Minnikin and Eleisha Rogers, who came down from Queensland to participate in the election, looked after the Sheidow Park booth for me, and I thank them for their involvement.

Dee and James Brine looked after Sheidow Park South; Jody Rohrlach in Happy Valley; Raelene Zanetti and Zoe Baker in Seaview Downs; Kinda Tabaa Snyder in Seacliff; James March in Marino; and Mitchell Powell and Blake Derer in Seaview High School—all these people coming together to run those booths together on the day. Anyone who knows what it is like to run a campaign knows that those roles are absolutely critical. I want to thank those people in particular for getting up early, dressing the booths the night before and providing enthusiasm throughout the day of the election.

I also want to make mention of some notable people who particularly helped on election day through the hours that they put in and the enthusiasm that they delivered: Haidee Tucker, Thomas Ogle, Anthony Daly, Paul and Deana Shand, Brian and Mia Taylor, in particular. I also want to thank publicly again—as I did in my maiden speech in the last term—the role played by Fran Southern on my team. Fran is four years older now but no less significant in terms of her contribution to the local branch of the Liberal Party and in particular the Marino community where she lives. Fran is the matriarch of Marino. She is someone I look up to who provides immense support to me and who I would like to publicly thank for her contribution.

I also want to mention three people who helped in the lead-up to the election and who have sadly passed away since the election or in the months immediately prior to the election, being Ted and Ronnie Scov, a husband-and-wife team who passed away within weeks of each other, and Elizabeth Wesson, who passed away a fortnight ago. They were three Marino residents who were very significant supports to me and my team over an extended period of time. They will be greatly missed not only by me and the Liberal Party locally but also by the Marino and Kingston Park communities that they loyally served for many decades.

I would like to put on record my heartfelt thanks to my mum, who is no doubt my number one supporter. She is no fan of politics. She does not understand why I am doing this job, yet she turns up, she letterboxes when we need her, and she is a continual support to me. When we moved to Hallett Cove from rural Scotland in 2002, never did she think that her eldest son would end up representing the community that we moved to in state parliament a mere 11 years later. I have no doubt she is immensely proud but also immensely confused by how this has happened. Her support is endless, and it was great to be able to celebrate her on Sunday on Mother's Day. I am sure many of us had the opportunity to celebrate our mothers and the contribution that they make to our lives.

I would like to thank my staff for their role, in particular James March and Lauren Deed, for their contribution to my electorate office over recent years. I would also like to thank Ruth van den Brink for her historic support. She is now working for the Premier but previously worked in my office. Most importantly, I would like to thank Meg MacKenzie, who has been an absolute stalwart in my office, an anchor in the Bright community and now the Black community, and who kept on encouraging me to rock up on a Saturday afternoon and keep on doorknocking.

Meg is a country girl from Bordertown, and she exemplifies all the qualities that people who are from the country have. She drives up from Kanmantoo to Brighton every day, which is quite a drive, to keep on contributing to the electorate office in the new electorate of Black. I certainly would have been unable to achieve my election result on 17 March without Meg's tireless contribution to the cause.

Within the Liberal Party more generally, I want to thank Alex May and David Franchitto for their friendship. They are, in many ways, colleagues who have transitioned to friends and I greatly appreciate their support. It is David's birthday today so I would like to wish him a very happy birthday on the public record, which I am sure he will hate because he probably thinks that he is one of those staff members who should be seen and not heard. However, his contribution to keeping me sane, cheering me up and just being a sounding board has been particularly valuable to me over the last few years.

I would like to pay tribute to members who are no longer in this chamber who retired at the last election. At the close of the last parliament, I did not have an opportunity to specifically name them, but I want to pay tribute to Isobel Redmond, Michael Pengilly, Mitch Williams, Steven Griffiths, Duncan McFetridge and, in particular, Mark Goldsworthy for their contribution to the state. If you added up their combined service to this state—and I have not done that—I am sure it reaches close to 100 years, if not more, through their contribution through parliamentary service.

In particular, Mark Goldsworthy has been a mentor and friend of mine who has kept me going in very tough times. We have had lots of good chats and ridiculous conversations along the way. It was great to see Mark here today supporting the new member for Kavel. I will always be grateful for Mark's immense personal support for me.

I also want to take the opportunity to thank and welcome the new members of our parliament. We have a number of new members in this house on both sides of parliament and, in many cases, they are people with whom I have worked along the way. I have worked with some more than others, largely due to geography. In particular, I have worked very closely, in a geographical sense, with the member for Morphett and the member for Colton over the last few months since they became candidates. I also want to welcome and thank the members for Narungga, Heysen, Kavel, King, Newland, MacKillop, Finnis and Davenport for their contributions.

We are a diverse team on this side of the house. The maiden speeches have been an absolute joy to listen to, with the diversity of the various backgrounds and the various ways people have journeyed to this place. It is an exciting team to be part of. I think that immense diversity will

sustain the energy and longevity of the new government. It has been fantastic to hear those maiden speeches in recent days.

I want to pay particular tribute though to the new member for Elder, who is one of my closest friends. We described ourselves as 'council besties' when we served on Marion council together. It has been very sad for me not to have her around for the last four years. We had to have a break, but we are reunited again. I am so excited by her contribution not only as the member for Elder in the southern suburbs but also as the Assistant Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. I think her contribution to this house will be immense.

I think what happened to her in the 2014 election is a stain on democracy in this state and a lasting stain on the Labor Party, which was found to be overtly racist. A deeply inappropriate and unjustified catalogue of disgraceful action was executed by the Labor Party during the 2014 election, and it was not just that single brochure that was dropped into that electorate as far more happened. The member for Elder was harassed on a regular basis by the previous member for Elder and her husband. It was a disgusting thing to watch. It should never be justified and it should go down in history as one of the great sins of this parliament. For the Labor Party to continually justify that and not take responsibility for that disgraceful behaviour is lamentable.

One of the greatest things about the member for Elder joining me, aside from renewing our friendship, is the removal of the previous member for Elder from this house. She was unworthy to be a member of this parliament. I do not mind saying that. I will say it loudly and I will say it proudly. Her behaviour over an extended period of time, executed with the falseness of an assassin's smile, was absolutely horrendous.

I have heard rumours that she may pop up and make an attempt to be the mayor of Holdfast Bay. I can tell you that I will be doing everything I can in my power to stop that from happening because that woman must never enter public life in South Australia again. I have seen firsthand the damage that she and her campaign did to someone for whom I have immense respect, and that must not occur. I am happy to say that and put that on the public record.

We have a great opportunity as members of parliament to shape this state's future from both sides of parliament and across the political spectrum. Since becoming the state's Minister for Environment, I have been overcome in many ways by the privilege that it is to serve and the influence that I have at my fingertips as a minister and as a local member well. I hope that in the coming months and years I can execute that responsibility respectfully and honourably. I hope that I can do it in a way that achieves consensus and brings people in my community and in the broader South Australian community along on the journey.

One of the great challenges of modern politics, with the 24-hour media cycle and the ever-present drive of social media, is that it can be very hard to bring people along on a journey of change without a sense of hysteria quickly being whipped up as we need to feed that 24-hour media cycle. I hope that I can work within those challenging boundaries to bring South Australians along on a journey of change.

The opportunity presented by being able to sit on this side of the house and to be a minister of the Crown is immense, but to whom much is given much is expected. I sincerely hope that through my own skills, the skills of my colleagues and the support that we have around us in terms of the broader Public Service and those who provide advice to us that we can deliver real reform in South Australia and that we can create a new chapter of our state's history that delivers growth, delivers prosperity, delivers sustainability and delivers social change and social justice in this state.

I closed my maiden speech in May 2014 with a very short quote from John Smith, the unifying Scottish Labour leader who led Labour at Westminster from 1992 to 1994. The night before he died of a heart attack at the age of 55 while still opposition leader—he was on a trajectory to be Britain's Prime Minister; he would have been but for his premature death—he spoke at a public meeting where he pitched to the audience that he was about service. He said to the audience: 'The opportunity to serve our country—that is all we ask'. I paraphrase, as I did in my maiden speech: the opportunity to serve our state is all I ask.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (17:44): Thank you, Deputy Speaker, and I congratulate you on your role. I also congratulate the Speaker, whilst he is not in the house, on his appointment to higher office. I know that he will do an outstanding job as Speaker of this place, and he did a marvellous job in winning his election and earning office. I also thank the Governor, the Hon. Hieu Van Le, for his speech and all the work that he does to make our state even better. He is a tireless worker for South Australia, a fantastic gentleman and a doyen of South Australia. Again, I thank him for the great work he does, and his wife, Mrs Le. They are two special people and South Australia is very lucky to have them.

In his speech, the Governor spoke about the number of new members in the 54th parliament, and I agree with his thoughts that this reflects an expression by the people of South Australia for a desire for real change. We took a strong plan to the election and South Australians overwhelmingly supported that plan. They support our Premier and our plans for more jobs, lower cost and better services.

On that note, I also congratulate the Premier, the member for Dunstan, on his fine efforts and his fine work. Ever since I came into this place, I have not met a more committed, more hardworking person, focused on delivering for South Australia—not on playing games, not on doing silly little things. He wants to deliver great outcomes for South Australia. He put a plan in place, our side of the house executed that plan, and we went to the people and engaged with them, and the Premier thoroughly deserves his position in that office. I know that he will be a great leader for South Australia. The victory of 17 March was extra sweet for him, I am sure, and he has been brilliant in the job so far and will continue to be great for South Australia.

I also congratulate all the new members from both sides of the house. It is a big feat to win your way into this place. To get the support of your local community takes a lot of hard work and I must commend anyone who does it, no matter what side of politics they are on. It takes a lot of work to get out there, to engage with your community, listen to your community and earn their respect and their vote to find yourself in this place.

In particular, I thank the people who supported me on my re-election. We have worked very hard and with a great team, and it is an honour to be elected as the very first member for Gibson. This is made more enjoyable for me because of the wonderful friendships I have forged, in particular with the member for Black who just spoke, who is the Minister for the Environment and also formerly the member for Bright. At the redrawing of the boundaries before the last election we had our electorates rubbed out and drawn again, if you like, and we crossed over and shared a lot of each other's patch. I picked up a lot of his, he picked up a lot of mine and we kept some as well. As such, we have continued to work very closely together. I want to thank him for his friendship and also for his collegial manner and the way in which he works.

It is also great to be joined by a couple of new neighbours in the member for Colton, the member for Morphett and the member for Elder. It has been wonderful working with them throughout the campaign and getting to know them and seeing how much they also care for their community. I want to commend them on their maiden speeches and the wonderful work they have done already in their community. It is delightful to see. Again, I have worked with all the other members along the way, and it has been very rewarding in this short space of time.

I also acknowledge the federal member for Boothby, Nicolle Flint, who has done a brilliant job in her time in federal parliament. Again, working with her in that collegial manner has been absolutely outstanding and we have managed to deliver some great things together for our community, as she has with other local state members. Having that wonderful relationship with the federal member has been very beneficial to all of our community.

I also thank a couple of people specifically. We know that working through campaigns you have to do a lot of time at shopping centres, listening posts, local sporting events and community meetings, and you cannot do that without having a really good team around you. I was lucky enough to have that. I thank Jack Newton, who was in the role of my campaign manager; John Wenzel; Bob Baker; and Paul and Kimberley Gesti, along with Maddie and now Georgie Gesti, who have been outstanding.

A few other names to mention: David Woodfield has been great; Dennis Lorenzin, Wayne Beaumont and Lauren Dimas, have all done a wonderful job; Rob and Mary Anne Harding have also been great; Chris Woodward, Nick Mebberson and Jody Koerner were outstanding, and I thank them for their help and support; and Peter Fowler, Ron Leak, Roberta Jarmyn, Bob Baker, Isaac Sandercock, and Andrew and Sarah Taylor, to name a few, were outstanding.

In fact, I had a lot of my volunteers in for a morning tea this morning to thank them. They love being engaged in and giving back to our community, which is really appreciated. To my staff in the electorate office, I thank them greatly. They do a wonderful power of work in engaging with the community. Mallory, Carly and Ali have been outstanding and it is great to have them in the team. I also want to thank my mother-in-law, Annabel, my mum and Len, my dad and my family, including my wife who is just absolutely wonderful and my kids, Amy, Tyson, Heath and Brooke. I thank them for all their support—I could not do it without them. Also, a special mention to the late Sharon Beaumont, who was there in spirit—we did her very proud.

In my maiden speech four years ago, I outlined my driving motivation to do this job and that was great people in our community. I know those on the other side like to play politics a lot, and they do it at every turn, but I think our community is over that. I think they want real people doing the work in their community, and that is how I put myself forward. I will do my utmost to stay focused on delivering for South Australia and, in particular, my local community. It is the people who I care about and who I will be working for in this place, and I make no apologies for that. That is what I am here for and that is what I stand for.

As I mentioned, I was first elected as the member for Mitchell, and I would like to thank all the people who gave me that opportunity. As I pointed out, prior to the recent election my seat was abolished and I ran in the new seat of Gibson that was created. I used to joke with the member for Black. As I said, we have shared our seats. Under the old boundaries, when he was the member for Bright and I was the member for Mitchell, I said he had all the beautiful coastline and I had all the beautiful people, but now, with the merger, we have the best of both worlds: we both have beautiful scenery and we both have beautiful people.

I would also like to thank the people of Reynella, Old Reynella, Sheidow Park, Trott Park, Seaview Downs, Seacombe Heights and Darlington. They are the suburbs that I lost in the redistribution. Luckily, most of them have gone across to the member for Black and, again, we will continue to work together. I am sure I will still see a lot of those people in our community. In my new seat, I have picked up the good people who live in the suburbs of Brighton, North Brighton, Hove, South Brighton, Marion and Somerton Park, and I now have all the people of Warradale and Oaklands Park, which is fantastic. I have retained the great people of Sturt, Dover Gardens and Seacombe Gardens, where I have built so many wonderful relationships across my time. I stress again that that is the key to doing this job.

Having grown up in the area, I have built great relationships in the community over the years, and I look forward to these relationships flourishing into the future. I have built relationships with all the primary schools to my old high school, now Brighton Secondary School, as well as Seaview High School, which is also nurturing outstanding young people, and the private schools. There are several Catholic primary schools in my area, which contribute so much to our local community, as well as Sunrise, Marymount College as part of Sacred Heart, and Westminster. They are all very impressive schools with great young people doing great things in our community, and I look forward to working with them in the years ahead. There are many sporting clubs and social groups—too many to name at the minute—and I look forward to continuing to work with them along the way.

We did make a number of commitments on a local front. The community that I live in worked incredibly hard on delivering the Oaklands crossing through the Fix Oaklands Crossing campaign. We picked this up before I actually got elected in 2014 and really ramped it up to make sure that the community was all together, all on board and all running this campaign to get this longstanding problem fixed. Again, it was fantastic to work with the federal member Nicolle Flint, who helped to deliver the lion's share of funding, to get a solution. I think work on that project starts as early as this Friday. We will continue to work with the community, keep them engaged with how this project is going and take them on that journey.

We committed to a couple of other smaller projects, which are fantastic and community focused, including the Hamilton Park Reserve upgrade in Warradale and the Crown Street Reserve upgrade in Dover Gardens. When you are out and about doing this job you hold listening posts, you listen to people and you hear what they have to say. To be able to act on that and help deliver for the community is great. We have a public toilet going in at Hamilton Park Reserve and a three-on-three basketball court at the Crown Street Reserve. I have already had conversations with Marion council and the CEO, Adrian Skull, about getting the ball rolling on those projects, so there are exciting times ahead.

We have committed to a community garden at Stella Maris Parish School. This is a great project. The school in Seacombe Gardens wants to reach out to the rest of the community to get this community garden going and get all the people who live locally involved and benefitting from the produce that has been grown. It will also allow the students to see how they can give back to the community. I commend the principal, Sean Hill, on that project. Again, we are working with them on that project.

Chris Parsons and the team do a great job at the Brighton Surf Life Saving Club. I know the member for Black is a member there. We have committed to putting lights out the front, which is a great initiative. This is one of the few surf lifesaving clubs in the country that has a road between the club and the beach, so we need to slow people down when the nippers are going to and from the beach. Having flashing pedestrian lights will also be beneficial for people in the local community using the park, and it is even better that the lights will be solar powered.

We made a commitment to ensure that Bowker Street Oval stays as open space and continues to be used by sporting clubs and families. This is a wonderful piece of open space. A number of years ago, there were threats to develop it for housing, and the local community were rightly up in arms. The deal that was put in place finishes very soon, so we got on the front foot and said that we are committing to this. We are going to make sure it is used as open space. It is currently owned by the Department for Education. I have already written to the education minister, getting the wheels in motion to make sure we can continue the deal with the Holdfast Bay council.

The groups who use it include the Southern Districts Little Athletics club, with president, Peter Hartley; the Southern Districts Junior Soccer Association, with Mick Hargreaves, who is a tireless worker and seems to have been there forever; the Coastal Districts Athletic Club, and Luke Hildyard, a name we know in this place, is involved there; and the Glenelg Cricket Club. So many groups use it, which is sensational. Local primary schools use it for sports days and other events like that. Paringa Park Primary School is one of the main tenants, given it is just up the road. A teddy bears' picnic was held at the oval a little earlier, which I attended, through the Brighton Kiwanis, which was great.

Of course, the other big project is the Brighton sports complex upgrade. This facility has been left to go to rack and ruin over many years. Quite shamefully, I often say to people that there are people at the football club who will not even use the urinals in the change rooms because they are so poorly maintained. It has been allowed to go to rack and ruin over a number of years. The commitment there will go towards the football club, with Kym Steer; the cricket club, with Scott Phillips; the lacrosse club, with Jason Webb; and the rugby club, with Wayne Londema. They now have the opportunity to go away and work with the council. We have committed \$2 million and I think the council is putting in \$4 million. The CEO, Justin Lynch, is working with them all to get their budgets so they can deliver new facilities, including women's sports facilities, because we know that women's sports are booming, particularly football, which is outstanding.

Coastal protection is something we have talked about a lot. I look forward to working with the Minister for Environment on delivering an upgrade, in this sense, along the coast from Brighton to North Brighton and Somerton Park, and even down to South Brighton, to make sure that we can replenish the sands and rejuvenate the coastline.

We have talked a lot about the Repat, which was a big commitment of ours, and we are already delivering on this front. It was great to see the Premier out on the weekend doing just that, and we will continue to talk more about that because that is something South Australia wanted. They spoke loud and clear, we listened and we delivered. The other project locally is Glenthorne National

Park. Again, the member for Black and I have been working closely on this for a long time, and we look forward to delivering it.

I am not silly enough to believe that we are here because of too much I did: I know it is because of what our team did and what our party did. I have mentioned the Premier and his great work and effort. We put a very clear mandate to the people of South Australia about what we were going to deliver. While the other side wanted to play politics with a lot of this stuff, we just said, 'No, this is what we are delivering and this is how we are doing it,' and the people of South Australia have spoken.

We will talk more about this in our time in this place, but I want to mention a couple of our big-ticket items. The first is opportunities for young people. We are going to deliver 20,800 new apprenticeships and traineeships for South Australia, because we see too many young people not having opportunities here, so they leave South Australia and go interstate and overseas. We know what a great gift we have from the federal government with the shipbuilding and submarines, and there are great opportunities there to help train up our young people. In the innovation space, I know that the Minister for Skills is keen to develop the old RAH site to provide great opportunities for young people.

We will also put in place the removal of payroll tax for small businesses, and we will allow people to trade when they want to trade, which is exciting. When people go interstate and see the shops open when they want them open, they want to see the same thing here in South Australia, and we look forward to delivering that. Council rate capping is another promise, and I have already mentioned reviving the Repat. There will be open ICAC hearings off the back of the Oakden scandal, which I think people will remember and do remember, under the former Labor government. This is a really great opportunity. I thank the Speaker for the opportunity to give my Address in Reply.

Sitting suspended from 18:00 to 19:29.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Torrens.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (19:29): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I congratulate you on your elevation to Speaker of this house and also congratulate the Deputy Speaker on his ascendancy. My congratulations also to the new state government, the Premier, South Australia's first female appointed as Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, and all re-elected members and new members. In particular, I would like to make special mention of the new members for Badcoe, Wright and Playford and also of the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Croydon.

I speak today in reply to the address of His Excellency the Governor, the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC, at the opening of the 54th South Australian parliament. In doing so, I pay tribute to the role both His Excellency the Governor and his wife, Lan, play in the many different communities that make up our great state. The experiences of their life journey shines through with compassion and understanding, and I often refer to His Excellency's 'suitcase full of dreams' with which they arrived on our shores so many years ago.

I welcome the opportunity to also acknowledge the traditional owners of the land, the Kaurna people, and to pay my respects to their elders past and present as together we continue to walk along the path of reconciliation.

I reflect on that day in Canberra where, in my previous role as a senator, I was present when the former prime minister, the Hon. Kevin Rudd, made the apology to the stolen generations and on the emotion and the hope in the chamber and on the lawns outside parliament afterwards. While we have come some way, there is still so much more to be done for the First Peoples of our nation.

Another apology of significance was made by the then premier on 18 July 2012 in the South Australian parliament. It was an apology to the women and families affected by the forced adoptions. I have said before in this place that there is no greater gift a mother can give her child than her love and the knowledge of her love. Through years of forced adoption practices in Australia, there are women, some of whom have gone on to have other children, some of whom have never known the pleasures of raising their own child and some for whom the pain was so unbearable that they ended their own lives. South Australia became the second state to offer the apology. Eight months later, on 21 March 2013, the then prime minister, Julia Gillard, made an apology in the federal parliament.

The apologies by the former premier and prime minister were the result of recommendations from a Senate inquiry into forced adoptions that handed down its report in 2012. I am particularly pleased that in government—and that is why I raise it today—the Premier unveiled a memorial site of remembrance to parents, adoptees and families who suffered devastating loss. The Past Forced Adoptions Commemorative Public Artwork on the bank of the River Torrens near the Adelaide University footbridge, named *The Space Between*, consists of a large block of polished granite that has been separated, signifying the separation of one part from the other, and a nearby boulder, where people can sit, a reflective space for those who suffered and those who continue to suffer.

In 2014, I welcomed the opportunity to stand for the state seat of Torrens and become a member of the Weatherill Labor government. I want to take this opportunity to thank the electors of Torrens, who at the 2018 election put their faith in me to represent them for a second time. It is truly an honour.

The electorate of Torrens is a diverse one, with people of many cultural and ethnic backgrounds and new citizens regularly arriving from around the globe. It has a strong and vibrant community group sector and some of the most passionate sporting clubs, including the wonderful Gaza Sports and Community Club, the North Adelaide Rockets Basketball Club, the North Eastern MetroStars and the Adelaide City Football Club. In addition, it has many important social and learning hubs, including the North East Community House, the Wandana, Holden Hill and Hillcrest community centres, and the many schools and kindergartens. It is home to many dedicated community groups and clubs that I have got to know extremely well over the past four years: NORA, NECAP, TADSA; Klemzig, Dernancourt, Windsor Gardens and Walkerville Neighbourhood Watch; the Adelaide Warriors and We Breathe Cricket clubs; Hillcrest Scouts; the Enfield Horticultural Society; and Hillcrest Seniors, to name just a few.

To hold government is what we aspire to and work towards in the South Australian Labor Party, to deliver on our policies and to be able to facilitate fairness and equality of opportunity for all in our community. While today I stand on this side of the chamber, I am committed to working hard with the new government where it is in the best interests of my community and the state of South Australia and, when necessary, to hold the government to account for the decisions it makes or, perhaps in some instances, for those it does not make.

It is unfortunate that, in the many weeks following the March election, we were, in effect, without an active government, which has resulted in delays and some less than desirable outcomes, including the removal of pedestrian lights on Fosters Road near Hillcrest Primary School, without all affected individuals being notified and before alternative infrastructure was put in place for children, the elderly and those with a disability to be able to cross safely. I have notified the minister about this, and have received a response and look forward to working with him into the future to ensure these events are not repeated.

Much has been said about the electoral boundaries, both in this chamber and outside. The redistribution in the South Australian Electoral Boundaries Commission saw significant changes to many of our electorates. In my case, thousands of residents who reside in Northgate, Lightsvue, Northfield and Hope Valley were lost to other electorates. So, too, was Northfield Primary School, and great community organisations, including Gepps Cross Rams Football Club and Northgate Community and Sports Club.

While I was very disappointed in losing these constituents and these clubs, I am one who always looks to find the silver lining. So, I am very pleased to now represent the residents of Vale Park and Manningham and the parts of Dernancourt, Klemzig and Gilles Plains that previously were not part of the Torrens electorate. I look forward to getting to know them better and knowing what is important to them and their families over the next four years and beyond. I will also continue to be involved with those communities that now reside on the other side of the Torrens boundary, as I have formed many friendships over the past four years.

I take this opportunity to place on record that I am extremely proud to have been a member of the Weatherill Labor government. The member for Cheltenham proved to be an excellent premier, who through his intelligent, considered and passionate approach commanded the respect and loyalty of the caucus, and while under his watch our government delivered much to South Australia.

While some projects and commitments we will not be able to see through from this side of the chamber, history, I am sure, will reflect well on what was achieved. It is the government that delivered the biggest ever investment in public transport, upgraded every major hospital and developed a state-of-the-art health and biomedical precinct with the iconic SAHMRI and world-class new Royal Adelaide Hospital at its centre—in fact, record investment in infrastructure all round.

We were a government that revitalised our CBD with the redevelopment of Adelaide Oval, the new Adelaide Botanic High School, the Riverbank Precinct, the Adelaide Convention Centre, Festival Plaza and laneways and small bars, a government under which crimes against persons and property halved, with more police on the beat than ever before.

On a local level, in the north-eastern suburbs, from March 2014 to March 2018 the Torrens community benefited from significant investment in our community, including:

- the extension of the O-Bahn into the Adelaide CBD, improving travel times and reliability for thousands of public transport users and reducing traffic congestion for motorists;
- the multimillion dollar Modbury Hospital and Lyell McEwin upgrades;
- the installation of a koala crossing on Fosters Road near Cedar College;
- the partnership with the Port Adelaide Enfield Council to deliver the Lights Community and Sports Centre on the former Ross Smith school site, a multi-use sports centre that will be the new home to the Rockets Basketball Club, with five courts making it international standard.

It also includes retractable and fixed seating, multipurpose community rooms and a cafe focusing on inclusion and access for all and is currently being built. With the development in the local area, this is greatly needed and is a wonderful achievement for the local community. Other investments in our community included:

- the synthetic soccer pitch and the lighting upgrade at Adelaide City Football Club and North Eastern MetroStars Football Club;
- the new Oakden ambulance station, including a 24/7 emergency crew;
- support for multicultural community events that help develop an understanding of the different cultures and are inclusive of all members of the community;
- new STEM facilities for Hampstead Primary School, Hillcrest Primary School and Wandana Primary School;
- ongoing government funding for our North East Community House and Community Centre;
- major roadworks;
- the installation of a pedestrian refuge on North East Road near Gaza Football Club to make it safer for children and adults to cross to and from the football oval and cricket pitch;
- the jointly funded upgrade to the entrance of the Dernancourt Shopping Centre on Lower North East Road; and
- along with many residents, I also look forward to the commencement of the infrastructure build of the 250 new car parks and upgrade of facilities at the Klemzig O-Bahn interchange.

I really want to make something very clear today: commitments for infrastructure projects and other community needs when in government were and continue to be areas of need for the local community. They were issues I had been working on as a state member, and the Labor government, of which I was a member, committed to delivering on them. Today, I am going to highlight a couple of those areas that I feel need to be addressed with some urgency. I have already raised some of these issues with the new government and have sought meetings with the relevant ministers to

highlight their importance. Now I place them on the record in this place, and I will not let them go, because they are so important to the community.

Of great importance to the local community is the timely opening of Avenues College, the amalgamation of two schools: Windsor Gardens College and Gilles Plains Primary School. The timely opening should be at the beginning of the 2019 school year. Avenues College aims to motivate and guide young people as they follow their chosen education, training and employment pathways.

Some of the students at Avenues College are part of the Wiltja program in which young people come to study from schools in remote lands in the Aboriginal lands districts, Yalata and Oak Valley. I look forward to meeting with the Minister for Education to discuss Avenues College's infrastructure and to take him around the school to press home why his government needs to meet the \$15 million commitment by the former Labor government to the growing Avenues College community. As a former teacher and a parent, I am passionate about education, and I will always stand up to support investment in our schools and the future of our children. The Avenues College investment will deliver:

- a new preschool and children's centre, bringing together community services and allied health support;
- new and upgraded learning areas to support 900 students from reception to year 12;
- new outdoor learning spaces, including an all-weather sport zone;
- acoustic upgrades to classrooms for hard-of-hearing students; and
- refurbished classrooms across the school.

Another commitment by the former Labor government was to Vale Park Primary School. It included two transportable buildings to improve the accommodation options for the school's 519 and growing students. The growing numbers in the school have created the need for extra classroom space. They have already converted half of the library into a classroom and lost the computer suite to accommodate extra space. It is important that these buildings be delivered as soon as practicable.

I would also like to highlight both parties' commitment to the Paradise O-Bahn interchange on Darley Road that borders my electorate, and I look forward to hearing the government's plans moving forward for additional car parks and upgrades to that intersection. The decisions I make in this parliament will always be made in the best interests of the people in my electorate of Torrens and in South Australia. Along with my colleagues on this side, I am committed to returning a Labor government to South Australia.

It is a known fact that we do not make it to this place on our own. It is the work of many that has given me a voice in this parliament as a member of the Labor team, led by the new member for Croydon and the deputy leader, the member for Port Adelaide. I want to thank each and every one who played a role in my election campaign. Tonight, I thank the many volunteers who delivered countless bags of letterboxing, delivering Labor's message to thousands of homes across Torrens, in Gilles Plains, Oakden, Hillcrest, Greenacres, Windsor Gardens, Holden Hill, Klemzig, Hampstead Gardens, Vale Park and Dernancourt.

A special thanks to my dear friend Monika Kumar, who continues to volunteer as language interpreter and cultural ambassador for the many different communities in our electorate. She is fielding phone calls way after the sun has gone down, always helping and working to bring communities together. Also thanks to her wonderful husband, Raj, and children, Dhruv and Tarini.

My thanks to the many Torrens sub-branch members, including Harold, Bob, John and Maria, who must now know every letterbox in Gilles Plains, Holden Hill, Oakden, Windsor Gardens and Dernancourt. I thank Saurin and Chetan and members of the Indian, Nepalese, Bangladeshi, Chinese and Pakistani communities. There is Bharat and Monika, Lily and Ben, Margaret, Aramis, Joy, John, Bradley, Alex, Trevor, Matt, Peter, Trudee and Kevin, Matthew, Brendan, Joshua, Ollie, Isabel and Shaylee, Kevin and Cecilia, Connor, Jodie, Troy, David, Amy, Emmanuel and Cam, Paul and Scott, and in the ALP office, there is Reggie and Aemon.

My thanks also to Matt for always being positive and energetic; Gerry Kandelaars; Megan, who gave up time with her two little girls and husband to doorknock with me; Rosemary and Tony for the many hours spent letterboxing and putting up posters; Tracey and Georgia for their valuable contribution; and all who paid a part along the campaign trail.

I thank Hannah, my amazing campaign manager, who worked tirelessly. Day or night, there was no difference to Hannah. When it was 3 o'clock in the morning, if there was work to be done, she would be doing it. Designing, doorknocking, organising, always knowing the right words to say and the right things to do. Hannah, I truly appreciate your dedication and your insight and commitment from day one through to election day.

Thank you to my nephew Cale for the many hours you put in letterboxing, putting up and taking down posters, and the many hours both you and Ché spent preparing the corflutes. My thanks to Russell, for your many hours pounding the pavement, your enthusiasm, great organising skills, experience and for your love and support.

My thanks to our son, Ché, again for your support and enthusiasm, endless hours of letterboxing, enveloping, keeping up-to-date with the 24-hour news cycle, for putting up and taking down corflutes while all the while working on university assignments, and for your very honest and valuable opinion on everything.

In this 54th parliament, we on this side will be working hard to ensure that we will not be spending any longer than the one term here in opposition. I am committed to my electorate of Torrens and to the state of South Australia, and be assured I will always stand up for what is in the best interests of the residents I represent and the people of our great state.

The SPEAKER: The member for Frome.

Mr BROCK (Frome) (19:48): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and congratulations on your appointment as the Speaker. I would also like to congratulate the other new members on their maiden speeches. Even though I have not been in the chamber, I have been listening to them in my office and they were very heartwarming and genuine.

I also rise to speak in response to the speech by His Excellency Hieu Van Le AC, the Governor of South Australia. Our state is very lucky and privileged to have a warm and caring Governor, along with his wife, Mrs Van Le, who not only are very welcoming but always recognise people across the state wherever they visit.

I would like to start by thanking the people of Frome again for their confidence and trust in me to be their state representative for another term. Since being elected in 2009, the electorate of Frome has had boundary changes in 2014 with the inclusion of Balaklava. Then again in 2018 we had a major redistribution with the loss of locations such as Port Broughton, Mundoorra, Bute, Alford, Tickera, Lochiel, Snowtown and Gladstone. I then gained Hamley Bridge and Owen; both were in the previous electorate of Goyder.

Even with this very large redistribution, I was very fortunate that my two-party preferred vote dropped slightly, from 58.8 per cent to 58.2 per cent, and this was very gratifying. In some polling booths in some areas in other electorates, my two-party preferred vote was in the high 70s to low 80s. It is not only an honour to serve the people of Frome but it is also a great privilege to be able to endeavour to do my best to assist them with their various issues. I am again giving my total commitment to the people living in this great electorate of Frome to work with them and for them and to work very closely with industry, local government and also the state government to try to achieve the great outcomes that I see on the horizon for our great region.

My life has been an extraordinary one, having had the great privilege to serve as a local government councillor, as mayor of Port Pirie Regional Council, as the Independent member for Frome, as minister for regional development and minister for local government, and now again as the Independent member for Frome. My only regret is that my late wife, Arlene, and both my parents could not see this remarkable journey. However, my family, including my partner, Lyn, have been a great inspiration for my journey since that day.

As candidates in this house running for any office, it takes a lot of commitment, especially from our families. In this regard, I sincerely thank my family: my partner, Lyn Akker; my daughters, Hayley and Marisa; and my stepchildren, Addy, Nick and Jackie. Special thanks also go to our 12 grandchildren, who are aged between five and 18 years old. It is these great people who get the rough end of the stick. I do not see every part of their growing up, and at times this can be very unsettling. However, in this regard I have the comfort of knowing that Lyn is at home, being there when they require the support of a grandparent or, more specifically, a parent's love.

Leading up to an election, each candidate knows that they cannot do it alone, and that has been mentioned by many others in this house today. They need a committee, and I have been very honoured to have had a small group of six people who have ventured on our way throughout the whole system. My brother-in-law, Graham Nichols, has been my campaign manager since 2009 and, along with the others—Tory Annese, Rex Lang, Mark Turner, Stax Kerr, Mary Nichols, Sav Degilio, Dino Gadaletta, plus my partner, Lyn—has advised me on issues, assisted with posters, etc., at the same time learning more about ourselves as we ventured on the great journey.

It was very interesting first up. Here was a group of people getting together to formulate a strategy for election with not one of them knowing what to do or how to go about it. However, we had a great time and learnt a lot as we went along. In 2009, we were only able to hand out how-to-vote cards at seven of the 23 polling booths, to the degree that in the following elections, in 2010, 2014 and 2018, I was able to have the assistance of over 100 volunteers and have volunteers at every polling booth across the electorate.

At the last election, I greatly appreciated the help of my great volunteers, with the youngest being 18 years old and the oldest being 92 years old. Without the support of these people, we as candidates would not be able to do what we do. With this in mind, I need to mention that, no matter who we are or who we represent, our volunteers are not the people being elected. I must point out that during the last election at a couple of polling booths there were some very arrogant people abusing the volunteers who were just doing their friends a favour by handing out their how-to-vote cards.

Our society is a free society, and every person deserves to be treated with respect. However, during the last election there were occasions when the boundaries of behaviour were being very tested. However, having said that, my team and I are looking forward in a positive manner to endeavour to provide the best opportunity for our future generations. We can do this by working collaboratively, honestly and positively to get the best results.

During my previous four years serving the state both as local member and also as minister for regional development and minister for local government, I learnt a tremendous amount not only about how government works but also about the wider areas of our great state—that is, across all regional South Australia. I also learnt a lot more about myself, about the challenges and the frustrations but, more importantly, I learnt to appreciate far more the challenges that we all face.

Over the last four years, I travelled extensively across all regional South Australia, hearing people's ambitions, their frustrations and, more importantly, their desire just to get on with it. That was a clear message I took away and brought back to cabinet. These people in regional South Australia had felt left out and not listened to for many years by both sides of politics. They found it very refreshing to see the minister actually drive in, not fly in, and partake in social events, stay the night and mix with communities.

On a personal note, after the 2014 election night my life and that of my family was turned around in a way that we were not expecting. My greatest fear, prior to that election, was for the transformation of the Port Pirie Nyrstar smelter, which was nearing a critical point with the owners in Zurich. The plant needed to be completely modernised and transformed not only to meet the strict environmental conditions but also for the financial viability of the plant to continue and the survival of the community of Port Pirie and the surrounding communities. If the transformation did not eventuate, Port Pirie would have been greatly decimated, with the risk of some 2,000 direct and indirect workers being involved.

I thank the previous premier, who, as leader of the Labor Party, committed to a guarantee to allow for the transformation of this plant to occur. Until this point, there was a great sense of

uncertainty, a loss of confidence within the community and fears for our community and our future. There were also many late-night calls from Nyrstar in Zurich, asking if there was any commitment to the project. These were some very unsettling times, not only for me but also for the many people involved, specifically in Port Pirie. Port Pirie and all its residents, my family and I will be eternally grateful for this contribution.

I thank my family for their great support throughout a very trying period. I recall that our youngest grandson, Jax, just 10 months old at the time, seeing me on TV, started kissing the TV screen. The member for Badcoe, who was a journalist for a TV station, can remember that, as she put that on the TV. Jax was missing me greatly. That certainly brought me back to reality, and it just goes to show that sometimes we can lose all sense of reality. Both my children and all our grandchildren have been part of my journey in politics, whether local government or state, and it has been part of their lives ever since they have been with us.

During my ministerial duties, I travelled nearly 700,000 kilometres across the state and flew to Mount Gambier, Kangaroo Island, the APY lands, Ceduna and Port Lincoln to see firsthand the environment in these locations. I was also able to travel in excess of 150,000 kilometres across my electorate to see my people during this period of time. I also had the opportunity to accompany various state government ministers, government agencies, local government people and business people to China. This contingent was in excess of 300 people. There were great opportunities achieved during this visit, with many contracts and MOUs being signed.

I also had a great opportunity to travel to Zurich to meet firsthand with the Nyrstar board about the future and other associated opportunities for the Port Pirie smelter, and to visit numerous renewable energy companies promoting the great advantage that South Australia has, particularly Upper Spencer Gulf, with the state leading the renewable technology field.

We were able to improve local government operations in various ways; however, the Local Government Act still needs to be completely reviewed. This is an area that frustrates me, and we did not complete this area. I hope that the new government will look at the act in its current form and revise it to be more friendly and sustainable.

Although we were able to have a review of the education department bus policy, another great issue for many years has been access to regional bus services for schoolchildren. Irrespective of whether they attend government or non-government schools, they need to be able to get to the relevant schools. This is an issue I am talking to the current Minister for Education about, and I hope that we can get it completely resolved. It is an issue that will again be taken up through the parliament, and I like to hope that, in the near future, we will be able to address this anomaly.

Some years ago, centralisation was undertaken for various government agencies, which, in turn, has hurt our original communities. I will be endeavouring to have this government realise that this move is not in the best interests of our regional youth, and we will seek to have this matter further investigated. It is with this in mind that I urge the new government to work with the commonwealth immigration minister to ensure the system for skilled migration allows for more eligible points to be earned if they reside in a regional location in South Australia.

Some years ago, while I was mayor of the Port Pirie Regional Council, I spoke at a large forum on multiculturalism about the issue of skilled migrants being lured to South Australia and additional points being allocated if those skilled people resided in regional locations. This was adopted by the federal government; however, Adelaide became eligible for regional status, allowing for extra points towards their settlement. I urge the state government to look very closely at the current system and to converse with the federal minister about allowing extra points if these skilled workers and their families reside in regional South Australia, not regional Adelaide, which means they get to Adelaide but do not venture farther out into our regions.

I may not have mentioned this earlier, but I sincerely congratulate the new government and give my support to get the best opportunities for my electorate and for the state. Before I close, I would like to reinforce that in the past four years there have been many more opportunities, especially in the renewable energy field and, in particular, the resources sector. With this in mind, I see the Upper Spencer Gulf region, in particular, becoming the renewable capital of Australia and perhaps the world. Professor Ross Garnaut said recently, at a forum in Port Augusta, that the Upper Spencer

Gulf region was the best place in the world for renewables, whether it be solar PV, solar thermal or pumped hydro, all with battery storage, and that in the very near future this area would have an abundance of cheap electricity and it would be foolish if manufacturing did not look at establishing something in our region.

With those remarks I will close, but I reinforce my dedication to my electorate over the next four years. I am very positive that our regions will flourish providing we all look after them. Again, I congratulate all the new members here, and my commiserations to the members who were here before and but who did not make it back. I look forward to working with this government and with this parliament to get the best opportunities for my electorate of Frome.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley) (20:01): In speaking to the motion, and in my first speech to the house as the member for Hartley following the state election, I also want to begin by congratulating each and every one of the members, especially the new members, who have been elected. It has been a real pleasure to listen to many of the maiden speeches and to understand what motivates members to run for this place. I have been absolutely inspired, and it has been fantastic to hear the various stories. I am sure that the house as a whole is much richer for having the new members here.

I look forward to the next four years, working alongside members here and in the other place to make a positive difference to the people of Hartley and also to the people of South Australia. I would also like to thank His Excellency the Governor for his continued work for this great state. He is someone I sincerely and truly respect. I have had the pleasure of knowing him for many years, and I still remember the day he actually came to the Campbelltown Rotary Club to speak as a special guest before he became Governor. He is a fantastic South Australian and, as a state, we are much enriched by having him as our Governor.

I also join the large chorus of other members in congratulating you, Acting Speaker, as well as the Deputy Speaker, on your appointments to your important roles. As I said, I also extend my congratulations to all the new and returned members of parliament on their successful election to this place. I have certainly enjoyed the maiden speeches that have thus far transpired, hearing about the unique road that each member has taken to get here and the driving forces behind the passion that motivates each of us to put up our hands to serve and get involved in this great democracy.

I am also reminded about delivering my own maiden speech. It has already been four years and one week since I made my first speech in this place. I do not think anyone could have envisaged the four years and especially the events of the last seven months and how they would unfold, particularly with regard to the rather different but exciting election that has just taken place with the addition of a third political force—albeit less of a force than I and many others anticipated.

Needless to say, I have enjoyed every step of the way—literally. With every single door that I have knocked on in the last six years, from being the candidate and then the member, and then being re-elected as the member, I have had the huge privilege of meeting so many unique and diverse individuals who make up the seat of Hartley and getting to know the fantastic and strong community within it. I will return to the subject of the previous election, but I wish to draw the house's attention to the great community of Hartley, its people and its configuration.

My local community is truly filled with many great, inspirational and very active social and sporting groups. Just the other day I noticed that the Ripples Community Arts group in Campbelltown were out installing their nineteenth mosaic in Lochiel Park. The mosaic is named *Curves in this Place* and is designed by Alan Perkins. The Ripples Community Arts group is an incredibly active group and they create high quality and meaningful art for all of us in the community to enjoy. All members of the group enjoy what they do. They love their community, which is something I can truly relate to. I always enjoy my time in Lochiel Park, as an example, and look forward to seeing what Ripples produce next.

Members should also take the time to head out to the Campbelltown Arthouse for the Campbelltown celebration of the arts, which is currently being held throughout the month of May. Anyone who comes to Hartley will realise in a short time that they are certainly spoilt for choice when it comes to food and coffee. Acting Speaker, you are always welcome to come to my electorate, as you know. Indeed, Hartley is home to so many great businesses, not just dedicated to fine foods and

coffee, but businesses that I expect to continue to thrive, more so as a result of this government's positive agenda for the small business area.

Whilst the redistribution meant that I farewelled the wonderful people of Kensington Gardens, Rosslyn Park and Auldana to what I call beautiful Bragg, and also Payneham, Glynde and Felixstow to the member for Dunstan's constituency, I certainly welcomed more of the great people of Paradise and the residents of Newton with open arms. We all know that to be an effective member of parliament it takes a lot of hard work, but first it takes a lot of listening, which is essential—at the doorstep; at the shopping centres; at the street corners; on the phones; via social media, email or even the odd fax, if you are lucky; the letters to the editor; the petitions; the commuter stations; the letters; and even the odd shout out from a distance at the footy. Being accessible and being present in the community is certainly an imperative.

Being embedded in my community is something I really pride myself on, because I take a lot of pride in my community. I love my community and I love that I get the next four years to continue to advocate and deliver for them. Speaking of delivering, it was just a few short weeks ago that I delivered a birthday card to young Dita in Paradise, who turned 103 years old. Today, we also arranged flowers for a resident in the community who turned 102. I asked this particular resident, who is 103, what the secret to keeping so young was and she told me that she has a glass of champagne every day. We must remember that, Acting Speaker.

Since the election, I was also fortunate to take out to lunch Mr Peter Allen, the 2018 Campbelltown Citizen of the Year. There are many people like Peter in our community. We are so blessed to have these pillars of strength in our community. As new members will soon realise, you certainly enjoy these moments, whether it is delivering birthday cards, meeting new citizens and new migrants or taking our future generations for things like school tours. I had the students of Rostrevor College in here today. I have also been fortunate enough to host students of East Torrens Primary School and to present times tables to the students at St Francis of Assisi School, all within the first weeks of being elected.

I imagine that it would be a unique experience for students coming here for the first time. Who knows, one day one of them might actually be in this place. I remember when the Hon. Joan Hall, the former member for Coles, gave me a school tour right here in this place, so it all happens very fast. I say to these students that they are always welcome to run for parliament—just not against me. Whilst I would love to talk into the night about what makes Hartley so great, I will leave that for another time when I continue my remarks. I will take time now to reflect on the state election.

What I have learnt is that sometimes what stands in the way actually becomes the way. Whilst the election brought with it some familiar faces (a former member for Hartley and also some high-profile competition), the people of Hartley were truly, I think in hindsight, the beneficiaries of a tough-fought election. I wish my competitors all the best for the future. I also credit the entire Liberal team for the hard work they did in securing the victory. We certainly had a great leader, a strong plan and a positive result for the state. Of course not everyone might have predicted the outcome of the election, particularly in Hartley.

I recall when one of the new candidates made the announcement to run for the seat of Hartley on 6 October. I remember that day. As they say, 'The impediment to action advances action,' and that was certainly the case. It was not long before there were all kinds of election gurus predicting the result of what was to come in the future. One of them would state on air, when asked what they thought of the new candidate's chances of picking the seat of Hartley, that for this particular candidate the chances of success would be very strong. A week on from that announcement and a certain newspaper was referring to that new candidate as 'the likely new MP for Hartley' and 'possibly South Australia's next premier'.

The bookies certainly did not favour my chances, and anyone who likes a bet knew that you could get me at about 10 to one about a month out from the election—10 bucks. To those who did back me in with more than just their vote, 'You're welcome.' One of the first polls delivered in the seat on 11 October gave this new candidate in Hartley a 53-47 lead and later in November the polls still had me behind at 53-47, according to another certain pollster. Then, according to a poll conducted

between 11 and 14 January, as reported by a television channel on 29 January, I was trailing 57-43. However, as the ancient Latin proverb goes, 'Humility conquers pride.'

I certainly never felt that those numbers reflected the reception that I received on the doorstep and, despite what anyone had to say during the election, our path was certainly clear. I was going to get on with the job, and that was to work as hard as I could, as tirelessly as I could with full dedication for my electorate. That is what I will continue to do: work hard for my community. That is exactly what I intend to do. That is why I am continuing to get on with the job with hard work and dedication to my local community.

For example, I look forward to getting on with delivering the much-needed additional car parking infrastructure at the Paradise Interchange. I also look forward to improving the community sporting facilities at the Athelstone Football Club, the Campbelltown City Council Soccer Club and the Hectorville Sports and Community Club. Furthermore, I look forward to improving the intersection of Graves Street and Newton Road and also the Silkes Road and Gorge Road intersection. There is certainly much work to be done and much to look forward to in the seat of Hartley.

It has been a genuine privilege to be elected to serve the people of Hartley for another term. The message I have received is clear: people do not want spin or stunts; they want a hardworking, accessible member of parliament who will be in the electorate and deliver for them. I look forward to playing my role in the new government to deliver for the people of South Australia. I love the Hartley community and I will continue to help make it the best that it can be for our local residents.

I would also like to thank all those who have helped get me to this point, beginning with my fiancée, Charissa, my parents, our families and my campaign team, including the young Hartley hit squad—they know who they are. They worked tirelessly for months and months and I cannot thank them enough. I thank my EO staff, our volunteers and our backers for sticking with me, and I certainly will not let the people of Hartley down.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (20:13): First of all, I would like to say that it was quite a privilege to be sitting very close to the Governor as he gave his speech, which really outlined what South Australia could look forward to doing over the next four years. It was a very strong, detailed and matter of fact speech, in my view, and one that delivered a very clear set of policy achievements that this new government is seeking to achieve.

I was sitting there watching the Governor undertake his task, a task that he executes with a great degree of humility but also with an understanding of the importance of his role in that institution. We were lucky enough to catch up with him later that evening to have a more fulsome discussion about that. What struck me about this man and why he is so perfect for the job he is in, is that he genuinely respects the institution that he holds.

As a new cabinet with a new Premier, we are also very keen to uphold respect for the institution. It is something that the new Premier has, dare I say, drilled into the new cabinet, to ensure that we hold for this man the greatest of respect, not that we need that prompting because he is a man of such great stature. His personal experience leads him to appreciate the role that he now has, that in our democratic institution he has the opportunity to provide the great balancing power that is given to our head of state.

In fact, one of the most beautiful things about the constitutional monarchy that we exist in is this idea that there is a day-to-day government that deals with the business of changing laws and helping to improve people's lives. As a counterbalance to that, you have a Governor who wields this massive stick, and that massive stick is that he can, on authority from the Queen, sack the government of the day. However, it is a power that he never uses. In the history of Australia, it has only been used once. Interestingly, it helps to provide that beautiful balance.

I know that there will be a debate about whether or not Australia should become a republic. The most difficult thing that I grasp and the most dangerous thing that I think would result from a change of our head of state would be the fundamental change in the way this power balance exists. Some may deride our monarch; I am not one of those. I am not a royalist, but I like the fact that there is somebody who is outside of the party political sphere and who takes very seriously her job as the

head of state for the entire commonwealth, someone who again holds massive power but is deferential and humble enough and takes seriously her responsibility to the entire commonwealth.

Therein lies a beautiful balance of power, a shared power that does not exist under more aggressive republican models. In fact, what scares me most about those who seek to push a republic agenda is that we would invest what we now have a shared power in a much more individualised power in a head of state. I think that is extremely dangerous and one of the main reasons that we need to stick with the system that we have, because it delivers to us beautiful people like Governor Hieu Van Le, with his ability to embody the position that he holds and provide that great counterbalance to what I am beginning to understand is a serious and awesome power that ministers in cabinet hold.

I would like to break up my speech tonight into a couple of parts, one to deal with the election, both at a state and local level, and also to understand the first couple of months of being a minister of the Crown in Her Majesty's government. It is an awesome honour and one that I will touch on.

I must admit that the 2014 election for me was quite different. I was off on my own trying to retain what is otherwise a beautiful, conservative seat, really detached from the rest of the state campaign, whereas this time round it was completely different. What stuck with me and stood out for me most through the campaign, including the pundits and the hurly-burly of the day-to-day politicking and also the doubt that I am sure every MP and wannabe MP has, was the confidence of the new Premier.

It continually amazed me, in the number of conversations I had with him over the journey, that he was resolute and understood that we were going to win this election. He had a confidence that I think is one of the main reasons we won the election. It showed clearly that he was ready at this time and in this place to come into this position. It was brilliant to watch, and it is even more exciting now to follow him and to be part of his cabinet.

Something that I do not think has been fully appreciated is the journey of the last 16 years. We have seen a number of members retire at this election—Isobel Redmond, Steven Griffiths, Michael Pengilly and Mark Goldsworthy—MPs who spent their entire career in opposition. It was a long, torturous and difficult opposition time for this Liberal Party. We stood here after 16 years on the precipice needing to decide whether we were a party of government or whether we were not.

We cannot, as a party, underestimate the fact that it was our leader, Steven Marshall, who brought us out of the wilderness. He is a man who was able to unite the party and bring discipline to the party. As somebody who served in his shadow cabinet, that discipline was unrelenting and complete. He had everybody focused on heading in the same direction, bringing together the lay party and the party organisation, together with the parliamentary team, in a way that I do not think has existed over the past 16 years. He is the man who genuinely put the South Australian Liberal Party back as the natural party of government, and he is the man who has helped to bring about, as he says, a new dawn for this state.

For all those doubters—and I know there were, of course, many—I used the phrase before the election quite often that you are a bunch of losers until you stop losing, and we did not lose. We won and that completely changes the tenor of our party going forward. The shared joy that this party room feels is something that we need to hold onto for as long as we can, and I am certainly going to do my part to ensure that that is what happens.

We all did our part, and there were many people across the spectrum of the party who played their part, but in the end we ran presidential-style campaigns and our leader put paid to any suggestion that this Liberal Party was anything other than ready to help turn our state around. We did that by embracing new technology, which there has been much talk about, including on Sunday from Christian Brothers College's other recent notable graduate, Mr Matt Abraham. He suggested that somehow we stole an election through big data. It is borderline offensive but, more than that, it is wrong.

It is interesting. You can have all the best technology in the world. You can have the most sophisticated systems in the world. You can find out and get to the heart of what people are thinking, or at least what we think they are thinking, but, at the end of the day, all of that does not matter unless

you pick up the phone and call them or go and knock on their door. All that technology does is to make sure you know who the right people to talk to are, but you still have to go and talk to them. That is where I think people fundamentally misunderstand how far this Liberal Party has come.

We did not steal an election. We did not hoodwink an election. All we did was listen and use technology to be able to listen in a broader meta concept. We then helped to reflect back to people the type of government that they wanted us to be, and then we delivered. It was exciting to watch because we have brought ourselves and our party into the 21st century.

I saw candidates campaign with a discipline and a focus that certainly technology helped to aid, but at the end of the day I would hazard a guess that we doorknocked double the number of doors we did in the previous election. In fact, by my very rough calculations, I think about a third of the electorate across the state was touched personally by members of the Liberal Party over the course of this campaign.

I would like to acknowledge the new members in this place. I think we have begun a level of rejuvenation that is exciting to see. The election of 2010 brought with it a great crop, 2014 also brought with it a great crop, if we do say so ourselves, but 2018 has done so again. It is really exciting to see that rejuvenation and new talent, listening to the maiden speeches.

Through the course of the campaign, I have been out with most of the candidates and doorknocked and gone to community events. You get to know them piece by piece, but we are all off in our little worlds trying to fight our own little battles within our electorates. To hear the maiden speeches and really delve deep into the psyche and histories of our new members of parliament has been quite exciting. It is interesting because, having spoken to the member for Port Adelaide before the election, the Labor Party is quite different. They grow up knowing each other. They grow up in factions fighting each other and, as the member for West Torrens said, fighting the left is much easier than fighting the Liberal Party.

But on our side of the house is a grassroots decentralised party, and many of the people who come before us are not hacks or stalwarts. They are new fresh blood that has come into our team and that makes it even more exciting. We have new members for Davenport, Narungga, Kavel, MacKillop, Heysen, Morphett, Elder, Newland, Colton, King and Waite, although we will put an asterisk next to that one. This new talent, this new team that has come through, is really going to underpin the longevity of this government.

I have often boasted in speeches to the public about the broad depth of small business experience on our front bench. Whether they be former irrigators, former outback roadhouse operators, physiotherapists, modelling agency owners, furniture manufacturers or humble sausage makers, we have an eclectic mix that brings a very different set of skills to our parliament.

We have now been joined by the greatest ever Paralympian that Australia has ever had, a microbiologist whom you cannot argue the science with because he knows it, and a former AFL player who still barracks for the wrong team, but all can be forgiven in the broad church that is the Liberal Party, through to a couple more lawyers—unfortunately, we do need a few of them—and a whole host of people who bring different experiences.

What excited me about listening to these maiden speeches was that these people are not of government. They are not within government. They are people with broad real-life experience, some younger, some older, some from the city, some from the country. It really does help us to be in touch with the people. I would hate to be part of a party that is so monocultural that there is a tried and tested path from union official and staffer through to the parliamentary ranks, because I think you do lose touch with what broader society means and the constructs that exist within broader society.

I would also like to make mention very specifically of two members who are not in this place, who gave their all and whom I hope will join us in the parliamentary team at the earliest available opportunity. One is a man called Steven Rypp, who I am sure everybody was trying to chase when it came to KPIs. Everybody in the Liberal team understands that our Premier measures everything and we are judged against our performance. On those metrics, Steven Rypp should be sitting amongst us as much as anyone else. I applaud him for his effort. As a Liberal Party, we are, I think, getting a lot better at thanking those who did not make it, as well as thanking those who did.

The other one is Kendall Jackson, who for a second time had a crack at becoming the member for Frome, who has grown and learnt and is somebody who still has not given up. That is something I applaud because I know that these campaigns take it out of people. For those two, as well as the many others who did not get there, I say thank you very much on behalf of myself for the great work that you have done and the pleasure it was to go out and knock on those doors with you.

Then we won the election. I was expecting it to be a long night in front of a computer. For a nerd who likes his numbers, the election was rather boring because it was all over by 9.30, so there was nothing left to do but go to the pub. It heralded with it, as the Premier said, a new dawn for South Australia, and little did I know how bright that sunrise was going to be. On the Wednesday afterwards, I got a very curt phone call from the Premier's office saying, 'The Premier would like to meet with you at 3 o'clock this afternoon.' I thought, 'Well, that's my afternoon done.' I was thinking slightly more executory, but that is not the way it turned out.

The Premier said, 'Stephan, I need you to do this job,' and he listed off the portfolio responsibilities, each one seemingly weighing heavier on my shoulders than the last. He said, 'Your wife is going to hate me, but that is the job I want you to do.' When the Premier says 'Jump,' you say 'How high?' It is an awesome honour and one that I will never forget, and my colleagues will not allow me to forget, especially in relation to the many hundreds of election commitments that we have made.

What I have come to learn over the last eight weeks is that we members of the cabinet are the synthesis between the public who know what they want and a Public Service who know what they want. It really is the job of the minister, as I understand it, to provide that balance between the two. We hire experts—public servants with long-term experience who have become experts and professionals in their field—who provide this expert advice to government, advice that the vast majority of the time we should heed. But on this other side we have an electorate who said, 'No, hang on. We voted for you, and we voted for you to do these things.' In business I learnt very early on that the customer is always right. When it comes to democracy, the voters are always right.

The role of minister is really where we have a job to deliver what the people want whilst also heeding the advice of the department. In fact, as I am given to understand, my office is going to deal with 3,000 to 4,000 pieces of correspondence over the next 12 months. I say to the public, now sitting on this side of the aisle, the amount of time and effort that goes into ensuring that the public understands what its Public Service is doing, I think, is awesome.

To understand that process of a ministerial office delving deep into a department for a response to a sometimes obscure question, and the seriousness and respect with which they are treated is something I am in awe of and something that I think the voting public, if they understood, would be in awe of. We do not always get it right and already I have signed off on letters that do not give people what they want, but still the government should be there. It should be open and transparent, and it should be accountable.

I have also, in my very short time, been exposed to some very good people both within the department but also as we build our ministerial office. I want to say an introductory thankyou but also a prospective thankyou to those members who have already joined the ministerial office in Sarah Taylor and Courtney Nourse. There is going to be a lot of work for you to do but please know that we are going to be doing it in service of the beautiful people of South Australia.

The only way that I have been allowed to be a minister of the Crown is by the express consent of the people of Schubert. They are some of the most beautiful people that anyone would meet. I am not going to brag about this being the best electorate in the country, but it was said by the former member for Schubert quite often that this was the best electorate in the country. I thought he was talking about the fact that these people are loyal to the Liberal Party. I thought then that maybe he was talking about the fact that the Barossa makes a better glass of red wine than anywhere else in the world. But he was actually talking about the people.

I noted earlier that the member for Kavel in his maiden speech talked about community spirit, and the Barossa is certainly full of that, and the broader Schubert electorate is certainly full of that. I am so proud that they have given me the opportunity to continue to be their local MP and hopefully, more than hopefully, this new Liberal government is going to deliver what it said it would deliver.

Interestingly, most of the things that we need to deliver are in my portfolio, so that might make things a little bit easier.

I want to go through those commitments because I think it is very important to put on the record so that the electorate can have comfort that we have not forgotten, as the cynics within the voting public might think that post election suddenly these promises vanish. I can tell you very clearly that they do not and I know that each member of parliament on both sides of the aisle is going to make sure that they do not.

We, and the Barossa, committed to a number of things. The first of those is around sealing the Lyndoch Road, which is a \$500,000 commitment by the new Liberal government towards the sealing of a seven-kilometre stretch of road. It might not sound like much and it might seem strange that we picked this one road out of thin air, but it is a road that holds strategic importance for the thousands of people who live in the southern Barossa who have seen the northern ends of the valley kick along in leaps and bounds with tourism increasing and cellar door numbers swelling and who feel that they need a piece of the pie.

The answer is genuinely that people do not drive their way anymore. The sealing of this road will unlock millions and millions of dollars worth of investment at the southern end of the valley and open up some of the most beautiful and picturesque parts of the Barossa again to the tourist trade. It is something I am extremely proud and eager to see delivered as soon as possible in conjunction with the Light Regional Council.

We then have the perennial issue of the Barossa hospital, and it was interesting that the local newspapers did not even wait because in the edition immediately following the election the headline on the front page read, 'It's time to deliver,' and I am under no illusion that my electorate expects anything less, as do all our electorates. But the business case study into the Barossa hospital is one that I am going to be watching with extremely close interest.

I must admit that I have not bothered the new health minister as yet, since his brow has become more and more furrowed as he has learnt of some of the difficulties within his portfolio, not the least of which was a budget overrun to end all budget overruns in the Central Adelaide Local Health Network.

The other local commitment we had was in relation to dog parks, an issue that started because a local young woman called Kelly Adams came to my office and said, 'Stephan, this is an issue.' It is an issue I had read about on Facebook community chat groups around the place and heard people talk about, but I had never been able to pin down somebody who would help me in a campaign to deliver this. Kelly did just that, and we had a petition signed by over 800 people.

We had numerous meetings at dog parks and meetings with council and, after fighting for about three months, the Liberal Party came on board and delivered \$100,000 to establish two dog parks in the Barossa. Excitingly, work has already begun with the council to identify where those dog parks are going to be delivered, and I look forward to taking my little spoodle, Molly, down there for a walk. Molly will not enjoy her time at the dog park. This will be the first time she has been taken for a walk in a long time. That said, she needs to understand how I have helped deliver her a better future.

We then have the broader issues that I think we need to deliver for our region. I am taking a bit of licence here, but the two biggest issues that regional MPs will bring to this place are roads and mobile phone blackspots. In the absence of public transport, in the absence of other forms of self-motored transport, whether they be bikes or walking, you need a car to live in the country. When you rely on that as the only mode of transport to get around, you pay a little bit more attention to what your roads look like. There is a vast network of roads across country South Australia and it needs a lot of help.

As the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, I know very clearly that it is my job to deliver. That is why I am extremely proud of our Royalties for Regions scheme and our regional road and infrastructures fund as ways to deliver that. It is not going to be quick and it is not going to be easy. A local MP came to me the other day and said, 'Steph, I just need you to shoulder seal 200 kilometres of this road and then I'll be happy.' He was deadly serious. He is right, but he is not the only one, and the enormity of the task ahead of us sits very heavily on my shoulders. But all regional South Australia

needs us to deliver, and that is why this regional road and infrastructure fund is so important to be able to do just that.

We also need to deal with mobile phone blackspots. Again, this is an issue that really hurts regional South Australia. If you really want to help unlock the potential and the small business potential of regional South Australia, mobile phone data and telecommunication services are key. In this world where internet start-up businesses can happen from someone's bedroom, there is no reason that that bedroom cannot be in regional South Australia. That is why I am so proud that, together with my colleagues, including the member for Mount Gambier, we have been able to help get a \$10 million commitment to deliver this. I look forward to working with the telecommunications companies, which I understand have been supportive at this very early stage, but the federal government also needs to come on board.

I could use this as an opportunity to belt the former Labor government for being so pathetically recalcitrant that they ignored regional South Australia, but I will not. But there is work that needs to be done and these measly sums of money are going to deliver product benefits that will far outweigh their cost. If we want regional South Australia to thrive and grow, then this is the way to do it to give hope to a young generation that they can actually start and grow businesses and have a broader range of professions they can tap into in regional South Australia.

I always give this one experience as an example. I was lucky enough to fly on a small charter plane with the member for Stuart, who took us around his electorate. It is the only other time that my steel-capped boots have seen any use, other than at my Northern Connector visit the other week. We went across to a station, the name of which escapes me right at this second. The member for Stuart will be able to tell me what it was.

The Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan: Which trip was this?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: 2015.

The Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan: We went to a few. We went to Cowarie Station.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Cowarie Station.

The Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan: Yes. The Oldfields, Sharon Oldfield.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: We met the Oldfields out there. Sharon's daughter was taking us through how she learns, how she studies—

The Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan: Ashlee.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —Ashlee—and how she interacts with her friends. She was dead keen to show us this four-minute video that some mates from the region had put together as they were drafting sheep. There were dirt bikes, and all sorts of stuff was happening in the video. I think the nearest house was 50 kilometres away—

The Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan: 50 to Mungeranie.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —yes, 50 kilometres away, and here she was connected to her friends via the internet. It really shows that this is a way to unlock regional South Australia, help it to be connected to the rest of the world and, in doing so, provide opportunities that will really help our state reach its full potential.

Lastly, I would like to go to a few thank-yous, if I can, Mr Deputy Speaker. From a local electorate point of view, I would like to thank the other candidates who ran in the race out in the Barossa. Certainly, Paul Brown from the Nick Xenophon team had a tough time of it, as did David Haebich, the Labor candidate. Both were earnest and good fun to have on the campaign trail, as was Rikki Lambert from the Family First Party. Unfortunately, Mr Irving from the Greens was nowhere to be seen. I enjoyed that there was actually a contest out in Schubert, and I think the electorate is all the better for it.

There are two people I would like to thank. The first of those is a man called Steve Balch. Steve is a new man to the Barossa Valley, but he has taken to the local community with gusto, especially in Lyndoch. He is a former MP from Darwin and brings with him a wealth of experience.

He is a beautiful man, and I really appreciate the help he has given me. The second person I would like to thank is a girl called Courtney Nourse, who has been working with me for the past four years. She is in the gallery, hiding out the back; I think she is expecting a mention. Courtney worked day and night with me during this election campaign. She ran the office during the day and then at night and on weekends was out with me campaigning.

I made a remark that, for the last couple of months leading up to the election, I saw more of her than I did my family, and I think both of us were very keen to spend some time apart. Courtney is a committed Liberal who shows a dedication to this party well beyond her years. She is someone who, unfortunately, is going to be working with me for a while, I think, for better or worse for both of us. I could not have done it without her. Really, it was the two of us taking on the rest of the world. To everyone else who helped during the election campaign, I would like to say thank you. Many volunteers helped out on election day, including members of the Knoll family and the Heysen family—many under duress but, nevertheless, thank you.

With the last 60 seconds, I would like to say thank you to Amy and the two girls. I think that Amy is a bit conflicted in the sense that she really wanted me to win and she really wanted the Liberal Party to win, but she knew the sacrifices that she was going to be asked to make. Those sacrifices are now coming into play, and we sit here tonight in this chamber debating the Address in Reply being away from our families. This is going to happen. We have 17 sitting weeks between here and the end of the year, and we are going to do the good work for the people of South Australia but, as we all know, it is our families at home who pay the price. To my girls, can I say that I will not waste my time away. I will get home as soon as I can, and I really thank you for all the support you have shown over the last four years.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (20:43): I rise, as have many others in the last couple of weeks, to contribute to the Address in Reply. I will not go into too many details, but let me say that, like everybody else, I have enormous respect for the Governor and his wife and for the work they do. Many people have gone into far more depth than that, and I will not repeat their words, but we are incredibly fortunate to have the Hon. Hieu Van Le as our Governor, so ably supported by his wife, Lan. I personally thank them for their work. As with most good people, you get good people into a job to do it the best they can and they deliver way more than they need to, and I thank them for that.

Of course, it is a great pleasure for me and for my colleagues to be in government. It would be unbelievable if I were to pretend any differently. We do not take it for granted. We were in opposition for a very long time. I played that role for eight years and for some others it was 16 years. Some were very fortunate to be elected into government immediately. However, the members of the Liberal Party, from the President and the Premier all the way through to an occasional volunteer—none of us takes this for granted. None of us found it easy to get here. None of us underestimates the responsibility that we have as a parliamentary team and as a party more broadly to deliver for the people of South Australia, and none of us will do anything other than our very, very best on behalf of the people of South Australia who have trusted us with this opportunity.

Politics is a funny game; it is a funny business. It can be quite fortunate at times; it can be unfortunate at times. It can be kind and cruel. The reality is that, as with most things, if you put the work in you get the results. Let me say of the former government that, while of course we have many disagreements and of course there is a very long list of things that we have different views about, some stridently so and some only slightly different, I am sure that the vast majority of people in the former government were doing their best at the time in their way. We will do our best in our time in our way.

In Australia, whether at the state or federal level, I really believe that in most instances most members of parliament and most political parties want the same result. For example, in energy it would be silly to think that anybody does not want affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible electricity, but we do have very different paths that we believe are the right ones to get to that end result.

I use that as an example of how fortunate we are in South Australia, in other states and in Australia nationally, and in many other countries, too, compared with other places in the world where it does not work that way. So we will have disagreements and we will fight hard against each other,

but let us recognise that we are very fortunate here in this chamber that, overwhelmingly, we have good people trying to do the right thing.

In terms of the electorate of Stuart, much has been said by many, particularly on our side of the chamber, about how incredibly wonderful their electorates are. I was overwhelmed to hear a couple of my colleagues talk about their vast 1,000 square kilometres of electorate. I was overwhelmed to hear from some of my colleagues about the two or three industries that they have in their electorates. I was overwhelmed to hear about the hospital or two that they might have, the school or two that they might have or, in some cases, the hundreds of kilometres of roads.

Let me tell you, Deputy Speaker, as you well know as the member for Flinders, there is absolutely nothing better than representing a large country and outback electorate. The electorate of Stuart has an area of 372,000 square kilometres and 30 different communities. It is an amazing electorate with a wide range of diverse views and diverse industries.

I said once in this chamber that there is absolutely nothing that happens anywhere in the state of South Australia that does not happen somewhere in the electorate of Stuart, but I was pulled up I think by the member for Florey, who said, 'What about lobster?' Actually, no, we do not have a lobster fishery in the electorate of Stuart but, apart from that, I think we have all the bases covered. I am incredibly fortunate to represent the electorate of Stuart. Let me say that there is never ever a day that goes by that I do not know that, and I am sure that is true for almost all MPs here.

I never expected to be a member of parliament. It was not in my plan, in my background or in my expectations at all. I have worked incredibly hard to get preselected, I worked incredibly hard to get elected and now, as a minister, I work incredibly hard on behalf of my electorate and the people of South Australia. I thank the people of my electorate and the people of South Australia for that incredible opportunity.

Of course, it makes it harder representing a country and outback electorate and being a minister at the same time. The Premier has been incredibly kind to me with regard to the portfolio I have of energy and mining. There are huge synergies in the electorate of Stuart with energy and mining, and that is no accident, and I thank him for that. I also thank him for the fact that the energy and mining portfolio, while there is a very wide range of responsibilities captured in that, does have some very clear and measurable outcomes.

We have heard many of my colleagues talk about delivering on our election commitments. The Premier has been incredibly clear from probably two years before the election, when we were starting really to get serious about articulating our election commitments, because we had spent a lot of time before that developing them, to say that we need to describe them, we need to plan them, we need to organise them and we need to develop them properly, because if we are elected we will deliver them properly. That has been a common theme between speakers—brand-new speakers and returning MPs as well—on our side of the chamber: we are going to deliver our election commitments properly.

In my ministerial area of responsibility, there are some very clear deliverables. I know that if electricity prices become more affordable and electricity supply becomes more reliable I will be considered a person who did my job properly, with enormous support from my office, the department and many others. If that does not happen, I will be considered a person who did not do his job properly, and I accept that responsibility. I am very comfortable having things outlined that way, and I will do my best.

I say again that I will not be doing it on my own. There is a ministerial office that is nearly at completion. We have some amazing, wonderful people who have come into this office, and the whole department, approximately 330 people who, I have to say, have been invigorated for a few reasons: I am sure that, partly through a change of government—and that is not to say that they are Liberal voters, as I know for a fact that there are strong Labor people in that group; that is not what I am talking about—I think a change has invigorated them.

Another very sensible decision the Premier made well before the election was that he wanted to set up a government with, essentially, one minister, one CEO and one department wherever possible. What will officially on 1 July make up the department for energy and mining was a section

of State Development previously, and then, when electricity got very difficult for the government, became a section of the Premier and Cabinet.

I am very fortunate to have officially, currently, deputy CE Paul Heithersay, who has been in charge of many things, but broadly this energy and mining area, and who will continue on as the CE for the department of energy and mining. He is an outstanding person with an outstanding leadership team reporting through to him. I am very fortunate to have him, so we will have a minister, a CE and a department to focus on energy and mining.

I say again that the people I have met in that department—and it is not nearly all of them but many, many of them—are reinvigorated. They are very keen to get on with the job, and I pay tribute to them because these are the people who were doing the very best they could to deliver on the previous government's energy policy. We have sat and we have talked about it and I said, 'Well, the reality is that I was in opposition, I was the shadow minister, I was the one saying that the previous government was not doing a good job and you were the ones helping the previous government do that. Do you want to get on board with the new government? Do you want to get on board with our policies?' Unreservedly, they do, and I thank them and congratulate them on that.

They are high-quality public servants, regardless of their personal political preference, which of course is varied in the department just as it would be out in the real world. They want to get on with the job, they are keen to get on with the job and I, as a person who had never come into the role of minister before, was extremely pleased to see the work they had done during the caretaker period to put together, to the best of their ability at the time, the best way for a new energy and mining department to deliver the new Liberal government's energy and mining policies. I thank them for that. We have a lot of hard work ahead of us and we will do it together. They are outstanding people and outstanding public servants doing the very best they can to deliver for the people of South Australia on behalf of and with the new government, and I think that is absolutely tremendous.

None of us here will ever get elected on our own—never have, never will. All speakers who have contributed to this debate have talked about a different range of people. It is not possible for all of us to name everybody, but let me start with my electoral staff. I have extraordinary electoral staff in Kapunda, in Port Augusta and, until very recently, in Parliament House as well—people who have done their jobs amazingly: Tracey Freeman and Sandra Spaeth from Port Augusta, as well as a series of very good trainees along the way, including Cassandra Delaney currently.

Stacey in Kapunda does an amazing job. Stacey is extraordinary in the sense that she comes from a station in the Far North, Farina Station, and adores family. She has worked as a journalist and editor for a range of country newspapers and now, as Stacey Davidson, has moved to Kapunda with her husband and family—closer to her in-laws. There is just an example of an incredibly broad range of experience, background and local connection which spreads across most of our vast electorate, and I could go into that sort of detail for any one of our staff.

I also want to mention Mr Chris Hanna, who most people in this chamber are aware of. He was previously a very highly regarded electorate officer and is now a ministerial adviser in energy. Chris has been my longest serving staff member. He started with me a month or so after the 2010 election and I thank him enormously for working side by side with me for eight years in opposition and for wanting to continue side by side with me into government. Again, I could go into details of the others as well, but they already know how highly I think of them and for what reasons.

Of course, I am in many ways incredibly fortunate and perhaps spoilt to be moving into a new ministerial office with staff. The people who have come out of the department, or in fact other departments, to support our ministerial office are off to a great start. I am incredibly fortunate to have Mr Dominic Kelly as my Chief of Staff, who committed, subject to our success at the election, to shift here from Sydney. He tells me that he only came because of the wine in South Australia, but I suspect that he is actually very keen to get on and do the job, too. He is a very highly qualified person, and there will be others who join our team as well.

It is with people at every level—in the electorate offices, in the ministerial office, in the department, in this chamber—that we will get great results. It is great people, working very hard, with skill, with ability, with intent, with character—that is how we will get results for the people of South Australia. You cannot do it on your own; you should not do it on your own. You would fool yourself if

you thought you could do it on your own. Let me say in my first significant contribution in this chamber as a minister that I know that every single thing that I may be able to achieve on behalf of the people of South Australia in this chamber will be with the support and because of the support of very, very good people who surround me.

I move on to the absolutely most important person in my life, my wife, Rebecca, who like most, is a spouse who supports their husband or wife as a member of parliament. I often joke, but it is true that one of the most important things about my wife, Rebecca, when it comes to supporting my role in parliament and politics is that she is actually not very interested in politics. Do you know what? That is absolutely perfect. She cares about me, she cares about the community and she cares about people anywhere; she cares about the nuts and bolts of real people in the real world, and that is where her passion is.

She wants to support me to help them and she also does a lot herself to support them directly. For that, to the love of my life, I could never be thankful enough. I would never have been preselected without Rebecca's support, I would never have been elected without her support and I would never be standing here now as a minister without her support. I am sure that most people here would feel the same way about their spouse.

Just to get to a few more nuts and bolts things, consistently in the electorate of Stuart in the country areas—so if you look at the freehold land, the non-pastoral zone from, say, Port Augusta down to Truro and Kapunda—overwhelmingly the top two issues that people are concerned about are health and roads. In the northern part of the electorate, broadly defined by north of Port Augusta and in the pastoral zone, people are concerned by roads and communications. They have a lot of other concerns of course—education being one of them, access to a wide range of services being another, feeling left out and disconnected and forgotten in many ways and not being able to access things—but largely and consistently those are the two key things.

I became a candidate for Stuart back in May 2008 when the former government announced its country health plan, which, Mr Speaker, you will remember and other members will remember was roundly rejected by people all over the state. I was a brand-new candidate trying to learn how things worked, never having had a connection to a political party or politics in any way, but I can tell you it took about three seconds for me to realise that country health and country hospitals are incredibly highly valued, incredibly important for people in country areas, in our electorate particularly.

The electorate of Stuart has nine hospitals inside its boundary. It also has another eight hospitals just outside the electorate boundary, which are the closest hospitals for some people who live inside the electorate. So there are 17 hospitals in South Australia, each of which is the closest hospital to some people in our electorate—17 hospitals; incredibly important.

I and my colleagues hold the delivery of health services to country South Australia as a sacred obligation. There are other incredibly high priorities, but the delivery of health services to people in country and outback areas is a sacred obligation of a government. We so strongly believe in that. Of course, it is important to say that the delivery of the health service is not just about hospitals, but the majority of those hospitals—even, very often, GP clinics—are connected physically and in many other ways with country hospitals as well.

The delivery of roads is incredibly important. It is no accident that the Premier and our team have delivered a commitment before the election and will deliver in reality 30 per cent of all mining royalties going to transport and infrastructure projects in regional South Australia. That is about delivering services that should be there, that should have been there, and also about delivering growth opportunities.

We know that country South Australia deserves extraordinary support and attention because country and outback South Australia deliver for metropolitan South Australia enormously. Mr Deputy Speaker, as the member for Flinders you know that, as do many of our colleagues on this side. The Labor Party is incredibly unfortunate to only have one non-metropolitan member. It is a great shame for the Labor Party. They do not get the importance of regional communities, and perhaps it is not their fault because it is not part of who they are or what they do. The electorate of Giles is a Labor-held seat. Beyond that there is not one, and I think that does that party a great disservice.

The reality is that the metropolitan area of Adelaide is growing and growing. In the views of many people, it goes quite far down the Fleurieu Peninsula and north of Gawler these days. The seats that include the Fleurieu Peninsula and the fringes of Adelaide, and the seats that include Gawler and the northern fringes of Adelaide, are not country seats. They might have some parts of them that are considered country, and those parts are incredibly important but, overwhelmingly, the vast majority of electors, constituents in those seats, would be considered greater metropolitan people. So good luck to those Labor MPs who have some country in their electorates—that is fantastic—but they are not country electorates.

There is another issue I would like to just touch on very quickly, and that is the issue of wild dogs. It sounds like a great topic. Who knows if that is the name of a movie or the latest, greatest TV show? The reality is that it is a very serious and very unfortunate topic. I raise this topic because it affects my electors very seriously, and it is starting to affect other electors and will continue to affect other electors if we do not get on top of it.

Wild dogs—essentially dingoes—once roamed free all over Australia and then were largely only above the dog fence, but in the last few decades have started to come further south below the dog fence for a wide range of reasons that I have enumerated in this place many times, and I am sure I will again. I will not go into that, but the reality is that if we do not get on top of this problem, our grazing industry hundreds of kilometres south of the dog fence is going to face even more challenges.

A dog was shot at Caltowie a week and a half ago. I have not done the sums, but Caltowie has to be 400 kilometres or thereabouts below the dog fence. The week before that, there was one at Laura. This is a reasonably close country area. There was one at Port Neill and one at Waikerie. This is an issue that, if it is allowed to get further out of hand, will cause enormous grief for our grazing industry.

We went to the election with a commitment to deliver funding towards two full-time trappers. Shooting, baiting, fences and a range of other things go to address wild dogs. Trapping is the big piece that is missing at the moment, and we will deliver on that program because that is the way, the experts tell me—and I do not pretend to be an expert—that you can get the smart dogs that do not get shot, do not take bait and have managed to get their way through the fence and, in many cases, to live and breed south of the dog fence for many years. They are the ones that will not be taken any other way. That is a very important issue.

I would like to finish with two things; one is with regard to Aboriginal heritage and Aboriginal people. Port Augusta, as you know, is the heart, population-wise, of the electorate I represent, and it has an Aboriginal population of approximately 20 per cent. Let me say very clearly that it would not matter if there were one Aboriginal person living in Port Augusta or if it were 90 per cent Aboriginal—every single person in this electorate gets represented. Young or old, male or female, Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, rich or poor, farmer, town dweller or factory worker, it does not matter. Every single person in the electorate of Stuart gets represented.

Every single person knows that they can come to me with an issue and that they will be represented. Aboriginal people, multigenerational Anglo-Saxons, recent migrants, migrants who have been here for a few generations—every single person in our electorate is important. It does not matter what they do or where they come from, or whether their family has been in Australia for tens of thousands of years or if they came just recently. If they came legally, with the right attitude and the right approach, and they want to contribute to our community, they get represented.

The last thing I would like to say is that one of the key directives that our leader, the Premier of South Australia, has given our members—whether they be ministers or the broader team in which we all serve—is that our government will act with humility, accountability and delivery in our minds every single day. Humility, accountability and delivery: everyone on our team is committed to that. We are very pleased to be in government. We are very pleased, but we are not going nuts, we are not going crazy and we are not saying, 'How good are we?' We are very pleased because now we can get on with the job. We are all accountable.

We know that we are accountable to our electorates. We know that every single one of us is accountable to deliver our previously opposition but now Liberal government's election commitments.

We will do that with humility, accountability and delivery. They will be the hallmarks of the Marshall Liberal government, and every single person on our team, including those in the other place, is fully committed to doing that on behalf of our electorates and on behalf of South Australia. We will do that.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (21:13): I am very pleased to be able to speak in reply to His Excellency's outstanding speech. I commend the Governor for his speech and his delivery and for his service to South Australia in so many ways. Other members have reflected on that outstanding contribution, and I echo their words without repeating them. Mr Deputy Speaker, I congratulate you on your service in this role, as I congratulate the Speaker, as others have done. I know that this chamber will benefit from yours and the Speaker's fine wisdom, gravitas and deliberations. The dignity that we hope this parliament will maintain is in good hands under you and the Speaker.

I offer my congratulations to the Premier. Earlier this evening, the member for Schubert spent some time talking about the contribution the Premier made to ensuring that the Liberal Party was in the best possible position to form government at the last election and, having been elected, to govern well. The Premier's contribution to the Liberal Party will not soon be forgotten, and that will not just be as a function of the strong government he leads and will continue to lead for some time but because of the work he did over five years as then leader of the opposition.

The Premier is one of the longest serving leaders in the history of the South Australian Liberal Party. As others have identified, he has brought the Liberal Party together over his time as leader and encouraged all of us to identify each other's strengths and support each other as colleagues, and to work as a team, first in the long dreary days of opposition—which those opposite are now starting to familiarise themselves with—and then through two elections.

As others have pointed out, this was at a time when many people found it easy to criticise the leader of the opposition, as he was then—this despite the fact that he won 53 per cent of the popular vote at the only election he had ever gone to—mainly, it struck me, for the sin that we had not yet knocked off the government. For many years, that was something he had to deal with, but he never complained about it.

All he did was to identify the challenges that people felt in their lives that were imposed by the government, which we could somehow fix. Of course, these were the reasons people were anxious that we had not won the previous election. He channelled all those anxieties of the people who complained into talking about how we could better deliver for the people of South Australia. That is the challenge he has called on all of us to address.

He brought the entire Liberal parliamentary team with him in that effort. He gave all of us the opportunity to have input into every policy decision that was made and he gave the Liberal parliamentary team the opportunity to deal with the tactical approach that we made. When I was manager of opposition business we ensured that we had a set of tactics that the Liberal parliamentary team had the opportunity to buy into, and we benefited extremely strongly from that unanimity of purpose. We all got to know each other extremely well in those days of opposition and we knew that we could rely on each other to that end.

There are a number of members who were with us through that journey, who contributed to that unanimity of purpose, who contributed to the body of work that was done on developing, first, a foundation or platform document in '2036', then the policies that were built on top of that foundation, and the election policies and election campaigns that sat on top of that. They are, of course, Isobel Redmond, Mitch Williams, Michael Pengilly, Steven Griffiths and Mark Goldsworthy. I thank them for the work they did; it was quite extraordinary.

As others have done, I commend the new members who have been elected to this house in their place, and I note that some of them have acknowledged them in their maiden speeches. However, as I think the member for Schubert said in his speech, many of us who now have the absolute privilege of being able to serve as ministers in this government doorknocked, phone canvassed or participated in community meetings right across this state over the course of our time in opposition, not just in the lead-up to the election campaign.

Many of us had the opportunity to help some of those new members in their campaigns and in their races, but those retiring members—despite the fact they knew that, were we to win government, they would not have the opportunity to serve as ministers or to have other roles in the government—worked just as hard as so many of the people in this place did to help there be a change of government. For that I commend and thank them.

I do not propose to single out the other people who worked so hard on our election campaign, save for two exceptions, they being the Premier's Chief of Staff, James Stevens, and the State Director of the Liberal Party, Sascha Meldrum. They did an extraordinary job. They spent a lot of their own time and money and their own holidays to develop their skills and their understanding of campaigns elsewhere in the country and around the world, and I commend them for that. The effort, the single-minded determination that they would lead that campaign in a strong way to make sure the administration and the running of the campaign was done well was tremendous—James Stevens in the sense of leading the parliamentary team's administration and Sascha Meldrum in the campaign itself.

In the 2014 election, the Liberal Party succeeded in securing 53 per cent of the two-party preferred vote. In the election prior to that, when Isobel Redmond was the leader, the Liberal Party succeeded in achieving more than 50 per cent of the vote. Other members have pointed out that—and I have almost lost count: six out of seven, seven out of eight or maybe even eight out of nine—in every election since 1985 in fact, save for the 2006 election, the people of South Australia have preferred, through the expression in the ballot box, the Liberal Party to the Labor Party to form government.

The fact that this is only the third time the Liberal Party has formed government has been put down to a number of things over the years. The shadow treasurer says incompetent campaigning and that is a point that the former treasurer has suggested before. I see the Opposition Whip is gesticulating and I recall some of his efforts to bring around Labor Party victories in seats like Mawson and Morialta with the 'put your family first' campaign in 2010, which he authorised. These are the ways that the Labor Party has claimed credit for securing victories.

The thing that really interests me in the opportunity to provide an Address in Reply—I think it was after the last election, after the last Governor's speech—is that the former treasurer said that if the Labor Party had had different boundaries then they would have campaigned in other places. I commend the member for Mawson on his victory, where he campaigned, obviously, fairly effectively in places the Labor Party had not necessarily spent much time on before. The former treasurer suggested that the Labor Party was such a good operator that they could, with less than 50 per cent of the vote, win an election and that was something to be applauded.

On that basis, I say the fact that the Liberal Party has significantly increased its vote on boundaries which the Labor Party had as much time to campaign in as anyone else, and that the Liberal Party has significantly won seats off the Labor Party and off at least one Independent, off two Independents, goes to the credit of the campaign run by the Liberal Party at this election.

My view is that the people's will in South Australia is best served when a government is put into power that reflects the will of the people. The majority of people having voted for the Liberal Party, South Australia would have been better served by a Liberal government on all those occasions. But this is an election where the Labor Party, by its own criteria, campaigned more poorly than the Liberal Party. They had less to offer than the Liberal Party. They received fewer votes than the Liberal Party. They received fewer of the two-party preferred votes than the Liberal Party.

Despite the bragging that we heard from so many Labor members in recent months leading up to the election—the Nick Xenophon force was going to attack the Liberal Party in its heartland and the Labor Party would cruise through with the deal that they were no doubt going to do with Nick Xenophon—what we actually saw on election night was 25 on the night and the Liberal Party returned to government after a very long time in opposition with a clear majority that was well known, as others have pointed out, not that long into election night.

That was the result of an outstanding campaign, an outstanding policy platform and an outstanding set of candidates. I include, as others have done, some of those candidates who fell short: Steven Rypp and Therese Kenny, the candidates for Lee and Torrens; the candidate for

Wright, Luigi Mesisca; and the Liberal candidate for Mawson, Andy Gilfillan, are four who have often been mentioned. I am sure there were others I should be mentioning. Kendall Jackson in Frome did an outstanding job time and time again knocking on the doors, as did so many candidates. Lachlan Clyne in Badcoe was relentless and tireless in his efforts.

I am certain that the Labor Party spent enormous amounts of energy in the end, not just defending seats like Taylor from the Nick Xenophon threat but, indeed, defending seats that they expected to win in a canter from Liberal Party candidates who were unsuccessful in obtaining election to the parliament, but who were successful in ensuring that the Labor Party put significant resources into their seats and potentially less into others.

That is not to diminish the extraordinary achievements of the member for King, the member for Adelaide, the member for Newland, the member for Elder, and the member for Colton. People forget that Colton used to be a Labor seat and it is now nearly 10 per cent Liberal. I commend the new members for all of those seats for their extraordinary efforts in either holding or winning those seats for the Liberal Party.

The member for Waite overcame a significant challenge, and a former member who was very confident at one stage that he was going to retain the seat ultimately decided not to run for one reason or another. So those campaigns were strong and exceptional. The Labor Party worked very hard in King. The Labor Party worked very hard in Newland. The Labor Party worked very hard in Colton and certainly in Adelaide and Elder.

The Labor Party did not give up on those seats, but they were defeated because those communities saw a couple of things. They saw Liberal candidates with exceptional futures ahead of them and an exceptional capacity to serve their electorates, and they saw the opportunity under a Liberal government to deliver a better future for their children and a better future for their community. All of this, of course, leads to the work of the leader of the opposition, as he was then and the Premier as he is now, and his achievement in winning government having formed that policy platform. His achievements already early in government are to be absolutely commended, and I do so now.

I want to take this opportunity to talk about the electorate of Morialta. During the Address in Reply a number of members have identified their electorates as the best electorates in South Australia. That reflects on something that I have said in previous elections: the seat of Morialta has, of course, been significantly redrawn. When I was chosen as the Liberal candidate for Morialta, 10 years ago almost to the day, give or take a week, to take on my predecessor Lindsay Simmons in what was a well-spirited campaign, the seat of Morialta included parts of the Burnside council that have long since departed and it included Newton and Paradise (which were removed at the last election) and it included some of Magill which has since been hived off into Hartley. It went up into the hills as far as Norton Summit and Cherryville. It was about 95 per cent metropolitan and most of that was the Campbelltown council.

The last redistribution was quite profound in Morialta and changed the character of the electorate significantly, certainly in terms of the communities of interest that were involved. Some 50 per cent of Morialta remains in the Campbelltown council, the suburbs of Rostrevor and Athelstone. They are the suburbs where I live and where I grew up. I grew up in Rostrevor and I live in Athelstone, and I imagine that I will live there for a very long time. It is an extraordinary part of the world.

Across the river, we lost Dernancourt, the half of Dernancourt that we had at this election, to the seat of Torrens, and gained the half of Highbury that we did not previously have. So, we have in the City of Tea Tree Gully about 20 per cent of our electors. It is a wonderful part of the world. It is an extraordinarily diverse group of people, but diverse in a different way from Campbelltown. In Campbelltown, there is an extraordinarily rich Italian-Australian heritage and a growing migrant population in many ways. Highbury has a slightly different demographic makeup but is nonetheless a wonderful part of the world.

We have now gone from about 5 per cent Adelaide Hills to about 30 per cent Adelaide Hills. We have picked up townships with different communities of interest and different expectations of their local MP, and they have different issues that drive their particular concerns on a day-to-day basis than many people in the metropolitan area.

I should say electricity, the price of water, the cost of living and the hope for jobs for their kids are, of course, common issues everywhere, as are concerns about health and education. However, different schools and different hospitals are providing the services in these areas and, of course, different industries drive that job growth and face different pressures in relation to costs.

Morialta is now a wonderfully situated electorate, including townships such as Gumeracha, Birdwood, Lobethal, Mount Torrens, Summertown, Uraidla, Kenton Valley and a range of other areas that are new to the electorate—Lenswood and Forest Range in particular. Of course, we lost Paracombe to the member for Newland in the redistribution. Paracombe is known for many things: the Highercombe golf club, the Paracombe Primary School, which led the year 5 NAPLAN results two years in a row during my tenure as the member for Morialta, and we expect high things of the new local member in that field.

Paracombe winery now has the honourable member behind me as its new local member, and I am very sad to have lost it. However, the new parts of Morialta have brought with them their own wonderful wineries, cherry farms, apples and pears. I have had cherry farms ever since the beginning, of course, Norton Summit and Montacute being significant cherry producing areas. We now have about 80 per cent of Adelaide Hills as cherries in the seat of Morialta.

I was very privileged late last year to be appointed cherries ambassador by Cherries SA. Those who have been in the house for a little while, who listened to grieves in December, will be familiar with the very important work there. The Morialta electorate now therefore fulfils the promise claimed of it for the last two elections—spuriously claimed by so many other members—of being the best and most beautiful electorate in the whole of South Australia.

The Morialta election campaign was spirited and fought almost entirely in a very positive context. I congratulate the other candidates. Peter Field was the Labor Party's candidate. When James Sadler was announced as the Xenophon party's candidate, many commentators suggested that Peter Field would run a distant third. I commend him for the work he does as a Tea Tree Gully councillor and the hard work he did on the election trail.

He did not seem to get a lot of support from Labor Party head office, but I know from people in the community who were doorknocked by him that he was relentless in his doorknocking, and I commend him for that work. His campaign was largely built around his own personal work in the community. I have good regard for him. I think he served his party well, and I believe James Sadler did as well.

Although James succumbed to the late drop in Xenophon votes that we saw across South Australia, I think that he did not have as much time as Peter Field to establish himself in the community and to become known for his own achievements in the community, and I think that helped Peter overtake him to come second in the end. I do not say that to grandstand in any way.

As I said to them at the declaration of the polls—and I am grateful they both came along—I think they did their parties proud. They did their parties proud in the way they expressed themselves. As I said to them both, I am sure they would do a better job than some members of parliament who serve in their parties had they been elected instead—just not in the seat of Morialta, where the people were kind enough to choose me instead.

I also acknowledge the significant work undertaken on the campaign trail by Peter Smythe, an Independent candidate endorsed by the Australian Democrats. Peter worked very hard. He did a lot of doorknocking. His campaign was not as strongly resourced in terms of financial support, but he had an active campaign. He spoke to a lot of people. Since the election, I have spoken to Peter about a number of issues that he encountered on the campaign trail, and he is aware that I have taken up those issues. I appreciate the work that he did for his community.

I encountered Simon Roberts-Thompson, the Greens candidate, a couple of times. He also put himself forward very well. I did not have the opportunity to meet Matt Smith from the Conservatives and Tim Farrow from the Dignity Party, but from the reports of their volunteers, and certainly in their public presence, they conducted themselves with dignity. I appreciate the work of all the candidates who gave the people of Morialta a significant range of choice in the election. To the people of Morialta, including all those from new areas, I am very grateful for their support.

In those two areas, those Hills townships in particular, with which I had not necessarily had as much to do in the past, I had so much fun. My wife, Trudy, and I had so much fun over the last 18 months, becoming so intimately involved with all those communities. I noticed one thing upon my election to parliament. I was baptised a Lutheran when I was at university, having had a range of experiences that led me to the Lutheran Church. Having been elected as the member for Morialta, where 45 per cent of my constituency in the 2010 to 2014 period were Italian Catholic, my Lutheran heritage did not necessarily give me the opportunity to go to church much in my electorate. In fact, there was not a Lutheran church in the Morialta electorate for the first eight years that I was here.

My local church in Magill is in Hartley, and I still appreciate being a member there. The redistribution of the boundaries gave me three Lutheran churches, which I particularly enjoyed getting to know very well. It was wonderful that on the quincentenary (500 years) of the Reformation, when Luther nailed the theses on the gate of the church at Wittenberg, we were able to celebrate at the Lobethal Lutheran church with an extraordinary congregation from around the Hills coming to join in.

I stand in front of a portrait of Tom Playford. His son, who was a pastor, of course, in the new parts of the Morialta electorate, supported a different candidate from me. I acknowledge that he was probably worth a few votes for my opponent, but he was a wonderful town crier. That beautiful sense of community that was shown in Lobethal could have been replayed in any number of communities around the world. I appreciate all the churches throughout the Hills that took me in as a congregant and as someone who was able to participate.

I also thank all the community groups. I have become a sponsor of a lot of football clubs and bowls clubs in the Hills. I think that there are still some more that have escaped our grasp, and I am looking forward to becoming a sponsor and sometime patron. That is going to be a tremendous opportunity. With the challenges and issues faced by people in those new parts of the electorate, I have been privileged to be taken into people's lives and trust to share in their hopes for a better community and a better economy going forward. I am hoping very much, and I am confident indeed, that this government will be able to deliver on the promise they have hoped for.

I thank, in particular, Mark Goldsworthy, the former member for Kavel, who was the local member for much of that area, and the member for Bragg, who serviced Summertown and Uraidla and some parts of Basket Range and Ashton that have also come into Morialta for much of the last eight years. They worked very hard to ensure that I was able to be included in that community, and I appreciate that. I also appreciate the current member for Kavel, who made a few friends in the Lobethal-Lenswood area in the last few years. He was then very kind and helped them to become my friends, too, in the last 18 months.

I want to pay particular tribute to one of those people. Her name was Val Hall and she is, sadly, no longer with us. Val was a councillor for the Adelaide Hills Council and the Gumeracha council before it. Val served her community with distinction, with honour, with grace and with dignity for decades. During the campaign, it was no small thing that the Gumeracha Town Hall, where her funeral service was held, was packed and standing room only.

We had a number of members of parliament and former members of parliament at the service: Stan Evans, Isobel Redmond, the member for Kavel and a range of others. I do a disservice. There were about three or four who currently slip my mind who were in attendance. Ivan Venning, the member for Schubert, was also there to pay tribute to her, along with hundreds of people from entirely different political backgrounds.

We heard stories about Val's life and the trailblazing path that she set for women in so many ways in her fields and in the service she provided through service clubs and supporting schools and hospitals, and her work in local government. The hundreds, or probably thousands, of people whose lives she touched was extraordinary. Nothing was more extraordinary, though, than the pathos of John, her grieving husband, singing an extraordinary Frank Sinatra song to her at the end of his eulogy. I do not think anybody who was in that room is going to forget that at any time in their life.

Val's life's work cannot easily be summarised in three or four minutes, but I note that in the years ahead there will be many opportunities for the community to express their appreciation of Val Hall. In August, I believe, the local community will erect a seat in her honour in Gumeracha's Federation Park, and I look forward to hopefully having the opportunity to participate in unveiling it.

It is a wonderful tribute to her and absolutely well deserved. She did so much to help me become a local in the new areas of my electorate and I am going to be forever grateful for that and for her friendship and support. I miss her very much, as I know the whole community does.

I want to take the opportunity to thank a number of the people who helped on my campaign, including my staff, in particular those who were with me before the election: Sarah, Kahlia, Louise, Bailey, our volunteer Di (whom I am very pleased has joined my staff two days a week in the electorate office) and, until recently, Luke. They had an enormous amount of emotion going into the campaign as well. Their jobs were on the line as much as mine was. They toiled in their work hours and they volunteered in their private time to help deliver what we believed was an excellent set of opportunities for the people of Morialta through a new government and through the local commitments that we had.

I thank my SEC president, George Hallwood, who was also my SEC president in my first election campaign in 2010. He took over from me 10 years ago as the SEC president when I became a candidate. George did a body of work, as did my local branch presidents and their teams: Jan Barry in the Torrens Valley branch, Reeve Brice in the Morialta central branch and Irene Filsell in the Lobethal branch, all of whom are stalwart Liberals.

In particular, I want to pay tribute to my wife, Trudi, who is, along with me, expecting a beautiful baby daughter soon, God willing. A couple of other members have mentioned their spouses. Trudi has not come from a political background. Her interest in politics, I regret, has not grown as much as I might have hoped in the last three years. However, she has enjoyed the community aspects of the role, particularly as we have visited the new parts of the electorate and as I have introduced her to the parts of the electorate that I have lived in for my entire life. This is particularly so with my former portfolio roles in multicultural affairs and, to a lesser extent, the arts. Trudi has thrown herself into the community aspects of the role, of being part of a team working in politics, and she has been taken to heart by so many people in the community. It is a strange life sometimes, but one that she has put up with and indeed embraced, and I appreciate her support and love so much.

I will share one story with the house, which I did receive permission to tell. The Lights of Lobethal committee was kind enough to have me as their guest speaker at this year's AGM and to present some of the awards for the Lights of Lobethal. When we were going to the Lights of Lobethal AGM, Trudi did not realise that by the end of the night she would have committed to having our child serve as baby Jesus in the living Nativity of the Lights of Lobethal at the end of the year, yet that is what happened, and now she is looking forward to that.

What she had not realised was that, in addition to that, apparently Jesus' mother gets to play Mary in the living Nativity. That was something that Trudi also had not expected to be doing at the beginning of the night, and now she is looking forward to it, although she has asked if the father can serve as a wise man rather than mum having to play Mary. My feeling is that maybe we will both get a go. Either way, I am looking forward to it, as I am looking forward—

Mr Koutsantonis: You could be the Holy Spirit.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: —thank you—to every single aspect of the opportunity to serve as a minister. It is an honour. I thank the Premier for that honour, and I commit to my electorate and the people of South Australia that I will work every day I am given towards their betterment and their benefit as we take on the tasks ahead.

Motion carried.

Bills

SUPPLY BILL 2018

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 3 May 2018.)

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the house.

A quorum having been formed:

Mr MULLIGHAN (Lee) (21:45): It gives me great pleasure to rise to make a contribution on behalf of the opposition on the Supply Bill, and I indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition. To put everyone out of their misery, I can state up-front that we will be supporting the bill, which will be of very modest relief to the government to hear that.

It is an important bill. I will come to its purpose in a moment. Of course, at the beginning of a new session of parliament, it is almost without exception considered straight after the Address in Reply. It presents an opportunity for members to discuss the nature of the bill but to do so with quite an amount of latitude which provides for members a terrific opportunity to speak about all manner of things related to government expenditure or, more particularly, departmental expenditure.

By their very nature these bills are particularly brief. The purpose is, as its name suggests, to supply the government with sufficient funds to carry on the business of government while the parliament goes through the process of considering and approving a budget for the coming financial year, or indeed the financial year which already commences. This bill seeks to appropriate \$6.6 billion, which is, as I roughly make it, a fraction over about a third of the operating expenses of the general government sector for a financial year, which is interesting when you consider the context in which we consider the Supply Bill.

It is the bill that we consider to provide that funding in the lead-up to the budget, which is to be delivered a little later than normal, although not without precedent, of course. It has been the remit of governments in the past to hand down a budget after the commencement of the financial year for which that budget outlays funds. This budget is to be received by the parliament on 4 September, I think it is, in the first week of September.

If you were to carry that amount of appropriation forward conceptually, roughly a third, if you assumed that government expenditures were made roughly on balance equally throughout the year, a third of the year being four months would take us through to the end of October. It is interesting, I think, that this Supply Bill would provide for a little over a third of the necessary appropriations for the operating expenses of the year of government, which would get us through to a period only a small number of weeks after when the budget is to be tabled in this house, to be considered by this house, to pass through the estimates process and to head upstairs for the usual expeditious treatment that the other place treats pieces of legislation with.

I will be interested to hear, during the committee stage of this bill, what the rationale is behind that level of appropriation and what the estimates are by the government for how many funds will be within the government's remit, certainly within the first half of the financial year and certainly as we go through that period where the expenditures of government start to eat into that \$6.6 billion.

I say that I will be interested to hear that during the committee stage of deliberation because, of course, although this is the Supply Bill and although the parliament considering a supply bill is a very regular occurrence, it is the convention that government bills, upon their introduction into the house, are not only provided with a period of time so that members can get their heads across the vast amount of detail that has been provided in this bill but also given the opportunity to be briefed by the government on the contents of the bill and the implications of parliament's passing of the bill.

I raise that because, despite the shadow portfolio responsibilities that I hold being reasonably widely known, I have not yet been offered such a briefing by the Treasurer or his office, despite writing to the Treasurer one month ago requesting one, as opposition members do in their shadow portfolio areas, and also reinforcing the need, for the appropriate passage of bills and legislation through the parliament, for us to receive briefings on these sorts of bills. I hope it is an oversight; I trust that it is.

Certainly, knowing not so much the Treasurer but his relatively recently appointed Chief of Staff, I am not yet of the opinion that it would be a deliberate omission not to provide that opportunity to the opposition to be briefed on the bill or the implications of it, but I do note it because it would be most unfortunate if this were to become somewhat of a trend or a habit where the opposition—or, indeed, other members of parliament, given that we do have crossbenchers in the current make-up of the parliament—are not given timely briefings on these sorts of matters.

I mentioned before that this is, of course, a regular occurrence for the parliament and, given the broad nature of the purpose of the appropriation of these moneys for expenditure by the government across its responsibilities, members are allowed a significant amount of latitude in directing their remarks. I perhaps will not take advantage of that full width of opportunity in making my remarks this evening on the Supply Bill but I do want to talk, both with examples but also conceptually, about the concept of state budgets, state budgeting and financial management.

I think most people would agree that a government's budget is a pretty well-distilled expression of its priorities. Governments, in determining budgets, are constantly having to make choices between areas of expenditure, areas of investment and areas of revenue raising. Those choices bring with them those decisions which reward one option over another. It is a difficult choice. It is a difficult choice when financial resources are significantly constrained, but it is also a difficult choice when there are strong revenue flows into government as well.

In fact, sometimes the choice is that much harder because there is a broader understanding or conception throughout the Public Service—let alone ministers responsible for agencies and portfolios across government—that if there are revenues to be bid against, then those bids will be made in great number and very aggressively for the size of the investment or the size of the program or the initiative which is sought.

It is also a difficult process because establishing a budget and hence establishing a set of priorities and taking a set of choices, speaks much to the ethos and the mindset of the government making them. While this government is only a small number of weeks old, it has set out what it says is an agenda which it intends to prosecute, which will necessarily involve the making or the adoption of many choices across nearly all areas of government expenditure. Many of those choices will not be easy.

The very first question we asked from the opposition to the government was to the Premier about whether he remained committed to delivering every one of the election commitments made in the lead-up to the recent state election on 17 March this year. He immediately answered in the affirmative. While in the very early days of a government it might seem a very easy commitment to make—that all election commitments will be delivered—as time goes on, as ministers and the cabinet spend more time superintending the business of government, the pressures and the competing demands on the finite financial resources of government become evident.

It becomes challenging to maintain the course, to stay the course on delivering an agenda. The Premier was very quick to tell us in that answer that the Liberal Party had made some 300 commitments in the lead-up to the last state election and each and every one of them would be delivered. Some of them will not necessarily trouble the scorers in a budgeting sense; some of them will trouble them very greatly. Some of them committed to very significant expenses of public resources, either to commit more expenditure or to forgo revenue, which will be quite a juggle to balance for both the Treasurer and the cabinet in arriving at a budget.

I am pleased to say that the groundwork has been laid out in what the former Labor government have left this new government. They inherit a budget in surplus. They inherit a budget position that specifically included an additional \$150 million in the current financial year for the operations and cost pressures within SA Health and specifically allocated a further \$24 million for child protection activities and cost pressures in this current financial year. Those contributions in those two portfolio areas were not just one-offs in the current financial year. They were repeated—in fact, in the case of child protection, in a growing sense—across the forward estimates with further financial resources, which left that budget position in the net position that was reported in the Mid-Year Budget Review.

So you can imagine the surprise, I think, with which South Australians greeted the proclamation by the Treasurer on ABC radio on the morning of the federal budget—the day when, ostensibly, state treasuries and their treasurers are advised of the most recent updates for revenue projections to come from the federal government into state governments—that the Treasurer had already written off the 2017-18 budget to be a deficit. Of course, it did not take long for just about everyone to see through that thin veneer of political opportunism from the Treasurer.

Of course, it is in what he would see to be his political interests to confect a budget deficit outcome for the 2017-18 financial year, to be painted as the last financial year of the former Labor administration, before swiftly moving into a budget surplus position for the financial year 2018-19 onwards. But given that the Treasurer was left a budget surplus, given that the reasons he identified for causing the budget to move into deficit had already been provisioned and provided for within the budget figures left to him in the Mid-Year Budget Review, it became a very hollow cry from the Treasurer about this fiscal circumstance that he allegedly finds himself in.

It was even more so, of course, when less than 12 hours later the federal budget was handed down. It showed an additional boost to goods and services tax revenue to come from the federal government to the South Australian Treasury, not just in what was broadly reported in the 2018-19 financial year, where there is more than \$500 million extra of GST revenue year on year from 2017-18 to 2018-19, but importantly an extra \$272 million from the 2018-19 estimated result in the Mid-Year Budget Review on top of what is in the federal budget papers.

So there is \$24 million in 2017-18 and \$272 million extra revenue from the Mid-Year Budget Review to the commonwealth budget. It is extraordinary—nearly \$300 million of additional revenue. Again, if you consider that early proclamation by the Treasurer that the budget in 2017-18 is to be in deficit, starting nearly \$40 million in the black with the surplus that was left plus the additional GST, plus the extra \$175-odd million of provisioning for health and child protection cost pressures, it only really leaves, I think, the conclusion for people to make—and many in the media have already drawn this conclusion—that this is to be a confected budget deficit, if one is indeed to eventuate in any event.

That is for a few very good reasons. One is, of course, that the business of financial management in government is constantly managing those agencies and those departments, some of which underspend throughout the year and fail to spend the appropriation provided to them balanced against those other agencies, which tend to overspend, particularly those which are departments mostly engaged in service provision where there is very high public demand for those services. Of course, you only have to think of agencies like health, where those services are not only in high demand but very expensive to provide. I cannot think of a South Australian health practitioner in the public health system who takes the approach of, 'Well, I've got a budget to manage, and I'm sorry, I can't treat you today for your particular ailment.' So of course that occurs.

The business of financial management is balancing those two different outcomes between those two different types of agencies, the underspenders and the overspenders, but also working within those agencies, particularly those overspending agencies, to try to get them to land their end-of-year position on budget so that they do not detract from the broader government end-of-year budget position.

I worry that nearly two whole months out from the end of the financial year, when the Treasurer goes on talkback radio and says, 'Don't worry about it; it's going to be a deficit,' what message that sends to chief financial officers, chief operating officers and their equivalents across the public sector who are responsible for financial management in their agencies, who are responsible for balancing their budgets and for making sure that the expenditure of their agencies is delivered within the appropriation which is provided to them. What message does it send to them when the Treasurer says, 'My hands are off the wheel. We're going to be in deficit'?

It sends a very bad message, and that incentivises poor behaviour, particularly on the part of those agencies that have a challenge from time to time in meeting their budgets. It is a particularly difficult or poor message to send these agencies when you march out of the door four of the most senior chief executives in government, bearing in mind that chief executives have a contractual responsibility to the Premier and to the government for financial management and for achieving balanced budgets in their areas of responsibility.

So you can see why this premature proclamation by the Treasurer is the last thing that robust financial management would call for in the early stages of framing a first budget of this fledgling, new government. It is also, I think, a very poor thing to consider when time has moved on quite significantly from the last time the Treasurer handed down a budget in South Australia.

I will ensure, because I think it would be inappropriate, if not unparliamentary, that I do not reflect on the Treasurer personally, so I will not do so. I have no interest in doing so, but I draw the attention of the house to the fact that the last time he brought down a budget the accounting standards were different. The budget was reported in cash terms, not accrual terms, similar to the way the federal budget is reported today in cash terms. In those terms, it does not particularly matter if there are minor movements or discrepancies from one financial year to the next: it is a simple cash reporting of the inflows and outflows of government in one particular financial year versus another.

But that is no longer the case. That changed, on my recollection, in the 2002-03 or 2003-04 budget—many, many years ago now—and the accrual accounting standard, which is now used to put the state budget together and reported under, establishes a far higher and more stringent bar for financial reporting. This means that these sorts of confected movements of expenditure from one financial year to another are not just a reporting anomaly in one column or the next but they actually have a financial consequence.

There is actually an important end result of whether there is a net operating surplus or a net operating deficit in one year or the other. It goes back quite a way towards the bill that we are discussing here, which is what the financial needs of the government are; what the supply of money is to the government; how much money is appropriated for the purposes of government expenditure; how much of that money is to be received, either from specific purpose grants or general revenue assistance grants from the commonwealth or in GST revenue grants; how much is to come in from own-source revenue; but, also, how much has to be borrowed on the financial markets in the short term to make sure the regular business of government can continue to be carried out.

If we are confecting deficits to make a political point and the end result is, as a consequence, that we are having to adjust our activity on the financial markets to take account of that, then there would be a real financial cost to that and a regrettable one. I would hope that we do not see any behaviour from the Treasurer where a confected deficit in a financial year, purely to try to prove some political point, means there is an additional financial burden or consequence on behalf of the state. That would be, at the very least, regrettable and, at the very worst, perhaps the subject for some senior officers to go and look at in another context.

Of course, it was not just many years ago that the Treasurer handed down his last budget; the former treasurer is wanting to wipe the slate clean on that past record of four budgets in the late 1990s and at the very beginning of the 2000s. They were a very different time back then for most members; indeed, it is difficult for me to recall what the times of the period were like. If you cast your mind back, we had a minister who was responsible for Y2K compliance, such as the lack of sophistication of governments at the time—not just this government but governments around the country and around the Western world—about how to deal with these sorts of things.

Australia—South Australia, as well other state jurisdictions—had been emerging from what had been the last recession the Australian economy had experienced. In South Australia and Victoria in particular, terrific burdens were placed on the community as a result of that recession. It was the first treasurer of the former Liberal government, Stephen Baker, whose task it was in the first four years of that administration to try to plot a course out of that.

If those of you who are, perhaps, at least of my vintage, if not a little older, recall one of the key issues around the 1997 state election campaign (and it was not the extremely regrettable result of the AFL grand final that year). It was a promise that was made around whether the state's electricity trust would be privatised. Certainly, the premier of the day and the incoming treasurer of the next term of the Liberal administration used the term 'never ever'. It would never ever be privatised and, of course, after just scraping back in by the skin of their teeth in the 1997 election, the work began in earnest to commence the privatisation of that.

A common perception of history and the financial management of that time would be that that privatisation was necessary to alleviate the debt burden on the government. That is, I think, a generally accepted version of events, and it is true—the first tranche of those electricity assets were privatised for \$3.4 billion. However, what is not added in, as the very necessary next chapter of that story, is what occurred in the financial management of the last four years of that Liberal administration under the Olsen government. That was when the current Treasurer was also the treasurer back then, back in those cash accounting days.

The four budgets which were delivered can still be found in the most recent budget papers. You select Budget Paper 3 and go to the appendices—off the top of my head, I think it is table B3—and it will show you the financial outcomes for the state budgets spreading back into the 1990s. If you look at those four years, those last four years of that former Liberal administration, it will tell you what the net operating balance and the net lending balance of those four budgets were. Cumulatively, over those four years, the net operating deficits totalled \$1 billion. On a net lending basis, those four deficits totalled \$1.3 billion.

So, while some may hang their hat on the privatisation of an asset like the Electricity Trust of South Australia to raise \$3.4 billion, what does not go with it is the racking up of another \$1.3 billion of general government sector debt while that privatisation was occurring. That is, by any measure, extraordinary financial management. To sell one of the highest valued assets this state has ever had and receive those revenues, ostensibly to pay down general government sector debt, and at the same time to rack up more than one-third of those sale proceeds in debt is a dreadful legacy.

In that context, I can understand why there is perhaps a deep-seated need of this new Liberal administration and the Treasurer to try to wipe the slate clean of that financial record and try to start afresh. That might provide some window into the psyche of needing to paint a deficit in the 2017-18 financial year and then move quite quickly into a surplus in the 2018-19 financial year, helped of course by those record GST revenues coming in from Canberra. That might be politically amenable and attractive to the Treasurer and to this government and, on face value, I can understand the base level attraction to that, but it would be disingenuous.

If you then take into context the intervening years between the current financial year and the end of that former Liberal administration, there is a further financial story to tell. On coming to government, the former Labor administration set about the task of recalibrating its priorities of no longer funding those former Liberal Party priorities which the former Liberal government had funded and of setting about pursuing its own priorities.

During the period of 2002 to 2007-08, the remaining budget debt, which, off the top of my head was about \$1.5 billion, was paid off with strong surpluses in the general government sector. In fact, there were net financial assets in the general government sector in those years of 2007-08 and 2008-09. That enabled the government of the day to do several things, each of which has a strong bearing on the situation we find ourselves in today.

First of all, the beginning of the record, unfettered and unbroken commitment to infrastructure investment started from that time. Those who can remember the 2006 election campaign would have noted that the biggest infrastructure investment that was going around at that time was the substantial investment in the Techport facility for the benefit of ASC to place them in the box seat to win the air warfare destroyer contract, which was out for tender by the then Howard government.

It is a salutary lesson and perhaps the best one we can think of in recent times—by no means the only one but perhaps the best one—of what targeted government investment alongside a company in a key industry can provide for the state economy. That was a difficult fight to win. There was tremendous pressure from the Bracks government for that to go to Victoria. There was tremendous competition, although perhaps not quite of the same intensity, from Western Australia for that contract to go over there. But South Australia was the only state that was investing such a vast sum in a precinct to benefit one company, ASC, so that they were in the box seat to win that contract, and win that contract they did.

I think it ended up being something in the order of \$350-odd million for the infrastructure as well as some operating expenses to administer the investment and to run the common user facility over the course of time as well. When you think that that had been at the time the biggest investment that we had made in infrastructure as a state for quite some time, then getting back into the business of investing in infrastructure more seriously and more heavily in terms of financial dollars was important.

It came at a time, perhaps a little bit unhelpfully in retrospect, when things were ticking over pretty nicely in the Australian economy and indeed in the South Australian economy. We were going through those early to middle stages of the mining investment boom around Australia, and so the projects—not that there was any question over whether they were worthy projects; of course they

were—were relatively expensive to deliver. We had high escalation costs year on year due to the price of labour, of materials because we were in competition with other projects in other states in other industries.

But those investments commenced. I am thinking of one which was servicing the electorate of Lee before the boundary changes: the Port River Expressway, the opening road and rail bridges over the Inner Harbour but also the Northern Expressway between Port Wakefield Road and Tanunda. There was the investment in the ANZAC Underpass and the Bakewell Bridge. These were the early investments in infrastructure that were made to try to take advantage of the improved financial position of the government.

Of course, there were then some extraordinary scenes of avarice many miles away in the United States. We had a domino effect of financial institutions, which fell over and precipitated the global financial crisis. South Australia, many other states and indeed the commonwealth were in a very strong financial position to react with fiscal stimulus, as well as what the Reserve Bank was doing with monetary stimulus, in responding to the global financial crisis. In South Australia, we chose a twofold strategy: one was to double down in infrastructure investment and the other was largely to stay the course in maintaining the level of service delivery and provision in the Public Service.

While there was expected to be a recession in Australia—and a recession that would affect all states like South Australia—the last thing a state like South Australia wanted to do during that period was retrench many thousands of workers out of the Public Service and exacerbate an employment problem. Coming off that virtually zero net general government debt position, which had been long achieved and fought for by running budget surpluses, meant that we had the capacity to do that.

That financial strategy has been maintained, although I should say with the caveat of largely maintaining the size of the Public Service from that level of six to eight years ago. Of course it fluctuates as rounds of efficiencies are made in some departments, but more resources are put into agencies such as health, police, education and other areas of service delivery, including child protection.

It meant that we could support a floor of economic activity in the South Australian economy and ensure that the government was supporting not only its own public sector service delivery efforts, maintaining employment and services to the South Australian community, but also be supporting a cohort of the private sector in delivering these important projects. That, largely, is the position in which we find ourselves at the moment.

Economists work extremely hard to place themselves in the middle of public policy debates. It is vitally important for economists to feel like they get the first, the middle and the last word when it comes to public policy debates. They all have an opinion on how different states fared through the period of September 2008, which is when Lehman Brothers fell over and precipitated the global financial crisis, and how they fare today. Since then, states have moved at different levels of growth.

Some pundits would say that by and large South Australia, over the last few decades, has tended to be the last in to economic trends and the last out. We certainly saw gross state product levels and employment levels remain quite buoyant beyond that September 2008 level into the early months of 2010, suggesting that we were last in to the negative economic trends that affected state government revenues as well as fortunes across the broader state economy in other states like New South Wales and Victoria.

Certainly, rather than Australia or the states of Australia being plunged into recession, which was the fear with the global financial crisis, Australia and South Australia, like other states, instead experienced an avoidance of a recession but a prolonged period of below-trend economic growth. It is that trend that South Australia has been emerging from over the last period. It has been exacerbated by I think one of the most regrettable public policy decisions we have seen in the last 10 years of Australian politics, and that is the removal of direct industry assistance to the automotive manufacturing sector.

Certainly, when the Abbott government was elected at the federal level in late 2013, the dries were in charge of the economic agenda. There was no question about that. There was the big last gasp of free-marketeting, economic rationalism and neoliberalism when it came to fiscal policy at

the federal level. We saw the two greatest expressions of that in the early months of that government, that is, the end of the automotive industry assistance and the intention to send overseas the contract to construct the next generation of submarines. It looked, at one point, very definitely like that was going to the Japanese.

There is another entire parliamentary debate that I am sure we could all engage in about how that was prevented. But certainly, in the end, it seems that the right decision was made, although it was a decision made far too late for the benefit of South Australia in keeping that submarine contract. However, the early industry assistance for the automotive sector was not maintained, and it was not just the 2,000 or so workers—and I know it sounds callous to put such an imprecise figure—at General Motors Holden at Elizabeth who were ultimately lost through that, but also many more thousands in the automotive component manufacturers. That placed a drag effect on the state economy, which meant that we struggled for many months to come out of that.

However, I am very pleased to say that, despite those challenges and despite those headwinds—some imposed by global forces and some imposed by federal government—the state as we see it today is in pretty good economic shape. In the last financial year reported, 2016-17, the gross state product, or the state's economic growth, outperformed the national average, which is a terrific achievement. We have had commentary from Deloitte Access Economics that says that it expects South Australia to perform similarly strongly in the current 2017-18 financial year. We have had more than 30 months of consecutive employment growth—nearly three years of improving jobs figures across the South Australian economy—albeit a fluctuating unemployment rate.

We see record levels of business confidence and business conditions across a number of surveys. The South Australian figures for consumption at the household level, particularly expressed through retail trade figures, have been strong, particularly for the last 18 months. That is good news. It means that one of the biggest inhibitors for economic activity in the Australian context—that is, people's reluctance to make spending decisions, either at the household level or at the business level—seems to be thawing, and that is good news.

Of course, there are several areas across the economy where we would like to see improvement. While we have had fantastic tourism figures for an important part of the South Australian economy, particularly on the back of the concerted additional efforts to publicise South Australia as a location for international tourists to visit, there is more that can be done. I am sure that there are benefits from those visitors that can be spread more evenly across the state. We even heard the Premier wax lyrical about how South Australia needs to improve its share of international students, and I am sure that everyone would agree that is important. Indeed, it was an economic priority of the former Labor government.

We would like to see much more activity in the housing sector, which has remained at softer than trend levels for quite some time, particularly in terms of new home starts. That has been particularly concerning on a number of levels. One level, of course, is that housing, like most property transactions, facilitates a great deal of revenue into South Australian government coffers through conveyance duty. Also, when people buy a house, let alone build a house, they tend to engage in high levels of retail spending which, through a roundabout process, finds its way back to South Australia through GST revenue.

So it is a very positive state that we find ourselves in at the moment: a budget in surplus, strong employment figures (although, of course, we can do better), strong state growth economic figures and forecasts that we will continue that trend. The foundation is there for this government to step off further into the future and continue to do well.

I mentioned a few of those projects that the former Labor government had invested in—the Port River Expressway, the opening road and rail bridges, the Northern Expressway project—but of course there have been many more, including the Southern Expressway, the Goodwood junction rail project, the first two stages (and now we see the third stage) of tram extensions, the Seaford railway extension and electrification of that line, and I mentioned the Anzac Highway underpass. Of course, one of the things I was particularly proud to be involved in early on in my time as minister for transport and infrastructure was securing \$2.5 billion of funding, shared between the federal and state governments, to upgrade three different sections of the north-south corridor.

Four years ago, we would find ourselves in May 2014, a little after the time that the then assistant minister for infrastructure, the South Australian former member for Mayo, and I reached agreement to fund the Darlington upgrade project as well as the Torrens to Torrens project. Several months on from that, in 2015, we agreed to fund the Northern Connector project. Those last two projects—the Darlington project and the Northern Connector project—were funded on an 80:20 basis, with the federal government picking up 80 per cent of the funds and the state picking up 20 per cent.

It was fantastic that that money started flowing straightaway so that those projects that were ready to begin could begin. They did not have to wait for budget appropriations to come into the forward estimates. That is a salutary lesson, which I am hoping the new infrastructure minister is learning in his first foray into negotiations with the federal government: when it comes to securing money for the state budget to invest in road infrastructure upgrades, it is important to ask when the money is coming and it is important to ask how much will be received in the forward estimates. With no guarantee of money in the forward estimates, of course, there is no pipeline of projects that is continued and there is no opportunity for the workforce, currently busy on the Torrens to Torrens or the Darlington or the Northern Connector projects, to transition onto the next project.

The reason the former premier, the member for Cheltenham, raised with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, in the beginning of 2017, the desire to co-fund the Pym Street to Regency Road upgrade of South Road was that we had an opportunity to extend the scope of works for the joint venture delivering the Torrens to Torrens project to basically continue on past the Torrens Road intersection to deal with Pym Street, to widen the road corridor and to deal with the Regency Road intersection.

That opportunity has now evaporated, given that those funds, which allegedly have been committed to South Australia, will not be received within the forward estimates. Indeed, only a small fraction of the federal government's contribution is slated to be received within the forward estimates. I will come to those projects and that discussion in a little more detail in a moment.

I also want to talk about the substantial change that the former government left the City of Adelaide in. I think it is fair to say that most governments, particularly Liberal, but historically also Labor, have been very shy in wanting to make a virtue of heavy investment in the City of Adelaide, lest they look too city-centric to regional communities around the state. However, the strong advice which was received, and continues to be received, from economists across the state and across the country is that it can be a virtue in growing your state's economy to invest heavily in your major offering to migrants, workers, tourists and visitors who are interested in coming to your state.

Your capital city is the entry portal. Indeed, it is, I guess, a finer grained version of the new state emblem, which many of us have taken to wearing. It is the gateway. The open door that we project to the world is through our capital city. The investments in the Adelaide Oval, the upgrade—almost forgotten now—of the Entertainment Centre, the two stages of the Convention Centre upgrade, the footbridge over the Torrens and the commencement and successful delivery of a new health and biomedical precinct at the west end of North Terrace have all changed the visual impact of our city and also substantially improved the economic opportunity of our city.

We now have co-located the most advanced hospital in the country, where you also have one of the most advanced research institutes in the country in the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute. That precinct, by itself, has created substantial investments from the University of South Australia in its centre for cancer research and also an investment from the University of Adelaide with its new medical school. This is a precinct devoted to particular endeavours which is attracting activity, not just primary, secondary or tertiary health care, but research and commercialisation of health technologies. That is a relatively new economic opportunity which is now being prosecuted by South Australia.

That is not the only precinct which has been invested in and created by the former Labor government. We also have, farther to the south, near, I think, the member for Elder's electorate, the Tonsley innovation precinct. That is a former car manufacturing site that was left in 2008 when Mitsubishi announced that it could no longer compete and manufacture cars in South Australia. The \$30 million of financial assistance that had been paid to Mitsubishi was returned to the government, which enabled us to complete a land transaction to purchase and begin remediating and reshaping

that site into what would today, now, employ more people than were employed just before the end of car manufacturing at that Mitsubishi site. That is a terrific achievement.

There is a TAFE there; Siemens, a global company, has a presence there; the Flinders University has a presence there; as well as an increasing number of small to medium-sized enterprises engaged in innovative technologies and advanced manufacturing—the exact transition from manufacturing that we need to make in South Australia from traditional manufacturing to new manufacturing. That is another legacy that has left the state in a good situation.

Of course, those years, in particular from 2002 up until 2008, saw very extensive tax reform in South Australia. The payroll tax rate was incrementally dropped from 5.67 per cent to 4.95 per cent, as it is today. The threshold was increased to \$600,000. Nationally, the states agreed to payroll tax harmonisation measures which alleviated the payroll tax burden from certain types of wages. Together, those different iterations of payroll tax relief today, cumulatively, are saving businesses over \$220 million this year and every year. When you think that payroll tax raises in the order of over \$1 billion a year, a more than 20 per cent reduction in the payroll tax burden on all of business operations here in South Australia is a terrific achievement.

Members who have been around or who can cast their minds back to those early years of the 2000s will remember that after a period of doldrums that the South Australian residential property market found itself in, there was a very rapid period of property price growth, a catch-up effect, if you will, of property values in South Australia. For many people, this was very welcome. For many people, it unlocked a tremendous amount of equity as houses which had been purchased very cheaply, albeit with very expensive mortgages at the time, were suddenly found to be valued at double or triple or sometimes even more their purchase value, only five or 10 or 15 years on from when they were purchased.

Those people who had invested in property were not so fortunate. They found themselves with payroll tax liabilities which had been, for an investment property, very, very low to very, very substantial. Particularly in the years 2004 and 2005, there were many stories of people who had a payroll tax bill which may have been \$100 or \$200 ratcheting up to \$1,000. I remember a particular case where one gentleman who owned a number of investment properties had a land tax bill of \$800 or \$900 in one year, and the next year it was \$11,000.

The reason for that was that we had a fairly unreformed land tax regime. Yes, a progressive tax structure but a very low tax-free threshold of \$50,000 and an incrementally more severe taxation regime the higher the aggregated land value of held properties reached. In fact, it is interesting to note—it is not often commented on—that that payroll tax tax-free threshold used to be nearly double that. It was \$90,000 in the mid-1990s but it was dropped down to \$50,000 in an effort to catch more land tax payers and more revenue by the former state Liberal government.

The outcry in 2004 and 2005 of land tax payees was tremendous. There were many people for whom—and this was, of course, largely before superannuation was realistic, particularly for older generations of workers—their superannuation was the bricks and mortar they had invested in over the years. They might have had one or two or three investment properties around metropolitan Adelaide and they had managed those and managed the rental stream to provide them with a source of income in their retirement, given that they were unlikely to be eligible for pensions given their property holdings.

However, with those land tax bills escalating very quickly into the thousands, the government was forced to act. I am pleased to say that twice in the 2005 calendar year, and again in 2008, I think it was, and again in 2010, successive land tax reforms alleviated that burden to private land taxpayers by over \$100 million a year. The tax-free threshold has gone from \$50,000 to a factor of seven higher, over \$350,000.

The payroll tax rates and the thresholds beyond that tax-free threshold have been reduced and they have been smoothed, and the top rate now does not kick in until nearly \$1.2 million. This has provided very significant relief to the vast majority of landowners liable for payroll tax, and they are those people who own a small number of residential properties. We have forgone government revenues in the area of land tax to benefit households and South Australian families far more than we have for large-scale commercial property owners—and that is very deliberate.

We think providing a tax cut is better off in the pocket of South Australian families than that of corporations, who are more often than not based interstate or overseas with their large land holdings. I am thinking of those private equity firms that tend to own things like shopping centres, such as Westfields, etc. So, it is good that we have left a low tax burden when it comes to payroll tax and land tax.

We have also left a very low tax burden, comparatively speaking, in the area of stamp duties. The former treasurer, in particular, was very keen to alleviate the burden on commercial property transactions in real property and also in business property, plant and equipment, in intellectual property, in business goodwill, as well as in the suite of taxes which were known as the IGA taxes—the intergovernmental agreement taxes—those taxes that state premiers and state treasurers signed up to in 2000 in return for the goods and services tax being provided to the states. Those taxes were abolished in fits and starts.

South Australia, I am pleased to say, was very quick off the mark to abolish those taxes when it came to the bank account debits tax, when it came to share duty, when it came to lease duty, when it came to rental duty. But the one tax that was difficult for the states to consume the financial impact of in abolishing was the stamp duty on those commercial property transactions. I am very pleased to say that the member of West Torrens was the treasurer in South Australia, and I still think to this day he was the only state treasurer in Australia who managed to navigate through the abolition of those taxes. I think that is a tremendous record.

If you also consider the reform to the WorkCover regime, which alleviated the average levy rates for South Australian businesses across the board, where we have more than \$220 million of payroll tax relief each and every year, more than \$100 million a year of land tax relief each and every year, \$250 million a year of stamp duty relief each and every year and \$180 million, approaching \$200 million, of relief in WorkCover levies, we are talking about three-quarters of a billion dollars a year in tax relief provided to primarily South Australian businesses. I think that is a tremendous legacy of the former Labor government.

While it was a tremendous effort for the member for Dunstan, when he was leader of the opposition, and his acolytes to try to paint South Australia as a high taxing jurisdiction, the truth was the complete opposite. South Australia is consistently assessed as the most competitive place to do business either in Australia or amongst South-East Asian and Australasian jurisdictions, and that is a tremendous achievement.

When you think about the comparative benefits that the member for Wright was talking about in his maiden speech earlier today, about the cost of housing and housing affordability, the comparative cost of living here in South Australia with housing in mind, there are tremendous advantages for people to live in South Australia, to work in South Australia, to raise families in South Australia and indeed, with those measures that I have just outlined as the legacy of the former government, to conduct a business in South Australia.

That is the platform, that is the baseline, upon which the former Labor government have left things for this new Liberal government both in an economic perspective, a micro-economic policy perspective and also in the perspective of the state of the budget.

We were very clear, based on expert economic advice over the last five years of the government, to be very careful to identify those areas of the South Australian economy where South Australia had a comparative advantage, both against its interstate peers and also globally—which are the areas of the South Australian economy which are assessed as being advantageous to us, in terms of natural resources or cost of production, and which are those on a global perspective estimated to grow in terms of highest demand over the medium term. Those are the industries that we identified to be in particular receipt of further government assistance in those industries.

I am talking about the food and wine sector; the international education sector; defence, as I mentioned earlier, with the investment in Techport; health and biomedical research; tourism; our capital city as an attractor for workers, visitors and tourists, as well as for residents; our global leadership position of renewables; and also our abundant natural wealth of minerals and resources. We not only identified those industries but we assisted those industries where possible. One of the most successful schemes of the last 20 years in South Australia, when it comes to industry

assistance, has been the PACE initiative. It was an idea that had its genesis, as I understand it, in the former Liberal government, but was built on very substantially by the former Labor government.

It was not just the radical expansion of that program and providing very significant financial resources to assist in the exploration of our state's mineral and resources wealth, but it was also engaging in those sorts of regulatory reform opportunities to make exploration easier, to make exploitation of those resources much easier and also, something that flies again under the radar a bit, the minerals library, which had been in existence at Glenside but which was moved to a new bespoke facility and location at the Tonsley Innovation Precinct. It provides what South Australians are told is the best facility for prospectors to get an understanding of the mineral make-up of various regions of South Australia.

We also provided a substantial amount of resources to attract major employers to South Australia, and this is where I think we are starting to see a fundamental difference between the Labor Party and the Liberal Party. The incoming Liberal government tells us that there will be no direct financial assistance to companies or to industries and that picking winners has never worked in South Australia and is not sustainable. I think our economic history would say quite differently. In fact, I suspect that a former premier's legacy tells us quite differently about securing lower cost means of production, particularly nationalising electricity assets, or investing in industries like car manufacturing.

While perhaps not quite on that scale, with the exception of defence and Techport at Osborne, we have seen targeted investment to attract companies to bring jobs here to South Australia and to provide future employment opportunities. The Investment Attraction agency has done an extraordinary job in attracting companies to South Australia to employ South Australians, some of which are the biggest names in their fields globally. I am talking about companies like Boeing, Technicolor, Sonnen, Tic:ToC, Pirate Life, Big River Pork, Robern Menz, Sundrop Farms, Australian Global Wine Services, Strike Energy and VeroGuard.

If you think about those industry sectors that had been highlighted for support to help accelerate their growth above trend and enhance South Australia's comparative advantage in those areas, those companies fit squarely in there. Those companies have the capacity, the history and the balance sheet to make sure they can make investments, alongside government, to grow operations and sustainable employment opportunities for South Australians into the future.

The Future Jobs Fund that was established was critically important in the next tranche of companies, perhaps not quite so well known globally as some of those names that I mentioned but just as ambitious and just as able to expand business operations to become globally competitive and to employ South Australians. There was \$50 million in grants and \$70 million in loans, targeted investments to dozens and dozens of South Australian companies to help them grow jobs, and that is on top of the Job Accelerator grants, those grants to assist industries to continue employing more South Australians to help grow jobs at that time of the economic cycle when we needed it the most.

Of course, the Future Jobs Fund grants have now been challenged by the new Treasurer, which I think is a terrible signal to send to the business community of South Australia. Indeed, it is a conflicting signal from the one that the Premier was keen to paint on the very day that he was sworn in to his new responsibilities as Premier of this state. He said very clearly to the media on that day that his government would honour every contract entered into by the former Labor administration.

The very same week, the Treasurer emerged saying that he would reassess every contract and agreement entered into by the former Labor government in the Future Jobs Fund to see which contracts he could wangle his way out of. I think that is an appalling message to send, a completely contradictory message to—

Members interjecting:

Mr MULLIGHAN: Sorry, Deputy Speaker, if I am interrupting the gentlemen over there. I don't mean to be unparliamentary while they are interrupting me.

Mr Pederick: No, you're not. You are going well.

Mr MULLIGHAN: You're right? Is there something you want to—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, the member does need to be heard in silence. Thank you.

Mr MULLIGHAN: Thank you, gentlemen. That is most courteous of you. Where was I? I have lost—I had better start again.

Mr Pederick: You had better go back to the start!

Mr MULLIGHAN: I had better start again. I have lost my flow.

Members interjecting:

Mr MULLIGHAN: And on the fifth day, Deputy Speaker.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Lee.

Mr MULLIGHAN: As I was saying, I think it is a terrible message to send those companies that had been given contractual commitments from the former government. Those companies, many of which had gone out and spent their own capital on buying or leasing new premises, on buying or leasing new machinery, new tools or new equipment, then heard through the media—not even directly via communication from the Treasurer or the Treasury—that their contracts may be torn up. I think that is a terrible message to send.

The Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan: That's rubbish. I wasn't listening before, but now I know it's rubbish.

Mr MULLIGHAN: Despite the member for Stuart being heard in silence when he made his contribution, and despite his interruption saying it is rubbish, it is not rubbish at all. I continue to have companies contact me as shadow treasurer raising their concerns about when they are going to be definitively told when the money they had been promised to receive will in fact be received by them—or not.

The Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan: What you said is that we are going to tear the contracts up. That's rubbish.

Mr GEE: Point of order, Deputy Speaker: the member should be in his seat if he has something to say.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, I know it is late in the evening, but the member for Lee does need to be heard in silence. Thank you.

Mr MULLIGHAN: It is an appalling message to be sending to those companies that had already engaged in those investment decisions on not just the promise but the contractual obligation of the government of South Australia to provide them with financial assistance. This is despite the Premier telling us that all contracts would be honoured. Then of course, we had the South Australian Tourism Commission, where a contract had been awarded to an interstate firm, and despite the initial excuse we heard that the \$4.9 million roughly—

Mr Pederick: The decision was made before the election.

Mr MULLIGHAN: And we hear the member for Hammond trying to claim that the decision was made before the election.

Mr Pederick: And it was. Check the dates.

Mr MULLIGHAN: Of course, we know that is not correct. Despite the member for Hammond's interjections, the excuse that was initially offered about why the expenditure on that contract could not be withheld and not torn up was, first, that they are a statutory authority. They are beyond the reach of executive government. Well, that is just a furphy, and anyone who has practised in executive government would know that that is not correct. Then when that story was found not to hold, the excuse was that it would send a bad message to business if we were to tear up this contract or if we were to try to change the decision making about that.

Of course, there are still some unanswered questions and I know that this has been pursued in the other place. Given that Treasurer's Instructions require financial decisions of a certain magnitude only to be considered by ministers or by cabinet, the excuse that this was made by a separate statutory authority in that context does not seem to hold water, unless there has been a breach of the Treasurer's instructions.

If that is the case, we will probably hear about that in the first weeks of October when the Auditor-General tables his report. But in that instance, of course, it would send the wrong message to business to tear up that contract. But then only a couple of days later, after that excuse from the Premier, the health minister came out and said, 'I am tearing up the contract for the Repat Hospital site with ACH Group.' It is concerning that when it comes to the expenditure of government moneys—

Mr Pederick: And what did you lot say? Never sell the Repat.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Hammond!

Mr Pederick: I'm happy to go home.

Mr MULLIGHAN: I thought you wanted to sit until midnight. I was just doing your bidding.

Mr Pederick: Keep going.

Mr MULLIGHAN: I'm just doing your bidding.

Mr Pederick: It's just you and I and comrade.

Mr MULLIGHAN: It's alright. We are at page 7. There is plenty more to go. It is disappointing that there is such an unresolved inconsistency with this new government when it comes to treating businesses in South Australia and their contractual agreements with the government. I hope it gets resolved, otherwise those sorts of concerns which have been expressed so far in phone calls—of course, none of them has the gumption or the courage to speak out because they do not want to lose that financial assistance in the event that it is being assessed.

But instead of just raising concerns, those concerns would be worse if they were expressed by not making investment decisions here in South Australia in the future. That is something that needs to be avoided at all costs. So, if that is a potential early casualty from this fly-by-night policy of respecting and then disrespecting contractual obligations of the government of South Australia, then that will be regrettable.

I want to come to the challenge which now faces the state budget going forward. I spoke at the outset about not just how a budget is an expression of a government's priorities and the choices it makes between the competing demands on its finite financial resources but how budget management is always a challenge for state governments given that, unlike the federal government, and I would also argue that, as most would, more so than local government we are at the coalface of service delivery.

When it comes to making sure that we are providing services in our hospitals, our schools, our police stations and our prisons, it is state governments that are in the gun not just to provide and manage those services but to finance the majority of the cost of those services. Making sure that the state budget is getting as much assistance from the federal government as possible in meeting those costs is absolutely critical.

Federal governments for many years have provided various levels of financial grants to state governments. There are the specific purpose payments, usually tied up in national agreements around health, education and other areas of service delivery. There are general revenue assistance payments, which are made to state governments. There is also, of course, specifically the GST, and it is also available for state governments to raise their own sources of revenue through some of those tax bases that I raised earlier.

The funding from the federal government is absolutely critical because of what the policy wonks would refer to as the vertical fiscal imbalance that exists between the states and the commonwealth, where the commonwealth has the vastly greater capacity to levy and raise revenue from the population, as compared to South Australia, but has a much, much smaller role in the provision of services and direct expenditures in the community as opposed to state governments. It

requires that if the federal government is going to raise the vast majority of revenue in Australia, then that revenue needs to be passed through to those jurisdictions which are shouldering the load of providing those services.

That is why, particularly over the last 10 to 15 years, the subject of funding agreements between the federal government and state governments has been so important. That is why the health funding agreement has been so critical. That is why the education funding agreement has been so critical, and again, across housing and Indigenous services and funding to all of those other areas where the states rely on the federal government to pass a large proportion of the taxes they levy and raise on the communities of Australia back to the states to provide those services.

I will go through some of these major areas one by one. I mentioned earlier and, indeed, I spoke late last week in a grievance debate about why this new infrastructure funding agreement to South Australia is so problematic for our state. Yes, of course, there is the parochialism that all South Australians engage in of, 'We want to get this next project up and running. It's great that we are getting on with this and it's great that South Australia has captured the funding,' but it is far deeper and more fundamental than that.

It is critical that the federal government is shouldering its share of the burden of investing in infrastructure across our country. It is particularly critical in a state like South Australia. The members opposite who represent regional communities know at the very least, just as well as I do—but probably much better than I do—that we are a relatively small state in population but a very large state in terms of area and particularly in terms of lane kilometres. Deputy Speaker, I know the frustrations you have in your electorate of Flinders with the very large number of roads, particularly highways, and the difficulty the community has year on year in getting those roads funded. That is why it is critical that the federal government is doing all it can—not just with South Australia but with the other states—to meet the infrastructure and road funding needs of the community.

I mentioned earlier that it was a great outcome for South Australia to secure \$2.5 billion of jointly funded infrastructure upgrades, but there was more beneath that which is less of a good news story. Those additional financial assistance grants, which were a legacy of the Howard government to local government to particularly assist regional councils with the upkeep of their roads, were absolutely critical. It was absolutely critical that the federal government's contribution to road maintenance was maintained at a level, but at the same time that we were receiving those funding agreements and that money flowing immediately for those three upgrades of the north-south corridor, Torrens to Torrens, Darlington and the Northern Connector, we had a \$9 million a year cut in road maintenance funding from the federal government.

We had those additional assistance grants to local councils for the upkeep of their roads cut or abolished, another \$18 million a year. Together, there was \$27 million a year less in the 2014-15 year alone in road maintenance funding across South Australia. As a former minister for transport, I can tell you that we had to ramp up very significantly our own investment in road maintenance funding in South Australia to offset those impacts, to try to maintain where we were, and where we were was with a constantly growing backlog of road maintenance. I never hid from that fact at all.

We went through a period, particularly in the postwar years, of building new roads or sealing unsealed roads that had existed for many years. Once those roads were built, once they got towards the end of their initial build and maintenance cycles, they were not maintained, particularly throughout the sixties, seventies, eighties and nineties. You do not have to drive too far in any of the electorates I see represented opposite me right now to experience some of those roads. Yes, progress has been made, and I would be happy to wax lyrical about how much work we did. I would be happy to talk further about our road maintenance funding—

The Hon. T.J. Whetstone: Country cabinet is about as often as you get on those roads. Yes, you heard me.

Mr MULLIGHAN: You were talking to me? I thought you were talking to your phone.

The Hon. T.J. Whetstone: No.

Mr MULLIGHAN: You have to hold it to your head to make yourself heard, or haven't you figured that out yet?

The Hon. T.J. Whetstone: You are so intelligent.

Mr MULLIGHAN: You haven't figured that out yet.

The Hon. T.J. Whetstone: You are so intelligent.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, please—we will hear the member for Lee in silence. Continue, member for Lee.

Mr MULLIGHAN: As I was saying, we spend about two-thirds of our annual road maintenance budget outside the greater metropolitan area on regional roads, and we have to because that is where the lane kilometres are. We have to because the type of traffic that frequents those roads tends to be more impactful on the roads, particularly heavy vehicles and particularly heavier and larger combinations of heavy vehicles. I am glad that, in the 2017-18 financial year, we are spending \$94 million on state-funded regional road maintenance and road upgrades. I think that is terrific. That is a substantial step up from where we had been in previous years.

You will remember from the 2014-15 budget that there was a step up in road maintenance funding: an additional \$10 million in the first financial year, another \$10 million in the next financial year, then an additional \$20 million, then an additional \$30 million. That \$30 million is what we are experiencing now, and I think it is terrific that we are spending that amount of money. That is on top of specific project money, that is on top of what is being spent by the state and the commonwealth on the APY lands access road, that is on top of what has been spent on the national highway network upgrade projects and that is on top of what has been spent on the Sturt Highway upgrade.

That is terrific, but state governments, particularly the South Australian government, cannot continue to be expected to pick up the burden of these areas of funding when the federal government backs out. That is a relatively small example of how important it is that federal governments pick up their fair share of funding. If you turn your attention to health, we are not talking in the millions or even the tens of millions: we are talking in the hundreds of millions and the billions. This is when it becomes incredibly important and incredibly acute for governments, and particularly this state government, to make sure we are getting our fair share of funding from the federal government.

Yes, it is a state government responsibility to invest in the capital upgrade of our hospitals, and I am pleased to say that, throughout the last 16 years of the last Labor government, every major metropolitan hospital received refurbishments and upgrades. Of course, most recently we announced another \$1.1 billion of hospital upgrades, in particular at the Lyell McEwin, the Flinders Medical Centre, Modbury Hospital and one I am particularly interested in, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

There has been a massive investment in recurrent funding in our hospitals. I think in the last budget of the former Liberal government health expenditure was a little over \$2 billion a year. Now it is in the order of \$6 billion a year. That is an extraordinary growth, and it is not just a growth commensurate with the size of total state government outlays; it is actually a growing proportion of the state budget.

It is a growing proportion of the state budget not just because there is an increasing demand for services in the public health system from the community and not just because, of course, with the advances in medical treatments, devices and technologies, providing a lot of those services and interventions is getting more expensive; it has become a growing proportion of the state budget because we have seen federal governments not meeting their fair share of funding. That is a big problem.

There has been an ideal that state and federal governments meet 50 per cent each of the cost of hospital services in the public healthcare system. Of course, we are nowhere near that. In fact as at its lowest and most recent ebb, I think the federal government's share of hospital funding is down to 36 per cent of that cost: almost down to one-third, with the state picking up two-thirds. This is why the issue of health funding agreements has been so important for South Australia and for the state budget.

When you are talking about a budget of approximately \$6 billion, and when you are talking about hospital services comprising the major part of that, if the state government is picking up nearly

two-thirds of that and the federal government only picking up one-third, then that is an unsustainable financial burden on the state's budget. It is an unsustainable financial burden on the state's budget at a time when, without jumping too far into it, I think most members would agree that there is little appetite for any further reform or radical changes in how we go about configuring or delivering our health services in the hospital system.

There was a genuine attempt to try to deal with this, and if people cast their mind back to the lead-up to the 2007 federal election campaign and also to the time after the new Rudd government was formed federally, there was a genuine attempt to come up with a new funding deal which would redress this balance. That agreement was for a 50:50 share of new growth funding in the health system.

That was not an immediate move to 50 per cent and 50 per cent of all existing funding: it was for new growth funding. The intention would be that over the years that would drag the federal government's share of health funding up towards 50 per cent and pull the states' proportion of that health funding down towards that 50 per cent level from that nearly two-thirds figure that I mentioned it was heading towards.

That is why there was such an outcry from state governments about the first budget from the Abbott-Hockey government in 2014 when across the future years, and across all the states in the country, there was a withdrawal of \$80 billion of health and education funding collectively. What that means in today's terms for the South Australian budget is that the new Treasurer and the new government have their hands collectively tightly constrained in the choices they can make beyond the health portfolio, and to a lesser but still significant extent the education portfolio, because of the unfair and very large burdens that those respective federal and state funding shares place on the state budget. That is a terrible outcome.

It means that, just as it was perhaps in our cabinet (without divulging what used to go on around that table), there would be a lot of envious looks from all the rest of the ministers towards their health minister as they saw him like some sort of public sector Pac-Man gobbling up most of the financial resources available at budget time. It meant that we were able to do fewer things in our portfolio areas, as most of the financial resources were consumed in that portfolio area and, to a lesser extent, in education.

That is why these deals are so important. That is why we think, and we still argue, that the recent health deal entered into by the new health minister is bad for South Australia because it does not meet that target commitment of 50:50 of new growth funding: it is only 45 per cent for the federal government, and even then there is a cap year on year of the amount that can be given for those health funding agreements, I think of 6.2 per cent per year.

That is why the former Labor government was so angry at the prospect of the watered down Gonski funding deal put forward by the current federal Minister for Education. It was not what David Gonski identified the Australian education system needed in his initial report; it was a watered down version of that. It was not what students, classrooms and schools needed to ensure that school children, for the benefit of their future and our country's future, were better educated and better able to adapt to what would be future roles available to them in the workforce, let alone be productive members of the community in other respects.

That money was not provided for as initially promised, and the same thing then occurred with the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The NDIS, I think, is a salutary lesson on needing to keep a watch out for some of the sharp play that goes on by federal ministers when it comes to making excuses for themselves about why they have not met funding commitments they had previously adhered to.

When the NDIS agreement was reached between the then Gillard government and the states, there was a ramp-up of funding effort from both the states and the federal government, year on year, to progressively build on how much money needed to be funded into the new scheme, transition people into the new funding arrangements and, ostensibly, give many more people financial assistance. When this was debated publicly by the current federal government, the comments from the now federal education minister were that the NDIS money was never real, that it was on the never-never, that it was 'beyond the forward estimates'. That is interesting.

It is interesting that a current federal minister in the current federal government would say that money that has been promised or committed to, even if it is by a federal cabinet decision, is not real if it is beyond the four-year forward estimates period. If you cast your mind back to federal budget night, that is what we were asked to believe by Senator Birmingham and his federal colleagues about our infrastructure funding. 'No, no, that money is there. Sure, it's beyond the forward estimates, but it's there, it's a commitment, it's going to happen, it's real.' Well, which of his statements is true? That money beyond the forward estimates is not real, it is 'on the never-never, it was never there', or, 'Money beyond the forward estimates is a commitment. It will definitely happen, it definitely is real'?

I find it interesting that we have a Liberal government that is prepared to support those comments on the NDIS, on Gonski and on the health funding agreement and that, as those agreements ramped up in funding, towards the end of the forward estimates and beyond, that was all bunkum, that that was all rubbish, but, when it comes to their infrastructure funding agreement, that was real.

These are terrible arrangements for a state government, and a terrible set of arrangements for this state government and this state budget, because they mean we are receiving many hundreds of millions of dollars less into our state budget from the federal government than we should be.

If you want to know what is happening with that money—if you want to know what is happening with the hundreds of millions of dollars that we should be receiving each year for health services, for teaching our kids in schools, for looking after disabled people on the NDIS or for any of the other myriad national partnership agreements that have either been abolished or substantially cut—that is the money that the federal government is taking out of state governments and putting into their corporate tax cut. That is why this problem of, to use the policy wonk's phrase, vertical fiscal imbalance is such a challenge for South Australia and the other states.

When you have a federal government that is raising all the revenue and has a far greater revenue capacity than the states, and then it chooses not to pass that revenue on to the states but instead chooses to forgo some of that revenue through tax cuts to the corporate sector or through some other handouts that avoid assisting a state government in its service delivery responsibilities, that is a terrible outcome. That is going to be a constant challenge for this government.

It is going to be a constant challenge for the Premier in particular, given his—and I am not trying to make a mockery of this—close relationship with the federal government. He will find himself in situations where it is absolutely imperative that he stands up to the federal government on these issues and says to the them, 'No, I know what you are trying to do, but that is contrary to my state's interests. You need to stump up more money for this.'

We were grievously disappointed to see the health agreement entered into, as well as the direction we are heading in with education funding and NDIS funding. If these trends in how the federal government treats South Australia continue to happen, then all the ministers who sit around the cabinet table here in South Australia are going to find themselves fighting over a very small pile of available financial resources for their portfolios. That means that those 300-odd election commitments, which the Premier has told this house will be met and will be delivered, will be that much farther out of reach. That is something that a new government needs to come to terms with very quickly.

I have been concerned, at least in the Treasury area, about the shifting sands of some of the election commitments that have been made. Take the emergency services levy, for example, which was the focus of a question to the Premier from one of his own side, as well as a supplementary from me. The Liberal Party made a commitment to South Australia to reduce the emergency services levy in four different ways. There was a commitment to return the emergency services levy back to its previous level. There was a commitment to cut emergency services bills by 50 per cent. There was a commitment to forgo \$90 million a year of revenue. There was also a commitment to deliver \$600 of relief of emergency services bills over four years. Each of those four things in isolation is very different from the others.

I would like to know which of the four commitments is going to be held. Is the emergency services levy going to be returned to its original level? If that is the case, then the levy rate that was applied to households in the 2013 financial year needs to be applied for the 2018-19 financial year.

If bills are going to be cut by 50 per cent, that means the amount of revenue raised by private households and other landowners in the current financial year needs to be reduced by 50 per cent, and that needs to be disaggregated across everybody's ESL bill for fixed property. If it is a \$150 cut, then the Treasurer needs to explain why, several weeks ago, he told journalists that he may not be able to achieve that reduction. If it is only spending \$90 million a year, that sets a remarkable precedent on how the government intends to keep its election commitments, does it not?

That says that what we promised was not an outcome; what we promised was not the delivery of a particular benefit to South Australians; what we promised was just to spend some money; what we promised was just to forgo an amount of revenue. If that is what the Liberal Party is saying, 'We only promised \$90 million a year,' or, 'We promised \$360 million over four years,' that is something that is completely divorced from the end result on households. That is something very different from a \$150 saving or a reduction in everybody's bill by 50 per cent or a return to the emergency services levy as it was. These are the questions that will be increasingly difficult to answer for the new government in light of a constrained financial capacity due to those financial relationships with the federal government.

We also have the commitment on payroll tax. I have already outlined to the house the substantial relief which has been provided in payroll tax for South Australian employers—more than \$220 million a year. We had a further commitment from this new Liberal government that they would lift the tax-free threshold to \$1.5 million for small to medium-sized businesses. In itself, we think it is a commendable policy. The Leader of the Opposition, the member for Croydon, has already announced the opposition's intention to support that measure. I think that is welcome news not just for the government but, of course, more importantly, for business.

When it was pointed out that the impact of that policy meant that there would be a massive step up in payroll tax liability once liable payrolls increased from \$1.5 million to \$1,500,001, then there was a look of initial incomprehension from the Premier and the Treasurer, followed very quickly with a promise from the Treasurer that that massive jump in payroll tax liability, instead of proving a disincentive for people to take on either new workers and lift their taxable payrolls from below \$1.5 million to above \$1.5 million or a massive disincentive for that company to pay their workers more money so that their taxable payroll went from less than \$1.5 million to more than \$1.5 million, they would promise to smooth that transition in.

What is the smoothing? I think the Treasurer has attempted to leave everybody with the impression that the tax-free threshold will be maintained at \$1.5 million and that, above that, the transition to full payroll tax liability of 4.95 per cent for taxable wages will be gradually smoothed in above and beyond that \$1.5 million taxable payroll level. But I have to say that is not the word that we are getting from the business community. That is not the impression that those people who have spoken with the Treasurer or the Premier or their staff are being given about how this payroll tax cut is going to be implemented.

Given those financial constraints on the state budget from an increasingly dwindling contribution from the federal government for key areas of service delivery, when they take those hundreds of millions of dollars out of a state's health budget, out of a state's education budget, out of a state's housing budget, out of a state's homelessness national partnership agreement and they instead offer it up for a corporate tax cut, including to the big four banks, when those financial straits are being visited on the state you can understand the motivation for the Treasurer and the Premier to start reinterpreting what their election commitment was.

The smoothing will not be above \$1.5 million in taxable payrolls. The smoothing will start well before. So the true tax-free threshold might not be anything like \$1.5 million, it might not actually be \$1 million. It might be less. What a dreadful broken promise that would be to the small to medium-sized enterprises here in South Australia.

That would be another poor message to send to the business community of South Australia about how they can expect to be treated by their Premier. They are told one thing and something completely different happens. They are told that all contracts will be honoured, and the opposite happens. They are told that they will receive a payroll tax cut of a certain quantum and magnitude, and then they do not. This is the difficult task ahead of this new government when it comes to framing this budget.

Of course, it is not just the emergency services levy and payroll tax that find themselves in consideration for the coming state budget, but there are other measures that will also impact on the state budget. We have heard much from new ministers about not just how much they are looking forward to enjoying the spoils of office. In fact, I think it was only the member for Stuart who used the word 'humble' or 'humility'. I am looking forward to a demonstration of that from some of the other ministers. For some of them, it certainly was not evident in the Address in Reply contributions to date. They are very proud to say that they will have a single chief executive and a single agency reporting to a single minister. Well, that is not an end in itself.

There already are substantial changes in the machinery of government in the organisation of government departments, and that is not cheap. We have also already heard about that really high priority, which was taken as a key election platform to the people of South Australia by the South Australian Liberal Party to make radical change in our public health system and change the name of SA Health. Is this really the priority? When we were all out doorknocking, how many people raised with us the issue of machinery of government or whether chief executives in the public sector were incapable of working in a situation with multiple reports? Some of them we will not know because they were summarily sacked from the Public Service with little more than an explanation of—

The Hon. R. Sanderson: What about Rod Hook?

Mr MULLIGHAN: —'I love your work, I love what you did, but we're heading in a different direction.' Well, that is an exit interview if you—

The Hon. R. Sanderson: Poor Rod.

Mr MULLIGHAN: Don't worry, member for Adelaide, I am sure we will see his return, won't we? I am sure we will see his return.

The SPEAKER: Members will not interject, and the member will also not respond to interjections. Let's not stop his flow.

Mr MULLIGHAN: No, I would not want to have to start again. Of course, these machinery of government changes will necessitate substantial changes in the appropriations within government—two different agencies—and the organisations of those agencies. I am looking forward to hearing from each minister which beneficial outcome members of the public will experience from those machinery of government changes. I have not heard one since, but we will wait to hear, with bated breath, whether all that expense has been worth it.

We have the policy of rate capping, which was a campaign run over the lead-up to and during the course of the election campaign. That was ably helped, I think we can admit, by the City of Onkaparinga in their endeavour and by the chief executive. Even the member for Schubert was derisive late last week, pointing to the need for golf memberships to be paid for by ratepayers for that council. Trust me, member for Adelaide, that is a local government issue only. It is important that those changes to local government revenue-raising capacities are considered in the state budget context already.

For many years in South Australia we have had a local government sector that has staunchly refused to borrow money to invest in public works and infrastructure. All of them have been very nervous about the prospect of availing themselves of debt-raising facilities with the Local Government Finance Authority and investing in infrastructure. Indeed, it has only been in the last four or five years that we have seen councils start to feel comfortable with taking on debt to invest in infrastructure.

I know I am biased, but perhaps the two best examples I can think of are, firstly, the City of Adelaide and the current Lord Mayor, Martin Haese. He has driven his council very hard to invest money in public works for the benefit of his council area and for the city itself and, as I outlined earlier, for the state's general economic strategy of using our capital city as an attractor for residents, visitors, tourists and workers. The other example is the City of Charles Sturt, which my electorate of Lee now falls completely within.

When people ask me at election forums before election day, 'What do you think about rate capping, Stephen?' I like to say, 'I've lived through it.' Half of my electorate was in the City of Port

Adelaide Enfield, where the mayor used to boast about annual increases in rating bills in the order of 1 per cent, and half was in the City of Charles Sturt, where you had more significant increases, and it was like walking from the Bronx into Manhattan in terms of public infrastructure.

I am pleased to say that that has changed ever since the change in council administration at the City of Port Adelaide Enfield. For the first time in many years they have a decent city manager in the City of Port Adelaide Enfield, and he is doing a terrific job despite the distractions of his mayor. The City of Port Adelaide Enfield is now starting to catch up, spend some money and have rate increases more in line with inflation so that ratepayers can take advantage of better community facilities.

You only have to look at the investments that the government has made at Port Adelaide, now increasingly matched by the City of Port Adelaide Enfield, to see the change in perspective and policy. I can tell you that I would happily put my little boy in the car seat and drive for 10 minutes to get to a playground in Grange in the City of Charles Sturt, rather than walk down to the end of the street and go to the playground on the foreshore at Largs or Semaphore, because the quality of the public infrastructure—how enjoyable it is for the children but also how safe it is—is vastly better. That is a very small vignette of what you can expect with council rate capping. But why is it important for a supply debate?

We need to consider how those councils will go about servicing their debt arrangements under a constrained revenue environment if rate capping succeeds in making its way through parliament. These fees are not particularly real at the moment. We have already heard from the Mayor of the City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters, and also the Mayor of the City of Burnside, I think—two council areas taking in the local constituencies of the Premier and the Deputy Premier—that under the rate capping regime that seems to be foreshadowed by the member for Schubert, their ratepayers would have experienced higher rate increases in recent years than those they actually experienced.

So maybe all the palaver about rate capping is not going to amount to much at all. Maybe we will just see the sorts of rate increases continuing as we have for the past 10 years. That is because, despite talking about it for two or three years, the Liberal government still does not know what the cap will be, how it will be set, how it will be monitored and how it will be enforced. We are waiting to see that detail, and I suspect that the minister is waiting to contrive that detail so that he can get a bill drafted and brought before the house. However, there is still an impact on the government and its debt raising on behalf of local government. That is something important that needs to be considered in the context of the rate capping debate.

Earlier, I touched on the policy that has been announced by the Treasurer and the Premier when it comes to investment attraction. Not only have they committed to not providing direct financial assistance to individual companies or industries but they have also said they will wind up the Investment Attraction agency. To be honest, I do not believe the government will follow through in either respect.

Firstly, on the issue of direct financial assistance to companies or to industries, they have already committed to spending \$60 million for Le Cordon Bleu to move to the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site. Despite saying that they would not provide financial assistance to a company, there are 60 million big ones going straight to a company to set up a cooking school at the old Royal Adelaide Hospital. We will be interested to hear the explanation of what market process or sounding the Premier went to before arriving at that policy position.

We are also told that there is a two-pronged approach to regional funding in the new government. There will be the Royalties for Regions funding arrangement, which will see 25 per cent of the state's royalties being directed into regional road funding, and I spoke at length before—and despite the efforts of the member for Chaffey, I thought reasonably magnanimously—about the true state of road maintenance funding and how that money is spent. I articulated that as the federal government has pulled out of special assistance road funding grants to local government in regional South Australia to the tune of \$18 million a year, and pulled out of road maintenance to the South Australia government to the tune of \$9 million a year, the vast majority of which was to be spent regionally, the state government had to step in, over the last four years and ramp up its road funding efforts. I outlined that figure of \$94 million a year.

If you think about what 25 per cent of royalties would be on average, we are talking about \$75 million a year. This was the issue we raised at the time the policy was announced. It was actually a policy advocating for a real funding cut for regional roads this financial year of \$19 million. That is a lot, more than 20 per cent. That is a drastic reduction in the amount of lane kilometres which are either resurfaced or rebuilt, or have their shoulders sealed or the number of intersections improved with risk mitigation measures. That is a drastic reduction in funds.

We are also told that this fund, this \$75 million a year, will pay not just for roads but for other things as well. We are told it will also pay for things like mobile phone towers, a federal responsibility. Once again the federal government is withdrawing from an area of its own responsibility and expecting the state government to step in. That further diminishes the amount of rural road funding available for these regional communities.

We are then told that the second prong of regional funding will be a 10-year \$150 million regional growth fund. Let's assume \$15 million a year each year over 10 years. How do we honestly expect \$15 million to be spent in regional communities to facilitate economic growth or jobs growth? Is it going to be spent at the council? Not if the member for Schubert has his way. The only other option is to spend it in local businesses, to help regional businesses grow and expand their operations and employ more people—direct financial assistance to companies, directly contravening a policy held out by the Treasurer and the Premier.

There we have two examples of why clearly this policy of not providing direct financial assistance to companies will stand. The other element is the investment attraction fund and winding up that effort. It is easy, I think, from the conservative side of politics to bemoan direct financial intervention to facilitate economic outcomes. That is regarded as being contrary to the small 'l' libertarianism of economic policy: everybody should have the same opportunity to sink or swim on their economic merits.

The task of the Investment Attraction agency was to seek out individual companies to try to encourage them to either locate operations in South Australia for the first time and employ South Australians or to grow the footprint that they already have here and expand their operations and job opportunities. This was the task of the Investment Attraction agency. As I outlined earlier, it was an extraordinary set of achievements that that agency, along with the future jobs fund, had secured for South Australia. Only quoting a small number of them, but those global companies, like Boeing and Technicolour, show what can be achieved when there is a focused effort of attracting these companies.

This is an area of economic endeavour that every jurisdiction in Australia is heavily engaged and invested in. This is why you see jurisdictions like South Australia, like Victoria, like Queensland and like New South Wales, having a strong presence, particularly around Austrade footprints overseas—because these states are competing to attract international companies to expand or to create operations in their own jurisdictions. That is absolutely critical. That is something that has been, as I mentioned earlier, crucial for South Australia.

I am a little concerned I have to say, in a budgetary context, when the state budget relies, particularly in terms of own-source revenues, so much on direct economic activity that we have a policy to thwart future efforts to grow operations of these companies and to employ South Australians and beyond that silence. Perhaps that is a little uncharitable. The one policy that exists is to establish a state-based productivity commission. That is a remarkable commitment not just because it represents one of the first tranches of broken election promises by this government.

They committed, along with Infrastructure South Australia, that the membership would be settled, determined and announced within 30 days of both the state-based productivity commission and also of Infrastructure South Australia. You have to cast your mind to the rationale of why there would be a desire by this new government for a state-based productivity commission. I think it is a de facto body to create the illusion of this government having an economic strategy or policy beyond the same old policies that have been trotted out at the 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018 elections of tweaks to state-based taxation regimes. There is no other economic policy other than this state-based productivity commission. What is the attraction?

We are all of an age and an era where our formative years were spent, in the early 1990s, watching Paul Keating develop competition policy, where states were incentivised with financial payments to start removing the cloying red tape and regulation which had gone so unreformed and unresolved for decades. This might be breaking news to the opposition, but those days are past. That competition reform regime has run its race; it was conducted and concluded more than 10 years ago.

What is the regulatory reform, other than the big sop to Coles and Woolworths in shop trading hours, that this government seeks? We know what their approach was going to be for passenger transport services: let's welcome in an unregulated additional service provider like Uber without driver checks, without police checks, without vehicle checks and let them compete. Is that what the basis of the productivity commission's reform regime will be? We do not know.

All we have to go on is the greatest hits, I guess, of the national Productivity Commission. You might remember them from such episodes as abolishing penalty rates. You might remember them from building submarines in Japan. You might remember them from lowering or abolishing the minimum wage. Is this the economic reform agenda of this new state Liberal government: to start picking and choosing from the library of rejected economic reform at the national level?

It is confusing, isn't it, because we also have a commitment that there will be a review of water prices, which—you have to hand it to the Liberal government—is basically an admission to voters and talkback radio that 'We don't actually know what we will do about water prices, but we will have a think about it after the election and we will have a review.'

Members interjecting:

Mr MULLIGHAN: Yes, but it is instructive, isn't it—

The SPEAKER Order!

Mr MULLIGHAN: —that on both the development of the state-based productivity commission, Infrastructure South Australia, and even with a review of water prices, let alone the litany of other reviews that they have committed to, that they would seek to outsource their policy making to those outside of executive government. What little faith they have in their own policy chops to come up with decent ideas to deal with these issues.

The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER Order!

Mr MULLIGHAN: I am trying to cast my mind back: that is right, Techport and the air warfare destroyers; that is right, the expansion of the PACE initiative; that is right, economic policy; that is right—gee, I really regret intervening with this now.

The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members will not interject. The Minister for Education will not interject.

Mr MULLIGHAN: Mr Speaker, I remind you that he is on two warnings.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER Order!

Mr MULLIGHAN: Two warnings.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Waite, be quiet.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr MULLIGHAN: Sorry, Mr Speaker, given that I have only just begun my comments on the Supply Bill, I seek leave to continue my remarks on the next sitting day.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

At 00:00 the house adjourned until Wednesday 16 May 2018 at 10:30.