

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 27 November 2019

The **SPEAKER (Hon. V.A. Tarzia)** took the chair at 10:30 and read prayers.

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

### *Bills*

#### **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (NITROUS OXIDE) AMENDMENT BILL**

##### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 13 November 2019.)

**Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (10:32):** Today, I rise to speak in support of the Controlled Substances (Nitrous Oxide) Amendment Bill, which will amend the Controlled Substances Act 1984. In doing so, I commend the member for Wright for bringing this bill to the house, and I also commend him for his commitment to keeping people safe in our community, particularly our young people, and for demonstrating that commitment through concrete action to bring about real legislative change that will make a difference.

This important bill rightly aims to restrict the sale of nitrous oxide bulbs, commonly referred to as nangs, in South Australia to young people who are misusing them. The bill would create an offence for the purposes of selling nitrous oxide to anyone under the age of 18. It would also make it a requirement for sellers of nitrous oxide to keep a record of persons to whom they sell nitrous oxide and to request identification. This information would then be maintained in a register.

This bill would bring the regulation of nitrous oxide into line with how similar substances, such as solvents and aerosols, which are also easily misused, are managed. The bill would also increase current penalties specific to nitrous oxide. Whilst nitrous oxide has many legitimate uses, including as a propellant in cream dispensers and as an anaesthetic, its misuse is alarmingly widespread.

Earlier this year, together with the member for Finnis I co-hosted, on behalf of the shadow minister for education, a parliamentary briefing and gathering with Encounter Youth. I think it is fair to say that all who attended that briefing were deeply impressed by their work. In my case, I am very grateful for their work. Having spent some of my teenage years in a way that I could have benefited from the support of an organisation like Encounter Youth, I have spent a number of years worrying about my son and stepson as they, as so many young people do, set out on their first forays to the city late at night and as they headed off to schoolies.

As I mentioned at that parliamentary briefing, I was indeed so worried about one son and his mates at schoolies that I invented an excuse about them possibly needing more food for the weekend and travelled to where they were staying at Port Elliot, just to see how things were going—just, of course, to see how things were going.

On the morning that my son drove down there, a journey which also greatly exacerbated my worries, I called my friend Belinda. Belinda Uppill and her husband, Nigel Uppill, who are both incredibly experienced youth workers, had volunteered for years at schoolies with Encounter Youth, and her description of how they cared for young people, keeping them safe and encouraging them to make good choices, set my mind at ease. Of course, I still went to their accommodation, but with slightly less panic.

Following this briefing and gathering, together with the member for MacKillop I worked with Encounter Youth to organise a tour with fellow parliamentarians of the work they do on Hindley Street. Again, I was incredibly impressed by their work and their support of our young people. I take this

opportunity to wholeheartedly thank them and wish them well for their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which they celebrate this year.

On visiting Hindley Street in the wee hours, I was deeply shocked by the small canisters that I saw all over the ground and even more shocked by the volume and prevalence of young people using them. I understand that nitrous oxide (nangs) provides users with a fleeting, euphoric high that can also cause loss of coordination, dizziness and, in some cases, permanent nerve damage. I learnt about just how easily these nangs can be obtained. I am deeply grateful that the member for Wright has taken up this issue. It is an issue which we should all be concerned about and one on which we should all take a stand.

The prevalence of use and accessibility presents an utterly unacceptable risk to young South Australians. My colleague the member for Wright has listened to the concerns of our community on this issue and has responded with these sensible legislative reforms. I am sure that many parents and caregivers will be grateful for the bill—this concrete action to keep our young people safe.

I understand that police have raised concerns about the possible presence of nitrous oxide as a contributing factor in motor vehicle accidents and that doctors warn that its use amongst young people is on the rise. Despite these concerns from our community, these warnings from police and the medical profession and the failure of existing legislation to curb its misuse, I understand that this government refuses to support the bill.

I was in Hindley Street with a number of Liberal members when we saw these nangs scattered on every street corner and down every laneway. We walked past them repeatedly that night on the tour with Encounter Youth. I am astounded that those opposite may now choose to walk past the solution, to walk past a mechanism to keep our young people safe. The member for Wright consulted widely on this bill, including with a range of organisations, including SANDAS, Alcohol and Drug Foundation, Encounter Youth, the Law Society, AMA, Adelaide West End Association and many others.

Given the importance of this bill in protecting young people from harmful substance abuse, it is incomprehensible that this Liberal state government would block it. However, it goes beyond that. It is petty politics at its worst. There is obvious support within those opposite for this important reform, and I know this from my conversations on Hindley Street with a number of those opposite. We had Christopher Pyne opining for a ban just weeks ago. Many of those sitting opposite know that it is the right thing to do. Many of those opposite share my concerns about the safety of our young people.

Today, I urge them to stand up and speak out on this issue, and I urge this government to urgently rethink their position. Young people in South Australia, their parents and their caregivers deserve it. It is incumbent upon each of us to protect young people from the damaging effects of nitrous oxide abuse. To do this, we need the strongest possible measures available to us. Those measures are contained within this bill, and it should be passed by this parliament. I urge those opposite to support it.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (10:39):** I rise to speak on the private member's bill, Controlled Substances (Nitrous Oxide) Amendment Bill 2019. I thank the member for considering this matter and acting on the concerns that have been raised in the community. It is not a new issue; it has been very much around for the last couple of years. I think there have been various attempts to look at whatever is a new drug or a new drug of choice, especially amongst our young people, but that does not mean, regrettably, that the private member's bill will actually capture the most expedient and efficient way of managing this issue. Let me explain why, in the circumstances, the government will not be supporting the bill.

The Controlled Substances Act itself already contains a number of controls on the sale and supply of volatile solvents, of which nitrous oxide is one. For example, the act allows for an age limit for sales of a volatile solvent to be prescribed by regulation. It is already an offence to sell or supply a volatile solvent to another person if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the person may inhale the solvent or on-sell it to another person who intends to inhale it.

The government acknowledges that there has been concern expressed about the misuse of nitrous oxide, particularly related to its sale by convenience stores within the CBD entertainment

precincts. Already we have heard through contributions made today the concern regarding empty capsules being observed in Hindley Street. Therefore, the government intends to introduce a number of measures via regulation to address the misuse of nitrous oxide, while keeping in mind that this is a legal product with legitimate uses.

The private member's bill contains a provision stating that the prescribed age is 18 years. On this side of the house, we do not have an issue with that continuing to be a circumstance and an important measure. However, it is a measure that can be undertaken by regulation, which the government intends to do and I have already made public statements in that regard.

However, the government disagrees with the proposal contained in the bill that would compel sales of nitrous oxide to be recorded by the sellers. The sales of nitrous oxide would have to be recorded for every purchase outside sales for medical purposes. The seller must record all the contact details of the purchaser, including recording their identification, the quantities sold and the directions given for the safe use of nitrous oxide, plus the records must be kept for at least two years. I think it would be quite evident to members the enormous task that would impose on sellers.

There are a number of issues with the proposed record of sales. Firstly, this type of requirement places an extensive and unnecessary administrative burden on retailers selling—it must be remembered—a legal product. The requirements of the bill are more onerous than the requirements placed on professional pharmacists recording purchases of pseudoephedrine, a product that has been demonstrated to be used for illicit drug manufacturing. The impost far outweighs the risk the product presents.

The requirement would be difficult to enforce. Already, we have consulted with the police in relation to this matter, particularly in relation to the online space where I am advised a large number of sales occur. The police would need to physically check the registers, which would be a resource-intensive exercise. Frankly, it is of dubious value when it comes to preventing the misuse of nitrous oxide. Nitrous oxide is not the same as, say, a controlled precursor, where tracking suspicious sales may help law enforcement to identify illicit drug manufacturing. It is not an offence to possess nitrous oxide, as it is a legal product. Therefore, recording the details of purchases is unlikely to assist law enforcement to identify offenders.

Lastly, it risks not only criminalising a section of the public buying a product for legal use but also over-regulating nitrous oxide to such an extent that it would push young people onto riskier substances. This last point is supported by Encounter Youth, who have vast experience in dealing with young people who may use legal and illegal substances. They are concerned about young people moving on to illicit drugs or substances with a much higher risk profile than nitrous oxide.

By contrast, the government intends, as we have already publicly stated, with the guidance of the Controlled Substances Advisory Council—which the mover of the motion may not have yet identified or considered as necessary, but they are there for good reason—to enact a series of practice measures swiftly via regulation aimed at preventing sales to persons under the age of 18 years, prohibiting late-night sales by retail premises and regulating the display of nitrous oxide in retail premises.

I understand that the council is meeting today to consider recommendations that we have put regarding the management of this issue by regulation. Following that proper comprehensive process, clearly, we will consider the council's advice on the matters that we have raised and listen with interest to any other recommendations it wishes to recommend to us as a government. Certainly, before further decisions are made on this matter, the parliament has the right to manage regulations in any event and to disallow them if they are considered to be inconsistent with what is necessary.

Whilst I acknowledge the interest that has been shown by the member moving this bill, in the circumstances, it will not be supported by the government. We are acting to deal with this issue within the envelope of the Controlled Substances Act and the prohibitions and offences that already exist.

**Mr PICTON (Kaurua) (10:46):** I rise to support this important piece of legislation that has been put forward by the member for Wright. This is an important issue. We are seeing the number of sales of nitrous oxide to young people—not for baking products and not for dental procedures but for inhalation as a drug—going up and up and up. We are seeing the number of outlets, either in a

physical space or in an online sales space, proliferate in the community. The member for Wright has done exactly what should be expected of members of parliament: he has identified an issue, he has brought to the parliament a proposal to address that issue, he has consulted widely in doing so with a whole number of different people and he has brought here to the parliament some very sensible proposals to address this issue. He should be absolutely commended for that.

We are seeing young people in the community being harmed by this substance every single day. The government's approach in opposing this legislation is nothing other than political stubbornness. I could not believe a lot of what we just heard from the Attorney-General of this state. I could not believe it. She is opposing some of the measures of this bill on the basis that it is too hard for the sellers of these products. Well, poor diddums! If people who are selling these products—who I think are scum—to young people in the full knowledge of the medical harm, the health harm that it is causing those people, are going to have to go through some hoops in terms of making sure that they are not selling to the wrong people, who cares? Who cares what burden is placed on them?

There is a carve-out for dentists and other medical users who might need these products. That is carved out in this legislation. For the Attorney-General of this state to say, 'Oh dear, how horrible for the sellers of these products,' is wrong. The reports that we have seen of these sellers are nothing short of disgraceful. These are people who are online saying, 'We are the baker boys. We are the baking supply company,' but it is all directed at young people. It is all directed at sales in sociable hours. It is all directed at, 'We will get this product to you rapidly—within half an hour or an hour. We will get you your supplies of these baking products.'

I do not think there is any other type of baking product that you can get delivered within an hour, except for nitrous oxide. I have some great bakers in my electorate. I have never heard of them running out of nitrous oxide and needing that supply within an hour. This is complete rubbish. The people who are selling these products are charlatans. They deserve to be put out of business, and I do not give two hoots whether this puts more burden on them.

The other argument from the Attorney-General is that we are less worried about this drug than other drugs. That is what she seemed to be saying. This is a preposterous argument from somebody who came to this parliament promising to put up the penalties for cannabis. If you have that argument for nitrous oxide, that we do not want to have people moving on to more dangerous substances, then why did you come here with the completely opposite proposal in regard to cannabis, saying we need to put harsher penalties on that?

There is no proper thought through the government's opposition to this bill. There is nothing other than the fact that it was proposed by the Labor Party, so the Liberal Party needs to oppose it. It was proposed by the member for Wright, so the member for Bragg needs to oppose it. That is a disgraceful way for this parliament to behave. This is a bill that has been properly thought through. It is a bill that has been properly consulted. It is a bill that if we pass it today can immediately go to work in helping to address this issue.

If the Attorney-General wants to move amendments to it, then I am sure the member for Wright would welcome that, if we got to the committee stage to do so. I recall, only maybe two weeks ago, the Attorney-General saying on another piece of legislation, 'We should proceed to the committee stage so we can work out the issues with it.' Here, she is going to stop that from happening because it was proposed by the Labor Party and she is going to come up with her own solution.

If it were not for the member for Wright putting this on the agenda, I think nothing would have been happening. I think nothing would have been going to the controlled substances committee and counsel to look at this. I think that this has only come about because of the issues raised on this side. I think that it should have been something that was broadly supported by this parliament, but yet again we are seeing the political stubbornness that is putting party politics ahead of outcomes for this state. I think it is disgraceful. I wholeheartedly endorse this legislation from the member for Wright, and I think it is shameful that the government is opposed to it.

**Mr BOYER (Wright) (10:51):** I greatly appreciate the opportunity to speak on this private member's bill again and respond to some of the things that have been said in this place this morning. I begin, though, by thanking the members for Reynell and Kurna for their very spirited speeches and all the people on this side of the place for their support of this bill.

Let's make no mistake, though. This was supposed to go a very different way from the way it has. This was a beautiful set piece engineered by those on that side of the chamber. It was going to kick off with an opinion piece by Christopher Pyne talking about the dangers of nangs and how something needed to be done and then handballing it on to the member for King, whom Christopher Pyne referred to as 'a dynamo in this space' and who was, I think, planning on bringing a government bill in here to in some way enforce the same kinds of things I already have in the bill before this place.

Unfortunately, the government was caught napping. The member for King was on the same tour that Encounter Youth conducted of Hindley Street that many members on this side of the chamber attended as well, including the member for Cheltenham, the member for Reynell and the member for Elizabeth. We saw nangs in huge numbers on the corner of Morphett and Hindley streets on that night, and I know a number of us went away and thought, 'We actually need to do something about this.' Encounter Youth made it abundantly clear to us in the wee hours of that morning that these were being used and that they were very dangerous.

I went away and I did something about it. Unfortunately, the dynamo that is the member for King went away and did nothing about it, so when Christopher Pyne wrote his glowing opinion piece about how nangs were the scourge of society and the member for King was going to do something about it, there was nothing prepared. I introduced my private member's bill in this place, which I had consulted on very extensively. I would like to use this opportunity to list some of the groups I did consult with, and they include Encounter Youth.

I must say that the nature of the consultation I had with Encounter Youth appears to be at odds with the nature of the consultation the Attorney had with Encounter Youth. I had their support to do something about this. It would appear that the Attorney has interpreted their words as a plea for harm minimisation. That is not what I took away from my conversations with Encounter Youth. They made it clear to me that, although this may not be the most dangerous drug on our streets, it is still a dangerous drug and that something needs to be done about it.

I also consulted with the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, the South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services, the Law Society of South Australia, the South Australian branch of the Australian Medical Association, the Restaurant and Catering Industry Association, the Adelaide West End Association, the Sammy D Foundation, and Northern Area Community and Youth Services. I consulted with all these groups before I brought this bill into this house, and that is more that can be said for what the government has done.

We heard from the Attorney that they have spoken to the police and to Encounter Youth. No doubt, that has been done after the fact. It has all been done after the Attorney made comments in the media that they intended to deal with this issue through regulation. The feedback I received from my consultation was very clear: something needs to be done. The Attorney tries to tell us that this can all be done through regulation. Maybe that is true, but maybe it is not.

What I can say is that if we had had the support of the government for my private member's bill from the outset, we could have something in place right now. I understand that schoolies has been and gone. We could have had something in place for schoolies, but because this government did not want egg on its face and was embarrassed that it had been caught napping it decided not to support my bill for purely political reasons; instead, it has tried to put through some regulations—regulations that have barely been consulted on.

This is incredible from a government that always tells us it is strong on drugs, strong on crime and strong on law and order. Here we had a fantastic chance for bipartisanship; instead, we have nothing, and I think it is a disgrace. I thank the people on this side of the house for their support of my bill.

The house divided on the second reading:

Ayes .....	21
Noes .....	24
Majority .....	3

## AYES

Bell, T.S.	Bettison, Z.L.	Bignell, L.W.K.
Boyer, B.I. (teller)	Brock, G.G.	Brown, M.E.
Close, S.E.	Cook, N.F.	Gee, J.P.
Hildyard, K.A.	Hughes, E.J.	Koutsantonis, A.
Malinauskas, P.	Michaels, A.	Mullighan, S.C.
Odenwalder, L.K.	Piccolo, A.	Picton, C.J.
Stinson, J.M.	Szakacs, J.K.	Wortley, D.

## NOES

Basham, D.K.B.	Chapman, V.A.	Cowdrey, M.J.
Cregan, D.	Duluk, S.	Ellis, F.J.
Gardner, J.A.W.	Harvey, R.M. (teller)	Knoll, S.K.
Luethen, P.	Marshall, S.S.	McBride, N.
Murray, S.	Patterson, S.J.R.	Pederick, A.S.
Pisoni, D.G.	Power, C.	Sanderson, R.
Speirs, D.J.	Teague, J.B.	Treloar, P.A.
van Holst Pellekaan, D.C.	Whetstone, T.J.	Wingard, C.L.

Second reading thus negated.

**COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (LAND ACCESS IN THE MINING INDUSTRY) BILL**

*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 31 July 2019.)

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:03):** I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes .....	24
Noes .....	21
Majority.....	3

## AYES

Basham, D.K.B.	Chapman, V.A.	Cowdrey, M.J.
Cregan, D.	Duluk, S.	Ellis, F.J.
Gardner, J.A.W.	Harvey, R.M. (teller)	Knoll, S.K.
Luethen, P.	Marshall, S.S.	McBride, N.
Murray, S.	Patterson, S.J.R.	Pederick, A.S.
Pisoni, D.G.	Power, C.	Sanderson, R.
Speirs, D.J.	Teague, J.B.	Treloar, P.A.
van Holst Pellekaan, D.C.	Whetstone, T.J.	Wingard, C.L.

## NOES

Bell, T.S.	Bettison, Z.L.	Bignell, L.W.K.
Boyer, B.I.	Brock, G.G.	Brown, M.E. (teller)
Close, S.E.	Cook, N.F.	Gee, J.P.
Hildyard, K.A.	Hughes, E.J.	Koutsantonis, A.
Malinauskas, P.	Michaels, A.	Mullighan, S.C.
Odenwalder, L.K.	Piccolo, A.	Picton, C.J.

## NOES

Stinson, J.M.

Szakacs, J.K.

Wortley, D.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

**MOTOR VEHICLES (OFFENSIVE ADVERTISING) AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 1 May 2019.)

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:09):** I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes ..... 24  
 Noes ..... 21  
 Majority ..... 3

## AYES

Basham, D.K.B.

Cregan, D.

Gardner, J.A.W.

Luethen, P.

Murray, S.

Pisoni, D.G.

Speirs, D.J.

van Holst Pellekaan, D.C.

Chapman, V.A.

Duluk, S.

Harvey, R.M. (teller)

Marshall, S.S.

Patterson, S.J.R.

Power, C.

Teague, J.B.

Whetstone, T.J.

Cowdrey, M.J.

Ellis, F.J.

Knoll, S.K.

McBride, N.

Pederick, A.S.

Sanderson, R.

Trelor, P.A.

Wingard, C.L.

## NOES

Bell, T.S.

Boyer, B.I.

Close, S.E.

Hildyard, K.A.

Malinauskas, P.

Odenwalder, L.K.

Stinson, J.M.

Bettison, Z.L.

Brock, G.G.

Cook, N.F.

Hughes, E.J.

Michaels, A.

Piccolo, A.

Szakacs, J.K.

Bignell, L.W.K.

Brown, M.E. (teller)

Gee, J.P.

Koutsantonis, A.

Mullighan, S.C.

Picton, C.J.

Wortley, D.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

**ROAD TRAFFIC (DRUG TESTING) AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 4 July 2019.)

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:15):** I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes ..... 24  
 Noes ..... 22  
 Majority ..... 2

## AYES

Basham, D.K.B.	Chapman, V.A.	Cowdrey, M.J.
Cregan, D.	Duluk, S.	Ellis, F.J.
Gardner, J.A.W.	Harvey, R.M. (teller)	Knoll, S.K.
Luethen, P.	Marshall, S.S.	McBride, N.
Murray, S.	Patterson, S.J.R.	Pederick, A.S.
Pisoni, D.G.	Power, C.	Sanderson, R.
Speirs, D.J.	Teague, J.B.	Treloar, P.A.
van Holst Pellekaan, D.C.	Whetstone, T.J.	Wingard, C.L.

## NOES

Bedford, F.E.	Bell, T.S.	Bettison, Z.L.
Bignell, L.W.K.	Boyer, B.I.	Brock, G.G.
Brown, M.E. (teller)	Close, S.E.	Cook, N.F.
Gee, J.P.	Hildyard, K.A.	Hughes, E.J.
Koutsantonis, A.	Malinauskas, P.	Michaels, A.
Mullighan, S.C.	Odenwalder, L.K.	Piccolo, A.
Picton, C.J.	Stinson, J.M.	Szakacs, J.K.
Wortley, D.		

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

**ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TREATMENT (REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

**Mr PICTON (Kaurua) (11:21):** I move:

That the bill be withdrawn.

Motion carried; bill withdrawn.

**HEALTH CARE (HEALTH ACCESS ZONES) (NO 2) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

**Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (11:22):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I have spoken about a bill moved in my own name, the exact same bill, a couple of months ago. For various reasons, we moved the bill in the upper house, where it was moved by the Hon. Tammy Franks in the other place. It was exactly the same as this bill, which supports a woman's right and choice to be able to access a termination of pregnancy in a way in which she is not faced with protest and obstruction in any way, or with questioning of that decision, as she enters a healthcare clinic or hospital.

It is a woman's right and choice as to what she does with her body. Many women face this heart-wrenching decision, either by themselves or with their partners or family, and none of those people should be subjected to anyone approaching them regarding the termination of pregnancy/abortion. They also should not be subjected to seeing signs, posters or placards depicting images that are intimidating, worrying or upsetting in any way before they go into that centre.

In our country, of course there is the right to protest. There is the right to free speech and we all must respect that, but there is an appropriate place for this to happen. In my view, in the view of healthcare workers and in the view of many people in this place, the place for people to protest, to have their voice heard and to send that message is on the steps of parliament.

People have a right to pray to their God anywhere where it is not upsetting or intimidating other people in any way. I am sorry if people who do that do not understand that it could be



intimidating or worrying to people, but this is what people say to me who have experienced this. You have a right to pray, and I would encourage Christian people who want to do this to do it at a place where they are closer to their God, and they can do that in a church. I have no problem with them doing that. In fact, I do not have a problem with people sitting and praying anywhere: in a park, on the side of a road, on a footpath, in a shop, anywhere they choose, but there is no reason to pray out loud in front of people who have made what is likely to be the most difficult decision of their life.

I respect your right to protest, I respect your right to pray and I respect and appreciate your want and desire to support people who are going through traumatic experiences of any kind. I accept, I support and I want to see the generosity of people with good hearts who offer support, counselling and any items of household goods or baby clothes to people who are going through a pregnancy at a time when they cannot afford it.

But that is exactly when: it is when people are going through a pregnancy that they have chosen to continue with because they can provide a family and a loving home for their baby—do that then. There is no reason to have a shop right next to a clinic where people access abortion. There is no reason to do that. Have that shop somewhere else. As part of the work you do, promote that place to the clinic and offer it to the staff so that when the staff are doing the counselling—and the staff do a great job of counselling—they can offer materials that send someone who chooses to continue with a pregnancy to obtain free items.

I am sure that every single one of us in this place supports that benevolent process, that good heartedness, that kindness given by the community. But this bill clearly tells you that you are not to approach or communicate within 150 metres of any clinic where women are accessing the procedure of abortion.

I have spoken with the Minister for Health in the other place and I have read amendments that he is looking at putting forward. He would like to widen the medical procedures to which protests should be precluded to include people who are experiencing surgery for transgender or people who are having vaccinations. There is a whole range of procedures that are contentious for some and just part of life for others. Nobody undertaking any kind of medical clinical procedure and no health worker should be subjected to protests at this healthcare time.

Save your protests for the steps of parliament. We enjoy seeing, hearing and listening to democracy in progress, but do it on the steps of parliament. Trust me, it will be much more effective as there are a lot more people walking past. It is also a lot kinder to the people who are undergoing trauma. As Christian, good people you do not want to cause any more trauma to those people than they are already going through.

This bill enshrines that you are unable to protest within that space and you need to move on. There is also some protection now put in there so that the media is able to report on matters of interest and also on ribbon-cutting events or such investments that a government of the day might make. The other thing that was defined in this was abortion, clearly, but as I said, the Minister for Health in the other place has spoken to me and I have agreed that we might certainly be able to talk about that and the way it is gazetted moving forward.

With that, I am proud to introduce this bill and I would move that the debate be respectful and continued at another time.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Pederick.

#### *Motions*

#### **MODRA, MR K.**

**Mr COWDREY (Colton) (11:31):** I move:

That this house expresses its deep regret on the passing of Paralympian Mr Kieran Modra AM and acknowledges his long and meritorious contribution to the sport of cycling, the Paralympic movement and our state.

Kieran John Modra AM was born 27 March 1972 in Port Lincoln to Theo and Sylvia. Sadly, as I am sure all in this house are aware, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month we lost Kieran. He was hit by a car travelling in the same direction on the Sturt Highway near Kingsford just north of Adelaide. He was cycling from his home in Hallett Cove to his uncle and aunt's house to join them for a ride in the Clare Valley.

Kieran Modra was born with a visual impairment—juvenile optic atrophy—caused by damage to the optic nerve, a condition that caused his eyesight to deteriorate over time. He grew up on a farm; however, he went to boarding school at Immanuel College here in Adelaide, I believe at the same time as the Premier. Kieran was a self-described country lad who loved daredevil adventure. Through nearly all his life that daredevil nature manifested itself in one form of sport or another, whether that was the pole vault or javelin in his early athletic career, backstroke through his period in the pool, or, more notably, his long and distinguished career on the bike, which commenced in 1995.

Kieran was by all definitions a pioneer in tandem cycling. His Paralympic record was near unparalleled. He competed in three sports at eight consecutive Paralympic Games and won five gold medals. His career reads as follows:

- at the Seoul Paralympics in 1988 he competed in athletics;
- in Barcelona in 1992 he competed in swimming. He won a bronze medal in the men's 200-metre backstroke and men's 100-metre backstroke;
- in Atlanta in 1996 he won gold in the mixed track 200-metre sprint tandem;
- he competed at the Sydney Paralympics in 2000;
- in Athens in 2004 he won two gold medals in the track sprint tandem and the individual pursuit tandem, and a bronze in the men's road race;
- in Beijing in 2008 he won a gold medal in the men's track individual pursuit and bronze in the men's track one-kilometre time trial;
- in London in 2012 he won the men's individual pursuit gold; and
- in Rio in 2016 he won the men's time trial bronze.

Kieran's achievements, however, tell only a small fraction of his story and only partly describe why he was a true legend. Kieran was resilient and a fierce competitor. There were many occasions over his career when many other athletes would have just given up or called it a day, but not Kieran. Prior to the 2004 games, a selection issue nearly saw him miss Athens altogether.

A Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) long-running appeal process and final ruling ultimately saw him deselected from the team just weeks before the games. He and his pilot trained in isolation for the remaining weeks, holding out hope that there would be a reprieve. That hope was justified when a discretionary spot was awarded on the eve of the games. His subsequent performance was just one illustration of a trait that came to define his career: the ability to perform in the face of adversity. Kieran won two gold medals and a bronze in Athens despite those challenges. Australia is grateful that Kieran was able to compete in Athens.

His ability to perform in the face of adversity was required again in December 2011. Kieran had an accident while on a training ride, colliding with a car. He broke two vertebrae in his neck. Despite, I am sure, the advice of doctors and, I imagine, a range of others close to him, he got back on the bike in short time and retained his place on the team for London. Again defying the odds, he won gold in the individual pursuit less than 12 months after the accident.

Kieran was an exceptional athlete but also an exceptional leader. He was well respected locally, nationally and internationally, both for his performances and for the way he went about things. This is evidenced by the number of people here today to recognise Kieran's contribution to our state. When looking through tributes placed for Kieran on the Paralympic group page, it was clear that people will remember him for his positive can-do attitude, for his cheeky smile and for his willingness to give his time freely and generously, whether to mentor younger athletes, contribute to disability service organisations or assist anyone who asked for assistance. Three words appeared more than others, and I believe them apt in describing him: proud, loyal and humble.

There are a couple of stories about Kieran that are almost legendary within the Paralympic community, and I thought sharing these today would again assist in remembering Kieran's contribution and his approach. The first is around Kieran's ability to snap more bike chains than anyone thought possible. I am certainly no expert, but I understand that snapping a chain is

something that happens more frequently with tandem bikes. However, Kieran's ability was unparalleled. I remember hearing this story while at the games in London. Kieran and his pilot, Scott, were at the start of the time trial event, and straight after the gun, on first impact, snapped their chain due to the force exerted. Unable to restart, Kieran was noticeably dismayed, but just shrugged his shoulders and said, 'That's cycling.'

The second relates to the opening ceremony of the Beijing games. The movement was much more professional in Beijing than it had been just four years earlier, and much to Kieran's dismay, which he had voiced, the team hierarchy had put in place a blanket rule that any athlete competing on the first two days of the games was not allowed to march in the opening ceremony—a rule designed to improve performance. Usually, the athletes are left out the back standing up for hours before they march into the stadium.

I can quite safely say that I was tucked up in bed that night, but Kieran, on the other hand, had other ideas. The Australian team departed for the stadium, and Kieran was ticked off as remaining in the village. The story goes that the chef de mission of the team, the former Paralympic CEO Jason Hellwig, was getting ready to lead the team out. He turned around and was met with a cheeky smile by none other than Kieran. 'How did you get here?' Jason asked. Kieran replied, 'I waited for you to leave and then I jumped on the bus with the Chinese.' Kieran won gold the very next day.

The famous quote from the movie *Cool Runnings*, 'I feel very Olympic today,' in many ways embodies Kieran's approach to the games. He wanted to be part of them, every single part of them, and he had trouble stopping. During the launch of Kieran's book, titled *The Way I See It*, by His Excellency the Governor Hieu Van Le just last year, his uncle Andy, who is here today, talked about Kieran's ability to un-retire. His uncle said:

After each of his eight Paralympic games, spanning 28 years, (and winning many medals for Australia in a variety of sports), Kieran would retire...and then 'un-retire'. This was not entirely Kieran's fault.

Being such an excellent and successful athlete, the APC would invite Kieran and wife Kerry to a lavish lunch, where they would successfully tempt Kieran back on to a bike saddle by telling him about the tourist delights on offer at the Games.

Kieran Modra was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2014 Australia Day Honours, for 'significant service to sport as an athlete representing Australia at Paralympic Games, and to people who are blind or have low vision'.

To Kieran's wife, Kerry, to his three beautiful girls, to his wider family, friends and to the Paralympic community we express our most sincere condolences. Paralympics Australia Chief Executive Officer Lynne Anderson said it best:

Kieran is a giant of Australian Paralympic sport, not only because of his competitive success but also because of his wider contribution to the Paralympic movement across multiple sports over many years. He has left a legacy that will live on.

There are no truer words. Vale, Kieran Modra AM.

**Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (11:41):** Thank you very much to the member for Colton for bringing this motion to this place, and for his lovely, insightful words today. I, too, rise to offer my deepest condolences, love and sympathy to the family, friends, coaches, cycling partners and cycling and broader sporting teammates of Kieran Modra AM. A loving husband, father, son and friend taken way too soon when tragically killed when hit by a car a fortnight ago.

I know that Kieran's death has been deeply felt by people around the world who have been shocked by his passing. He will be gravely and sorely missed by many for years to come. Kieran was a giant of the Australian and global sporting community and of the Paralympic movement—not only for his many gold medals and his legendary willpower, grit and extraordinary determination, but also for his role as a leader, mentor and ambassador.

As many friends, colleagues and commentators have said of Kieran, he wanted to share. He was relentlessly caring. He was driven to do things for others, to empower them and to see everyone do and be their best. He extended the hand of friendship and mentorship to local people and to athletes and others across the world. It is clear that Kieran's kindness and willingness to lift others

was a gift to all he encountered and mentored. Through living his life so well, with such positivity and so generously, he made a difference to many.

Kieran has been described as humble, positive and respectful and as always wanting to show what was possible and what could be achieved. In a community that loves sport, sportspeople are powerful in terms of the messages they can convey, in terms of how they can shift and shape attitudes and in terms of how they can make people consider things and people differently. It is clear that Kieran's leadership and message was absolutely focused on encouraging everyone to follow their dreams and that whatever your ability, with hard work, passion and determination, you can achieve them.

Kieran used his power and leadership as a sportsperson to shift attitudes. In doing so, he immeasurably and indelibly strengthened and lifted our discourse and our way of accepting, including and celebrating all people. He took the time and used his energy to mentor others, to give them this message to positively influence them on their journeys. I understand that doing so brought him great joy.

As well as excelling on the track, including tandem cycling, Kieran was also an acclaimed backstroke swimmer and track and field competitor. He was multitalented, inspiring and very well loved and admired by all. After debuting at the 1988 Seoul Paralympics, Kieran went on to win five gold medals across track and field, swimming and cycling.

Throughout his career, as has been mentioned, he showed incredible mental, physical and emotional resilience, including overcoming serious injury to win gold at the 2012 London games. Despite breaking two vertebrae in a 2011 training accident, he went on to win those two cycling gold medals in London in what was an incredible feat of human endurance and perseverance.

At the 2004 games, Kieran recovered from a shocking crash in the semifinals to go on to win gold in the individual pursuit. In 2014, as was mentioned, he was rightly awarded the Member of the Order of Australia for services to the vision-impaired and sport. His five gold medals across three vastly different events over eight Paralympic Games is an incredible achievement. Friends and colleagues have described Kieran as being a relentlessly focused and determined athlete whilst being a kind and loyal gentle soul out of the arena.

Throughout his career Kieran showed us what people of all abilities can achieve, and he showed us all how you can live in a way that enables and encourages others to live their best possible life. Lynne Anderson, Paralympics Australia's Chief Executive says: 'His legacy will live on in future generations of athletes with disability.' I quote Ms Anderson, again:

Kieran is a giant of Australian Paralympic sport not only because of his competitive success but also because of his wider contribution to the Paralympic movement across multiple sports over many years.

This sentiment was certainly echoed as together our South Australian sporting community honoured Kieran with words and then in silence in deep unity at last week's South Australian Sports Awards.

For those who are left behind, particularly his wife, Kerry, and his beautiful daughters and all who loved him and who were touched by his generosity and kindness, again I offer my condolences and love to you. In doing so, I also say that I know that Kieran's legacy will live on, that he will continue to inspire future generations of sportspeople to achieve their best, that he will continue to make many children believe that they can follow and achieve their dreams and that he has shaped our community, our humanity, for the better. Vale, Kieran Modra.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (11:46):** I rise as well to speak today on the motion put forward by the member for Colton and commend him for doing so. I would like to take the opportunity to say a few words about Kieran Modra.

I did not have a personal relationship with Kieran. I did have the good fortune to admire and watch him from afar. In a previous life, I worked as a sports journalist and I did get to report on his great achievements on a number of occasions over more than a couple of decades, and he truly was an inspiration. He was from the West Coast. He was a good country person, and I will go on to talk about that country upbringing and how he was perceived by people he knew.

As we have heard, he represented Australia in the Paralympics in the sports of athletics, swimming and cycling and won medals in swimming and cycling. His wife was his pilot in his career at a number of games and, of course, the couple went on to have three lovely daughters as well. I will come back to that story talked about at the SA Sports Awards about how he met his wife and how he got her to pilot his bike.

His achievements were outstanding. In 2014, he was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia medal for significant services to sport and to low vision people. He attended eight Paralympic Games, from 1988 to 2016, winning a total of five Paralympic gold medals and five bronze medals across the two disciplines.

Modra trained incredibly hard, and on top of that he was a great bloke, and that is where I refer to that country upbringing. He was said by his coach to be a very quiet, humble and respectful person, which is truly to be admired, and they were the sentiments that came to me any time I spoke to people about Kieran Modra—again in my journalistic life or more recently as the minister.

Our own Premier, Premier Marshall, in fact went to school with Modra and remembers him as a great bloke as well. He was a great athlete. He represented Australia on the world stage. Every South Australian felt enormously proud when he was on the dais time and time again with the gold medals hanging around his neck, the Premier has been quoted as saying, and I think we all concur with that.

I would like to refer to the SA Sports Awards just the other night where Kieran was honoured. I know there were a couple of tables there of family, friends and supporters who played a big part in his career. A couple of stories were told, and it is often those stories that are told behind the scenes or in the back stalls that resonate with people. The member for Colton has already mentioned his Athens deselection, and I think it is one story that needs to be touched on again for a moment.

Imagine, in the lead-in to the games you are deselected and moved out of the village. You are told, fundamentally, that you are not going to compete. All the work, all the preparation, all the training that has gone into it—and you are removed from that. The emotional let-down, the emotional impact that would have on anyone, from my mindset, would have pretty much ruled you out of being able to physically get on the bike and, in Kieran's case, compete.

But after an emotional, lengthy battle, he was reinstated to compete at those games. It just shows the character of the person and the great intestinal fortitude he had to front up, get on the bike, put all that to one side and have the strength of mind and the physical capability to go on and win in that case two gold medals and a bronze on the tandem bike at those games. It is truly inspirational; and it was a very strong focus of conversation around the SA Sport Awards the other night.

Another story that really tickled my fancy relates to his wife and really put a smile on my face. He was looking for a partner on his tandem bike, as the story went. He said that Kerry would be the right person, so he arranged for that to happen. As his coach said, Kieran Modra was a very clever man. He got Kerry onto the bike, but he had an ulterior motive. He had a partner in the saddle, but she was a partner he wanted to court and wanted to date. It is a lovely part of their journey. Of course, they went on to have three beautiful girls, which is absolutely outstanding. I love the way he went about his business, and no-one was really surprised with the way he courted Kerry.

Another story left a smile on my face. It was relayed to me that when they were riding together in the lead-up to a competition Kerry had what they thought was an injury concern. She was not performing as she needed to be and questions were being asked. They were looking at what might be wrong and what the injury might be. It turned out to be the best sort of injury you could have—she was pregnant.

Again, that is another little part of their relationship that shows what a wonderful bond they had. It is fantastic that they had those wonderful memories of competing together, living together and having a life together, and no doubt Kerry and the girls are now sharing in the grief. My heart goes out to them and their family. If you can take a positive from this, it would be that they have so many wonderful memories together. I would implore them to cherish those memories because they are great memories.

As a sports journalist who got to watch his achievements on the television and report on them at times, as the Premier has said, every time he stood on the stage—and the picture is with me, as I am sure it is with everyone in this house—he had a beaming smile on his beaming face whenever he would get on the podium. The member for Colton described his cheeky nature very well. He competed for his country and competed for his family with great pride. He did his absolute best every time he got in the saddle, most specifically, in the bulk of his career when he was riding a bike, and we truly admire him for that.

Again, my heart goes out to the family. Kieran Modra will be remembered as an absolutely outstanding athlete, a wonderful competitor but, more importantly, a great bloke.

**Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (11:53):** I often meet people within the role of human services and spokesperson for disability who are inspiring, awesome and amazing, and I lament the fact that I did not meet Kieran Modra. I am quite envious of people who talk about him as a personal friend, training partner and athlete. I would like to share some of the thoughts I have about him and also share some tributes that have been offered to me to read out from the various people whose lives Kieran inspired and touched.

It is really a tragic loss to South Australia and the Paralympic community. At the time of the tragedy, they were in Dubai at the World Para Athletics championship. Following the news, I was in contact with a former teammate of Kieran (confusingly, another Kieran), Kieran Murphy, who is also a paracyclist and who was in Dubai. Kieran is here in the gallery today. He said that the loss was being felt hard by the Australian team in Dubai, but they were trying to focus on winning for Kieran.

Kieran Modra was an amazing athlete. I remember watching him in 1998. My husband and I would watch two flies crawl up a wall. Make no mistake, we are absolutely addicted to watching sport and competition and do try to cheer for the opposite side if we can just to put a bit of fun and spice into it. I remember, back in 1988, Kieran Modra being involved in athletics. I had to double-check myself on things because it is quite a journey to go from athletics to swimming to cycling.

I understand he won two bronze medals in 1992 in Barcelona in swimming. I do not think I can say I remember that, but I understand that to be the case. We have mentioned that he competed in a number of Olympics: Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000, Athens 2004, Beijing 2008, London 2012, and finally the Rio games as a tandem cyclist. I remember watching that particular race and cheering him on—I do not think he could hear me but I was as loud as I could possibly be—and at that point he won a bronze in the time trial.

We have also already mentioned that in 1997 he was given a medal, the Order of Australia, for significant service to sport as an athlete representing Australia at Paralympic Games. I think we could fill the entire day listing the achievements and the ways in which Kieran Modra inspired not just those of us in here but particularly those in the low vision and blind community. Kieran was a giant in the community, as has been said, as well as an inspiration and a visionary for everybody.

We have here today representatives from the Royal Society for the Blind, Guide Dogs SA and Can:Do 4Kids, as well as other people Kieran Modra has been friends with throughout his amazing life, and I am pleased to be able to read out a few tributes on their behalf. From the RSB we hear:

Kieran was a long-term friend of many and a huge supporter of the organisation. Kieran Modra had a profound impact on many individuals in the vision loss community. Generous with his time, over the years many young vision-impaired people have been mentored and supported by Kieran. From young kids just needing a few words of encouragement to potential Australian Paralympians benefiting from his mentoring and experience, Kieran showed a keen interest in them all.

It did not matter if they were going to make it or not, it did not matter what the level of talent or commitment, Kieran's message was simple and always about being the best person you can be. While others will speak of his great personal sporting achievements, of which there are many, at the RSB we will greatly miss the positive impact and influence he had on hundreds of young vision-impaired people over many years, for this is in many respects his true legacy.

Can:Do 4Kids, who are also here today, said:

Townsend House is proud to have been a part of Kieran Modra's journey. As a student at Hove's Townsend House, Kieran was known for his great wit and uncompromising zest for life. Going on to achieve international

recognition as a gold medal-winning Paralympian, he overcame his severe vision loss and made a success of everything life threw at him.

As a Can:Do 4Kids ambassador, Kieran continued to inspire those around him—both children and adults, blind and sighted—to make the most of all life has to offer. Kieran will be greatly missed by the staff and clients of Can:Do 4Kids, and our deepest condolences are with Kerry, Makala, Holly, Janae and everyone whose lives Kieran touched.

Lisa Pearce, who is a long-time friend of Kieran Modra, has also come today. She says:

He was my friend. He was a great inspiration to me and many others from the vision-impaired community. He was, and always will be, a reminder that it is not the vision impairment that will hold you back but how you approach life with that vision impairment.

I have also been speaking to another friend of mine, Rachael Leahcar, who cannot be here today. Rachael is a huge inspiration in the blind and vision-impaired community. She wants me to read the following tribute:

This world has lost a powerful soul in Kieran Modra. He was a passionate sportsman and inspired that uplifting spirit in everyone he met. He was a prominent and valuable member of the vision-impaired community, living his dreams and achieving goal after goal. He will be sorely missed but his legacy will live on.

As you can see, Mr Speaker and all here, Kieran Modra was truly a wonderful member of our community, loved by so many, no more so than his family and close friends.

The grief right now would be simply the worst thing that they have ever felt. The physical pain that this translates to is the most awful pain that just cannot be relieved. To Kieran's wife, Kerry Golding, and his three daughters Makala, Holly and Janae, nothing I nor any one of us can say today will ease your pain right now, but I and others in this chamber hope that you will one day find some comfort and happiness in the knowledge that Kieran was so loved and respected by South Australia, and this legacy is one you will carry with you forever. Vale, Kieran Modra. I commend the motion.

**Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (12:00):** I rise today to speak to and support the motion that has been brought here by the member for Colton. I thank him for doing that and thank other members who have contributed. The motion reads:

That this house expresses its deep regret on the passing of Paralympian Mr Kieran Modra AM and acknowledges his long and meritorious contribution to the sport of cycling, the Paralympic movement and our state.

Kieran Modra was a Paralympic tandem cyclist, competing in eight Paralympic Games across three sports, winning five gold and five bronze medals from 1988 to 2016—an extraordinary career. Kieran was born in Port Lincoln in 1972 and was born visually impaired, with juvenile optic atrophy. I know the Modra family quite well. I did not know Kieran, unfortunately, because he had moved from the district before I had the opportunity to meet him, but certainly I know his parents, Theo and Sylvia, and brother, Mark, who still farms on Lower Eyre Peninsula.

Kieran was born in 1972. He spent his early days out on Thistle Island, off the coast of Port Lincoln, which his father, Theo, owned. Like a number of the other islands off the coast of South Australia, it was run as a sheep station. Theo and the Modras generally were very hardworking and innovative farmers, and Theo came up with all sorts of wonderful systems through which he could manage his sheep station out on Thistle Island, but distance and geography became more difficult as the family grew older because the time came for the children to go to school. They did consider School of the Air. Father Theo also flew his own light aircraft and they did, for a short time at least, fly backwards and forwards between Thistle Island and Port Lincoln, but that was unsustainable of course.

On speaking to his older brother, Mark, it was an idyllic lifestyle. Who would not want to grow up on an island, being carefree, fun loving and having just the other family members to worry about? They moved back to the mainland and the family bought a property at Green Patch, just outside Port Lincoln, which they still own and continue to farm.

Our association with the Modra family goes back further than that. When my grandfather Colin moved from the Mid North to the Yeelanna district in 1926, his first job was with the Modras. He worked as a farmhand for, I guess, Kieran's great-grandfather it would have been, so, there you

go, we have had a long association. The family farm has expanded and they are now near neighbours of mine at both Edillilie and Yeelanna.

But we are here to talk about Kieran, and what a contribution he has made to the sport of Paralympics. He started his sporting career in athletics at the Australian All School Championships and the Seoul Paralympic Games. He then moved to swimming following a knee injury. This led to Kieran attending the Barcelona Paralympic Games, where he competed in both athletics and swimming, winning two bronze medals.

He switched to road and track cycling in 1995. He then attended the Atlanta games in 1996, where he was piloted by his future wife, Kerry Golding. They married in 1997 and had three children; my condolences go to them. With a long list of achievements to his name, Kieran also broke many world records and came home with many medals.

Awards he has received over the years include the Medal of the Order of Australia, in 1997; Australian Sports Medal, in 2000; Australian Paralympian of the Year; and South Australian Sports Institute Athlete with a Disability of the Year with Scott McPhee, in 2011. He was appointed a member of the Order of Australia in the 2014 Australia Day Honours for significant service to the sport as an athlete representing Australia at the Paralympic Games and to people who are blind or who have low vision. Also in 2014, he was the South Australian Sports Institute Male Athlete with a Disability of the Year with Jason Niblett. His list of Olympic achievements have already been covered well this morning.

Kieran heroically rode in his third consecutive Paralympic Games in London, one year after a significant setback due to a severe cycling accident that resulted in him breaking two vertebrae in his neck. His commitment to the sport and to the Paralympic Movement was significant, and the Paralympic Movement is indebted to Kieran's contribution. He left his sport in a better place than when he began. To quote his brother, Mark, whom I spoke to just a couple of days after Kieran's accident, 'Nothing was impossible [for Kieran], absolutely nothing. There was no such thing as can't.'

Our commiserations and condolences go to the Modra family: to his wife, Kerry, to his three children and to his mum and dad, Theo and Sylvia, whom I still see often in Port Lincoln; they are still out and about. I understand the hurt that they must be feeling. My condolences also go to his brother, Mark, and his sister, Tania, and their families. He was a larger than life human being. Not only has he left his sport in a better place than when he began, but this world is also a better place as a result of his contribution. Vale, Kieran Modra.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (12:07):** I rise to make some brief remarks on the motion brought to the house by the member for Colton. The member for Colton, himself a distinguished athlete and Olympian, should be congratulated for bringing this motion to us to consider, because the life of Kieran Modra has been not only one filled with extraordinary successes but one that has been very influential for many South Australians, both within the sporting community and beyond the sporting community.

Perhaps a bit like the member for Gibson, I did not know Kieran, but I was certainly aware of his remarkable sporting achievements. I cannot think of many other examples of a South Australian sportsperson who has had such a varied, successful and long sporting career. I perhaps know Kieran Modra in the same way that many other South Australians would: through reading in *The Advertiser* of his substantial successes and through seeing those reported on the nightly news. It is worth remembering that he became a successful Olympian, competing at the very highest levels, beginning at the Seoul Olympics in 1988, more than 10 years before the first Tour Down Under race was held in South Australia.

I raise that because now we regard cycling as a fairly popular pastime for a lot of South Australians, but that is only a recent phenomenon. During the course of his extraordinary career, Kieran Modra was one of the first South Australian sportspeople to really place cycling in the upper echelons of sports that could be pursued by South Australians.

I think it says a lot that someone from Port Lincoln can throw themselves into not just cycling but a range of sports and excel at each endeavour. I think it says a lot that someone from humble South Australia and from such a wonderful part of South Australia can do that. For South Australians who view that remarkable career, particularly children, that instils the realisation that any one of us,



given sufficient talent and endeavour, would also be able to achieve the sorts of sporting highs that Kieran did.

Although I did not know Kieran, I have in recent years come to know his sister, Tania, and her husband, Simon, as fellow residents of Largs Bay. It is remarkable that only 18 months before the Sydney Paralympics Kieran's sister, Tania, was introduced to tandem cycling to compete at the Sydney Paralympics. She not only competed as a pilot but also won, I understand, two gold medals, which is an absolutely remarkable achievement.

I cannot imagine how Kieran Modra's family must be feeling at such an awful tragedy. To have Kieran taken in such a tragic but also completely unforeseen circumstance must be literally wrenching to experience. I convey certainly my, and also this chamber's, sincerest condolences and sympathies to the family and the love, compassion and prayers that go with that for Kieran Modra. Vale, Kieran, for a life well lived.

**Mr COWDREY (Colton) (12:11):** I thank the Minister for Sport and the members for Reynell, Hurtle Vale, Flinders and Lee for their contributions to the motion this morning. I also thank the opposition for their goodwill in ensuring that Kieran was rightfully acknowledged in this place today. To the many family, friends and supporters, on behalf of the whole South Australian parliament, we again express our deep sympathy and condolences to each and every one of you. Today, we remember his absolutely monumental contribution to our state. I wholeheartedly support the motion.

Motion carried.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

**Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (12:12):** I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges that the principles of social justice, including gender equality and the rights of Indigenous and migrant South Australians, are critically important to the work of this house;
- (b) recommits to removing all barriers to true social equality in South Australia including age, race, gender, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability; and
- (c) congratulates the work of organisations on their social advocacy on behalf of all South Australians.

Social justice is a simple idea. It means that everyone in society, no matter who they are, where they come from, their age, their race, their gender, their occupation, their lifestyle, their sexuality, their health or their ability, has equal access to the same opportunities as everyone else. It is a simple idea, but it takes much work to deliver. When you live your life with the values of social justice, as I do, you know this work is never done, so we keep working. We keep working to break down the barriers that stop people living the life that they want to live.

As an MP, every day I come across instances of our society failing to deliver social justice and each of those failures troubles me. We fail to make sure that women are compensated for their work equally with the work of men. We still see too many instances of people discriminated against in the workforce due to physical ability and mental health problems. We still see too many people being disadvantaged by their personal challenges, rather than being supported to achieve their potential.

We know social justice goes undelivered over and over again to Indigenous Australians and migrants who want the same opportunities that everyone has but are not able to access them because of race, culture and religious discrimination. I also worry about the engagement of young people in our society. Too often, I hear from young people who feel they will never have the opportunities that their parents enjoyed. They want opportunities to learn, to be educated, to have a safe and affordable home, to live in a clean and safe environment, and to be engaged in the community, but all they see are roadblocks.

Today, we saw the data on rental affordability released by Shelter. Over the last four quarters, South Australia has dropped in terms of affordability in every single quarter. South Australia—our great state—is now second in terms of rental unaffordability. We have leapfrogged Sydney. To know that Sydney is a more affordable place to rent a home over Adelaide is shocking and we have to do something immediately to address this. If we do not, it will become a fait accompli:

our children will never have the opportunities that we have. Those who live with social disadvantage will never have the opportunity to progress through rental cycles through to home purchasing; it just becomes a pie in the sky.

All these roadblocks leave young people, vulnerable people, everyone who cannot access opportunities that they want, feeling frustrated, isolated, disenfranchised and resentful. We must do more to deliver social justice and that must be started here in this house. I want to acknowledge everyone in society who works to break down roadblocks—the barriers and the challenges—that stop everyone in this community achieving the outcomes that they want for themselves and for their families. To name those organisations, I would do an injustice.

Many, many organisations in the not-for-profit sector and, indeed, government organisations, do a great job breaking down barriers and supporting people to live the life that they want. But it is clear that we need to drive this. To everyone in this house who makes it their life's work to deliver more social justice and to the members of advocacy organisations who tirelessly work on behalf of their community, thank you for everything that you do. Let us keep up this fight. I commend the motion to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Dr Harvey.

### **SURF LIFE SAVING SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (12:17):** I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges the important role the surf lifesaving clubs in South Australia perform in keeping many of the state's popular beaches safe over the summer months;
- (b) recognises the many volunteers who serve on surf lifesaving patrols each weekend and on public holidays;
- (c) recognises the important role of surf lifesaving support operations, such as volunteer radio room operators, to support each club's patrol activities;
- (d) recognises the important role that first-aid officers and training officers perform to ensure club patrolling members are proficient each season; and
- (e) recognises the volunteer junior committees and age group managers that run junior nipper programs to teach the next generation how to be beach safe.

Here in parliament today, I take the opportunity to acknowledge the incredible work of Surf Life Saving South Australia and all its clubs around the state's precious coastline. The mission of surf lifesaving is to save lives, create great Australians and build better communities. There are 22 surf lifesaving clubs throughout South Australia, in both regional and metropolitan areas. Each club relies on volunteers to patrol some of South Australia's most picturesque beaches.

The Surf Life Saving South Australia 2019 Annual Report indicates there were just under 2,500 active patrolling lifesavers who, between them, provided 77,218 volunteer patrol hours, performed 307 rescues, 964 first-aid treatments, and 8,311 preventative actions for the year. The 2019-20 surf lifesaving patrol season commenced just recently, on Saturday 12 October. Volunteers will be serving on these patrols each weekend and also on the many public holidays that especially occur over the summer months, and the patrol season will continue until Easter Monday, which is on 13 April in 2020.

The Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club each weekend has two volunteer patrols running on both Saturdays and Sundays, with the first patrol starting from midday and running until 3 o'clock, and the second patrol running from 3 o'clock until 6pm. Similarly, on any public holiday, these patrols also operate from midday until 6pm. During January, the club also provides surveillance patrols on the weekends from 9 o'clock until midday, meaning there is a lot of patrol coverage on Glenelg Beach.

Overall, the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club has 11 patrol teams that operate diligently. While not being able to mention all the approximately 175 volunteer surf lifesavers, on behalf of their teams I would like to acknowledge the patrol captains: Grant Macauley, Neil Mangelsdorf, Jared Schenscher, Dave O'Shaughnessy, Lisa Harvey, Dan Everett, Lincoln Jeffery, Shane Harris, Rick

Woolford, Sarah Schenscher, and the captain of patrol 4, of which I am a patrolling member, Fernando Camacho.

The Marshall Liberal government recognises the importance of the state's surf lifesaving clubs and has provided \$420,000 of funding, which includes \$5,000 a year to each club for the next four years to help purchase front-line rescue equipment to make sure that the surf lifesavers are fully equipped to safely carry out the functions of their job. The patrol teams, like those mentioned, across all clubs in South Australia are supported by the surf lifesaving support operations team, such as the volunteer radio room operators, who support each club's patrol activities. The Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club's radio captain is Jamin Lee.

The important role that first aid officers and training officers perform to ensure the clubs' patrolling members are proficient each season should also be recognised. All Bronze Medallion holders at the start of each season have to demonstrate that their skills are up to date, and it is the club's training officers who ensure this is the case. In past seasons, Susie McCauley and Lisa Harvey have performed this role above the call of duty, and this year Amanda De Ieso also holds that responsibility alongside Sarah Schenscher.

The junior committees of the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club also work tirelessly to run a smooth program over the entire season. The junior chairman is Justin Ganley, and the junior nipper program runs each Saturday from late October, leading up to the state championships that are held in March. The nippers participate in a structured program of beach running, beach flags, wading, surf knowledge, sun safety, first aid and a variety of fun learning activities throughout the season. Practising these skills certainly helps the children develop confidence in the surf environment and also allows them to compete at both club and surf lifesaving state carnivals and represent their clubs.

While competition is an important element, the surf awareness and education aspect is the primary aim. Children are taught from the youngest of ages how to respect the surf and read the surf and use that surf to their advantage. While Glenelg Beach is a picturesque beach that does appear calm and safe, there are certainly risks present, and tragic drownings have occurred in unpatrolled parts of the beach. The community was deeply saddened when three young children drowned at the Glenelg breakwater, which is at the northernmost end of the beach.

On New Year's Day 2016, two 11-year-old migrant boys, who were friends, Frank and Thiery, drowned there, and in December 2017 a 15-year-old international visitor, Nitisha, also lost her life tragically near the Glenelg breakwater. The Deputy Coroner undertook an inquest and has just released the report into these drownings. While unfortunately we cannot bring back these three young lives, it is certainly incumbent upon us to put in place steps to help minimise the chances of any more drownings occurring. So I speak in parliament today to help raise awareness of the conditions of Glenelg Beach, not only for the people of Morphett who use the beach but also for the wider South Australian community.

On both occasions, the conditions were mild, temperatures were in the mid-20s and the wind was coming from the south-west, which is the prevailing wind on Glenelg Beach. The wind speeds were quite moderate, ranging between 20 km/h and 30 km/h, and the swell was between two to three feet, which is certainly not unusual for Glenelg.

All three children got into trouble between 5.30 and 6 o'clock. This is around the time lifesaving patrols start to pack up and come to an end and also when the wind and waves start to pick up. Former Glenelg Surf Life Saving club president Shane Daw assisted in the rescue of Frank and Thiery and gave evidence at the inquiry. This evidence is worth repeating here as it relates to drownings in Australian waters generally. According to the Deputy Coroner's findings, Mr Daw:

...pointed out that many drownings occur in waters that are benign or...perceived to be relatively benign and [where] people fail to appreciate a hazard or risk. Mr Daw stated that over 90% of drowning deaths actually involve Australian residents.

Mr Daw further stated that 'even competent swimmers can drown because they overestimate their swimming capabilities'. The danger of the Glenelg breakwater, or groyne as other people know it, is unseen from the shore. On the land side, the sand builds up and creates a land bridge at low tide from the beach to the groyne, which certainly makes it very accessible and also an attraction. In his evidence, Mr Daw said:

...suggested that people who are unfamiliar with the groyne and the waters surrounding it might be led to believe that the waters are benign. He said:

'...when you get certain conditions, particularly a south-westerly blowing, it blows into there on the southern side of it...all the water gets there and it will create a bit of a trough and create a rip-current which will then feed out from the south side running [along the groyne northwards].'

While most waters in Glenelg Beach are shallow, the water gets unexpectedly deep in the vicinity of the groyne. Swimmers who are at one moment wading in waist-deep water can quickly get into water that is over their head, especially near the groyne, which makes them susceptible to waves that can then push them into deep waters. Unfortunately, once in the water, the rip can then carry people very quickly around the rock groyne, which not only sees the water depth increase further but waves are crashing into the rocks, pushing anyone caught there into the rocks. The report found that Frank, Thiery and three other boys were moving:

...towards the northern end of the beach and began climbing onto and over the rocks at the southern end of the groyne. Having entered the water the boys found themselves in a current that was pulling them around the rocks.

The lifesaving personnel were in the process of packing up their equipment as it was very close to 6 o'clock and were at the end of their patrol. The report continues:

Lifesavers Todd Smith and Thomas Drew immediately drove in a utility to the scene picking up another lifesaver, Steve Dumican, on the way. The lifesavers entered the water to rescue the boys. One of the boys was rescued off the north-western side of the groyne by Todd Smith. Meanwhile, another boy was pulled from the water by a young adult who had accompanied the boys to the beach. By that stage many more lifesavers had joined in the rescue attempt.

The report went on to outline:

Nitisha and four other girls approached the shore and waded through the waters north of the jetty in the direction of the groyne. As the group approached the groyne the water, quite unexpectedly, became deeper and waves caused them to slip under the water. None of the girls were strong swimmers. Almost immediately the five girls were struggling in the water. Four of those girls were rescued either by lifesavers or members of the public.

The report continues:

Shane Harris was the lifesaving patrol captain on duty at Glenelg on that day...[and he] and another lifesaver, Benjamin Warr, then drove to the groyne...Mr Warr then entered the water in the southern areas of the rocks where he assisted another lifesaver pull another young person...from the water...

Lifesaver Jeremiah Packer was in the inflatable rescue boat and observed a girl face down and unresponsive in the water. He jumped from the boat and swam to her before pulling her to shore where he performed CPR. She remained unresponsive for some time but ultimately responded. All of those brought to shore on 10 December 2017 were taken to hospital and ultimately recovered.

Tragically, Nitisha remained missing and was not found until the following morning. The Deputy Coroner noted the efforts of the surf lifesavers and emergency services personnel to locate and resuscitate the rescued individuals involved in both incidents at Glenelg and stated that they were of high standard. All the surf lifesavers should be commended for their efforts helping to save the lives of the six children who survived. Certainly, the Deputy Coroner finds that everything that could have been done to save the lives of Thiery, Frank and Nitisha was done.

The Deputy Coroner outlined that the findings of the inquest were designed to serve as a public warning that accessing the groyne and swimming and wading in the waters adjacent to it are activities that are associated with significant danger and that these activities should cease. He also made a number of recommendations to try to minimise the likelihood of drownings in the vicinity of the breakwater at Glenelg Beach.

The Deputy Coroner recommended that there should be a public awareness campaign in relation to the dangers associated with the groyne situated at Glenelg Beach, and certainly in relation to the waters in the vicinity of that groyne, and that swimmers should confine their activity to swim in the area between the red and yellow flags that have been set up by surf lifesavers. It is certainly again worthy to emphasise that there has not been a drowning in the history of Australian surf lifesaving of people who have been swimming between the flags, so it is really important to reiterate to swimmers to try to swim between the red and yellow flags that are put up by lifesaving patrols.

The Deputy Coroner also noted that parents and caregivers should take responsibility for the safety of their children not only at Glenelg Beach but also at all beaches. He then went on to mention that, while significant signage had been put in place on and around the groyne not only warning of the dangers but also prohibiting swimming around the groyne and climbing onto the groyne, additional signage should be placed on the groyne in other sections to keep people off the groyne itself.

Another recommendation related to the extension of a lifesaving presence at Glenelg Beach beyond 6 o'clock on public holidays and weekends. I certainly believe that the Holdfast Bay council is considering increasing the time that the paid lifesavers are on patrol so that they patrol on business days when the volunteers are not patrolling, and looking to extend the time from 5 o'clock to 6 o'clock, and I certainly strongly support that view as well.

Another recommendation relates to the engagement and education of multicultural communities regarding water safety. Surf Life Saving SA has certainly recognised the need to engage with multicultural communities, and it has put in place the On the Same Wave program, which aims to teach children, international students and also Indigenous community groups how to stay safe at the beach.

I will finish by emphasising that the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club and its members, as well as all surf lifesaving clubs in South Australia, certainly provide and will continue to provide a professional and valuable voluntary service to South Australian beachgoers.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (12:32):** I rise to speak in strong support of the motion before the house put forward by the member for Morphett, and I congratulate him on doing so. I speak today more with my emergency services hat on to thank our surf lifesaving clubs for the great work they do, and Surf Life Saving South Australia for its work as well, and in particular each volunteer who patrols our beaches during the summer months.

Many members like me who have electorates on the coastline often see residents out in the water, swimming, fishing, participating in sports, walking their dogs or just enjoying the sun with their families. It is a big part of our culture, and South Australians love visiting our beaches. That is why our surf lifesavers are so very important. Around 2,500 volunteer surf lifesavers from 21 surf clubs patrol our beaches right across our state. An increase in drownings last season, as the member for Morphett has touched on, just proves how essential our surf lifesavers are to our community.

We know that 13 lives were lost last summer, and that is 13 too many. A staggering 300 people were saved from drowning at our beaches and coastlines last summer by a wonderful group of volunteer surf lifesavers. Surf lifesavers put in more than 71,000 hours of patrol across the state, resulting in more than 8,000 preventative actions. This shows how vital our surf lifesavers are to South Australia as well. These numbers are irrefutable.

Sometimes, we as a state underestimate how good our surf lifesaving clubs are. They keep our beaches safe and take action to provide water safety initiatives. So often people come to the beach. In fact, a lot of people who get in trouble live a number of kilometres from the beach, and we take it for granted on a lot of occasions, but the surf lifesavers are always there. Now is a great opportunity to make that point: they are volunteers, they are there helping our community and they are there to keep us safe.

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of congratulating Brighton Surf Life Saving Club at the official opening of their new club tower. The tower boosts beach safety along our beaches and is a much-needed resource for our surf lifesavers. Our dedicated Brighton surf lifesaving volunteers now have a much better view of the ocean and the beach, which helps them to do their job and keep us safe. Brighton Surf Life Saving Club has a long and proud history in my electorate of keeping Brighton Beach safe and is one of the largest and most successful clubs in the state.

This year also marked the 60<sup>th</sup> season of the Somerton Surf Life Saving Club—also a club with a very proud history. I had the pleasure of celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> season event with members at the season opening and presented to the club \$5,000 towards a much-needed surf boat ergometer

as part of the Active Club Program because their boat crews are truly outstanding and lead the state in many instances.

The club's 60<sup>th</sup> season also coincided with the unveiling of the Minda Dunes Coast Park walk, which has actually increased activity down at the Somerton Surf Life Saving Club. It is a beautiful park that connects my electorate with that of the member for Morphett's. The hive of activity that has been created there since the park came into play has brought more people to that beach and increased the workload for the Somerton club, and we thank them for that. We have seen many examples in the media where lifeguards are not always on duty, and we really encourage people—and we drive this message very hard and very strong—to swim between the flags when they are at the beach.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the President of the Brighton Surf Life Saving Club, Chris Parsons, for his countless years of service and the great work that he does, and President of the Somerton Surf Life Saving Club, Warwick Holland. As you know, these volunteer organisations do not operate without a swag of volunteers, so a big thankyou to all of them as well. I have the utmost respect for our surf lifesavers, as well as Surf Life Saving SA. Saving families and creating a fun and safe environment on a beach is such a wonderful thing they do.

As a government, we have been very proud to support the expansion and development of surf lifesaving clubs at Goolwa, Chiton Rocks and Christies Beach, just to name a few. We have also made sure that we support our surf lifesavers. We are delivering on an election commitment to make sure that each surf club receives \$5,000 each year to go towards equipment and to make sure that they continue to do the great work that they do.

Surf Babies and Little Lifesavers is another program that we funded at the election, and it has been really well received. This allows families to get their kids down to the beach at a very young age, get comfortable around the beach, be confident in the water, be confident with the waves and learn about beach safety, rips and all the dangers that might be there so that they are prepared as they get older as well.

We also funded a drone coverage for Surf Life Saving SA. They do the work over and above. People think that lifesaving work occurs only on the beach and around the beach, but the drones have been absolutely fantastic in adding to the aerial capability and working along with shark-spotting planes, shark-spotting drones and the rescue helicopter. It is a great complete aerial service that Surf Life Saving delivers.

Whilst we are on the topic of water safety, I mention that Kyle Chalmers is a VACSWIM ambassador and note that Surf Life Saving are a very big exponent of the VACSWIM program, which occurs early in the new year and reaches right across the state. A number of people over on the West Coast, as you would be aware, Mr Deputy Speaker, participate in VACSWIM. In fact, I am sure you probably did VACSWIM as a young person, coming from the beautiful town of Port Lincoln. That is where I think my mother did it. I did mine on Kangaroo Island.

Surf Life Saving have a great program to make sure that we get young people comfortable in and around the water to try to keep them as safe as possible. I mentioned Kyle Chalmers. He was in the mall today advocating for water safety and making sure that people are aware and conscious of being safe around water, and I thank him for his support.

Again, I commend the member for Morphett for this motion. Our surf lifesaving crews do an absolutely outstanding job. I reiterate the point that when you do go to the beach make sure you swim between the flags so that you have the best possible coverage from those lifesavers who are there helping you out. I thank them all for this service, for their countless hours of volunteering, and would have them know that as a government we truly respect what they do and thank them for their service.

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (12:39):** I also rise to support this very worthwhile motion. I do have some coastal areas in my electorate, although somewhat limited. I have one surf lifesaving club at Whyalla, a very active club. The thing about that club is that there is no surf. It is a tidal beach in a low energy, northern end of an inverse estuary, so there is no surf.

I think it has been designated as one of the safest beaches in the whole of Australia. I am not aware of a single drowning fatality, thank God. I do remember—and this goes back many, many years—someone being barbed by a stingray, but I do not think there have been any drownings. As I said, there is no surf. The tide goes out and it is a leisurely walk out to the blue line, and you can go and get yourself a feed of crabs and razorfish.

There is another area that the Whyalla Surf Life Saving Club covers, and that is Point Lowly. Given that particular configuration, you do not get a clean break but you do get waves and you can body surf on those waves. You can get your boogie board out when the conditions are right and have a bit of a ride there. There is always water there, and that attracts people to that beautiful beach.

Yesterday, we reflected upon the Country Fire Service and the amazing voluntary effort they undertake, at times putting their own lives at risk. Our surf lifesavers, in the same manner, also volunteer all around our coast. It is been mentioned that 13 lives were lost through drowning last year, but 300 lives were saved. Without our clubs many of those would not have been saved, so the contribution they make to our state is amazing and they are to be commended for the work they do. When it comes to Whyalla there is always a backbone of a club that keeps things going, so I want to acknowledge Phil and Annette Zubrinich, who for many years have committed their time to the club in Whyalla.

In addition to having a surf club without any surf, I also have a yacht club with no water. I have one on the water, but I have a yacht club up in Andamooka and there is no water there. There was an ancient sea going back many years, many millions of years, but there is no water. Thank God the pubs all have beer, that is all I can say: a surf club with no surf and a yacht club in Andamooka with no water. The yacht club in Whyalla does have water. I commend all the voluntary effort that goes into the clubs throughout this state and the great work they do.

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (12:43):** I will just wrap up by thanking other members in this house for their support and the member for Gibson and the member for Giles for their thoughts. I also note that the member for Colton indicated he would have spoken, but he is hosting people in tribute to Kieran Modra.

It is interesting to hear other people concur regarding the importance of surf lifesaving clubs in keeping the beaches here in South Australia very safe and the many volunteer hours they perform. Again, I just remind people that the safest place to swim at any beach is between the red and yellow flags that have been set up by the patrols. They have assessed the weather conditions and the wave conditions and determined that that is the safest place, at that time, to swim. It is not always the same week to week; it does change with conditions, and that is why the surf lifesavers put up the flags, so please swim between them.

If you are swimming at a patrolled beach, it is also worth mentioning to at least take the time to try to assess the conditions. Do not just turn up to the beach and take off your clothes—so you just have your bathers on, I should mention that—and then jump in. Make sure you really assess the conditions and do not just wade in anywhere. Certain parts of the beach are more dangerous than others, and we should look to be safe not only this summer but at all times during the year.

Motion carried.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the house.

*A quorum having been formed:*

#### UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (12:46):** I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges Universal Children's Day on 20 November 2019;
- (b) acknowledges the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20 November 1959;
- (c) acknowledges the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20 November 1989; and

- (d) affirms its commitment to honouring and enacting the four core principles of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child—namely, non-discrimination; devotion to the best interests of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and respect for the views of the child.

I might use this opportunity to inform the house of some of the opportunities I have had throughout this year to go and look at child protection models internationally. As you would all know, we obviously fork out our own money in opposition to do these things, and that is important to outline, because certainly when I have spoken with—

*Mr Duluk interjecting:*

**Ms STINSON:** Sorry?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Continue, member for Badcoe. There will not be any interjections.

**Ms STINSON:** Certainly when I have spoken with members of the public about the fact that, as an MP, we sometimes travel overseas to research different matters in our area of responsibility, people sometimes erroneously think that taxpayers money is used for that travel. I just make the point that those of us on this side—and on the other side as well, if that was the point the member was making—do use our own funds to do these things. That is a point I want to make clear for anyone who may be sitting back in their homes watching this broadcast, as I am sure mobs of people are doing right now.

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** Hundreds.

**Ms STINSON:** Hundreds, exactly—I am sure that they are very interested in the work of this house. Much earlier in the year, in January and February, I went over to Jamaica. You may not think that Jamaica is necessarily a place you would go to check out child protection, but I will elaborate on the reasons for that in a moment. I was also very lucky to spend almost a month in the United Kingdom, particularly in Scotland and right across parts of England, which I found very informative. I know the minister also travelled over there this year. I will go over some of these learnings from over there as well.

First, when I went to Jamaica I was fortunate to be hosted by the Salvation Army and other groups, including the child protection agency for the government of Jamaica. I spent 3½ weeks working in a residential care facility run by the Salvation Army, and it was an absolutely fascinating experience. This particular centre was in a more rural area of Jamaica, about two hours out of Kingston, and in an absolutely picturesque location with beautiful rolling hills. This community was in a valley.

Each day, I got to walk to work at the Salvation Army residential care facility and spend time with about 60 children who were growing up there. They ranged in age from little babies—one little baby was only two months old—right through to 16 and 17 year olds. Roughly, there was a gender split of fifty-fifty.

There were some buildings allocated just for the girls and others just for the boys, and there were some communal facilities, including a dining hall and some recreational spaces. There was quite a lot of outdoor space as well, including some sporting facilities. Also on the property is a school, mainly for primary and early education. Up the hill and next door is the local primary school and further down is the high school, so it is particularly well located and it actually has a view over the village itself.

This facility is certainly not run in a way that would be familiar to most people working in child protection in Australia, but there are a huge number of similarities that I observed when I was there, and one is the nature of the reasons why children come into care. Children who were in care in Jamaica were there for much the same reasons as those in Australia: issues of neglect, issues of sexual and physical abuse, abandonment and, probably much more than in Australia, poverty. Poverty is certainly a reason why some children were put into care, though I would have to say that the instances of neglect and abuse were much more predominant in the children who were in this centre.

The things that the children would talk to me about were pretty similar to the things that young people in Australia, South Australia and Adelaide would talk about as well, both in terms of children who are in the care system and in terms of children who are growing up in the safety of their own



families. Particularly the teenagers raised relationships with you, and they raised quite a lot about technology and how it was used for the better—for their education and for entertainment.

They also spoke about how technology, particularly social media, was having an impact on them and the exposure of young people to potentially dangerous and certainly adverse material. It was quite concerning to see children come into contact with that kind of material, which was often violent or sexual material. Of course, we know that that happens here in Australia as well. It is a cause of great concern, not just for parents but also for children who are in state-run facilities or NGO-run facilities here.

It really struck me that the kids who are in these facilities a world away in Jamaica are battling the same issues and dealing with the same concepts as children right here in Australia, even though we might think of somewhere like Jamaica as being so different from us. The issues the facility itself was dealing with were also quite similar to ours: not enough funding for what they want to do, trying their best to look after the wellbeing of children and teaching them good behaviours so that all these children could get along.

Obviously, the make-up of the facility was quite different from ours here. Of course, we do not have very large facilities like that one, where there are 60 children all cohabiting. I have to say that that I was impressed with how well it was managed, considering the huge number of children who were there. The other thing that really struck me was the approach to child protection across the Jamaican community.

Jamaica is a very religious society and one in which almost every house is empty on a Sunday because Sunday mornings are for church. Everyone goes to church in Jamaica, in every little rural town and in the capital, Kingston. That is definitely a feature of life. The church is a big feature of life in Jamaica, and maybe that has some influence on the way that they see child protection matters. The approach taken in Jamaica is definitely one of a village approach, if you like. There was a huge emphasis on looking after your neighbour, knowing what your neighbour is up to and taking an interest in the welfare of your neighbour and that includes, of course, their children.

I was really lucky to live with a family the whole time I was over there. The matriarch of that family was a woman in her late 60s who was a former school principal. She was an incredibly kind, generous and giving person. Obviously, she and her family gave up their time to look after me for almost a month. In her home, she had two little children. Initially, I thought those two children were her grandchildren, but it turned out that they were her neighbour's children.

She explained to me that being a good community member she took an interest in what was happening in her street, and when her neighbour's husband left, leaving her with six children to look after alone, it was quite natural that she decided to go next door and see what she could help with, and that included offering to care for two of her neighbour's children.

I found that to be an absolutely remarkable and generous thing to do—to offer to look after someone else's children, who is your neighbour, not your blood relative and you do not owe them anything, and say: 'I will take on your children. I will raise them, I will take them to school, I will help them do their homework, I will feed them, I will bathe them and I will clothe them,' so that these children could grow up in a safe environment but also be close to their siblings and their mother, who would be living right next door. It meant a minimum of disruption for these children but a maximum of care for them. Additional resources, I suppose, could be put towards the other four children who were still living in the home.

As I travelled through Jamaica, I realised that this was not unusual at all. This woman was not doing something that was extraordinary in Jamaican culture. In fact, she was doing something that was really an obligation in that society. There were many people, a lot of grandmothers but also others, who were taking on the responsibility of children, often unrelated, in their community. There is certainly an aspect of that from church teachings that came down through society, but I think it is more than that as well. It is not just a reflection of the church teachings.

The thing that I take from that—that so many people in that community see themselves, as community members, as responsible for bringing up children—is that that perspective is something we can certainly learn from. When we look at how our child protection system is run, there absolutely

is a system where people might have genuine concerns about the safety of children, and the idea in our society is that if we report those to an authority, as some people are required to do through mandatory reporting, for example, someone else will take care of it, that the state will look after it and that it is the state's responsibility to intervene and ensure that children are safe and that simply by making a report to an authority our job is done.

We believe that it is someone else's responsibility to make sure that that case is investigated and that it is someone else's responsibility to make sure that resources are found to look after the family. I think what that experience in Jamaica teaches us is that we each have a responsibility to look around our community and see how we can actually help. When I was in the UK, I found that some of those messages from Jamaica were reinforced in some of the ways that the UK was carrying out its practices. I was lucky enough to go to about 15 different council jurisdictions and speak with them about how they roll out their child protection mechanisms. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

*Sitting suspended from 12:59 to 14:00.*

*Parliamentary Procedure*

**PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Independent Commissioner Against Corruption South Australia—  
Evaluation of the Practices, Policies and Procedures of the City of Playford  
Council, 27 November 2019

Local Government Annual Reports 2018-19—  
Coorong District Council  
Kingston District Council

By the Attorney-General (Hon. V.A. Chapman)—

Freedom of Information (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2019—  
Draft for Comment

By the Minister for Child Protection (Hon. R. Sanderson)—

Guardian for Children and Young People—Annual Report 2018-19

By the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development (Hon. T.J. Whetstone)—

Response to the Report of the Select Committee on the Moratorium on the Cultivation of  
Genetically Modified Crops in South Australia—  
Government Response 26 November 2019

*Parliamentary Committees*

**LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:03):** I bring up the 31<sup>st</sup> report of the committee.

Report received.

*Question Time*

**SUBMARINE PROGRAM**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:04):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier assure the workers of ASC that they will retain their jobs at Osborne delivering the maintenance work as part of the full cycle docking program of the Collins class?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:04):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. He hasn't asked many questions regarding this subject. In fact, he has not been doing much on this issue whatsoever, but it is a good opportunity—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —to provide an update to the house on the work that has been done.

*The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for Lee!

*Mr Duluk interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Waite!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** It is a good opportunity to provide an update to the house on exactly and precisely what has been done. As you would be aware, the federal government has been undertaking a review to determine where its overall maintenance for the submarines will occur into the future. A decision was made many years ago, of course, to move mid cycle docking and intermediate docking to Western Australia. Full cycle docking stayed here in South Australia, and that was done because we had the skills in place to make sure that that was done effectively.

For many years, the performance of, or the availability of, the Collins class submarine was not at a level which the Royal Australian Navy required. The ASC worked extraordinarily hard to make sure that not only did the team at Osborne meet the Royal Australian Navy's availability requirements but also that they massively exceeded the Royal Australian Navy's requirement, and this is one of the reasons why we genuinely believe that we must keep the full cycle docking here in South Australia.

Of course, there is an argument that this is maintenance work and so it should move to Western Australia. South Australia is the home of the construction. Western Australia is going to be the home of maintenance, but our argument is very clear: this is not maintenance work. Full cycle docking is essentially the rebuilding of the submarine. It requires very specialist skills, and they only exist here in South Australia.

In fact, South Australia is the only place in the world with a significant core of people with detailed expertise and knowledge about the Collins class submarine. They reside here in South Australia. We have specialist design, engineering and construction work. The Western Australians are arguing that this should be somehow separated out: that design and engineering work should be done in South Australia; construction work or fabrication work should be done in Western Australia. This would be absolutely disastrous.

Imagine separating those two critical functions 2,000 kilometres apart. This would not work. We have worked hard every day that we have been in government to build the case to make sure that the full cycle docking jobs remain here in South Australia. A big part of that has been to negotiate with the commonwealth regarding the availability of the land that it needs on the Lefevre Peninsula to ensure that we can do all the new construction work for the Future Frigates, the construction work for the Attack class and, of course, the continuation of the full cycle docking. We have given that assurance to the commonwealth.

The other major area of concern has been around the availability of skills, and that's why on coming to government we set about immediately developing a maritime ship construction and maintenance skills plan. Even before that was completed, in our very first budget we put \$200 million on the table for new apprenticeships and traineeships in South Australia.

We completed last year our skills plan. We are working to implement that skills plan. We are fully aware that the Western Australian government has its bid—bid—on the table to win the work. We presented the commonwealth government with the update plan that we have had in place for a long period of time. This is the home of the Collins class submarine. We have done an excellent job

in this state making sure that the Collins is available for the Royal Australian Navy, and I expect that will continue well into the future.

**The SPEAKER:** The members for Waite, Lee and Wright are called to order. The leader.

### **SUBMARINE PROGRAM**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:08):** My question is to the Premier. Is the Premier concerned about the impact of the high profile effort from the Western Australian government made through formal submissions, business cases and advertising campaigns to the commonwealth for the full cycle docking work of the Collins class?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:09):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Deputy Premier and the member for Badcoe are called to order.

*Ms Hildyard interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Reynell is also called to order. The Premier has the call.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** Thank you very much, sir, and I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I think this now doubles all questions he has asked on this topic since he has been Leader of the Opposition, so I am glad that he has actually woken up—

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** Premier, please be seated for one moment. There is a point of order.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** That is clearly debate, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** The point of order is for debate. I have the point of order.

**An honourable member:** That's wrong.

**The SPEAKER:** Premier, I would ask you to come back to the substance of the question and for members to cease interjecting, please. Premier.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** Thank you very much, sir. I was just exclaiming with delight the question, and I thank the Leader of the Opposition for this question. It's a good question. Yes, the Western Australians—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —have a different approach to the approach that we have taken. We have worked diligently and assiduously to gather the information that is required by the commonwealth to make a decision, which is really not about jobs being in one state or another state: it's actually about our national security. That's what this is exactly, and—

**The Hon. S.C. Mullighan:** This sounds like capitulation.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Lee is now warned.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** This is what this issue is 100 per cent about, and that is about our national security. Our submarine capability is one of our most important pieces of sovereign defence capability and it needs to be available for the Royal Australian Navy. This is why any decision regarding where the full cycle docking is going to be will affect that sovereign capability, and that's why we are arguing so hard.

The Premier of Western Australia can choose his tactics. We have been asked by the Prime Minister and cabinet, and the people who are ultimately providing the advice to the Prime Minister and cabinet, to answer detailed questions regarding our capability. I am 100 per cent convinced that we have provided every single, solitary piece of detail that they have required. We have commissioned independent studies. They have all supported our argument that it remains the best

place for these submarines to undertake the full cycle docking here in South Australia and, as I said, I expect this to continue into the future.

I know that there are some people who think that this should be prosecuted through the media. I note that there was a pamphlet produced by the dream factory earlier today that was out on the front steps of parliament, and this is what they offer—

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** There is a point of order. Premier, please be seated for one moment. The point of order?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** That is clearly debate.

**The SPEAKER:** I have the point of order. There were several facets to the question. Minister for Education.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** The question was actually about whether a media campaign was something that concerned the Premier, so a response that reflects an alternative media campaign is entirely relevant.

**The SPEAKER:** I have the question. There are several facets to it, including advertising to the commonwealth government and whether the Premier was concerned. I am listening very carefully and, if the Premier deviates too far, I will bring him back into line. Premier.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** To me, the question was all about the tactics with regard to this. We have outlined our tactics. The Leader of the Opposition is asking whether we should have looked at the other tactics, and I am just running through because we have already made very clear that the Western Australian Premier is using his megaphone diplomacy to try to push for the work to move there. We are using facts that are borne out by evidence that it remains here.

The Leader of the Opposition might have other ideas. He did offer to this house some time ago that he had been down to Osborne and called a press conference. This was part of his campaign. We don't think that this had any effect whatsoever on Canberra. In fact, it didn't have any effect on his own colleagues because it was quite clear that Bill Shorten didn't back the full cycle docking work staying here in South Australia. On the most recent—

**Mr Brown:** Who's making the decision?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Playford is called to order.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —visit by the Australian Labor Party's leader, nationally, on his most recent visit here to South Australia he didn't support full cycle docking work staying here in South Australia.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** Well, we are extremely clear—

*Mr Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Leader!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** We are very clear on this side of the house. We are 100 per cent adamant that the work should stay here in South Australia, but we are not just talking about it. We put action into place, and we are making sure that we put ourselves in the very, very best position to retain that work.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I want to take the opportunity to welcome today workers from ASC and leaders of the AMWU, AWU, CEPU and Professionals Australia. We also have with us today Lesley

and Malcolm Ball, who are here celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and they are hosted by the member for King. I welcome all of you to parliament. The leader and then the member for Heysen.

*Question Time*

### SUBMARINE PROGRAM

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:14):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier assure the house that he has made a formal submission on behalf of the government of South Australia—a written submission—to the federal government setting out why South Australia should retain the full cycle docking work of the Collins class submarine? If so, will he make it public?

**Mr Pederick:** Oh, my God.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Hammond is called to order. The Premier has the call.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:14):** I know that is only his third question on this, but if he had listened to just one of the other two answers he would already know the answer to that. We certainly have had detailed discussions and submissions—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for West Torrens is on the board. We have the question. I would like to hear the Premier's answer. Premier.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** As I was saying, we have had detailed discussions and submissions to the commonwealth to representatives, both Tony Dalton and Tony Fraser, who are charged with the responsibility of developing the recommendations of options that will ultimately go to the National Security Committee, which is a subcommittee of the federal cabinet.

We also have further detailed information, which was published on the web last week and which has also gone to the federal government. I really think that rather than spending your entire time on Adobe 1, doing your flimsy red pamphlets and trying to scare people in South Australia, you might like to avail yourself of the facts—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** It would be useful if we had an opposition in South Australia—

*The Hon. L.W.K. Bignell interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Mawson!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —who took these matters seriously, took briefings from Defence SA on the progress—

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order: that is clearly debate, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** The point of order is for debate. The question was relatively specific.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** Submissions have been made.

**The SPEAKER:** Has the Premier finished his answer?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** Yes, thank you.

### SUBMARINE PROGRAM

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:16):** Supplementary: will the Premier make his submissions that he has written public?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:16):** Well, one of them is—

*Mr Patterson interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morphett is called to order.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I would have thought the expert in strategy might not have wanted us to give our submission to the Western Australians. This guy is such a brain box. This is the guy who is leading the Australian Labor Party, the guy who wants to be the Premier of South Australia. You are not worthy. You are hopeless.

**The SPEAKER:** The Premier is referring to the Leader of the Opposition and he will be seated. Has the Premier finished his answer? The Premier has completed his answer. He has finished his answer. Member for West Torrens.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Sir, I have a couple of points of order. He did not respect—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —the authority of the Chair, accused you of all sorts of improprieties, then implied an improper motive on the Leader of the Opposition, and it was debate.

**The SPEAKER:** I thank the member for West Torrens. I have sat the Premier down and I am moving on to the member for Heysen.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier is called to order.

#### **BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS**

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:17):** My question is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. Can the minister please inform the house how the government is protecting and preparing our community in the lead-up to summer?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:18):** I thank the member for Heysen—

*Mr Boyer interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Wright is warned.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —for his very important question. As everyone in this house would know, no-one is working harder than the member for Heysen to make sure his community is prepared for the important summer ahead. As we know, as the weather starts to warm up and the sun begins to shine, we need to be doing all we can to make sure we are as prepared as possible for the summer ahead. The Marshall government is delivering on protecting and preparing our community for when the summer does come.

The Marshall government is committed to building a safer South Australia and resourcing our emergency services with the facilities and equipment they need to carry out their vitally important work. Today, I was proud to announce the next steps forward in a long overdue, new, purpose-built emergency services command centre. The new home for our emergency services will be constructed on Richmond Road in Keswick, boosting South Australia's command and control capabilities for the CFS—

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Point of order, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, be seated for one moment.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** This information is all publicly available and I have sent you the link.

**The SPEAKER:** At the moment, the information the minister is providing appears to be, on the face of it, very similar to a media release. I will listen to ensure that the rest of the minister's answer—the whole of it—is not on the website, per our convention.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** I am glad those opposite are paying attention to what we are delivering on this side because for 16 years they did not deliver.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** They want to stand over there and make noises, but I hope they are excited with what we are delivering for the people of South Australia. As I mentioned, this will bring the CFS, SES, MFS and SAFECOM together—some great bodies within South Australia that do outstanding work in their own right—collaborating and working in this facility. This facility will be of island technology. What that means—so those on the other side understand because they never delivered it and we are delivering on this side—is that this will be a unit whereby, in the case of a disaster or a catastrophe, it will be able to be stood up of its own accord.

It will be an island, in that it will be self-sufficient and stand alone. It will have electricity, it will have backup generators, it will have all the support it needs. It will also be earthquake proof. We know that we don't have a command centre that fits this bill, and this will be delivering this for South Australia. There will be 185 jobs in the process as well, creating jobs here in South Australia and delivering for the people of this state. Three hundred employees and volunteers will be based out of there and, again, the collaboration of these organisations is what we are looking to see.

What we will also get is the state ready reserve strike team. What this does is it gives more capability to our firefighters to make sure—

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Point of order: I haven't heard anything, apart from debate, that isn't in the press release.

**The SPEAKER:** I have the point of order. With respect to the minister, he is certainly not reading what is on the media release, but I will be listening attentively to his answer.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** I have the point of order. I am listening to the minister's answer.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. It is important those on the other side listen because for 16 years what we are outlining here is what they didn't deliver.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Point of order, member for Lee.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** This is debate, referring to the opposition.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, I ask you to come back to the substance of the question. Some compare and contrast is allowed, however, to a point.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Elizabeth is called to order, as is the member for Reynell.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** I was talking about the state ready reserve strike team and the extra capability that will give, and the pleasure that gave the agencies as we announced this today with the CFS, SES and MFS all standing together, all united to make sure that we are working together to create a safer South Australia. This is something that we haven't had in the past, that was lacking for 16 years, that we are delivering as the Marshall Liberal government. We are very proud of that.

Amongst the other things we are delivering, of course, as we go into the summer is our fixed-wing aerial capability that will be spotting for sharks along the coast. It does a marvellous job running from North Haven to Rapid Bay, along with the helicopter that does an outstanding job. I saw it in operation just last weekend in my local community there, making sure it ushers people out of the water and keeps them safe. The drone capability, again, is adding to that aerial capability.



The key theme here of what I am saying—and they don't like to hear it on the other side—is we are increasing resources and increasing services for South Australia. We are building a better South Australia, a safer South Australia, and we are delivering better emergency services.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kurna) (14:22):** My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier stand by his statement to the house yesterday that he was sure that it is the case that his chief executives are expected to answer truthfully to parliamentary committees, and has his Chief Executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan, met that standard?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:23):** I stand by all my answers yesterday.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kurna) (14:23):** My question is to the Premier. What is the Premier's response to his Chief Executive of SA Health Dr Chris McGowan's visit to Perth to inspect the Silver Chain Integrum program now that the Premier has had 24 hours to consider the matter?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:23):** What was the question, sir?

**The SPEAKER:** Can we have the question repeated.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cheltenham, is he talking to himself? Member for Kurna, can you please repeat the question once.

**Mr PICTON:** My question is to the Premier. What is the Premier's response to his Chief Executive of SA Health Chris McGowan's visit to Perth to inspect the Silver Chain Integrum program now that the Premier has had 24 hours to consider the matter?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I am not sure what he means by 'what is my response'. Response to you? Response to the situation?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The deputy leader is called to order.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I think we made it extraordinarily clear yesterday that this issue has been referred by Dr McGowan himself to the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment. My understanding is that she is appointing a person to conduct an independent investigation and we will wait for that—

**Mr Malinauskas:** No, that's a different issue. Pay attention.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —issue to come back.

*Dr Close interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The deputy leader is warned.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** Yesterday, I suggested to those opposite that if they had concerns they should provide that information to the—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Elizabeth is warned.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —Commissioner for Public Sector Employment. The question is whether or not they did that, or whether they just want to come in here casting aspersions on the nature of the Chief Executive of SA Health. I don't know whether the opposition—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Leader!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —has provided that information, but there is nothing further to add to my comments yesterday.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:25):** My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier or his office spoken to his Chief Executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan, in the past 24 hours and asked Dr McGowan to explain his conduct and whether he was accurate in his statements to parliamentary committees; and, if not, why not?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:25):** I have not spoken with Dr McGowan in the past 24 hours.

**GRID SCALE STORAGE FUND**

**Ms LUETHEN (King) (14:25):** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Can the minister update the house on the Marshall Liberal government's plans to deliver increased grid-scale storage across the state?

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:25):** Yes, I can. Thank you to the member for King, who understands how important our Grid Scale Storage Fund is to helping make electricity more affordable for all South Australians, including the people she represents in the electorate of King.

Mr Speaker, you would be aware that we went to the last election with a very clear energy policy. You would also be aware that for a couple of years at least before the last election the Premier, then opposition leader, and I did everything we could to encourage the previous state government to support grid-scale storage, to make—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Giles is called to order.

**The Hon. L.W.K. Bignell:** They're kidding themselves.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Mawson is warned.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** —our often overabundant renewable energy in South Australia affordable, reliable, usable and dispatchable on demand when consumers want it. There are a few people opposite—I know not all of them—who try to make fun of this, but they would only have to turn to page 9 of our energy policy to see this written down. They would only have to refer to the dream factory and ask the dream factory to bring back the dozens and dozens of quotes from the previous years.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Let those opposite scoff, but pay—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Waite is warned.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** —them no attention whatsoever. We have announced that part of our \$50 million Grid Scale Storage Fund will be used to double the capacity of the Hornsdale battery near Jamestown, happily in my electorate of Stuart. But more than doubling the capacity of the battery, what we will also do is increase the breadth of services that it provides to the electricity grid. A lot of people think of grid-scale storage just as somewhere that you store your energy, and then when you don't have enough you take it out. While there can be a component of that, far more importantly these batteries—and we actually now have four of them in the state, in large part thanks to the Marshall Liberal government's energy policy—can be used—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The leader is warned, as is the member for Lee.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** These batteries can be used for frequency control, for voltage control, for inertia delivery.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Giles is on two warnings.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Mr Speaker, you would also know that, when the previous government installed the 100-megawatt battery at Hornsdale, we said, 'Well done. About time you followed our advice.' They deserve credit for that.

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for West Torrens is warned.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** We are increasing the capacity of the battery by 50 per cent, but as well as frequency control, adding voltage control—

*Mr Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Leader!

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** —and adding inertia capacity as well. We need this inertia because the previous government let the Port Augusta power station close. They were given an offer—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Cheltenham is warned.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** —to keep the Port Augusta power station open for an additional three years—

*Mr Boyer interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Wright is on two warnings.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** —and they chose not to do it. The Port Augusta power station used to provide that inertia. We will do everything we can, in partnership with industry, to bring that inertia capacity back into the state. This is a very positive announcement for our state. Importantly, this is not grant funding either. This is actually going to be funding for service: \$15 million, \$3 million per year over five years if and when Neoen delivers the services to the grid, which we believe this increase in capacity will deliver to us. We will not be spending money unless taxpayers get benefits.

**The SPEAKER:** If the level of interjections continues on my left, members will be departing. The member for Kaurana.

#### **MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurana) (14:29):** My question is to the Premier. Is the Premier aware that your Chief Executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan, made an assertion to the Budget and Finance Committee on 23 July 2018 that he had certainly not—

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

**The SPEAKER:** I will hear the question.

**Mr PICTON:** —attended any Liberal Party fundraisers?

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, point of order?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** When the member says, 'Is the Premier aware that' and then attempts to insert facts without leave of the house, he is disobeying standing order 97.

**The SPEAKER:** For breaching standing order 97—

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** A point of order on the point of order.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Those facts are before the parliament—the Budget and Finance Committee.

**The SPEAKER:** From the way it was phrased, I am going to uphold the Minister for Education's point of order. I am going to ask the member for Kaurna to rephrase; if not, we will move on. The member for Kaurna.

**Mr PICTON:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Did your Chief Executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan, tell the Budget and Finance Committee that he had certainly not attended any Liberal Party fundraisers?

**The Hon. S.S. Marshall:** Could we have the question repeated?

**The SPEAKER:** Could we have that question repeated.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** In fairness to the Premier, if the interjections continue, it is difficult to hear.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** I said 'if'. I will listen to the question again.

**Mr PICTON:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. My question again to the Premier is: did your Chief Executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan, tell the Budget and Finance Committee on 23 July 2018 that he had certainly not attended any Liberal Party fundraisers?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:31):** Well, it might surprise the opposition that I don't read the transcript of every Budget and Finance Committee meeting, but I am happy to check that and come back to the house.

**The Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan:** Some members opposite are on it.

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Energy and Mining is called to order.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:31):** My question is to the Premier. Was the Chief Executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan, telling the truth when he said to a parliamentary committee that he had not attended any Liberal Party fundraisers?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:32):** I refer the honourable member to my previous answer.

**Ms Stinson:** You don't know?

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Badcoe is warned.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:32):** My question is to the Premier. Did your Chief Executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan, join you and the now Speaker at a fundraiser on 22 October 2013 in the private room at the Robin Hood Hotel, Norwood, at a cost of \$500 a ticket?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:32):** I have no idea. This was an event in 2013.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** It might surprise people that I don't have a photographic memory of everybody who attended our meeting—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —six years ago—six years ago. I am happy to try to check my memory. If something comes to mind, I will certainly come back to the house.

**REGIONAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (14:33):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house on how the Marshall Liberal government is supporting regional South Australians?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:33):** I am very happy to answer this question, and I would like to thank the member for Finniss for his question. I must say that I very much enjoyed visiting his electorate with him on the weekend. I try to get to—

**The Hon. A. Koutsantonis:** So you went to schoolies?

**The SPEAKER:** The member for West Torrens is warned for a second and final time.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —our country electorates every week or so. It was a great pleasure to visit Finniss, and we looked at a range of projects down there. I must say, it was very good to have a look at the PipiCo and see some of the progress that has been made. That was a project that I know the member for Mawson was very much involved in, and he will be very pleased to know that great progress is being made at that company.

I was also very pleased to visit the work of Encounter Youth. Maybe that might be the subject of a further contribution to this house in coming days. I would like to talk about the importance of regions for the government. They felt that they had been very much neglected for a long period of time in South Australia, and so we believe that we are working very hard to address the deficiencies—

*Mr Hughes interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Giles can leave for the remainder of question time under 137A.

**Mr Pederick:** Just stake us for the \$100 million, Eddie.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Hammond is warned.

*The Hon. S.K. Knoll interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Transport is called to order.

*The honourable member for Giles having withdrawn from the chamber:*

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I would have thought the member for Giles would have been delighted with the new government. When we look at some of the projects that we are rolling out there, I would have thought he would have been delighted. That's an electorate that was certainly neglected by the previous government. There's a brand-new school that is being built in that area. I think it will probably be the very best school in South Australia.

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** You had 16 years.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister for Education is called to order. He knows better than to interject through the Premier's answer.

*Mr Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Leader!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** One of the things that I am most pleased about is the massive investment in road infrastructure, which we are putting in place—more than \$1.1 billion.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I would have thought that the opposition would have been interested in regional South Australia. They said, of course, that they would. We know that the Leader of the Opposition has visited 'Cockburn' and has been to the 'Marree' river. We're not quite sure where either of those places are. Obviously, he knows more about regional South Australia than we do. We are keen to find out. Perhaps he can take us on one of his wonderful tours.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order. Again, sir—

**The SPEAKER:** Premier, be seated for one moment, please. The point of order is for debate. I have the point of order.

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

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Education, I ask you to stop antagonising the opposition. I ask for the interjections to cease so that I can listen to the Premier's answer, and I ask him to come back to the substance of the question. Premier.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I don't know where the 'Marree' river is, but I do know where crash corner is and I am very pleased that we are fixing this terrible intersection that those opposite neglected for a long period of time. I know where Port Augusta is, and I must say that we are very pleased to be building the new Joy Baluch AM Bridge in Port Augusta, a project which is long overdue. I know exactly where Victor Harbor is. Those opposite talked about duplicating part of the road between Main South Road and McLaren Vale for a long period of time, but we are doing it. It is on the way and that is fantastic, as well as a range of countrywide projects—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —across the Princes Highway, the Horrocks Highway, and it doesn't stop there. We are significantly investing into health infrastructure in South Australia: a 12-bed acute medical unit at Noarlunga. This is important work.

The member for Giles would have liked to have known about five new intern places at Whyalla Hospital that we are funding because we believe in regional health in South Australia—significant capital investments in country hospitals right across the state. I know that the member for Hammond is very happy about a new ED at the Murray Bridge hospital. I know that the Barossa hospital is getting an upgrade. I know that the McLaren Vale and Districts War Memorial Hospital is getting some money. These are important pieces of infrastructure. We are very happy to support those people in our regions.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Mawson is on two warnings. The Minister for Primary Industries is called to order. He has been doing it all day. Member for Kaurna.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:37):** My question is to the Premier. Did the Premier speak to Dr McGowan at the fundraiser for his campaign at the Robin Hood Hotel, for \$500 a ticket, or did he speak to him at any other Liberal Party fundraiser?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:37):** I have nothing further to add to my response.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:38):** My question is to the Premier. Did the Premier's Chief Executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan, attend Liberal Party fundraisers with Tony Abbott on 3 July 2013, with Peter Dutton on 20 February 2013 and with Malcolm Turnbull on 23 June 2017?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:38):** I refer to my previous answer.

*Ms Stinson interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Badcoe is on two warnings.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:38):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier confirm that on 23 September 2018 Silver Chain staff provided Dr McGowan with the dates, times and invitations for the four Liberal Party fundraisers he had reportedly attended while CEO of Silver Chain, including the one with you at the Robin Hood Hotel?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:38):** I refer you to my previous answer.

**PARADISE PARK-AND-RIDE**

**Mrs POWER (Elder) (14:38):** My question is to the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government. Can the minister update the house on how the Marshall government's commitment to building the Paradise park-and-ride is progressing?

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:39):** It never ceases to amaze me how you are able to manipulate this parliament, Mr Speaker. I know that this is a question that you very dearly wanted asked. I also thank the member for Elder for this question and note her very strong interest in improved public transport services here in South Australia.

Once again, as part of our strong plan for real change we took to the election a commitment to finally deliver a park-and-ride at Paradise, a project that you well know, Mr Speaker, was not delivered in the previous four-year term—out of spite—by those opposite when they were in government. We do not want to play politics with the people of the north-eastern suburbs: we just want to get on and deliver what is best for them.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** There is a bit of a theme here. We promised at the election to deliver 775 car parking spaces: is that what we are delivering? The answer is, no, we are delivering 818 car parks as part of the upgrade to the Paradise park-and-ride.

Wait, there is more. We are also delivering around nine DDA-compliant car parks, and provision is being made for 20 motorcycle and 32 bicycle parking spaces as well. What we have also been able to do is undertake a design that, instead of seeing some four-storey or five-storey building dominating the skyline, actually delivers a single, one-storey car park that helps to blend into the surrounds.

This project has now gone through SCAP, and I want to thank the Premier for signing off on the design of the project. Work will get underway and completion is expected late next year. So those people who live in and around Paradise who use what is one of the busiest interchanges in our public transport network will, instead of having to park halfway up Darley Road and walk for half to three-quarters of a kilometre to get to the station, finally be able get a park right above the interchange and get where they want to go more quickly.

We know this will have a positive impact on the number of people who use public transport services: more bums on seats, getting cars off the road, getting people parking, and getting into town that much more quickly. This is a fantastic project, one that was a very central part of our election campaign and one that I know you, Mr Speaker, campaigned on hugely, one that is now being delivered—one of the many promises that are being delivered as part of the Marshall Liberal government's reform agenda.

Mr Speaker, I look forward to getting down there on site with a nice shiny shovel so that we can pretend to dig some dirt before the other people dig the real dirt and get on and deliver this project for the people of your community.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kurna) (14:41):** My question is to the Premier. Why did your Chief Executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan, not correct the record with the Budget and Finance Committee 14 months ago when he was informed by Silver Chain of the correct information regarding his attendance at Liberal Party fundraisers?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:42):** I am not aware of any of the information you just provided, but I am happy to take a look at this issue.

**Ms Stinson:** You're his boss.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Badcoe can leave for the remainder of question time. She is on two warnings and she keeps interjecting. The member for Florey, and then I will come back to the member for Kaurna.

*The honourable member for Badcoe having withdrawn from the chamber:*

#### **PLANNING AND DESIGN CODE**

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (14:42):** My question is to the Minister for Planning. Does the minister have any concerns with the depth of consultation, time allocated and quality of the engagement process being undertaken by the State Planning Commission in relation to the Planning and Design Code, a 3,000-page PDF and digital mapping interface recently released by the State Planning Commission?

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:42):** I thank the member for Florey for her question and note her interest in how her community is going to develop. I can update the house to say, for members who live in councils that are in what we call phase 3 of the code, which is every metropolitan council as well as the major provincial centres around regional South Australia, that we are actually in the middle of a five-month consultation process, one that started on 1 October and that will run through to the end of February.

Five months is a long time to be able to get out there, speak to local communities, get their feedback and then incorporate their feedback as part of the code change. As part of this, we have been going out and have already consulted with all the phase 2 councils (to take a slight step back, those phase 2 councils are the regional areas outside large provincial cities). Their consultation period started, again, at the beginning of October and is actually finishing at the end of this month.

At this stage, priority has been given to those councils to work through their issues, but that does not stop people right across South Australia from engaging with the parts of the code that are going to affect their area. So it will be five months and a whole series of engagement platforms through the YourSAy website, through consultation directly with councils, through community meetings that are happening at the moment in regional South Australia that will happen right throughout metropolitan South Australia. Also, the commission members have made themselves available to people who want to speak to them, as well as myself, having conducted now five forums with separate parts of our community to talk through various elements as part of this reform change.

What I would also say is that there are a number of people out there at the moment trying to fearmonger about this process who say that 3,000 pages is a lot of pages. It came down from about 23,000 pages, so I think we are talking about 80 to 85 per cent less in the number of pages. But, of those 3,000 pages, about 2,500 are actually maps and the remaining 500 pages are the bits that have the words in them. So the content itself is much more manageable than what the stack of paper would otherwise look at.

Also, we are working towards something that is online that people are going to be able to grapple with. In fact, even now, if people visit the SA Planning Portal they will be able to look at a map that helps to identify what the potential zoning is for their community under the draft code and, instead of having to flick through a whole heap of documents, they will be able to see this spatially. One of the real key reforms of this planning system is that instead of having 23,000 pages, or even 3,000 pages, we have zero pages and with one click of a button people will be able to look at what zoning and planning policies exist on their site.

We think that that is a fantastic step forward. Laypeople, people like all of us in this room and even planning ministers, will have the ability to click on this and see quite simply what policies apply to people's houses. Can I also say that this process is one that is being undertaken extremely thoroughly, it also embeds a new way of doing things that provides for more consultation. In fact, as part of these changes, we are going to see between a 50 per cent and 100 per cent increase in the amount of time available for consultation on projects of various designation.

Instead of just having to live within 60 metres of where a development is taking place, we are providing the opportunity for everybody to be able to make submissions on various development applications. This is a system that is going to vastly improve how people engage with planning, make



it more simple for them to understand and engage with planning and provide better outcomes for our community.

#### PLANNING AND DESIGN CODE

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (14:47):** Supplementary, Mr Speaker: I thank the minister for that full response to my question. Given the scale of the reform, for which I have already had widespread feedback in the negative, are you prepared to risk the code being disallowed by the parliament should you proceed with the current format?

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:47):** It's a hypothetical question, but I am happy to answer it anyway. The first thing I would say is that the vast majority of what is happening with the code is actually just a transferral over of existing planning policy. In fact, there are only a handful of areas where we are seeing significant policy change. One is in relation to opening up value-adding opportunities in rural areas, essentially trying to stimulate our economy by providing greater opportunity to value-add on farm, to be able to have a small to medium scale tourist operations on farm, and to help grow our regional tourism and value-adding economy.

We are also improving the way houses are built in Adelaide. Mr Speaker, you would be very well aware of some of the negative consequences of previous planning decisions having been made which created undue concern in communities. I have moved, with your help, Mr Speaker, to change that and fix that in Campbelltown, and now this is something that we can roll out right across South Australia: the fact that we want to increase garage sizes so that people actually stick their car in the garage rather than park it on the street; the fact that we want to see a bit of green space on people's lawn, where they have the opportunity and the requirement to plant a tree; the fact that we want to look at a double driveway with a single crossover to preserve green space on the verge and also provide more opportunity for on-street parking.

There are a whole series of measures that we are putting in place to deal with the fact that over the past seven years we have seen a complete reversal in the way that houses are built. Instead of 75 per cent of housing being built on the greenfields fringe, we are now seeing 75 per cent of housing being built in metropolitan Adelaide, inside the existing footprint. The planning policies that were in place didn't adequately deal with that phenomenon happening. In fact, in planning terms, it happened extremely quickly, but we are now up to and dealing with the challenge.

In relation to a potential disallowance, the advice that I have at the moment is that this is a code that will be referred to the Environment, Resources and Development Committee, and it will be a decision of that committee about laying this, as we would any other development plan amendment, before the houses for a report. This is a phenomenal step forward, one that improves consultation, speeds up time frames, gives greater certainty to communities, helps to improve value-adding in regional areas and helps to improve infill inside our existing metropolitan suburban footprint. It will deliver the most advanced planning system in the country, and I think it is a fantastic step forward for our state.

#### MCGOWAN, DR C.

**Mr PICTON (Kurna) (14:50):** My question is to the Premier. Premier, will you provide the independent investigator into Dr McGowan's conduct with the details of your personal \$500-a-head campaign fundraiser that Dr McGowan attended but failed to reveal when questioned in the Budget and Finance Committee?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:50):** Well, I will be providing the investigator with any information about which he questions me.

*Mr Brown interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Playford is warned. The member for Kurna, then the member for Mount Gambier and then the member for Narungga.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:50):** My question is to the Premier. How do you explain Dr McGowan attending a personal fundraiser for your campaign and being appointed as the second highest-paid chief executive of any government department within weeks of you forming government?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:50):** I think the member is referring to a fundraiser that occurred in 2013. There are some years that passed by. I have already made it very clear that I don't even recall Dr McGowan attending a function at the Robin Hood, so it was hardly uppermost in my mind when Dr McGowan was appointed to this very important role.

Further to that, unlike procedures and practices that may exist in other jurisdictions or in other times within South Australia, we set up an independent advisory body to advertise and to recruit for this very important position. They provided advice to me as the Premier of South Australia, and I followed that advice.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The members for Mawson and West Torrens are on two warnings. The member for Mount Gambier, then the member for Narungga, and then we will come back to the member for Kaurna.

**DUKES HIGHWAY DUPLICATION**

**Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (14:51):** My question is to the Minister for Transport. Where does the duplication of the Dukes Highway between Tailem Bend and Victoria sit on the government's priority list? With your leave and that of the house, sir, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr BELL:** On 5 October this year, an *Advertiser* article indicated that RAA statistics showed that 46 deaths and 900 injuries occurred on Limestone Coast roads between 2014 and 2018.

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:52):** I thank the member for his question and note his deep and abiding interest in that road. The Dukes Highway is an extremely important part of the National Land Transport Network and one that has had a huge amount of money spent on it.

The member mentions duplication, but this is a road that has had a whole series of treatments, from centre widening to audio tactile line marking, to shoulder sealing, to a whole series of works that have happened. Can I tell you that there is a frustration within my department about the level of death and serious injury on that road. In fact, if I am thinking from memory, there was actually a serious accident that happened there in the last couple of days where we had a number of serious injuries, including, I think, a single fatality which hits our road toll to the 100 mark this year, which is absolutely tragic and awful.

The difficulty here is that what the member is trying to insinuate is that duplication of the road is the sole answer to fixing this problem, and I am not sure that it is. This is a road that, in my view, has had as much money, or more money, spent on it than almost any other road in South Australia. We have even reduced the speed limit through sections to the border down to 100, yet we still see tragedy on this road.

It is awful and it is perplexing, and we do need to look at what more we can do and whether or not duplication is the answer to that. We know that a lot of the time what happens is that people get frustrated by sitting behind heavy vehicles and they potentially put themselves in risky situations by attempting to overtake those heavy vehicles. We know that is a factor and one that sits behind why somebody would duplicate. Off the top of my head, I think that duplication of the Dukes to the border is something that could cost somewhere between \$600 million to \$1 billion.

**Mr Bell:** It's \$2 billion.

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** Okay, \$2 billion. I was trying to be a bit optimistic. What we have done, apart from putting a record \$1.3 billion into regional road safety right across South Australia,

is we have tasked now a new body that this parliament saw fit to set up, in Infrastructure SA, to evaluate where it sits within the priorities.

But the truth is that we could probably spend \$10 billion to \$15 billion fixing up regional roads—and there is a lot of work out there that needs to be done—and the answer is that the government does have limited option. I think we have done a huge amount to put a down payment on improving regional road safety. Really, Infrastructure SA will be the body that guides us, in an evidence-based way, on where we can best spend our money to help improve road safety, to improve vehicle productivity, to improve traffic implications for Adelaide and to spend taxpayers' money as wisely as possible.

### NUKUNU NATIVE TITLE DETERMINATION

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:55):** My question is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney-General please update the house on the outcomes of the recent Nukunu native title determination, which was recently completed?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:55):** I thank the member for Narungga for both his interest in this matter and his question. I am extremely proud to advise the house of an update on a longstanding determination application.

The Nukunu claim was lodged back in 1996. It covered an area of over 12,500 square kilometres, extending from Port Broughton in the south to Warrakimbo and Yourambulla in the north. It is bound on the east by the Flinders Ranges on a line drawn roughly from Spalding through Orroroo to Cradock. The claim included the waters of Spencer Gulf to the centre-line of the gulf and seven reserves. It also included the towns of Port Pirie, Port Germein, Melrose, Quorn and Port Augusta.

In the 23 years since this claim was lodged, extensive work has been undertaken by the local community and their advisers to finalise the claim. Obviously, with a determination of this size, it needs considerable input and effort from all parties, and I acknowledge and thank the Nukunu community for their approach in respect of this native title claim. It assisted with culminating in a consent determination, and recently a ceremony has occurred on the lands at Port Germein—an unforgettable event for all those involved.

I also report that for the local community this determination not only recognised 23 years and beyond of work but that the Nukunu community now hold that native title over that land. The determination of this claim brings certainty for all users of the region in relation to their dealings, activities on the land and the like. Obviously, members would appreciate the positive social and economic effect on this vast area.

The native title compensation that flows from it will clearly have a positive effect on Indigenous families and the community in the region. This will be achieved through recognition of the local Aboriginal community as spokespeople for the area and by strengthening the role of the Nukunu community in future Aboriginal Heritage Act matters over the entire area.

The settlement adds to 20 claims comprehensively settled in South Australia. We have truly taken a proactive approach in South Australia in settling native title claims. I am pleased to say that, on the second day of government last year, I was lucky to attend the determination of the Kurna people at the Federal Court in Victoria Square.

I want to thank all local communities, native title groups and the Crown Solicitor's Office for working in this area and progressing these claims, but in particular today to acknowledge the work in respect of this claim and the delivering of a strong future for the Nukunu community.

### MCGOWAN, DR C.

**Mr PICTON (Kurna) (14:58):** My question is to the Premier. Premier, do you have complete confidence in your CE of Health, Dr Chris McGowan, despite him being subject to an independent investigation?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:58):** Yes. As I make this point again, it was actually Dr McGowan who referred himself to the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment.

The commissioner has said that she will look into this issue and an investigation is underway. When we have any further information, we will be providing it to the house.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:59):** My question is to the Premier. Premier, why will you not concede that it's no longer tenable for Dr McGowan to remain in his role as CE of SA Health, and will you ask him to stand down?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Point of order, sir: that question contains argument when the member says, as fact, that it is allegedly 'no longer tenable' for anything.

**The SPEAKER:** Given the questions today, the subject and the way it has been covered, I am going to allow the Premier an opportunity to answer. Premier.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:59):** I have nothing further to add to my previous contribution to the house.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:59):** My question is to the Premier. Premier, did you or your now health minister discuss with Dr McGowan at any point prior to 18 March 2018 the possibility of Dr McGowan becoming CE of SA Health if you became Premier?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:59):** I don't recall any conversation that I had with Dr McGowan about that role whatsoever.

**REGIONAL ROADS**

**Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (14:59):** My question is to the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government. Can the minister update the house on the Marshall Liberal government's strong plan for better and safer roads on Eyre Peninsula?

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (15:00):** Yes, I can. I thank the member for Flinders for his question and also thank him for his cooperation and help in dealing with what is a very difficult issue on Eyre Peninsula; that is, the fact that the rail line that carted some 700,000 tonnes worth of grain down to Port Lincoln was no longer viable. That decision taken by Genesee & Wyoming and Viterra to no longer use the rail line does pose some difficult questions in relation to how we see trucks move on Eyre Peninsula roads.

Fantastically, what we have is a great relationship with the federal government, one where we sat down with them and worked through how we were going to fix and deal with this issue. What we got last week was a fantastic announcement, where the Prime Minister came over here and, in conjunction with the Premier, announced some \$415 million worth of works that are going to be brought forward and delivered that much more quickly on regional roads in South Australia. Again, that is an example of what happens when instead of just having a fake fight and instead of throwing the toys out of the cot, you sit down and work together: you can actually deliver for the people of South Australia.

Most importantly, \$125 million of this money is earmarked for Eyre Peninsula and some \$32 million worth of works for roads on Lower Eyre Peninsula to deal quite specifically with the issues that exist with the closure of EP Rail. We do note that this is an environment that is changing over on EP with the opening up of Lucky Bay, and I understand that they have taken their first few shipments of grain. The transshipment vessel is being built and will be on its way. That is going to change the way that traffic movements and road train movements happen on Eyre Peninsula, potentially moving some of them away from Port Lincoln and dragging them further up the eastern side of the coast.

We stand ready with \$32 million worth of money to help fix the roads that need to be fixed to support the increased grain movements on Eyre Peninsula. This is a great step forward to fixing not only some of those issues in Port Lincoln but also some of those more longstanding road safety and vehicle productivity issues that exist both up and down the Lincoln Highway and inland on roads such as the Birdseye, the Tod, Bratten Way and others.

There is so much more that we need to do and are going to do across on Eyre Peninsula. I speak specifically about the Eyre Highway, a highway that is a route between Port Augusta and Perth and one that is significant in terms of how goods and services move around our state. The balance of this \$125 million is earmarked for that road.

I had the opportunity, together with the Minister for Energy and Mining, on Monday night to talk to Iluka Resources—a company that does great things across on the Far West Coast, mining mineral sands and helping to grow exports out of our state—firsthand about what some of this money could do. What we have is \$125 million here to support regional economies in South Australia, to improve road safety, to improve heavy vehicle productivity, to improve the ability to get grain out of our state and overseas and export dollars into our state much more quickly, and also to help try to spark new investment in regional areas that is going to help grow jobs for our state.

This is a great time for South Australian country road users, with a federal government and a state government that after so long are actually willing to work together to invest in regional South Australia. The people of Eyre Peninsula will all be much better for it.

#### **WALKERVILLE YMCA**

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (15:04):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. What representations has the minister made to the Town of Walkerville regarding the YMCA's premises at Smith Street, Walkerville?

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (15:04):** As Minister for Child Protection, I'm responsible to the house for questions regarding child protection. That is not a question regarding child protection.

#### **WALKERVILLE YMCA**

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (15:04):** My question is to the member for Adelaide. What representations has the member for Adelaide made to the Town of Walkerville regarding the YMCA's premises at Smith Street, Walkerville?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Point of order: questions to ministers in relation to their duties to the house have never been traditionally, by precedent—

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Point of order, sir.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** I'm in the middle of making a point of order, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, point of order on a point of order.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Sir, I seek your protection to be able to continue my point of order. The operation of standing order 97 has never allowed questions of that nature to be put.

**The SPEAKER:** Is there a point of order on the point of order?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Yes.

**The SPEAKER:** What is the point of order, member for Lee?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** These questions have been previously allowed in this chamber, in particular in the session held in this place between 2010 and 2014.

**The SPEAKER:** According to standing order 96—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left and right, be quiet or you will be leaving for an hour.

*Ms Hildyard interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Reynell, you can leave for an hour.

*The honourable member for Reynell having withdrawn from the chamber:*

**The SPEAKER:** Questions relating to public affairs may be put to ministers. I only have certain knowledge about what this is, so what I'm going to do is I'm going to allow the Minister for

Child Protection to answer the question and she has the call. Minister, would you like to answer the question?

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** I will have the question again.

**The SPEAKER:** Can we have the question again and then the answer.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** What representations have been made to the Town of Walkerville regarding the YMCA's premises at Smith Street, Walkerville?

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (15:06):** I thank the member for his question. I have had quite a bit to do with the YMCA Walkerville. I have met with them personally and heard of their concerns of the change of use of the land, which is their primary concern. They have secondary concerns about their ongoing lease that expires in December 2020. That is a council matter. I have met with all the council members except for one, who was not available to attend. I have been to the community meetings regarding this issue, and I will continue to advocate for the YMCA.

**The Hon. D.G. Pisoni:** Well, that worked well for you.

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Innovation and Skills was so well behaved today. Why did it come to an end just then?

#### *Grievance Debate*

#### **MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurua) (15:06):** The situation for the largest and one of the most important departments in this state and its chief executive is getting more and more serious and the position of the chief executive is becoming more and more tenuous. Day after day in this parliament we are hearing more revelations about how Dr Chris McGowan has lied to parliamentary committees, how he has covered up his lying, and he has not showed any honesty in his dealings with the parliamentary committees.

This all originally came about because of a secret directorship that he held. He did not even tell the Premier or the health minister that he was holding that directorship and then he backdated that directorship. That then spurred an independent inquiry that the Premier originally said was not needed but has now been ordered by the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment. Sadly, that inquiry has not started yet.

At that time, we said that Dr McGowan should stand down pending the inquiry, but since that time we have heard more and more revelations that raise more and more serious questions and allegations about Dr McGowan's conduct. Yesterday, we heard that, despite Dr McGowan saying to the Budget and Finance Committee that he was not involved in the business in terms of dealing with Silver Chain, he had a secret meeting in Perth to visit Silver Chain to talk about their site, that he had a meeting with his staff to talk about the Silver Chain program and then two weeks after that meeting a contract was signed for Silver Chain for \$2.9 million, yet he then went on to say to the parliamentary committee that he was not involved in any of the negotiations about that program.

Now today, what we have learnt is another revelation of Dr McGowan lying to the parliamentary committee, this time about Liberal Party fundraisers. Last year, he was asked at his first appearance if he had attended any Liberal Party fundraisers and he said that he had certainly not attended those fundraisers. 'Certainly not' is what he said. Yet what we find out now is that less than two months after he appeared he received an email from Tess Meldrum at Silver Chain, which said:

Hi Chris

I have been able to access your calendar to provide the following plus relevant attachments.

- 20 February 2013—Liberal Party Special Dinner with Shadow Minister For Health And Ageing...

who at the time was Peter Dutton—

- 3 July 2013—Federal Election Dinner at Burswood WA

that was with Tony Abbott—

- 22 October 2013—Liberal Dinner with Steven Marshall at Robin Hood Hotel, Norwood SA

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr PICTON:** That is right. I have never heard of that one. This dinner with Steven Marshall and the now Speaker at the Robin Hood Hotel in Norwood—

**The SPEAKER:** If the member for Kaurana makes another display, he will be leaving.

**Mr PICTON:** Then we had another one, which is the latest one, being 23 June 2017: Liberal Party gala dinner, International Convention Centre at Darling Harbour in Sydney. That one was with Malcolm Turnbull, but it was also advertised as involving premiers, cabinet ministers, other state leaders and party office-bearers. So the big question is whether Steven Marshall was at that fundraiser as well. That reportedly involved tables of up to \$10,000, which raises the question of whether there was any breach of the Electoral Act involved with the South Australian people who were there.

What we know is that there are more and more allegations coming out. The Premier is deflecting all of this, but it is clear that Dr McGowan lied to the committee. It is clear that Dr McGowan misled the parliament about both Silver Chain and these Liberal Party fundraisers. More than that, he covered up this information because he knew about this information back in September last year and made no attempt to correct the record of parliament about knowing about these Liberal Party fundraisers. It is always the cover-up, not the crime and, in this situation, there is a significant cover-up of that information.

He has now been caught and I think it raises a serious question about whether he can be trusted. If he cannot be trusted on these matters, what matters is he presenting to the parliament and to other bodies that we cannot know whether he is telling the full truth? That is why he needs to stand down, pending a proper independent investigation. We understand that that independent investigation has not even started yet. This government is moving so slow on this. They need to start that independent investigation and they need him to step down while that is underway. If this was happening to a staff member 10 rungs down, they would be facing much more serious consequences than somebody on \$560,000 a year is facing.

The Premier originally said that this did not reach a threshold, but this is becoming more serious by the day. He cannot keep ignoring this. He cannot keep deflecting questions. He must call on Dr McGowan to step down from his role immediately.

#### **SA TOURISM AWARDS**

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (15:11):** I rise to speak about some of the great people of the Riverland and their achievements of late. Several Riverland tourist operators were recently recognised across a number of categories at tourism's night of nights. Now in their 35<sup>th</sup> year, the South Australian Tourism Awards celebrate and acknowledge tourism businesses that have demonstrated outstanding achievement and success throughout the year. Five Riverland businesses attended the awards, joining more than 700 industry representatives and colleagues from around the state.

The evening saw Riverland businesses crowned best in their respective categories and one taking home a silver. Tony and Susie Sharley, owners of Murray River Walk, an outstanding tourism operation and one of the great 10 walks of Australia, entered the Hall of Fame through their Murray River Walk. They were named winners and consequently inducted into the Hall of Fame in only their fourth year in business. It is an outstanding effort. Tony and his team and Susie took out the Ecotourism category for the third consecutive year, which is a phenomenal effort, so congratulations.

The BIG4 Renmark Riverfront Holiday Park won gold in the Excellence in Accessible Tourism category, taking it two years in a row. Those of you who have been to the Riverland and have visited the BIG4 caravan park know that it is an outstanding asset to the region on the banks of the mighty River Murray. It is child-friendly and I cannot speak highly enough of the park. It is fantastic to have Riverland tourism businesses leading the way in accessible tourism and welcoming people to the region.

Rob and Jenna Hughes, owners of River Murray Houseboats, took home gold in the Unique Accommodation category, after being awarded silver in the same category last year. First-time entrants PS *Julie Fay* took out silver in the same highly competitive category. I must also mention Riverland finalist Twenty Third Street Distillery on a fantastic achievement representing our region.

While I am on the subject of great tourism products, I would like to congratulate Berri Riverside Holiday Park, owned by the Berri War Memorial Community Centre, which was recently awarded Best Community Campsite at the inaugural Grey Nomad Awards. These awards were held on the Sunshine Coast. Congratulations to them. It is a huge acknowledgement for the board and the staff, who should be extremely proud of this national recognition.

Last Friday night, the South Australian Premier's Food and Beverage Industry Awards took place, and it was a great night in general. The stalwarts of the food and beverage industry, the mentors, the new entrants and those people who are passionate about food and beverage came out for a night of nights. Nearly 750 people attended, and it really was a great display of South Australia at its best.

Local person Dave Reilly, the Managing Director of Gurra Downs, was recognised on Friday evening with the 2019 South Australian Premier's Food and Beverage Industry Duncan MacGillivray Entrepreneur Award. It was an outstanding effort by both him and his son, Shaun, who is now stepping into his shoes and running the business, and they are ably assisted by Anita, Dave's wife. They have an outstanding business there, and their product is second to none. Dave planted his first date palm in 1998 and has played a key role in establishing the date industry right around the nation. Gurra Downs is now Australia's largest date producer, and Dave has a huge focus on agricultural diversification.

I would like to wish two local ladies, Carolyn Huckel and Hayley Morrow, good luck: they are both finalists in the South Australian Woman Awards event being held this evening. We wish them all the best. Carolyn has been nominated for the Regional Star category for her Crossfield Cottage accommodation and her attention to detail when welcoming guests. Hayley has been nominated in the New Woman on the Block Award for her biscuit business, Zynski Bakes, which has been very successful in the Chaffey electorate.

I am buoyed to see regional communities, particularly in the Riverland and in the seat of Chaffey, achieving state and national levels of success. It is an absolute inspiration when I travel through the regions of South Australia, as I do when I travel home, to see those entrepreneurial skills being put on display, whether it is in a tourism business, a food business or a beverage business. Those people are giving guidance and driving the economy. They are great South Australians, they are great Riverlanders, they are great ambassadors for regional South Australia and they are great ambassadors for South Australia.

### **WALKERVILLE YMCA**

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (15:17):** I rise today to speak in support of the north-east area's YMCA and the ongoing battle that it is experiencing at the moment with the Town of Walkerville. Mr Speaker, you might be aware that the YMCA and its premises at Smith Street in Walkerville have enjoyed community support since 1965, when the first of the buildings there were built thanks to community fundraising and donations. Over the following 17 years, those premises were extended and turned into what we know as the Smith Street premises today.

This is an important facility that provides services to over 68,000 participations each year, whether it is vacation care, the health club, stadium sports or sporting programs, programs for older adults, programs involving gymnastics or even birthday celebrations. There are also training courses, martial arts, badminton, dodgeball, futsal, volleyball, helping of cultural groups and so on. Attendees range from the very oldest in our community through to schoolchildren and even, I am told, children in state care. This is an important facility.

Ownership of the site was transferred to the Town of Walkerville in 2000, and the YMCA was provided with a new 10-year lease after it was transferred. Unfortunately, almost as soon as that lease was over in 2011, the Town of Walkerville's process of trying to push the YMCA out of those premises started. There was the first of a succession of short-term leases that the YMCA have been forced to accept. In 2015, the Town of Walkerville (the Walkerville council) cooked up a proposal to



redevelop the site with new premises up to five storeys high, involving commercial facilities. Fortunately, the community stood up, and that ridiculous plan was knocked on the head.

Unfortunately, it seems that this same effort is now being resuscitated by the current council and the current mayor. The community land designation of this site is in the process of being revoked by the council. This is causing community backlash. Everybody in the suburb of Walkerville understands just how important this facility is, yet we have a council and a mayor, who has been both an elected councillor and now elected mayor over the last two terms of the council, who seem intent on redeveloping this site into a commercial property.

They refused to continue a lease arrangement with the YMCA beyond next December. It will cast them out into the cold, as well as those 68,000 or so participants who enjoy the use of that facility. They have been offered a place in a completely unfunded, uncosted master plan at the Walkerville Oval, which does not have one dollar attached to it and which, if the YMCA were to take it up, would involve, I am advised, the destruction of the Memorial Gardens at Walkerville Oval. This is a result that no-one in the community would want to see.

The question has to be asked: who in the council is so intent on the commercial redevelopment of the YMCA site at Smith Street, Walkerville? Why does this continue to be reargited every three to four years? It seems clear that if it is not the mayor, Elizabeth Fricker, member of the Liberal Party, and I assume close confidante of the member for Adelaide, then perhaps it must be the council leadership. It must be Kiki Magro who continues to resuscitate this issue. This would be a dreadful thing for that local community.

Pressure should be put on the Premier and the member for Adelaide to make sure that they do the right thing, even pick up the phone to their fellow Liberal Party member, the mayor, Elizabeth Fricker, and get her to desist from the commercialisation of these premises. The Liberal Party begged for the suburb of Walkerville to be part of the electorate of Adelaide at the last election.

It is now up to the Premier and the member for Adelaide to make good on that. They have to do the right thing by the suburb of Walkerville. They have to make sure that that Town of Walkerville does not succeed in its commercialisation of this site. I urge the council tonight to do the right thing, maintain this as community land and make sure it is not commercialised.

### **MOVEMBER FOUNDATION**

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (15:22):** I rise today to speak about an incredibly important topic: men's health. The more astute observers in this house will have noticed that recently I have started growing a moustache, which has grown to have quite a presence on my face, and I have received quite a number of disparaging comments in the hallways of parliament. Nonetheless, this mo started its life in November and has found its way onto my upper lip for a good cause. I have been growing this mo and raising money for Movember in support of men's health, particularly for prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health and suicide prevention.

The Movember Foundation has set the goal of reducing men dying prematurely by 25 per cent by the time 2030 rolls around. It is a worthwhile goal and a goal certainly worth pursuing. On average, men are dying six years earlier than women, largely from preventable causes. Unchecked, prostate cancer rates will double over the next 15 years, testicular cancer rates have already doubled over the last 50 years and across the world one man dies by suicide every minute of the day, with males accounting for 75 per cent of all suicides. These three factors contribute to what is an unacceptable situation of men dying far too soon.

According to the Movember website, as of today, since the movement was kicked off in 2013, they have raised well over \$1 billion, which has been contributed to various charitable organisations around the world in order to achieve their stated goal of reducing men dying prematurely by 25 per cent. I am led to believe \$29 million was raised in 2018 alone. The contribution that this particular foundation has made to the charity of men's health really is incredible. I do not think it would be an exaggeration to suggest that Movember has saved quite a significant number of lives since its inception.

My own Movember campaign has been in support of a close friend of mine who was recently diagnosed with testicular cancer. It was a diagnosis received far too young and without a great

number of symptoms that betrayed the seriousness of the ailment. My mate has had the corresponding surgery necessitated by the diagnosis, he has commenced the chemotherapy and he is bullish about a full recovery. It is pleasing to see him so happy and positive about his prospects, and I look forward to supporting him in his pursuit of full health.

In support of him, and in support of men's health more broadly, a wide group of mates and I undertook to commence a team effort at Movember fundraising. We did so without a financial goal in mind, only the goal to raise as much as we could for a good cause. I am pleased to report to the house that at the time of speaking we have raised in excess of \$11,000 collectively, and we each have smaller individual amounts that have been raised as well.

It is an effort I am rather proud of, and I would like to congratulate every member of our Movember team on or their efforts in making this charitable contribution. I would also like to thank everyone who has donated to our campaign: it is a sizeable effort and will make a dent in what is a serious problem. Hopefully, this house and this parliament will not miss my mo too much when Movember draws to a close, but I must say that I am looking forward to my other house, my home, being a far happier household when it is inevitably removed at the end of the month.

### SHADOW COUNTRY CABINET

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (15:25):** I rise today to talk about my recent visit to the Mid North for a shadow country cabinet. We were there from 19 through to 22 October, when I joined the opposition leader, Peter Malinauskas, and my fellow shadow ministers to engage with the Mid North region. We met with passionate residents, dedicated business owners and those who greatly value tourism as a core part of the regional economy. Today, I will speak about my experiences in Hawker, Port Augusta and Port Pirie.

After about five hours on the road I was able to check in at Rawnsley Park Station in the beautiful Flinders Ranges. The station overlooks the southern side of Ikara, otherwise known as Wilpena Pound, an iconic amphitheatre that is the centrepiece of the national park. I was delighted to spend some time with the owners and hosts, Tony and Julie Smith, who were very informative.

I have to say to everyone in the house and those listening that it is a wonderful experience to go and spend time at Rawnsley Park. They showed me that you can have a working station and continue to diversify into tourism. It is full of unique experiences and particularly attractive to our international tourists. One of the things I found very impressive were the eco-villas, which they were able to build more than 10 years ago with the support of a tourism grant. You can lie in the bed and look up at the night sky—a unique experience.

The next day I drove through to Hawker, and I have to say that it took my breath away when I went to the Jeff Morgan Gallery. His paintings sell worldwide, and the gallery itself attracts around 100,000 visitors a year. He is famous for panoramic paintings focused on the rugged and dramatic scenery of the Australian outback, and I can tell members that Jeff is particularly famous in China, where they very much value panoramic painters, and he has a very prestigious award from them related to a blue jacket. I was able to talk to Jeff and his wife, who have a wonderful resource there, and I encourage people to visit.

During the visit I also met with Michelle Reynolds, the chair of the Flinders Ranges Tourism Operators Association, who spoke to me about her belief in representing station stays. She owns one herself and is a key part of offering unique experiences in the outback. At the moment, there are about 26 station stays available for people to stay at an operating farm in that area.

We then enjoyed lunch at the Flinders Food Co., where Doogal and Louise are making fabulous food, and then we were off to Port Augusta. I have to say that my visit to the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden was as wonderful as I remembered from when I visited the volunteers there previously. It is a huge drawcard for Port Augusta and was established to research, conserve and promote the wider appreciation of Australia's arid zone flora. It is a beautiful building when you enter, and their focus is on education, enjoyment and research.

I then went on to the Wadlata Outback Centre, and I thank the Port Augusta City Council people for spending time with me, particularly the Chief Executive, John Banks, and Anne O'Reilly, Director, Corporate and Community Services. I then spent some time in Port Pirie, where I talked

with many locals about the importance of tourism and the employment it generates in the region. I thank Mayor Leon Stephens, Glen Christie and Peter Ackland, and I also thank Kelly Saffin of the RDA for the briefing. I was greeted rather enthusiastically by the Port Pirie Regional Art Gallery and visitor centre. They particularly wanted to introduce me to Shakka's jaws, which is a shark that was caught off the coast, and the jaws are there for everyone to see.

The next day, we were at Safavis Cafe, which is a fabulous cafe that Geoff Brock has taken me to a few times. It is run by an Iranian migrant who came and decided to invest and stay in Port Pirie. He and his wife run a wonderful cafe, and it is the place to be seen. On the way back home, we stopped for a brief look at the striking pink Lake Bumbunga near Lochiel, which is made up of three salt pans harvested for 30 years, which is beautiful and unique.

### SCHOOLIES

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (15:30):** I rise to talk about a very successful schoolies held in Victor Harbor over the last weekend. It was fabulous to see the young school leavers come to town and enjoy themselves in the three-day festival that was run in Warland Reserve. The event evolved about 21 years ago following school leavers coming to Victor Harbor for many years. It started in the mid-eighties when I was a school leaver, when we would head down to Victor Harbor as school leavers, rent some holiday houses and have a very quiet, relaxing time. Over time, through the nineties in particular, those quite holiday houses ended up hosting really big parties, and some of those parties caused enormous damage.

Towards the end of the nineties, local police officer Trevor Nitschke decided something needed to be done. He spoke to a group of people, who later became Encounter Youth, about whether they would be prepared to help in setting up a very structured event in Victor Harbor. They accepted the challenge, and it has been a fabulous success story. We have seen a wonderful event created that is very much about not only minimising the risk to those attending, reducing the harm, but also making the town able to cope with that sort of event by making it very structured.

In recent years, Encounter Youth have actually run a tour each year on the Friday night, and members of parliament and others have done that tour. Last year, we had several members from both sides; this year, the member for King happened to be in Victor Harbor that night and I said, 'Why don't you come on the tour?' and she was very much enlightened by what she saw, including the organisation, right down to the accommodation in the caravan parks.

Large numbers of former students stay in the caravan parks, and there are two in Victor Harbor: one has about a thousand students and the other has 1,700. They set up double fencing around both caravan parks to make sure that they are able to manage the people in the parks and that the only ones there are those who have actually paid to stay there. It is very structured and very managed. Yes, there is still the occasional disturbance, but when you think there are somewhere between 6,000 and 10,000 students in the town half a dozen to a dozen arrests for issues is fairly minor.

It was also my privilege to host the Premier down there on Saturday afternoon and take him to meet the Green Team, which is a team of volunteers who come down and support the event. This year, there were about 500 of them. Interestingly, as volunteers they actually pay \$50 to volunteer, and on top that they then pay another \$30 to buy a jumper to be a volunteer. They are really committed to being there; they enjoy being there. On the Saturday afternoon, the Premier spoke to the group of volunteers, and they were thrilled to have the Premier come down in their 21<sup>st</sup> year, address them and thank them for the work they have done in the Victor Harbor community.

Encounter Youth has also taken up the challenge of helping in Hindley Street on Saturday nights, and yesterday in Canberra they were lucky enough to receive a gold award, the Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Award, which was presented by the Hon. Peter Dutton. I would very much like to congratulate them on receiving that award for the wonderful work they do in protecting people in Hindley Street on a Saturday night.

This is a group of people who are just out there wanting to help, and they do a fantastic job of it. Thank you very much from the people of Victor Harbor for what you have done. You have certainly improved the way that schoolies has operated over the years, so thank you.

*Ministerial Statement***NYRSTAR**

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (15:36):** I table a ministerial statement made earlier today in the other place by the Treasurer.

*Motions***BUSHFIRES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Adjourned debate on motion of the Hon. S.S. Marshall:

That the house expresses its sincere thanks to South Australia's emergency services personnel and the community organisations which support our emergency services for their efforts to protect life, property and the environment on 20 November 2019 and subsequent days when much of the state was facing catastrophic fire conditions.

(Continued from 26 November 2019.)

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (15:37):** I rise to make a contribution on the CFS-MFS emergency response when South Australia was once again impacted by fires. The number of those fires really has brought home the importance of preparation for the approaching fire season and what we have currently seen. I think some of the statistics are important.

We cannot understate the importance of our emergency services and the protection they give us. More importantly, it is about a sense of community. It is the volunteering and it is the reckoning after an event like this that bring a community together and give them a much closer understanding of the importance of communities working together and of being underpinned by a very, very robust and worthy emergency service sector.

The CFS volunteers are a great fabric in our regional communities, as are the MFS and the SES. Living in a regional community, I know full well that the commitment those volunteers give is paramount—saving lives, preventing further damage to our lands, to our buildings and to our communities but, more importantly, to the fabric of South Australia.

Some of the stats for that period of 19 November to 24 November show that 219 separate incidents were responded to across the state, including rural fires, vehicle accidents, structure fires and the like. There were 357 support responses to 219 incidents, and multiple brigades attended the Yorketown incident. We know that the Yorketown incident had a severe impact, as it was the largest. Those smaller fires have personal impacts on individuals or small communities, so we do not take for granted that one large fire is any more important than a small fire. Fires threaten life and bring into question the vulnerability of any of the regional communities, regional properties and regional families that are impacted.

I have learnt that the current recorded hours for these turnouts, 576 in number, listed 33,312 hours attributed to protecting us throughout those five days of catastrophic weather events. At the peak of activity on Wednesday 20 November, the CFS had 600 personnel and 150 fire trucks committed across the state in anticipation of the forecast conditions for that day. The CFS Chief Officer took the unusual step of establishing a statewide fire ban to deter unsafe acts and behaviours, and I think it was a very good leadership call.

Living in the regions, we know full well that incidents happen that can be caused by machinery, business practice or people out there travelling. Fires start for different reasons, and we would like to think that they start through unintended consequences and not because of the behaviour of arsonists, as we have seen in some of the other fires around the nation.

On Wednesday 20 November, the state faced catastrophic fire ratings in almost half its districts, with all the others having a severe or extreme rating. These severe conditions normally indicate extremely serious outcomes. On that day, we saw the CFS respond to more than 60 fires, with large fires recorded at Price, on Yorke Peninsula; Appila, in the Mid North; Beaufort, in the Mid North; Yorketown, on Yorke Peninsula; Finniss, on Fleurieu Peninsula; and Angaston, in the Barossa. As we all know, the Yorketown fire was the largest and most dangerous of these fires, with

over 250 firefighters committed. Eleven homes were destroyed and significant stock losses were reported.

Volunteers, CFS staff and MFS staff were supported by their colleagues from the SES and other government departments. We need to recognise that some of those other government departments are there—trained firefighters and logistical experts on the rollout of monitoring those fires. Aerial surveillance is critically important in how we manage the fires and how they are fought, but also in how we put up barriers to save towns, to save homes and to save life. Again, they are very important levels of operation.

Many of these fires were attacked by aerial bombardment with the state's own resources, with one bombing run from a large aerial tanker from New South Wales to protect the town of Coobowie. A total of 14 aircraft were deployed across the state and, despite the terrible loss of several homes, these outcomes demonstrate how successful the joint response across the state was with no loss of life, and that is really important.

I want to give a small report, particularly from the Department of Primary Industries, on the losses. Animals were lost and areas were burnt. Nearly 6,000 hectares were burnt. Large numbers of sheep were lost: 444 sheep. Chickens were destroyed, horses were injured and there are also missing deer. This shows that we now have very good capacity for monitoring and ensuring that we understand the impact of fires.

Yorke town saw significant crop damage and loss of crop. The economic impact was significant. We saw upwards of nearly 1,600 hectares lost, whether it be wheat, lentils, canola or barley. Nearly 5,500 tonnes of yield has been burnt at a cost of about \$1.648 million. Again, that highlights that, when fires come through, people are impacted, whether it is their homes, whether it is their livelihood or whether it is their community that is put at risk. I urge all those community people, property owners and the like to be fire ready. Have a plan so that you can protect yourselves, your families and your businesses in the case of an emergency evacuation.

I think it is critically important that we remember the great effort of our emergency services through this very early fire season. We know that we are in drought. We know that the ground fuel is extremely dry. We know that there is limited to almost no soil moisture. When we see a build-up of weather, a build-up of wind and high temperatures, it is a recipe for fire.

Again, I commend our emergency services and the coordination that they worked with, and I commend all those volunteers who went above and beyond, as well as those people who volunteer to help our volunteers, making sure that they are fed and watered and that any injuries are dealt with. SAPOL and ambulance officers are all part of that team. That said, I commend this motion.

**Mr GEE (Taylor) (15:46):** I also wish to say a few words in support of the motion thanking emergency services, moved by the Premier and seconded by the Leader of the Opposition. Last Wednesday was a day with record temperatures and gale-force winds that saw multiple fires at emergency warning levels and numerous firefighters going from one emergency to another. Almost every other occupation requires people to move away from danger, but these men and women have been highly trained to deal with situations that would be beyond the capability of most of us.

The dedication shown by members of the CFS and our other emergency services volunteers is immense. This was the case for the volunteers from the Dalkeith, Salisbury, Two Wells and Virginia CFS brigades, which had many members initially on active stand-by, who were then called to fires both in their local areas and across Yorke Peninsula.

The dedication I just mentioned was highlighted in the *Sunday Mail*, which acknowledged the work of Dalkeith CFS member Jamie Pugh. Jamie had just returned from two deployments assisting the Rural Fire Service in New South Wales. He was then on active stand-by at the Dalkeith station for most of the day on Wednesday. His active stand-by ended and he was deployed to the Yorke town blaze at 8pm to relieve other Dalkeith volunteers who had been out on the fireground. Jamie arrived at 11pm and was then relieved by somebody else at 10am the following morning. Jamie's story is just one of many stories of selflessness across the state. I cannot imagine the conditions that the CFS volunteers would have faced at the Yorke town fire and the terror that residents and animals would have felt, facing the dangers that fire brings with it.

I attended the Dalkeith CFS open day only a few weeks ago, on 27 October. Even then, several units were called away in the middle of the day to attend an emergency. I could feel the closeness of the people at that event. They were like a large family, united by their commitment to serve. My heartfelt sympathies go out to all those directly affected by the fires, whether they lost homes, had property damage or lost their pets or livestock.

I know the effect that the Sampson Flat and Pinery fires had on the local communities in the north and Mid North. I toured the aftermath of the Pinery fire with the parliamentary Natural Resources Committee. We met with residents and farmers who had been impacted by that hellish event. One of the feelings I was left with after that day was the way in which all those people played down the personal impact of that fire. I thought at the time that they were thinking, no matter how badly they were affected, there were others who were worse off.

I remember visiting the evacuation centres and the unofficial community centre that was set up at the One Tree Hill Institute, where I was trying to direct people arriving toward the different support agencies on site. I noticed a woman who looked a bit confused. I spoke to her and she was eager to get back to her husband who was recovering from major surgery. The water at home was gone, so she had come in to get some bottled water.

She said she had to fight the fire with a broom as it got close to her house. I called a first aider and got a drink for her, and I noticed her right foot was burnt. The blister looked as if all her skin had been inflated like a balloon. She had been working on that fire in thongs. She was in shock and she was unaware of the burns on her foot. She just wanted to get back to husband and to her home.

I was asked to join the fire squad at Holden on a new night shift that was put on in plant 1. I spent three years on the fire squad and I trained every other week. Fortunately, I never had to use those skills. Whenever the call goes out, we know that the men and women from the CFS always answer, whether it is to attend a fire, a road accident or any other emergency. These men and women do not think when they get the call, they just act, putting their lives on the line, leaving their families and workplaces.

I acknowledge the volunteers from the State Emergency Service, Salvation Army, farm fire units, service club volunteers, SA Ambulance Service and St John volunteers, plus so many other people who contribute to our welfare on a day like last Wednesday and the days that followed. I want to take a moment to thank all the families of the dedicated volunteers who support them in their work. It cannot be an easy life and I am sure they worry about the safe return of their loved ones. It would be remiss of me not to thank the employers of all the volunteers who release them from work to attend to their volunteer duties.

I also acknowledge those members who take time away from their own businesses to give their time to protect our community. We should be very proud of all these volunteers, and I hope that the remainder of summer is quieter for them and that they all remain safe. With that, I commend the motion to the house.

**Ms LUETHEN (King) (15:52):** Today, I wish to speak about the recent fires and the outstanding contribution by our emergency services and volunteers. In anticipation of the forecasted conditions for Wednesday 20 November, the CFS Chief Officer took the unusual step of establishing a statewide fire ban to deter unsafe acts and behaviours. All the state's 15 fire ban districts had total fire bans already declared. Seven of the 15 districts had the highest level of fire danger rating applied (catastrophic), which means they had a fire danger index of greater than 100, effectively going off the charts.

There were 69 fires started on that day, responded to by the CFS and the Metropolitan Fire Service, along with significantly more responses to other callouts, including everything from trees being knocked down to car crashes. At the peak of the activity on Wednesday 20 November, the CFS had 600 personnel and 150 fire trucks committed across our state. Significant fires started on the day: Beaufort near Port Wakefield, Price, Appila, Angaston, Finnis and, of course, Yorketown. There were also two urban fires on the day which were attended by the MFS: a wine distribution centre at Hilton and a large rubbish/waste fire at Wingfield.

At 3.20 on 20 November, the first crews were dispatched to the Yorketown fire. Given the conditions, crews were unable to halt the forward rate of spread of fire under the prevailing conditions and the flanks of the fire continued to expand. Strike teams were progressively called in from other parts of the state to assist the local crews. The fire burned its way south to the ocean near Troubridge Point, where it could burn no further.

The CFS knew that a wind change was expected and that what was the eastern flank of the fire could become the new head of the fire. It worked to put in an eight-metre containment line and extinguish any hotspots near that edge of the fire before the wind change was expected. Unfortunately, in the early hours of the 21<sup>st</sup> the wind change came and was much stronger than expected. The worst happened. An ember jumped the containment line and a new fire started in the worst possible location, starting a fire that was heading straight for Edithburgh. Crews were tasked with asset protection and asked to work in horrendous conditions.

Seventy kilometres away in Adelaide, everyone will remember the strong smell of smoke when they woke up that morning. As the Premier said, just imagine how bad it was being right there. The wind pushed the smoke right into town and CFS crews were left with almost zero visibility as they fought the fire. Through their efforts, many of the houses and sheds in the town and just out of it were saved, which is a testament to the commitment and skills of so many of our volunteers.

In total, the fire burnt 5,000 hectares of land, much of it agricultural; destroyed 11 houses; and left 33 people with minor injuries. The Premier told us that so far a total of \$13,440 has been granted through 18 Personal Hardship Emergency Grants to the community, jointly funded through the commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. The grants of up to \$700 per family are for immediate temporary relief for South Australians directly affected by the Yorketown fire and are intended to pay for essential items, such as food, toiletries and clothing. A local recovery coordinator has been appointed to assist those affected by the Yorketown fire.

This house owes our emergency services volunteers and staff our thanks. All the agencies in South Australia can be proud of their actions over those days. To the CFS, the MFS, the SES, SAPOL, the SA Ambulance Service and National Parks South Australia, I say thank you. In addition, I wish to say a heartfelt thank you to the Para Group of CFS staff and volunteers who helped out tremendously with fire emergencies in November, both interstate and locally.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the Country Fire Service and the vital role that it plays in keeping our community safe, especially during the bushfire season. In recent days, we have been dealt a timely reminder of just how dangerous bushfires can be, with fires across South Australia, the eastern seaboard and earlier this month in Port Lincoln. I would like to echo the comments made by the CFS and remind everyone how important it is to be bushfire ready and of the steps that we can all take to ensure our families and our community are safe.

In my own electorate of King and in SA's north, we are fortunate to have the fantastic team of volunteers from the Para CFS Group keeping us safe this bushfire season. Specifically from King, we have the CFS brigades from Salisbury, One Tree Hill and Tea Tree Gully. We all know that these CFS members attend preparation training regularly. They then stop what they are doing and give up their own time to assist others day after day, week after week, year after year when an emergency happens.

Right now, after fighting SA fires this month, the Para Group are continuing to provide a contingent to New South Wales to help fight the bushfires over there and, at this stage, this is planned until Christmas. Our thoughts are with those volunteers and New South Wales firefighters as they battle the numerous uncontained and dangerous fires across that state.

Last Wednesday, under the leadership of Rob Styling, the Para CFS Group helped fight fires at Yorketown, Price and Port Wakefield. Rob Styling was appointed incident controller for the region and provided leadership for crews from Wednesday morning until 3.30am. Rob was up again at 6.15am the next morning to keep helping. I commend and thank Rob personally. He has been a dedicated CFS member for 47 years this year. Rob Styling told me that the fire at Yorketown was five kilometres wide and 29 kilometres in length and was travelling at 25 km/h. During the early hours, there were 100 km/h winds.

During these local fires last Wednesday, a catastrophic day, Rob told me that there were other challenges presented, such as truck failures, engines blowing up and a tree falling on an emergency vehicle at Yorketown. In recounting the day to me, Rob commended the CFS members; the police, who did a great job of evacuating people; the Salvos, who fed the CFS; and the rapid assessment team, who helped evaluate houses and sheds that had been lost.

Thank you to every person deployed and every person who helped behind the scenes. I also thank and commend our local CFS crews and our local councils, who have been vocal advocates for bushfire safety and who continue to help families learn the ways they can prepare to ensure that their properties are as safe as possible in this bushfire season.

In closing, it was a valuable experience to spend some one-on-one time with the One Tree Hill CFS recently, along with the Premier. I thank everyone involved for their efforts every day of the week, and I thank these volunteers' families for their support in freeing up their family members for these efforts to keep our community safe. Your contribution is invaluable and each person in this house and in our community thanks you.

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (16:00):** On Wednesday 20 November, fires started at Yorketown and spread across the region, affecting neighbouring towns, such as Coobowie and Edithburgh. Our fireys battled more than 65 fires across South Australia during the extreme heat, which topped 42° with strong winds, which was a catastrophic fire danger rating. As we know, the fires affected many properties and caused injuries to more than 33 people. It moved quickly, and many local residents were advised to evacuate. The Red Cross was activated to deliver the Telecross REDi services, based on forecast heat and the catastrophic fire danger rating.

In the early hours of Thursday 21 November, at around 1am the Stansbury Bowling Club became an emergency evacuation centre, taking in people evacuated from Edithburgh and the Yorketown fires. By around 6.30am, about 60 people had evacuated to the centre. By its peak at around lunchtime, there were about 150 people located there, people ranging from young babies to older residents. By sunset that Thursday evening, only a handful of people remained, as they were given the all clear to return to their homes.

The centre was operated by the Emergency Relief Functional Support Group from Housing SA at Port Pirie, and I thank them for their quick work in opening up that centre. President Trevor Urlwin of the Stansbury Bowling Club acknowledged the professionalism and compassion of the Emergency Relief Functional Support Group. The Housing SA employees did an exemplary job alongside the Red Cross volunteers and the chaplains located at the centre. Thanks to the generosity of the local community, the Stansbury Bowling Club was able to offer breakfast, lunch and snacks to the people seeking relief.

I would particularly like to thank Tim Mackinlay from Stansbury Gourmet Meats, who donated meat to the centre; George Kokar from Stansbury Pharmacy, who provided asthma medication for those located there; Ron Turnbull of Port Vincent IGA, who donated bread, milk and other food; and many other private individuals who donated or offered food and other essentials. These groups operated behind the scenes to support the tireless efforts of front-line organisations like the CFS and SA Ambulance Service.

Register.Find.Reunite was activated by the Red Cross. It is a service that helps people get in touch with loved ones in a fire-affected area to make sure that they can be located and are okay. In fact, as fires burned around the country in New South Wales, WA, Queensland and South Australia, more than 190 trained Red Cross emergency services personnel responded at more than 40 locations, providing psychological first aid, personal support and information. In South Australia, the Red Cross made around 800 phone calls to check on elderly and isolated people during last week's heatwave, as well as providing practical support for those evacuated from their homes after the Yorketown fire.

The Para Group of the CFS, including volunteers from Salisbury, also deserve a mention. Given the forewarning of the catastrophic conditions on Wednesday, the Para Group was placed on active stand-by. This included the Salisbury CFS, the Dalkeith CFS, the One Tree Hill CFS, the Tea Tree Gully CFS, the Virginia CFS and the Para Reserve. Three appliances were manned at the



Salisbury station, and from the Salisbury station two vehicles were tasked to Lyndoch and then assigned to Angaston. The strike team was led by Captain Robert Turnbull.

Once the strike team arrived in Angaston, the fire was contained, so they were then sent 90 minutes away to Yorketown to fight the out-of-control blazes. This crew stayed there until around midnight, when a changeover crew came to relieve them for the remainder of the night. This strike team fought past daybreak, until around 8:30am on Thursday, before making their way back to Adelaide. This crew was also involved in the fight to save Edithburgh early Friday morning around 5am, and more volunteers were sent out during the day on Friday.

We know that our volunteers do an extraordinary job in our community every day. However, in times of crises these are the moments when they become our heroes, putting the care and safety of others before themselves. In support of this motion, I want to thank each and every one of the volunteers across the emergency services and community organisations who came to the fore on the day.

I have some lived experiences in my time as minister for communities after both the Sampson Flat and Pinery fires, a role that involved the then department for communities and social inclusion providing relief and recovery efforts and, most importantly, providing ongoing support for those areas. While we often see a lot of attention paid then and there when the fire is happening and in the days afterwards, it is often ongoing work that is needed in the community for people who are suffering from trauma, who are looking to rebuild their lives and needing support.

I was very pleased to hear that Deb Richardson has been announced as the Local Recovery Coordinator for Yorke Peninsula. I would like to say that as a state, we think about people being affected by the fires. After the Sampson Flat and Pinery fires, my experience was that it often took many months for people to come forward and say that they needed support. Many people experienced significant trauma. They were not able to rebuild their lives as quickly as they thought. For some, who said, 'I am absolutely fine, no worries to see here,' they were struggling many weeks and months later.

I have to say this is something we do well in South Australia. I know that the member for Narungga will obviously be paying close attention to this. If I recall correctly, after the Pinery fire we had some suicide prevention programs that went out. In particular, we talked to many people in the local main streets—whether it be the local butcher, the hairdresser or the person in the post office—because often they were the ones who heard first from people that they were struggling. Often they were not aware of the government services and support that were being provided.

The one thing I would say is that, while I certainly rise to support this motion, this impact is significant. As the member for Narungga said in this house, and we also heard from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, we know that attention will need to be paid and that this community will need to be supported over the long term. Obviously, the emergency grants are important, but I encourage the government to continue to provide services for recovery for people impacted by this fire. I support the motion.

#### *Matter of Privilege*

#### **MATTER OF PRIVILEGE**

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (16:09):** I rise on a matter of privilege. Today, the member for Kaurna, during the grievance debate made the following remarks and I quote:

Now today, what we have learnt is another revelation of Dr McGowan lying to the parliamentary committee, this time about Liberal Party fundraisers. Last year, he was asked at his first appearance if he had attended any Liberal Party fundraisers and he said that he had certainly not attended those fundraisers. 'Certainly not' is what he said.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I have to hand page 108 of the Legislative Council record of the Budget and Finance Committee of 23 July 2018, and I will of course provide a copy of the same. On that day, amongst other things, as you will see on the page, the Chairperson asked:

The CHAIRPERSON: Have you yourself attended Liberal Party fundraisers in the lead-up to the election?

Dr McGOWAN: Not that I recall.

I suggest that it is clear from this question—and you have the view of the whole of the transcript relating to that matter, Mr Deputy Speaker—that the election referred to is the March 2018 state election. That, of course, is also supported by the fact that you will see from the questions raised in that committee that they relate to the appointment of Dr McGowan obviously post the March 2018 election, when there had been a change of government.

The member for Kaurna has made the allegation under privilege that Dr McGowan has lied to the parliament, referring to a fundraiser Dr McGowan allegedly attended prior to the March 2014 state election, making the allegation that this is inconsistent with the evidence that Dr McGowan provided to the Budget and Finance Committee. I suggest that the member for Kaurna has then misrepresented both the question and response at the Budget and Finance Committee.

Accordingly, I suggest that the member for Kaurna has deliberately misled the parliament not only to have the reputational damage to Dr McGowan but, most importantly, for the purposes of any consideration of a prima facie case to support the establishment of a privileges committee, that has been information that tends to impede or obstruct the house in the discharge of its duties.

Clearly these are serious allegations. They are inconsistent with the material that was presented. Bits of information have been conjoined for the purposes of, I suggest, deliberately misleading the house with the direct consequence of impeding or obstructing the house. Accordingly, I seek that a prima facie case is established and a privileges committee be considered to be appointed for the purpose of consideration of this most serious matter.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Attorney, I will be referring this to the Speaker, obviously. If you are happy to table or bring forward whatever documents you have that are relevant to this I will ensure that the Speaker gets them for consideration. Thank you.

#### *Motions*

### **BUSHFIRES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Debate resumed.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (16:13):** As a proud member of the Country Fire Service, I am happy to support this motion supporting our emergency services, our volunteers and our community. I think 'community' is the word here because what happens when we have these disasters is that a whole community gets together. We have seen it whether it has been at Yorketown or whether it has been in the Mid North. We have had some fires in the Mallee as well, and obviously in recent times we have seen the ongoing fires in Queensland and New South Wales.

At lunchtime, I met up with a staffer's husband who had just got back from spending a bit of time at Armidale on deployment. He is just one of the people from this state who is serving the community. I talk about community in the broad sense because it is about people helping their fellow man or woman and getting on with the job, just as we saw on Wednesday last week.

It was forecast that it was going to be a terrible day on Wednesday 20 November 2019. We had the unprecedented calling of a catastrophic fire day the day before, which I think was a wise move that got everyone ready to go. I know that the services we have now are so much better than what we had in 1983 with Ash Wednesday. I just want to reflect on that fire briefly. That was a terrible course of events, with fires going up through the suburbs of Adelaide, basically, through the Hills and also in the South-East.

Sadly, too many people lost their lives. Some people had some miraculous tales of survival, especially with the memory of such a terrible fire. We have had terrible fires since then—do not get me wrong—but the firefighting facilities we have across the services, whether it is the Country Fire Service or the Metropolitan Fire Service and the assistance that the State Emergency Service gives as well, is so much better.

In regard to aerial water bombers, such as Aerotech and other planes that go up, we have so many more aerial firefighting planes ready to go up over an event. Years ago, I saw them fly into Ngarkat Conservation Park and all around the place. I have a very good friend who I used to shear with. He and his family got caught in one fire between Coomandook and Meningie. They were trapped in their home so they took refuge in the bathroom thinking, 'Let's see what happens.' The

fire pretty well went over the top of the house, but at about the same time an aerial bomber dropped a load straight onto the house and saved them.

Some fantastic work has been and is being done in New South Wales and Queensland and in mopping up these other fires throughout South Australia. As I said, we have had some really big fires, but in the Mallee we have had some hay fires. Spontaneous combustion is a nasty beast. With spontaneous combustion, obviously hay might be bailed a little bit wet and up she goes.

The other night I had a sister and a brother ringing me when I was in Adelaide at a community awards night. They were saying, 'What's going on at Parkin Hall Road,' which is the road at the back of our farm at Coomandook. I said, 'Well, how do I know? I'm in Adelaide?' I said that I would find out, and I made a phone call to the farmer who leases my property. He said, 'I went past an hour ago and it was alright.' What had happened was that a pile of pig manure at the farm next door had spontaneously combusted. It is similar to hay fire: you have to pull it apart to try to get it out. One of the fires we had recently Angaston was a pile of horse manure that had lit up.

There can be all sorts of causes, including arson, and I must commend the police for what they do in keeping an eye out for arsonists. Where I live when I am in Adelaide for sitting weeks at my Mount Osmond property, they are quite often up those roads—Mount Osmond Road, heading towards Greenhill Road off the freeway. You will just come up there and see a police car parked there. I know exactly why they are there, and I think that is a fantastic service. They keep their eye out to keep the community safe because those gullies are where those fires will come the quickest.

Certainly, fire is a destructive beast, and I want to reflect on some of the incidents we have had. We have had 219 separate incidents responded to across the state. These are statistics from 19 November to 24 November. We have had rural fires, vehicle accidents and structure fires, 357 support responses and, obviously, multiple brigades attending the Yorketown incident. The recorded hours for some 576 turnouts is 33,312 hours, and these numbers will only grow as more reports come in from CFS brigades.

At the peak of the fire activity last Wednesday, the CFS had 600 personnel and 150 fire trucks committed across the state. As I have said—and I see that it was not unprecedented—on Wednesday the CFS Chief Officer took the unusual step of establishing a statewide fire ban to deter unsafe acts and behaviours. This had only been enacted a couple of times over the previous decade. Multiple media releases and warnings were sent out by the Country Fire Service during this period.

As was predicted—and thank you to the weather forecasters at the Bureau of Meteorology—on Wednesday 20 November the state experienced actual catastrophic fire weather conditions in almost half its districts, with all of the others showing as 'severe' or 'extreme' rated. Also, on that day the CFS responded to at least 69 fires, with large fires recorded at Price on Yorke Peninsula; Appila in the Mid North; Beaufort in the Mid North; Yorketown, which we are well aware of, on Yorke Peninsula in the seat of Narungga; Finniss on Fleurieu Peninsula; and Angaston in the Barossa, which was the fire that was spontaneous combustion from the heap of horse manure.

In regard to the fire at the bottom end of Yorke Peninsula, the Yorketown fire was the largest and most dangerous of these fires, with over 250 firefighters committed to it. Sadly, 11 homes were lost and there were significant stock losses. Over 400 were reported, which is a real tragedy for farmers who have to go around their stock, see stock that have been hurt and they have to put them down. At that time, they are concerned about not just the monetary loss but also the harm that has come to those animals because of this fire going through their properties. So it is a very, very sad time for property owners.

In this fire, as with all the others, there were volunteers, there were CFS staff and there were Metropolitan Fire Service staff, and they were supported across the board by their own colleagues and colleagues from the State Emergency Service. Government departments were involved in dealing with these fires, and the crews responding were supported by catering from local volunteers and the Salvation Army.

Again, this is where it gets to community. People who are not necessarily involved in community groups just turned up, and if they could not man a fire truck they would say, 'Can I help with some catering, or I can go and do something with the organisation to make sure that we can

keep people out on the front line?' As I said, it is a whole community structure to help protect and save the community.

Obviously, there was a lot of aerial bombing with our own resources, and we had a bombing run, which I believe was a double bombing run by the large aerial tanker from New South Wales, and that was to protect the town of Coobowie. Fourteen aircraft were also deployed across the state. Even though we had some terrible losses with housing and livestock, in the main it was a successful joint response across the whole state, which resulted in a better outcome than might have been expected, with very few injuries and no human lives lost.

In regard to the Metropolitan Fire Service, they had an unprecedented number of structure and other fires that day, and they were well and truly prepared. Regional staff were stood up and on active stand-by in areas like Port Lincoln, Kapunda and Mount Barker. Additional communication staff were brought in. Metropolitan firefighters responded to five confirmed structure fires, with three requiring an increased alarm response due to the size of the fire, which included the MFS closing down South Road at Hilton for 90 minutes while firefighters put out a fire at a wine distribution centre, and there was a large waste/recycling fire at Wingfield.

There was also a large grassfire not far from Modbury Hospital and several other grassfires surrounding the city during the day. The Metropolitan Fire Service responded with two urban search and rescue teams to assist the CFS at Yorketown, with impact assessments to property impacted by fire. The Yorketown CFS fire incident commander requested that the assessment teams assess the area impacted by fire that extended from the eastern flank toward Edithburgh. They completed an additional 19 assessments in approximately 80 minutes, so they did great work. The MFS and CFS continue to provide staff and deployments to New South Wales.

The brigades that went to support Yorketown—and this shows the sense of community— included Aldinga Beach, Alford, Angaston, Ardrossan, Bridgewater, Burnside, Bute, Cherry Gardens, Concordia, Coromandel Valley, Crystal Brook, Cunliffe, Curramulka, Dalkeith, Freeling, Gladstone, Gumeracha Group, Hahndorf, Hamley Bridge, Happy Valley, Hay Flat, Hermitage, Hindmarsh Valley, Kangarilla and Lyndoch.

They also included Mawson operations support, Milang (from the seat of Hammond), Morphett Vale, Napperby, Northern Yorke Peninsula Group, Nuriootpa, One Tree Hill, Paracombe, Port Broughton, Port Victoria, Region 2 Operations, Roseworthy, Salisbury, Seaford, Sevenhill/ Penwortham, Shea-Oak Log, South Hummocks, Southern Yorke Peninsula Group and Spalding. That shows an amazing turnout of people supporting the community of Yorke Peninsula.

For other fires that we have had to deal with recently, the brigades deployed to New South Wales include Aldinga Beach, Andamooka, Angaston, Athelstone, Balaklava, Bridgewater, Brukunga, Cambrai (from the seat of Hammond), Cherry Gardens, Clarendon, Clayton (from the seat of Hammond), Concordia, Coromandel Valley, Dalkeith, Dublin, Eden Hills, Greenpatch, Gumeracha Group, Hamley Bridge, Happy Valley, Hindmarsh Valley, Jervois (from Hammond), Lincoln and Littlehampton.

Also deployed were brigades from Macclesfield, Morphett Vale, Naracoorte, Norton Summit/Ashton, Nuriootpa, Para Reserve, Paracombe, Peterborough, Pinnaroo (from Hammond), Port Broughton, Port Elliot, Region 3, Region 5, Region 1 Operations, Region 3 Operations (from my electorate of Hammond), Roseworthy, Roxby Downs, Seaford, Southern Yorke Peninsula Group, Strathalbyn, Swanport Group, Tailem Bend (from Hammond), Tea Tree Gully, Upper Sturt, Virginia, Williamstown, Willunga, Woodchester and Yankalilla. I commend all the actions of community members and emergency services workers right across the board and I commend the motion.

Debate adjourned on motion of Dr Harvey.

*Auditor-General's Report*

**AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT**

In committee.

**The CHAIR:** I declare the examination of the report of the Auditor-General 2018-19 to be open. I remind members that the committee is in normal session. Any questions have to be asked

by members on their feet and all questions must be directly referenced to the Auditor-General's 2018-19 Report. I welcome the Premier and now call for questions.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** Referring to Report 8 of 2019, State finances and related matters, pages 1 and 2, and also page 19, the Auditor-General's overall assessment of state finances makes specific reference to debt. He says, as follows:

- 1.2.1 Significant increases in the State's net debt to fund the general government sector's investing program increase the risk the SA Government will have less capacity and flexibility for expenditure on services.

It also notes:

South Australia's non-financial public sector net debt to revenue ratio is expected to be higher than all other States by 2022-23. Growth in net debt over the four years of the Budget is also well in excess of estimated growth in the State's gross state product and revenue base. As a result, there is an increased risk the SA Government will have less capacity and flexibility for expenditure on services after meeting higher borrowing costs moving towards 2022-23.

My question, Premier, is: have you prioritised which services you will be cutting first and when?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I just do not see any correlation between those two statements that the Leader of the Opposition is putting to us today.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** The Auditor-General specifically foreshadows that, as a result, there is an increased risk that the South Australian government will have less capacity and flexibility for expenditure on services after meeting higher borrowing costs moving forward. Now that we have clarified there is a direct correlation, I ask again: what has the Premier determined the government's strategy will be regarding that risk—namely, cutting various services, as obviously the government has already started doing?

**The CHAIR:** Before I call the Premier, could you reference that please, leader.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** I read all the quotes. I am more than happy to read them again. It is Report 8 of 2019, State finances and related matters, pages 1 and 2 and also page 19.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I hope those sitting next to the leader have some other questions because these seem to be going absolutely nowhere. We have made it very clear in our budget, which comes out every June, exactly and precisely what the budgets for the individual departments are.

**The CHAIR:** Leader, this is Report 8; is that what you are referring to?

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** Yes, that is right.

**The CHAIR:** So it is not the Annual Report?

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** Yes. Can I carry on?

**The CHAIR:** Continue.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** Thank you. If growth were to slow or revenue to decline, what are your preferred options? Are you going to cut investing into programs, or are there any other anticipated potential privatisations, like the train and tram privatisation?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** We have presented our budget, and of course we need to remain nimble, but the reality is we will address those issues as and when they become clear to us.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** The posture of the government remaining nimble, does that mean that there is a prospect of further privatisations, like the trains and trams or correctional services and so forth?

**Mr PATTERSON:** Point of order: standing order 97, 'Such questions not to involve argument'.

*Members interjecting:*

**The CHAIR:** Member for Morphett and leader! I will address this, Premier, before I speak to this. I will take the point of order and rule against it. I am prepared to accept that question, given that the house is in committee.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I know that privatisation was a key program of the previous government. I can reflect very easily on their massive privatisation agenda over their 16 years in government. That was very clear, really, almost from day one when the government was flogging off just about everything that was not nailed down, but that is not our agenda whatsoever.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** For the sake of clarity, is the Premier conveying to the house that he still has no privatisation agenda despite the trains and trams, despite the correctional services facilities, the hospital patient transfers and SA Pathology? Does that not constitute a privatisation agenda?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I am happy to answer any questions which relate to the Auditor-General's Report.

**The CHAIR:** I remind the leader that he does need to reference each and every time, for my benefit as much as anyone's, where his questions are coming from.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** I will continue on the same reference that I made earlier, pages 1, 2 and 19. Does the Premier take any responsibility for gross state product growth declining, from 2.3 per cent in 2017-18 to 1.4 per cent in 2018-19?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** The gross state product is not something that the government is completely responsible for. Obviously we operate in an environment where we try to maximise the attractiveness of South Australia as an investment destination. We want to maximise our performance as a state, but we do not operate in isolation; we operate in a country.

There are some economic headwinds at the moment. I think the Leader of the Opposition would be more than aware of those: the slowing gross domestic product at the national level and, of course, issues relating to slowing trade and investment globally. We are committed to doing everything we possibly can whilst we are in government to optimise the performance of our state whilst we are on the treasury bench.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** On the same reference, does the government expect to collect less revenue as a result of gross state product growth declining in comparison to your budget forecast of 2 per cent?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** Revenue expectations are in the budget.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** Again on the same references, given the concerns about the increase referred to by the Auditor-General, has it been irresponsible to put a handbrake on commercial property transfers and associated revenue for the state by delivering over 160 days of uncertainty on the land tax measures?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I do not accept that, no.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** On the same reference, is the Premier concerned or can the Premier say with any degree of confidence that the uncertainty within the commercial property market, and also the residential property market regarding land tax, is likely to have any implications on revenue for the state government?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** All our projections are in the budget. I think the South Australian property market has performed well relative to the rest of the Australian market both in terms of residential and commercial/industrial. I think the land tax issue will be clarified tomorrow.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** Will that clarity from the land tax issue mean there are no further changes to the land tax proposition from the government?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** What part of the Auditor-General's Report are you referring to?

**The CHAIR:** We just need to confirm your reference, leader.

*Members interjecting:*

**The CHAIR:** Enough, member for West Torrens and member for Lee. My understanding—

*Members interjecting:*

**The CHAIR:** Order! Member for Lee, that is enough. We are wasting time. We just need to clarify what we are actually examining here.

*Members interjecting:*

**The CHAIR:** Member for West Torrens and member for Lee, I am speaking. We just need to clarify what we are examining here. My understanding is that we were examining the Annual Report of the Auditor-General, which is Report 6. You have been referencing Report 8, which we are having a little bit of difficulty finding here. We are actually examining the Annual Report today, not the state finances report.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Are all the reports tabled as part of the Annual Report?

**The CHAIR:** They were tabled separately.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Perhaps you could ask the Clerk: does that mean that we cannot ask any questions about the financial statements relating to the Annual Report, given they were not tabled together?

**The CHAIR:** My apologies. We stopped the clock while we had that discussion. I just needed to clarify in my own mind whether we were accepting questions from Report 8. Given that it also deals with the 2018-19 year—it is not the annual report, but it does deal with the financial year in question—I am happy to accept those questions. Leader, the clock has started again.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** I was just asking for some clarity from the Premier regarding the implications of the land tax changes on government revenue.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** As I stated previously, our revenue projections are in the budget. If there is a need to update them, that can be done at the time of the Mid-Year Budget Review or in the budget next year.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** Have any of the various changes that the government has made to their land tax policy—we are up to the eighth version, from memory—provided some modelling or some expectations or estimations on the implications of various revenues to the state government, particularly around stamp duty?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** This matter is currently before the parliament. Let's just wait to see what actually transpires when that debate is concluded.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Could I draw the Premier's attention to page 20 of Report 8, revenue parameter variations. Could you explain why the national partnership profile of payments has changed?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I do not have that detailed information, but I am happy to find out and come back to the committee.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Perhaps I could provide some further information for the benefit of the Premier, who seems not to have the report with him. The report states:

Commonwealth Government national partnership grants were revised up in 2018-19 (\$855 million) and down in all future years (\$1.183 billion...mainly reflecting the outcome of negotiations with the Commonwealth Government to pull forward existing infrastructure funding into 2018-19 for several projects and updated estimates of future Commonwealth funding.

Which projects attracted the pull forward of funding, and why has the government reduced the remaining funding years for infrastructure in South Australia?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I refer the member to my previous answer.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Were you involved at all in these negotiations?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** That is a good question to ask the Treasurer, who negotiates the detailed questions that you are asking. Of course, we are in close contact with the federal

government. We have a good working relationship with the federal government, which we have had to renegotiate. We have stopped the fake fights that existed under the previous regime, and I have since been very satisfied with the arrangements between ourselves and the commonwealth.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Can the Premier explain why he would be satisfied with a relationship that has reduced capital grants by more than \$330 million over the next four years?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I gave an answer earlier, which was that I am happy to find the details of that and come back to you. Of course, many of the issues that we encountered upon coming into government were that the previous government did not have an adequate pipeline of work going forward. We have established Infrastructure SA. That was established here as an act of this parliament. That group is working on a long-range, 20-year productive infrastructure plan for South Australia, with five-year capital intention statements due early next year. We have worked very diligently since coming into government to pull forward as many projects as possible, but, suffice to say, there was not much in the cupboard when we came to government.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Can I draw the Premier's attention to page 28 of Report 6 of the Annual Report. Given the relationship that the Premier purports to have with the federal government, can he now clarify whether he has had an indication from the federal Treasurer whether the additional moneys coming from the commonwealth for the operation of the desal plant have been made exempt from the Commonwealth Grants Commission's calculations of GST grants to be distributed?

**The CHAIR:** Member for Lee, there are three parts to Report 6. In which part is page 28?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Sorry, it is in Part A: Executive Summary.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** That is a matter on which I think we are seeking some clarification, but my understanding is that, because it is a purchase rather than a national partnership agreement or a specific purpose payment, as is usual practice, it will not be included in the HFE arrangements or consideration.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Has the South Australian government been provided a commitment from the federal government that it will not be included in those assessments?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** We made it clear that we would not be worse off under the arrangements that were put in place. That was confirmed by the Prime Minister, so that is our expectation.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Has the government received specific advice from the federal government that the payments regarding the operation of the desalination plant will not be included in the calculation by the Commonwealth Grants Commission for the distribution of GST grants to South Australia? Is that correct?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I refer you to my previous answers.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Has this matter been considered by cabinet?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** To which matter are you referring?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** The matter we have been discussing. It is not rocket science.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** Of course the cabinet has been discussing the desal issue. I thought that would have been pretty obvious to anybody who had been following it, even at a cursory level. If it is beyond the wit of the opposition to understand what has actually transpired in recent times, I am happy to go through it.

*The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:*

**The CHAIR:** Order, member for Lee! You have asked your question.

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The CHAIR:** Member for West Torrens, you will have an opportunity soon. The Premier has the call.



**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** The member for Lee has asked a question. I am happy—

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The CHAIR:** The Premier has the call. Member for West Torrens, you will have an opportunity to ask a question in a moment. The member for Lee has asked his and the Premier is answering.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** It is reasonably clear, I would have thought, because we have answered questions on this issue in the parliament, and the cabinet considered the request that came from the Prime Minister to enable us to switch on the desal plant in South Australia to provide 100 gigalitres of water. This would be purchased from South Australia. It would then be provided to farmers who are producing fodder at a subsidised rate to those farmers along the Murray-Darling Basin. South Australian farmers with that capacity and that expertise would be able to purchase this subsidised water. We committed to 40 gigalitres this financial year, with a review in April next year.

There is a very significant drought and dry conditions right along the Murray-Darling Basin. We want to be doing our part. We made it very clear, though, that cabinet was not prepared to consider this if there was going to be any cost to the people of South Australia. We received assurances from the commonwealth that they would meet all the costs associated with the production of this water, the pumping of this water and that this 100 gigalitres would be a once-off agreement.

These were the considerations that cabinet reviewed before making a decision to support this. We are very proud to be supporting the efforts right along the Murray-Darling Basin at the moment. These are very difficult conditions for many people and we are very pleased that we are playing our part. One of the reasons we were very pleased to play a part was to see the capability of the desal plant.

It has never really been put through its full paces before. Yes, it has been operational, but it has not produced 100 gigalitres of water in a condensed time frame, so we are very pleased to see how it will perform. Of course, as I said, we are very happy that all the costs associated with that will be met by the commonwealth.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** Regarding the Auditor-General's Report 6, Part C, page 509 relates to the status of major development projects, including Lot Fourteen. Can the Premier outline exactly what his responsibility extends to, given that last year he was unable to advise this committee of details regarding tenancies, business cases for the gallery and also rental returns in the facility. I am particularly interested in how Lot Fourteen responsibilities are managed between the Premier, the minister responsible for Renewal SA and the minister responsible for innovation and skills.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** This is a very important project for our state. As members would be aware, the previous government had entered into an arrangement to essentially turn this into 1,300 apartments on the site of the old Royal Adelaide Hospital. We formed a different opinion. We thought it would be more useful to look at alternative uses because we thought there were plenty of places available within the private sector to put apartments up on the other side of the road and we did not want to be competitive with the private sector. We wanted to turn this seven hectares in the centre of the city, between the university and the Botanic Garden, into a genuine innovation precinct.

*Members interjecting:*

**The CHAIR:** Has the Premier finished? Another question, leader?

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** Can I provide an example in the context of the question that the Premier did not want to answer, clearly. Last year, we saw the landing pad launched and a subsidised look-and-see arrangement for businesses thinking about setting up in South Australia. It features in Defence SA materials and also the Defence and Space Landing Pad and Trade and Investment materials as the South Australian landing pad, and I assume in the Innovation and Skills promotional materials as well. The brochure states on page 6 that the application to the South Australian landing pad is by invitation only. Between DPC, Defence SA and other portfolios, how specifically is that program managed?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** This was a program that was launched at Euronaval in approximately October 2018. The Leader of the Opposition was invited, with one of his staff members at the taxpayers' cost, to be present at that launch. Obviously he was not paying much attention; maybe it was because it was in another time zone or maybe another hemisphere, but this is something we are very proud of. This is something that has already worked well.

Only a few months after this was launched at Euronaval in France we had our first company through the landing pad, which was L3Harris. It was originally L3, and subsequent to L3 being there it merged with Harris to form the sixth largest US defence company and the 10<sup>th</sup> largest in the world. They have been through the Defence Landing Pad, and earlier this week it was a great honour to officially launch their new facility at Mawson Lakes.

That is one example of a company that has been through the Defence Landing Pad, and there are more. Of course, some of those arrangements are commercial-in-confidence, but the Leader of the Opposition can be assured that this is a program that is up and running, that has had success and that is very much valued by people who receive an opportunity to be located in the centre of the city.

It might be a few weeks, it might be a few months, but we provide a concierge service to connect those companies with the opportunities that exist in the defence sector in South Australia. We are happy to extend that to other sectors as well, such as space, but it needs to be related to those sectors.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** I need to be more specific for the Premier. What agency or minister is responsible for the invitations? Specifically, who issues the invitations and what are the criteria for the invitations? Since it has started—and it is almost over a year now—how many businesses have been invited?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** Well, Defence SA, which sits within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. I do not have exact numbers, but I am happy to find out and come back.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** How many have been successful in making the transition through to a permanent establishment in South Australia as a result of those invitations?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** Again, I will be happy to find out the details but, as a couple of examples, I have been through L3Harris and I also know that Squad, the largest French cyber company, is in South Australia because of the relationships formed at Euronaval and through our Defence Landing Pad. I am happy to find other examples and provide them to the leader.

Obviously this is now fully hitting its straps. It has only been in place for just over a year, but we are satisfied that not only has it already been successful—attracting one of the largest defence companies in the world to South Australia is, as far as I am concerned, a coup—but they are providing integrated platform management system services now to the OPV build. They are very keen to roll that out further to the new Future Frigates program in South Australia, and there may be other examples I can provide.

The good news is that the construction work adjacent to the Australian Institute for Machine Learning and the upgrade of the Allied Health Building is almost at completion. I think this will provide much greater amenity for the Defence Landing Pad that has been a somewhat messy scenario right in the middle of a construction area. However, as I said, we are satisfied with the results to date, but we are looking forward to future results.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** I appreciate and understand the Premier taking some of those questions on notice and that he will come back with some specific answers that were sought for the questions. On this subject, I have one final question in regard to the landing pad. The Premier may not be able to answer this now, but could he provide specific information to the committee regarding what consultants were engaged in the process of establishing the landing pad and operating the landing pad?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** If I understand the question correctly, the leader is asking what consultants were engaged with the development of the landing pad, coming up with the idea?

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** The management of it.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I will take that question on notice. My understanding is that Defence SA does that work, but if there are consultants involved in that, or if there were consultants involved in advising the government in establishing the Defence Landing Pad, then I am happy to provide that.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** In regard to the same reference, moving to a different part of that particular site, namely, the proposed Aboriginal Art and Cultures Gallery, last year the Premier confirmed that \$200,000 had been set aside for a business case on the national Aboriginal Art and Cultures Gallery. Has that business case been completed and is the gallery proposal still on track as first announced, or is there ongoing consultation in and around that project? If so, what groups are involved?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I think there are two issues here: first, we had engaged PwC to look at the governance arrangements with regard to the new Aboriginal Art and Cultures Centre. That work has been completed. It was received in cabinet early this week. If it has not been released already—we are just checking at the moment whether it has been. That has been put up onto the DPC website, so you can take a look at that.

I think what the leader was then referring to was the business case. I think you got the dollar value for one and the title of the other. The dollar value of \$200,000 was for the PwC, which is more of the governance model, and then a full detailed business case was included in last year's budget for this current financial year to look at the detailed business case for that project. As the leader would be aware—and I am hoping that the parliament would be aware—this is an incredible opportunity for our state. We have already put \$150 million into the forward estimates, but of course work cannot begin on this for some time.

We still have more than a year of demolition work to be done on that site and that buys some time to make sure that we do the preparation that is required. I would much rather have a fully resolved plan that is going to be a great long-term productive asset for our state as well as showcasing our incredible collections, rather than a rushed concept. I am satisfied that the progress made to date keeps us on track with our proposal for when the Aboriginal Art and Cultures Centre will be open.

**The CHAIR:** That concludes the allocated time for the Premier and we now proceed to the examination of the Auditor-General's 2018-19 Report in relation to the Attorney-General. Once again, I remind members that the committee is in normal session. Questions have to be asked by members on their feet and all questions must be directly referenced to the Auditor-General's 2018-19 Report.

*Matter of Privilege*

**MATTER OF PRIVILEGE**

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (17:02):** Sir, I raise a matter of privilege. Earlier today, the Attorney-General spoke in this house in relation to a matter of privilege into the member for Kurna. Remarkably, the raising of this matter of privilege raises a matter of privilege in regard to what the member for Kurna suggested is the Attorney-General's deliberate misleading of this house.

The Attorney quoted question 1041 of the Legislative Council's Budget and Finance Committee, page 108, on Monday 23 July 2018, asked to Dr McGowan about his attendance at Liberal Party fundraisers. What she did not do was inform the parliament of questions 1042, 1043 and 1044, which followed, which were the basis of the member for Kurna's concerns raised in grievances today:

1042 The CHAIRPERSON: Has your company donated to or attended fundraisers—your former company, Silver Chain?

Dr McGOWAN: It's not my company. It's a not-for-profit—

1043 The CHAIRPERSON: The company Silver Chain that you worked for?

Dr McGOWAN: I don't believe so.

1044 The CHAIRPERSON: But you are not sure?

Dr McGOWAN: I would be 99 per cent sure. I can't be across what everybody does through the network, but certainly not myself. Certainly, as far as I am aware, no board members and so no senior management attended any Liberal Party fundraisers.

This makes it clear that the accusation the member for Kaurna made was accurate. This is where Dr McGowan said 'certainly not myself', and these questions and answers made no reference to the fundraisers having to be before the election. However, even if you believe the premise of the Attorney-General that the questions all refer to 2014 to 2018, the facts not referred to by the Attorney-General do not reveal that Dr McGowan also attended a fundraiser in June 2017, well within the period before the election.

The Attorney-General in misrepresenting the questions and answers in Budget and Finance and misrepresenting the evidence provided regarding the fundraisers attended by Dr McGowan, I believe has taken action to deliberately mislead the house on these matters. This is a very serious matter for the Attorney-General. I ask that this be referred to the Speaker for consideration of a prima facie case to support the establishment of a privileges committee that has information that tends to impede or obstruct the house in the discharge of its duties. I will provide further information to the Speaker.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I note the same and confirm that, whilst the matter may be referred to the Speaker for consideration, which will be the usual process, all the matters that have been raised are in the transcripts of the documents which I have already handed to the Speaker.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Attorney. Back to the member for West Torrens, I will refer as per normal to the Speaker, and if I you can bring forward any relevant documents.

#### *Auditor-General's Report*

### **AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT**

Debate in committee resumed.

**The CHAIR:** We are on to the examination of the Auditor-General's Report in relation to the Attorney-General. We will now start the clock, and the member for Kaurna has the call.

**Mr PICTON:** I refer to the Auditor-General's Report for 2019, Part C: Agency Audit Reports, page 48, Attorney-General's Department, Public Trustee, Common Fund Financial Reports. The Attorney-General has previously advised that from 1 July 2019 the Public Trustee will cease to accept any new deposits from private investors, with the service to be fully phased out by 30 June 2021, including current investment clients being forced to remove their money. Has the Attorney-General exercised her power under section 29(1)(b) of the Public Trustee Act, which reads:

- (1) The Public Trustee may establish one or more common funds—
  - (a) for the investment of money comprising or forming part of an estate under the control of the Public Trustee;
  - (b) for the investment of money on behalf of other classes of persons approved by the Minister. [to change the classes of people who can invest with the Public Trustee.]

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I think the two questions are: have the two funds been established? And the second question, can I have that again?

**Mr PICTON:** Has the Attorney-General exercised her power under 29(1)(b) of the Public Trustee Act?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** In relation to that, can I inquire where that has been referred to in the report?

**Mr PICTON:** In relation to the Common Fund Financial Reports.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I understand that, but I am just looking at page 48 and trying to identify where this is referred to.

**Mr PICTON:** Well, the whole section in relation to the Common Fund Financial Reports. While that section is not specifically mentioned, I do think it is germane and I am wondering whether you can answer the question.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I may, but I do not have the Public Trustee Act in front of me. If the member wants to have anything specific, I am happy for him to identify that. I can confirm that as and from 1 July this year the Public Trustee has ceased to accept new deposits from the following classes of persons: the wills customers of the Public Trustee, beneficiaries of estates and trusts administered by the Public Trustee when funds would be otherwise distributed, the trustee of estates and trusts, the Trustee of Charitable Funds, religious organisations, and trustees of self-managed superannuation funds and staff. That service will be phased out by 30 June 2021.

As to the particular accounts you are referring to, I am not actually sure which ones you are referring to, but I am happy to take it on notice and look at the question later. If you want to identify the operation of certain powers under the Public Trustee Act—I think it was in relation to section 23; is that right?

**Mr PICTON:** It is section 29(1)(b).

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Well, if you do not want to indicate what that is—I have read the Public Trustee Act, but I am happy for you to read it out and I will see whether I can answer it.

**Mr PICTON:** Thank you very much. Have the classes of people changed in relation to the common funds and investors?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I do not believe so. Again, I will take that on notice. I think I just read out to you all the classes that have ceased to operate in relation to new deposits. Is that what you are asking? I have identified the ones that are to cease to operate.

**Mr PICTON:** In relation to the changes of investors that the Attorney-General has outlined, has the Attorney exercised her power under the act to give effect to that decision?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Again, if we are referring to the utilisation of section 29, I just refer to my previous answer. We will look at that.

**Mr PICTON:** You might need to take this question on notice as well. What form did any authorisation take? Was it regulation, was it gazettal, or was it a simple signed instrument?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I know I have signed some documents in relation to that. My understanding is that in relation to section 29 that enables me, as the relevant minister, to approve classes of persons who can invest money with the Public Trustee. I have identified to you the ones where the Public Trustee no longer may approve for investment. From what I have indicated as to the previous classes of those that operated that I have approved, you can assume that I have acted to identify that the list I have read out are ones that, as from 1 July this year, the Public Trustee ceased to accept as new deposits.

**Mr PICTON:** In relation to the common funds, how much did the Public Trustee make from managing those investments?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I assume you mean in the financial year to 30 June 2018?

**Mr PICTON:** Yes.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** In which case, I will take that on notice and identify that for the committee.

**Mr PICTON:** What do you predict the value of that class of investment will be as at 30 June 2021?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I will have to take that on notice. Just to be clear on what we are taking on notice, they are the remaining investors or the ones that are no longer to apply and will completely cease by 30 June 2021.

**Mr PICTON:** How much do you predict the Public Trustee will make from managing those investments?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Again, they are all matters that would be in budget papers. What I can make available to the committee, I will. I know that you are asking questions about what I predict. These are matters that have been assessed by the Public Trustee. They have their own financial advisers in relation to those matters, and they have been incorporated in the Public Trustee budget as an estimate in the forward estimates. We will identify what information can be made available to the committee and make the same available.

**Mr PICTON:** Is it the case that as a result of these changes there will be a gap in the budget of the Public Trustee? If so, what will be the size of that gap?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I will just identify the two separate questions. One is that there is an identified gap. Is there going to be one and, if so, what is it? I think that is what you are asking me to identify. Some commentary has been made in the report, but again I think one has to look at what has been forecast as the revenue stream that will apply in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 years, and that information I will make inquiry to provide where it is available.

**Mr PICTON:** Who will be managing these investments instead of the Public Trustee and is the Public Trustee recommending particular organisations to clients who are exiting?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I do not know the answer to that. I have been given some information on it but, to be clear for the committee, we will take that on notice and identify what other options have been given. I would expect, though, that that would be a matter of course for the investor to make that determination. There is certainly no direction by the Public Trustee as to how they might operate in the future.

The whole reason, of course, for phasing this out to 30 June 2021 is to enable the client sufficient time to seek the necessary accounting and taxation advice and arrange for an alternate investor provider. To the best of my knowledge, there is no imposition being placed on investors as to who they might invest with in the future and under what terms.

**Mr PICTON:** Have you sought any advice regarding the legality of retrospectively removing clients from the Public Trustee investment service and, if so, who provided that advice?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I do not accept the assertion of the retrospective removal, but I will say that in relation to the change of the investment arrangements and services that are going to be provided by Public Trustee in the future, they have been within the envelope of advice not only from within Public Trustee but from Treasury and from the Crown Solicitor's Office.

**Mr PICTON:** In relation to any of that advice that has been provided, was there identified a right to unilaterally dishonour the contracts that were had with the Public Trustee and the clients, or has the opinion neglected that contractual issue altogether?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Again, I do not agree with the way the member has described the circumstances of the consequence of this decision. However, the determination, its impact and its legality have been assessed, advice has been received and the decision that has been made is consistent with that being both lawful and obviously able to be undertaken.

**Mr PICTON:** I refer to Auditor-General's Report, Part C, page 41, Attorney-General's Department, Public Trustee, and the merger of the Public Trustee and the Office of the Public Advocate. The government has announced its intention to merge the Public Trustee with the Office of the Public Advocate and we understand that is subject to legislation. When does the Attorney-General intend to introduce that legislation to the parliament?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Rest assured, member for Kaurua, that it will not be next week. Nevertheless, work is being undertaken. The announcement was made in April this year. Obviously, there has been not only the undertaking of work for, and the change of core business to be undertaken by, the Public Trustee that we have already canvassed in the committee today, but also the cessation of the provision of wills for certain members of the current client base or the client base that operated when the announcement was made to a more limited range of persons—for example, concession holders.

After 30 June 2019, a three-month period was provided to clients at the time who had wills that would no longer qualify for work to enable them to make an appointment and have any codicil

prepared to update their will. All that work has been undertaken. In the transition and change to the core work of the Public Trustee that has already taken place and that has not required legislative reform, that has gone on.

The actual merger between the Public Trustee and the Public Advocate does require legislation. We are working to ensure that that framework and the new service structure deliver the best possible outcomes, but I can confirm that there is no impact on current customers and clients prior to the passage of legislation.

**Mr PICTON:** How many staff are currently employed in the Public Trustee and how many staff are currently employed in the Office of the Public Advocate?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I have referred to that a few times this year. In relation to the Public Trustee, the number of full-time equivalents as at 30 June 2019 is 176.1. In relation to the Public Advocate, it is quite a number less, but I will just find that for you. Full-time equivalent is 28.3 as at 30 June 2019.

**Mr PICTON:** Do you consider there are any duplicated roles between the two, and what will the savings be to taxpayers should the merger go ahead?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** The reforms are not about delivering a budget saving, let me be quite clear about that. It will not result in a reduction in services to clients and, as a consequence, we are not expecting any staff reductions as a result of the merger. What has become apparent, though, is that in the overlap of clients who are both clients of the Public Trustee and clients of the Public Advocate we have something like 700 people who are clients of both.

That is a huge cohort of our community who are in need of their financial matters being looked after, which of course are largely looked after by the Public Trustee, and also other advocacy guardianship-like matters, etc., under the Public Advocate. The service as it is currently structured means that those clients, if they want person-to-person service, need to attend two different premises and two different agencies about really similar matters.

A common one, I am told, is when a decision is made perhaps to assist someone who is under the guardianship via the Public Advocate's area of responsibility to change the accommodation for that person and support them into changed accommodation. If they have money already invested and/or an income stream that is being managed by the Public Trustee, they have to go back and forth between the agencies to enable them to, I suppose, ultimately culminate in the acquisition or securing by tenancy of the new accommodation and make the money available for purchase and/or bonds or rent and the like.

So we have a situation where that person, already under some limitations, is required to deal with both these agencies and, quite frankly, they can be in conflict. It may be that the Public Advocate takes the view that they need a new standard, perhaps a more expensive standard of accommodation for their current needs, but the Public Trustee on the other hand, who is the keeper of their money, has a different view.

It is important that the client—and we have some 700 of them in South Australia—is able to go to one agency that has experts managing their funds but also that they have the support and advice of those who might give them that in relation to accommodation. They should be able to sit down and have that dealt with and sorted out in a one-stop shop situation. We can only see a benefit of that.

We still need to have the persons who are going to give advice and support in relation to the accommodation in that example. We still need to have the people who are experts on money, what they are going to need for future requirements and what is suitable and affordable for them to be able to meet and give that advice. We want to offer a better, more comprehensive service in a one-stop shop scenario that will better suit the needs of those we support.

By ensuring that the Public Trustee also refocuses its attention on those most in need in our community, we anticipate that, with no loss of staff—in fact, each will continue in those roles—we will actually provide a better service. As I say, this is not about budget savings; this is about providing a better service for the very people who need it most.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I refer to page 35, expenses, Attorney-General's Department. Has the Attorney-General granted any indemnities for any cabinet minister for any legal action or legal inquiry over the audit period?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Page 35 of the Attorney-General's?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Expenses.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** The reference is at what point on that page?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Expenses. It says, 'Administered expenses decreased by \$146 million to \$535 million.' Of that \$535 million, were any indemnities granted for legal expenses over the audit period?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Sorry, the question then is—

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Any legal indemnities applied to any—

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Any legal indemnities applied to whom?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Any public servant.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Any public servant? I will make an inquiry about that and let you know.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** A follow-up question: can the Attorney-General inform the committee whether or not any cabinet minister requested indemnity over the audit period?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Do I assume this is also in relation to legal expenses?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I will make that inquiry and advise the committee if I am able to.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** If I can now turn the Attorney-General's notice to the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption in Report 6, Part C, page 240, functional responsibility:

The activities of both the Commissioner and the OPI are included in the financial report as they constitute a single entity, ICAC, for financial reporting purposes.

I have a letter that the ICAC has put on its website seeking resources from the Treasurer for an evaluation of the Department for Health. Did the Hon. Bruce Lander QC at any time write to the Attorney-General during the audit period seeking extra resources for an inquiry into Health?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I will check whether there is any correspondence on that, but it has certainly been raised and the Premier has advised the house accordingly. I think it has been made abundantly clear. The resources that are received by way of public funding to the commissioner for his application are determined by him. For example, he has sought funds for capital upgrades in relation to infrastructure that may be required, subject to legislation that is currently before the house. I think the member for West Torrens has made a powerfully long contribution on that already, and I do not think we have seen the end of it.

For example, the capacity for the ICAC to convene public hearings is a matter proposed to be at the discretion of the commissioner, and certain infrastructure requirements would be made. Those funds have been requested and provided. Budget submissions are put in by this agency, just like any other, and some very substantial ones have been received and acquiesced to.

In relation to that specific one, I refer the member to the Premier's more comprehensive answer on this to the parliament. However, in any event, he has funds available for his investigations. It is entirely up to him as to what he chooses to investigate.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Maybe the Attorney can take my final question on notice. In the letter to the Hon. Stephen Wade MLC, which is public knowledge, it said that the Treasurer advised that the government is not in a position to provide additional funds that would enable him to conduct an evaluation of the practice, policies and procedures of CALHN. He is disappointed that the government was not in a position to provide those resources. Is it the Attorney's suggestion to



the ICAC that the ICAC use the unspent funds detailed in the Auditor-General's Report for any subsequent inquiry the ICAC would have into CALHN? Does he need to seek carryover permission from the Attorney-General or is that a matter that is dealt with by the Treasurer?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** There are several questions there. In relation to whether there is an expectation by me, or presumably by any one else in the government, that the commissioner would have access to unspent moneys that are in his budget, the answer to that in short is no. If we are referring to moneys that have been provided for the purpose of capital infrastructure, then that is what they are earmarked for. They are matters that are negotiated between the commissioner and the Treasurer.

For example, in the event that a bill before this house does not progress or is not passed, there would be negotiations with the commissioner and the Treasurer as to how much of those funds is returned or whether the funds are able to be applied to any other project. In some ways, that is consistent with the capacity of most agencies to be able to say, 'We haven't been able to achieve.' In this case, it would be a matter beyond his control. It would be a matter for the parliament to determine, and then that would be a matter he could discuss with the Treasurer.

**Mr PICTON:** I will ask one further question on that. In relation to the decision by the government not to provide the additional funding that the ICAC commissioner was seeking in relation to an inquiry into SA Health, the department and CALHN, before the Treasurer sent that letter to the ICAC commissioner rejecting the request, was the Attorney-General involved in discussions with the Treasurer or with the ICAC commissioner?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I have regular meetings with the commissioner, as his agency is identified as being delegated to my area of responsibility. As has been made abundantly clear, the Premier advised the house very early in the establishment of the new government that we, as members of the government, had meetings with the commissioner to discuss matters of concern which in his view needed attention and which remain matters that are entirely in his domain to determine whether they should be prioritised for investigation. So there are ongoing discussions.

As a government, we appreciate the advice that is given by the commissioner, because he has been good enough to come to our cabinet to provide advice, as he does to all other agents in government in relation to obligations under his educative jurisdiction. Certainly, from my perspective, I found that very helpful. In addition to that, but separately, it is entirely a matter for him which areas of concern within his jurisdiction he should investigate. In a way, it is similar to what inquests are held by the Coroner in relation to reportable deaths in South Australia: it is entirely at the Coroner's discretion what he or she investigates. Of course, we now have Mr David Whittle in that role.

Commissions are largely granted a level of independence. They vary, of course, in the statutory law that underpins them, but what makes them quite unique is their capacity to deal with individual concerns and to investigate those or not without interruption or interference by any executive direction. Of course, some of those acts have the capacity to direct in certain circumstances. For example, there is a capacity for a direction to the police commissioner, but of course any direction must be tabled in both houses of parliament. They do vary, so I will not go into any other examples.

**Mr PICTON:** Referring back to page 41 in relation to the merger of the Public Trustee and the Public Advocate, is there any potential for a conflict of interest here in this merged entity? I particularly highlight an example where you could have a situation where staff from the Public Advocate could make a decision that a client should be in residential care and as a result their home or property should be sold, and the Public Trustee would then sell that property and make a significant commission on the sale. Do you accept that there is a potential for conflicts here and how will you manage those conflicts?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I think I was trying to illustrate in the example I gave that that is exactly that type of situation, where the Public Trustee in their view in the careful husbandry of the fund to ensure that it is able to be available for their future needs may be inconsistent with advice that is received as to what the requirements are for the particular accommodation of a client of both agencies. That exists already. That is not a new thing.

What we are hoping to achieve here, of course, is the capacity to ensure that we make it easier to navigate, receive and deal with those matters in one entity. That is the objective here. Conflict of interest has been raised as to other aspects of any reform. We have had advice on that and I am quite satisfied that this is a proposal that is actually going to achieve what we want it to—that is, a better service for clients, particularly those who overlap or who in future may overlap, to ensure that provides a consistent service, a high standard of service, which is currently separately provided.

**The CHAIR:** Having reached the allotted time, I will make my report. The committee has examined ministers on matters contained in the Auditor-General's Report.

Progress reported; committee to sit again.

#### *Motions*

### **BUSHFIRES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. S.S. Marshall (resumed on motion).

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (17:37):** I rise to support the motion moved by the Premier:

That the house expresses its sincere thanks to South Australia's emergency services personnel and the community organisations which support our emergency services for their efforts to protect life, property and the environment on 20 November 2019 and subsequent days when much of the state was facing catastrophic fire conditions.

In doing so, I acknowledge and thank also the families, the partners, children, parents and other family members of our MFS and CFS staff and volunteers and other emergency service workers who I know undergo a considerable amount of fear and concern for the safety of their loved ones fighting these often catastrophic fires. I know that not until their loved ones return safely home do they breathe a sigh of relief. I commend the motion.

**Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (17:38):** I, too, wish to make a brief contribution to support the Premier's motion acknowledging the efforts of South Australia's emergency services and community organisations during the recent catastrophic fires in South Australia. Much of the discussion and contributions today have been around the events of 20 November. Of course, that was the day of extreme heat, extreme wind and catastrophic fire conditions.

I would like to go back a few days earlier, to Monday 11 November, when a fire began that has become known as the Duck Ponds fire. Given the extraordinary efforts on that day by the CFS, SES, SAPOL, SA Water, MFS and also Aerotech—pilots and loaders both—and I am sure many others as well to protect the City of Port Lincoln in the face of strong westerly winds, the fire was contained late in the day on Monday 11 November. Unfortunately two homes were lost; just one was inhabited, the other was uninhabited. Of course there were various fences, pastures and outbuildings lost as well. I think the area was about 280 hectares, but I stand to be corrected on that.

The work done in the ensuing week by the aforementioned emergency services was an extraordinary effort. In essence, they managed to contain the Duck Ponds fire within the fireground and get it to a point where, just nine days later when we entered catastrophic fire conditions, the fire was still able to be contained within that fireground. There were a couple of outbreaks within that fire zone on that day, one in the morning of 20 November and one in the afternoon, but they were quickly pounced upon. There were patrols going right through that day and, as I said, they managed to keep the fire contained.

It was an extraordinary effort on the day of the fire, in the nine days ensuing, and then again on 20 November. I was actually able to sit within the CFS control room on the day of 20 November. It was a day of catastrophic fire danger on Eyre Peninsula, and a decision was made by SA Power Networks to cut mains power to Lower Eyre Peninsula at 11 o'clock that morning. There has been some criticism of that decision, but I can fully understand why it was made. As it turned out trees came down lines came down, and in other parts of the state on that day electrical faults did start fires.

I support the decision by SAPN on that day, given the weather conditions and the forecast. As I said, I was in the CFS control room, and at 1 o'clock on the afternoon of 20 November the

grassfire danger index peaked at a reading of 293. I can tell the house that catastrophic conditions are reached when the grassfire danger index exceeds 100.

As I said, at 1pm it reached a reading of 293, almost three times the fire danger index that brings it into catastrophic conditions. Once again I stand to be corrected, but my understanding is that it has only ever exceeded that reading on one occasion, and that was when it tipped over 300 on the day of the Wangary bushfire back in January 2005. In amongst all that, the fire remained contained within the fire zone—fortunately because, as with other fires around the state that day, had they got away they would have been very difficult to stop.

So there we were with no power. The City of Port Lincoln council set up a community refuge at the back of the Nautilus Theatre, and that was much appreciated by the people who made use of it. It is particularly the very young, the very old and the infirm who can become quite distressed on those very hot days of low humidity with no electricity.

I think that we, as communities, can do better. Some did it very well. I understand that up at Cummins the bowling club set up a community refuge, and that worked very well. There was a generator functioning and people were welcomed there. I think other communities need to be better prepared to handle those catastrophic days when the electricity goes out, because they will happen again.

An unintended consequence, although one we have experienced before, is that when the mains electricity supply goes out for an extended period of time so do our communications, particularly our mobile phones. I do not pretend to understand the technology involved, but it seems that most mobile phone towers have a battery backup that will last for about 1½ to two hours. Of course, once the main supply is out for longer than that, the batteries run flat and mobile communication is lost. Ultimately, modern communication systems rely on mains electricity supply.

Generators are an option for telecommunications companies and suppliers to use to back up those towers; however, when the power is out over a large part of the state the demand for generators is beyond the capacity at the moment. We will have to consider this carefully going forward. I have certainly had conversations with many people about this, including the federal government and also our communications companies. Even though it is distressing when the power goes out, I believe it is more distressing and even more dangerous when we lose communications when it is critically important that we have them.

Once the power was restored, which was some 12 hours later—I understand it was 11pm that night, although it may have been different in other places; for us it was off for 12 hours and it came back on at 11pm—it seemed to take a while for communications to be restored fully. Certainly, Dr Gerard Quigley at Cummins made the comment in the *Port Lincoln Times* on Tuesday 26 November that when the power came back on the signal was still weak.

Once again, I do not necessarily understand the technicalities of all this, but my understanding is that in Cummins the 4G service was able to be restored but not the 3G service. That led to some weak signals and some inconsistencies with the service for some time after the power came on. We need to learn the lessons from catastrophic days, and I think we need to do much better when it comes to retaining our communications systems through periods of extended power outages.

I would like to thank the emergency services in relation to the fire at Port Lincoln and the fires right across the state. It has been said earlier today that there were up to 60 fires across the state on 20 November. They ranged from the Mid North, Yorke Peninsula and I think even to the Riverland. It has been an extraordinary effort by emergency services workers, some of whom are paid staff and many of whom are volunteers who leave their work and their families to go and fight fires and defend property.

Another thing we are generally much better at is our preparedness going into the summer fire season. The messaging has been long and strong for many years now. There have been a number of fires across the state that have caused significant devastation, as well as many smaller ones. People understand the risks that we face in our summertime, given that our Mediterranean

landscape will burn for six months of the year, from November right through to April. At any point during that time, our landscape and countryside potentially can burn.

I congratulate people on their preparedness. That really shines through on days when property is threatened, so well done to them. I commend the motion and I commend all the emergency services that do such a fantastic job defending us here in South Australia.

Motion carried.

At 17:49 the house adjourned until Thursday 28 November 2019 at 11:00.