

Wednesday 23 May 2018

The Speaker, **Ms Hickey**, took the Chair and read Prayers.

QUESTIONS

Housing - High Rental Prices

Ms WHITE question to MINISTER for HOUSING, Mr JAENSCH

[10.01 a.m.]

The May rental affordability index released today by National Shelter, the Brotherhood of St Laurence and SGS Economics and Planning shows Hobart has now become Australia's least affordable capital city in which to rent, taking that unenviable title from Sydney. It shows average rents in Hobart are now unaffordable even to median rental households on an income of \$61 300. The report provides a damning commentary on this Government -

There has been a single minded focus on population growth, but a complete lack of vision of where this growth needs to go and how all households are going to be accommodated ... for and rising rents for even modest accommodation, is proving unbearable. The consequence is that people are being pushed into homelessness.

Do you concede your comment that your Government was 'caught napping' on housing has been proven to be horrifyingly accurate?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, Tasmania is experiencing a period of unprecedented economic growth and Tasmanians are more confident about a job than ever before with recent data highlighting that Tasmania's positive economic direction and business confidence now leads the nation. Many Tasmanians are experiencing -

Ms O'Connor - What are you the minister for?

Madam SPEAKER - Order, Ms O'Connor.

Mr JAENSCH - this success and enjoying it. Our Government wants to make sure nobody is left behind. We acknowledge there are real challenges for many Tasmanians on low incomes seeking to buy or rent a house, which is why we convened the housing summit in March and brought together 34 key stakeholders to identify solutions. We are currently progressing all the agreed outcomes from the summit with a range of short-, medium- and long-term solutions to ensure every Tasmanian has access to housing they can afford.

Our 10-year Affordable Housing Strategy introduces, for the first time, a long-term vision for affordable housing in Tasmania, backed with \$73.5 million from 2016 to 2019 and now \$125 million extra to take the total investment to \$200 million over eight years.

We understand Tasmania has a housing shortage and that there are Tasmanians who find themselves -

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order. This is an important question and I would like more respect shown, so we can hear the answer.

Mr JAENSCH - There are Tasmanians who find themselves in acute housing stress. That is why we have a 10-year \$200 million Affordable Housing Strategy. It is why we have brought more than 500 new households into affordable, secure and safe homes. We are on track to assist 1600 households into affordable housing by June 2019. Under the second stage of our Affordable Housing Action Plan, we expect to provide an additional 1500 new, affordable homes for Tasmanians, assisting around 2000 households.

We are able to invest because we have the budget back under control. This Government is proud to divert the dividends of a budget under control toward the needs of Tasmanians in need, including those who need affordable housing. We note, amongst the commentators out there who have referred to the need for immediate investment in this next budget and they will be pleased to see \$25 million next financial year, brought forward to invest in this affordable housing challenge for Tasmania.

We also note the commentary of a long history of chronic underinvestment in affordable housing in Tasmania under the former Labor-Greens government. If they had been investing to the levels we are now, we would now be seeing the benefits of that and there would be more houses for Tasmanians who need them right now.

Housing - Population Policy

Ms WHITE question to MINISTER for HOUSING, Mr JAENSCH

[10.06 a.m.]

In its first term, your Government allocated \$10 million over four years to fund your push to grow Tasmania's population to 650 000 Tasmanians by 2050. The Productivity Commission shows that during the same period you cut \$45 million from public housing budgets, resulting in more than fewer available houses. Your Government's population policy has not been matched by and infrastructure roll out and that is clear from the release today of the rental affordability index and the fact people are living in tents. Why did you prioritise population growth instead of putting a roof over the heads of Tasmanian families?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, Tasmania's population is growing because fewer people have to leave to find a job. Our population is growing because more people are coming here, because this is an attractive place to live, grow a business, raise a family and we should be proud of that. We have known that

for a long time. Our economy is growing and there are more people with jobs now than ever before. There are more people able to afford to live in Tasmania, to buy and build homes than ever before.

When we hear Labor raising these issues, such as that our Government has reduced expenditure in housing by orders of magnitude, there will be claims of a number around \$45 million or \$43 million reduction in housing expenditure that Labor and the Greens will raise. However, it is important to note the reduction in expenditure Labor is highlighting refers to the transfer of 4000 properties to community housing providers under Better Housing Futures via four agreements that transferred those properties to Mission Australia Housing, Centacare Evolve Housing, Community Housing Ltd and Housing Choices Tasmania, signed by Labor.

Whenever you bring up the \$43 000, \$45 000 reduction in expenditure in affordable housing, I will refer directly back -

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order. We are discussing critical issues here and I, as the Speaker, would like to follow the debate. It is difficult when both sides of the House are misbehaving.

Mr JAENSCH - Madam Speaker, we will refer back to the four agreements signed by Labor to transfer 4000 properties to community housing providers, who are doing a fantastic job with the stock and the tenants they are managing to ensure they have the appropriate match of housing and services they need to live good lives. We do have a housing shortage in Tasmania. We do have an affordable housing action plan. We do have \$200 million dedicated to that over eight years to provide houses for the Tasmanians who need them.

Mr O'Byrne - Caught napping.

Mr JAENSCH - When, by interjection, there is reference made to this comment of 'caught napping', it was Tasmania that was caught napping. It napped for 16 years under Labor and the Greens not investing in affordable housing. They did not prepare for growth and success. They did not prepare for the prosperity that Tasmania is now enjoying under the majority Hodgman Liberal Government. It is our job now to fix the budget and to catch up with where we should have been now in terms of providing houses for Tasmanians who need them.

Housing - Confidence in Minister for Housing

Ms O'CONNOR question to PREMIER, Mr HODGMAN

[10.10 a.m.]

On your Government's watch Hobart has become Australia's least affordable capital city - the hardest place to both find and afford a home in the rental market. National Shelter Rental Affordability Index demonstrates the failures of your Government, citing soaring house prices, the influx of tourists, slow wages, and a surge in the short-stay market as its causes. Do you agree your Government has failed Tasmanians who need a home and that it is driving people into homelessness? Do you have any confidence in your new Housing minister? He is yet to give any indication of action or capacity to deliver a plan. He also will not allow Housing Tasmania to brief Opposition and Greens members, deepening concerns that he has no idea what he is doing. Premier, what do you have to say to desperate Tasmanians who are being driven into acute housing distress and poverty by your Government's policy failure?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for the question. Yes, we do have confidence in the Minister for Housing and what he has achieved over a very short period of time compared to what we were left after a very long period of time by Labor and Greens housing ministers. This resulted in the need for us to very swiftly develop an affordable housing strategy with \$125 million behind it on coming into government. This was endorsed not only by the broader community but those directly concerned with the interests of Tasmanians needing affordable housing and indeed addressing housing stress. This happened under the last term of government. It demonstrates the fallacy of any notion that there could be no such thing as a plan when there is \$125 million and more that the minister has spoken about that we have added to it to support more Tasmanians into affordable housing to reduce housing and rental stress and to support those who are without a home.

Yes, I have every confidence in the minister. Yes, we have a plan and we are delivering on it. It is entirely within the ability, I would have thought, of any opposition party to propose an alternative - to offer a suggestion; to be part of the solution and not just part of the problem. You left us with a mess. You left us with an economy in recession, a budget in deficit and no capacity under the former government to make the sorts of investments that we are now doing.

Second, the most recent example of this is the Housing Summit. When we accept that there is a community issue here that is urgent and that is receiving priority attention from the Government, it is surely not beyond the capacity of anyone to come up with a single idea or to present something that might support our efforts to provide more affordable housing.

It is a classic example of the superficial opposition parties, that they would turn up to a summit, agree with all its recommendations and then decide afterwards that 'it serves our political interests better to disassociate ourselves from that process and just complain and criticise and offer nothing'. Tasmanians will not be fooled by this. When it comes to a plan that is backed by increased resources and new contemporary ways of dealing with these issues, this Government is doing everything it can. Over time we have invested more. We inherited difficult circumstances and we are dealing with current challenges and we accept those.

Yes, we do have a strong economy. Yes, we do have record numbers of tourists coming into our state. These things support the growth in revenues to our state, which has brought a budget back into surplus that now allows us to do so much more for Tasmanians in housing stress than ever happened under Labor and the Greens. We will get on with the job of delivering important reforms in investments as we are doing. We recognise the challenge that many Tasmanians have, but they are in a far better position now under this Government given where we were at when we were left with the mess of the last lot.

Environmental Tourism and Cradle Mountain

Mr SHELTON question to PREMIER, Mr HODGMAN

[10.15 a.m.]

Can the Premier please update the House on the Government's investment into Tasmania's environmental tourism and the plans to increase visitor numbers in our iconic regions like Cradle Mountain to take Tasmanian tourism to the next level?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I welcome the question and the opportunity to talk about the sustainable growth in Tasmania's tourism industry. In this instance, I reflect on the value of Tasmania's natural and cultural assets, our built heritage, to help grow our tourism industry, our visitor economy, even further. This supports businesses right across the state, employs Tasmanians and, again, provides important revenue to our state, which allows us to invest more into the essential services that Tasmanians need.

I took a deliberate decision when we were returned to government with a ringing endorsement by the people of Tasmania - a real show of confidence in what our Government has done for the last four years - to combine what are some of our greatest competitive assets: our tourism industry, our parks, our heritage sector, and our hospitality sector, which is a great employer of many thousands of Tasmanians and is the victim of attack by the Labor-Greens coalition.

We note that our parks and our reserves are one of our greatest assets. Increasing sustainable access to them is a key objective of this Government and fundamental to our commitment not only to continue the growth in our visitor economy but also to transform Tasmania into the environmental tourism capital of the world. There is no reason we cannot be such a thing.

We remain totally committed to our policy of unlocking tourism opportunities, sustainable and sensitive ones in our natural areas to ensure appropriate investment in our world-class parks and reserves that all Tasmanians cherish and respect. They want to see them appropriately protected, but also available for more people to enjoy.

They are one of the things that attracts more tourists and Tasmanians to be in our state. Record numbers are coming here wanting to experience our natural cultural and built heritage. The latest Tasmanian visitor survey for the year ending December 2017 shows that Tasmania is a tourism hotspot with growth of 2 per cent, up to 1.26 million. Visitor expenditure has also increased. People are staying here longer and they are spending more while they are here. Tourists are also exploring more of our state, with growth across all regions led by the east coast up 10 per cent, but every other region is up as well. Tourism directly and indirectly contributes around \$3 billion a year to Tasmania's economy and supports more than 38 000 jobs.

The Commonwealth Government also recognises the strength of our economy and that Tasmania is a good place to invest in. We strongly welcome their \$30 million co-investment of real money into the Cradle Mountain Cableway, which will be a game changer for our state and investing in our visitor economy future. This shows what happens when you have a real government in Hobart working with a real government in Canberra: you can actually get real money invested into our state. Not the funny money that Labor fiddle with, which has no material benefit to our state whatsoever.

I acknowledge the work, not only of the Braddon candidate, Brett Whiteley, but also Senator Steve Martin in securing the funding. This commonwealth contribution is on top of this Government's commitment of real money of \$51.8 million to develop the gateway precinct, the Cradle Mountain Cableway and viewing shelter at Dove Lake in line with the Cradle Mountain Master Plan. This will ensure a world-class experience at Cradle Mountain, providing hundreds of thousands visitors all year, all-weather access to the gateway precinct and Dove Lake. It will cement Cradle Mountain alongside the Great Barrier Reef and Uluru and indisputably rival them as

national treasures. It will also attract 60 000 people into the north-west region and to the west coast, which is great.

There have been a number of other commitments this Government has made.

Mr O'Byrne - Please tell us.

Mr HODGMAN - I will happily tell you. They include \$72 million to improve tourism rates, and \$40 million to undertake infrastructure upgrades, renewal and maintenance works that will deliver in excess of 110 priority places.

Ms O'Byrne - Five minutes now of this.

Mr HODGMAN - Your colleague and brother wanted to know what we are doing. I am now telling him.

There is \$7 million to employ 15 new rangers in the Parks and Wildlife Service, \$6 million for a cycle tourism strategy, \$4 million to upgrade the Cape Raoul and Shipstern Bluff lookout tracks, and \$2 million for maintenance and upgrades of the south coast track. I could go on and on. It clearly demonstrates this Government's commitment to invest in our competitive strengths and the ability to do so because we can manage a budget.

Housing - Affordable Housing Strategy

Ms WHITE question to PREMIER, Mr HODGMAN

[10.21 a.m.]

According to your population growth strategy there will be 8000 new Tasmanians over the next two years. According to your own affordable housing strategy the state will be short 656 affordable homes each year for the next 14 years until 2032. Despite your claims that you have been taking action, according to the ABS approvals for public housing were down 40 per cent in the last term of government, your Government, compared with the previous term of the Labor government. Where are each of these new Tasmanians going to live when there is blatant and obvious shortage of affordable housing?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for the question. It goes to a couple of very important points. First, the need to sustainably grow our population is something that has long been established as critical for our state's future property. Going back many, many years it has been identified that Tasmania has a demographic time bomb. We have an ageing population and certainly under former governments, Labor-Greens ones, there was a significant net interstate migration of young productive Tasmanians who had to leave our state to look for opportunities elsewhere. That is what was happening under the Labor-Greens government. It has been reversed under a Liberal government with more people returning to our state -

Ms O'CONNOR - Point of order, Madam Speaker. The Premier is misleading the House. There are still young people leaving the state because they cannot find a home.

Mr FERGUSON - On the point of order, what the member has just done is disorderly. It is an abuse of the forms of the House.

Madam SPEAKER - I rule that it is not a point of order. Please continue, Premier.

Mr HODGMAN - Thank you, Madam Speaker. The truth is that while there was a consistent loss of younger Tasmanians to interstate under Labor-Greens governments we have reversed the net migration interstate loss that was happening under Labor and the Greens and is now no longer happening under our Government.

It is one of the issues or challenges we are talking about. Yes, there has been a massive increase in tourists. Tasmania has had the highest rate of international tourism growth of any state in the country. I do not know whether it is Labor and Greens policy to somehow put up a wall and stop these people coming back to Tasmania, but it is happening. It is true that as a government we took decisive action to deal with a significant demographic challenge to our state that was impacting on our economic, social and cultural diversity and productivity by developing a strategy that did not exist under Labor. That is to develop and grow our population sustainably and to provide for that. It is working.

The alternative is to put up a wall and expect that people will not want to come to our state to live here, work here, or to visit the state as a tourist. That is economic stupidity at its best, as has been demonstrated by the Labor-Greens coalition.

Under this Government that now has an ability to invest in affordable housing, we have taken significant steps to support the rapid growth in our building and construction sector, whether it be by providing payroll tax relief, incentives through the first home builders boost, or to support our building and construction sector to take on more apprentices and train them, as we are doing. We are now better able to build the homes that are required, to invest in affordable housing and to reduce housing stress for Tasmanians.

These are problems that were entirely foreign to the former Labor-Greens government. There are significant growing pains in our economy which we are dealing with and we are better able to deal with them because of a strong economy and a budget that is back in balance, a budget that was left in deficit by the former government, with an economy that was left in recession by the former minister for economic development and records levels of investment going into those areas of need.

Housing - Effect of Short-Stay Accommodation on Rental Market

Ms O'CONNOR question to PREMIER, Mr HODGMAN

[10.25 a.m.]

A short time ago you challenged us to put forward solutions to the housing emergency. Here are two that the Greens took to the last election. Will you direct your Housing minister to regulate the short-stay accommodation market to free up homes for families? Will you explore adopting the ACT model where rental increases were capped at CPI to keep rent affordable and to stop landlords from gouging?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for her question. It is not true for anyone to suggest that the sharing accommodation regime in Tasmania is unregulated but it is one which we consider to be balanced appropriately to support those who come to our state as tourists and need accommodation. It was not that long ago that the tourism sector was saying they needed more accommodation available for the rapid growth in tourism, and that is supported by a balanced approach.

Ms O'Connor - So no regulation whatsoever.

Mr HODGMAN - No, it is not accurate to say it is unregulated. It is a balanced approach to dealing with an issue with respect to properties that are owned by people of Tasmania who, in my view, should be able to utilise them as they see fit.

We have the socialist regime of the Labor-Greens coalition that wants to tax Tasmanians if they do not use their properties in a way they would want them to. We have a situation now where the members opposite want us to intervene in people's private affairs and say, 'This is what you have to do with your property and if you don't, we'll punish you through a new tax, or we will cap the amount you might be able to receive as a return on your investment you have made to deal with an issue that can and should be dealt with by government'. That is to provide more investment into affordable houses, which we are doing, to provide more support for people needing crisis accommodation, as we are doing, to look at new ways to work with the non-government sector to partnership in the growth in affordable and public housing, which we are now doing and which is all part of a strategic plan to deal with the challenges Tasmania faces in 2018.

They are so different from 2014, but this Government is better able to deal with them because we have the budget that you left in a mess back into surplus. We have the economy that you left in recession back into one of the strongest performing in the country, and that is nothing that could have ever been claimed by a Labor-Greens government. This Government is totally and utterly committed to ensuring more Tasmanians feel the benefit of a strong economy and a balanced budget and that is through investing more than ever happened under Labor and the Greens into affordable housing.

Housing - Rents and Wages

Ms WHITE question to MINISTER for HOUSING, Mr JAENSCH

[10.29 a.m.]

The rental affordability index clearly shows Tasmania's pay packets have stalled at the same time rental costs have soared. The average Hobart renter is facing weekly rental costs of 29 per cent of their income - more than Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra and Perth. Single pensioners face unaffordable rents at 44 per cent of income, and a single parent, part-time worker, must shell out 42 per cent of their pay. Today's index shows wages simply have not kept up with the cost of living. After four years in government, can you explain why you failed dismally to plan for the housing crisis at the same time you failed dismally to address the fact that Tasmanians are among the lowest paid in the country?

Mr FERGUSON - Madam Speaker, I invite you to rule on whether that is an appropriate question to the Minister for Housing. The Minister for Housing is not responsible for government wages policy.

Madam SPEAKER - I am going to allow the minister to answer those parts of the question relevant to his portfolio, which probably does not include wages.

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, it is true that Tasmania's population is growing because more people are coming to live here, and fewer have to move away to find a job. Tasmanians growing up here have more access to more education than ever before, which will equip them better to participate in the economy, have a job of their own and meet their needs better, potentially better than their parents did. These are good things for Tasmania. Our economy is growing again, we are on a new trajectory and Tasmanians who stay here have a taste for the new Tasmania. That is why they brought this government back. They wanted more of the stability, certainty and growth we are seeing.

The Leader of the Opposition points to the issue that you cannot turn housing on overnight. You cannot fix housing supply with the stroke of a pen. There is a lag, a lead time, in the establishment of supply for housing in Tasmania to meet growing demand. If we had started, as a state, to invest in greater housing supply at the affordable end of the spectrum 10 years ago we would be seeing the benefits of that now. If we started investing more heavily eight years ago we would now have more housing for Tasmanians to live in. Four years ago, straight into our first term of government, projecting -

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order. We are discussing an important issue. Please give the minister the courtesy of listening to his address.

Mr JAENSCH - When laying out a plan for a growth trajectory for Tasmania, we included Tasmania's first Affordable Housing Strategy, a 10-year strategy to which we have now committed \$200 million. We are again fighting against the history, the lag of chronic under-investment of previous governments. We are doing everything we can to increase housing supply through directly investing in affordable housing through the Premier's decision, after this latest election, to create a Minister for Housing and a Minister for Planning in the same person.

As was agreed at the housing summit on 15 March, attended by members of the Greens and Labor who agreed to the actions agreed to at the time, we have now drafted legislation that will enable our Minister for Planning to release and re-zone Crown land to be made available for residential development including development of affordable housing. That is out for public comment at the moment. We have had great engagement from a broad cross-section of people in the housing and social services sector, building and construction and planning interests. We have not received submissions from Labor or the Greens.

We are also working with the housing and property sectors to look at a suite of other reforms that can assist the acceleration of private investment in residential housing supply to come more quickly to market. The issue we are dealing with is the overall housing supply issue and the references made to housing affordability in Tasmania refer to public housing or affordable or social housing and the whole spectrum of the market. If we are going to address housing supply in

Tasmania, we need to invest in affordable housing through strategies such as our Affordable Housing Action Plan, with \$200 million invested, and we need to look at the broader market and how we assist developers and investors to bring their properties to market for the range of people who need housing in Tasmania. I am happy we have a Government with a mind to how we can facilitate investment, provide an environment in which people are able and willing to invest their money in creating more housing stock for Tasmanians, and where we are prepared to consider incentives such as stamp duty and land tax relief to encourage supply into the market.

We can do that because we understand we need to create a good environment for investment and because we have a budget back in the black. We can look at what were previously precious revenue streams for the state government through the state and the stamp duty and land tax. Now, with a budget in surplus, we are in a position to consider how we can use them as levers to incentivise more investment where we need it to provide for the needs of Tasmanians.

Members interjecting.

Mr JAENSCH - Madam Speaker, the Opposition is clearly not interested in the rest of my answer so I will sit down.

Housing - Social Housing Building Program

Ms WHITE question to **MINISTER for HOUSING, Mr JAENSCH**

[10.36 a.m.]

Your quarterly housing report explains your intention to build 430 new social housing dwellings over the four years between 2015 and 2019. Your deadline to complete these builds is June 2019, in a year's time. How many of these homes have been completed over the past four years?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition knows our Affordable Housing Action Plan and its quarterly reports are available on the public record. We meet weekly with our Housing Tasmania department and we receive updates on their progress against these objectives. Our strategy has helped more than 500 new households into affordable, secure and safe homes and we are on track to assist 1600 households into affordable housing by June 2019. I am happy to print the latest quarterly report for the Leader of the Opposition. I am confident -

Ms WHITE - Point of order, Madam Speaker, standing order 45 goes to relevance. Perhaps the minister misunderstood my question, but it was: how many homes have been built in the last four years? Perhaps you could ask him to direct his answer to that.

Madam SPEAKER - Please answer the question, minister.

Mr JAENSCH - Madam Speaker, I do not have the number of new homes built in front of me right now. I am happy to find an updated number for the Leader of the Opposition.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order. The minister is offering to provide them in the next briefing.

Mr JAENSCH - Madam Speaker, I believe it is within the vicinity of 250 to 300 houses. I also refer to -

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order. This is an important question.

Mr JAENSCH - the current program underway to release properties into the market. The Leader of the Opposition has commented that she often sees me on the television having inspected a new house we have brought to the market for people to live in. From the time I became minister to the end of June this year there will be no fewer than 127 new accommodation options brought to the market as part of our first Affordable Housing Action Plan, including 78 two bedroom units across Tasmania that will provide homes for people on our social housing register.

We also have new accommodation for youth at risk in Devonport, 25 units, and a youth at risk response centre in Moonah with nine beds. There is action happening on a number of fronts. When we look at the people in need of housing in Tasmania, the people on the social housing register, and people who find themselves in homelessness, their needs greatly differ. The housing solutions provided under our Affordable Housing Action Plan are not all one type of housing because we do not have only one type of Tasmanian. We have a large number of young people moving into their own, independent accommodation for the first time and they need assistance. We have older people already in public housing, sometimes in the family home, the children have left and we are giving them incentives to downsize into a smaller dwelling.

Mr O'Byrne - Point of order, Madam Speaker, standing order 45. It is a very clear question: how many homes have been completed out of the 430?

Madam SPEAKER - With due respect, Mr O'Byrne, I believe he is answering that.

Mr FERGUSON - May I make a note on the point of order? Madam Speaker, the point of order again is disorderly. The member is not happy with the answer. He does not like the good news in the answer. In any event it is dripping with irony given that he is talking about relevance.

Madam SPEAKER - Thank you. I have already ruled on it.

Mr JAENSCH - Madam Speaker, I will wind up. The point I am making is that target range of properties to be delivered under the Affordable Housing Action Plan includes a broad spectrum of property and housing types.

Ms O'CONNOR - Point of order, Madam Speaker. I am seeking your guidance on this. Standing Order 45 to relevance. Can you clarify that the minister said he would bring that information on the number of homes that are being built back to the House seeing as he does not seem to have the number.

Ms Archer - No, you cannot do that.

Ms O'CONNOR - Of course you can do that. That is what you do in a Westminster parliament as the minister if you do not have the information.

Madam SPEAKER - The clarification is that it is not my responsibility but it is the minister's. He has made that offer so that is good.

I remind the House that we have another four questions to get through and we have 20 minutes to do it.

Mr JAENSCH - Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will bring numbers back to this House when I have them, at the first opportunity when they are provided to me.

What I am foreshadowing is that the housing being provided reflects the work that went into our Affordable Housing Action Plan which reflects that there are many different housing solutions needed to cater for the needs of many different Tasmanians in different parts of the market, in different life and family circumstances. Therefore when the question is asked about how many houses have been built, I need to foreshadow that there may not be a single answer with a single number that is going to satisfy that. I am going to explain the range of housing solutions provided.

Infrastructure - Derwent River Ferry Service

Mr BROOKS question to MINISTER for INFRASTRUCTURE, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.42 a.m.]

Can the minister please update the House on how the Hodgman Liberal Government is delivering on its strong infrastructure plan, including establishing a new Derwent River ferry service?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr Brooks for his question and interest in this matter. As you would be aware, Tasmanians voted for a stable majority government with a strong plan for the future. We are getting on with the job of delivering it. This includes investing record amounts in infrastructure, helping create thousands of new jobs, and supporting investment confidence and certainty for businesses across Tasmania. We are delivering safer and more productive roads and rail which leads to social and economic opportunity for all Tasmanians.

Our plan includes investing in our transport networks to better connect all Tasmanians to work, to school and their community.

Mr O'Byrne - You inherited a bit of a mess though, didn't you?

Mr ROCKLIFF - The Bridgewater bridge, Mr O'Byrne, is not your strong point. I cannot think of many strong points at all in your time as infrastructure minister. I am happy to have the debate.

Here in the south that plan includes bringing a ferry service back to the Derwent River. Today in parliament I will table legislation that will, as promised during the election, allow for a Derwent River ferry service between Bellerive and Sullivans Cove. This legislation will amend the Metro Tasmania Act 1997 to enable a state-owned company to operate river ferries and allow the service to become part of the public transport network.

We are committed to helping ease Hobart's current congestion problems which is why we are providing \$2 million towards the establishment of the Derwent River ferry service. Such a service could potentially take thousands of vehicles off the road and improve the attractiveness and amenity of Hobart to locals and tourists alike. Portside infrastructure for the service will be provided by TasPorts with two new ferry terminals to be built on both the western and eastern shores. Further public infrastructure will be considered at other locations to be determined by passenger demand following the demonstrated success of the Hobart to Bellerive services. Metro will be undertaking demand analysis later this year to inform the delivery of the new service.

I know Labor and the Greens find this very difficult that it takes a Hodgman Liberal Government to properly invest in infrastructure and public transport, despite all their self-professed love for public transport. When they were last in government they did nothing to improve the public transport system in Tasmania. There is no-one guiltier than the member for Franklin, Mr O'Byrne.

Mr Hodgman - What did he do?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you for the interjection. As the member for Franklin, Mr O'Byrne, would know, following the 2014 election we inherited one of the most dated bus fleets in the country. Buses were in service that were more than 25 years old. Since coming into government we are fixing this problem with 100 new low-emission, wheelchair-accessible buses. I congratulate my colleague, Mr Hidding, for his leadership. This \$45 million deal is the largest ever single investment in public transport infrastructure in Tasmania's history. These buses are being built locally in Wynyard, which I am very proud of, creating local jobs and local skills in the north-west and it is a product that all Tasmanians can be very proud of.

This Government is getting on with the job of strategic infrastructure developments to ease traffic congestion, replacing the Bridgewater bridge, fixing Macquarie and Davey streets traffic, investing \$35 million in a new lane on the Southern Outlet, which Labor oppose. I found it staggering to hear the member for Franklin on ABC *Drive* program on Friday, 18 May 2018 say, 'The case just isn't there.'

Mr O'Byrne - You couldn't even be at the announcement of your big plan. You ran away to Darwin.

Madam SPEAKER - Order, Mr O'Byrne.

Mr ROCKLIFF - The case is there. Ask any of the thousands of people stuck on the outlet every single morning. They are your constituents, Mr O'Byrne, so I would rethink your views on this matter.

I know that Tasmanians are sick and tired of the constant negativity coming from the other side, particularly when it comes to infrastructure. It seems the more the federal and state governments invest in infrastructure, the greater the whingers are on the other side. We have \$461 million committed in the federal Budget for the Bridgewater bridge; \$400 million to Bass Highway, Strategic Roads of Importance and Regional Roads; and \$60 million for rail from the federal Government.

We are getting on with the job. I suggest that those opposite stop their negativity and their whingeing and carping, and embrace the opportunities that we have for infrastructure in Tasmania.

Fruit Fly Incursion - Eradication Response

**Mr SHELTON question to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRIES and WATER,
Ms COURTNEY**

[10.48 a.m.]

Can the minister provide an update on the comprehensive response to eradicate fruit fly incursion from Tasmania?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for his question. The Government is determined to eradicate fruit fly from Tasmania and importantly Biosecurity Tasmania believes we will achieve it. The response to Queensland fruit fly is the largest single biosecurity action ever conducted in the state. We have utilised the considerable expertise of Biosecurity Tasmania and the emergency response capability from across the entire state service, complemented by mainland support.

We are also working in partnership with our growers and farmers. I acknowledge the significant contribution from Fruitgrowers Tasmania, Wine Tasmania and the TFGA among many others. Importantly, I also acknowledge the vigilance of the Tasmanian community, especially those living within the controlled areas who have embraced our efforts to keep Tasmania fruit fly free.

Madam Speaker, \$20 million from the Australian Government for a biosecurity emergency response and research fund will help meet the current and future cost of the eradication and assist with understanding future biosecurity risks.

As at 30 April, the total cost of the response was \$5.5 million, comprising the biosecurity response activities and also the growers and post-farmgate assistance programs. A provision of \$8 million is being made this financial year.

Biosecurity Tasmania has determined that the cause was fruit infected from fruit fly larvae imported in October or November last year, despite it having been through a certified fumigation process on the mainland. Tasmania was not alone this summer, with South Australia and Western Australia also experiencing fruit fly incursions. We are working with the Australian Government and mainland states to address shortfalls in the national biosecurity arrangements. As part of this coordinated effort, Tasmania and Victoria are leading a review and harmonisation of interstate fumigation requirements. We are working with fruit growers and the Australian Government to reinstate our fruit fly-free status and unrestricted access to premium markets as soon as possible.

Modelling conducted by the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture shows the likelihood of fruit fly surviving long enough over winter to reinfest fruit on mainland Tasmania in the coming spring and summer is extremely low. Furthermore, Biosecurity Tasmania is also confident the treatment regimes applied on all infected sites will result in eradication. With the onset of winter, the ongoing biosecurity response includes maintaining control air restrictions until we are declared free and providing public awareness, advice and assistance; continuing protections at the border and compliance activity with pre-border treatments as well as monitoring those; and compiling evidence to support proof of freedom from the Commonwealth to use in negotiations with our trading partners in key markets.

All Labor has done is play cheap politics with this topic. Irresponsible rhetoric achieves nothing but put Tasmania's reputation and the livelihoods of our fruit and vegetable growers across the state at risk. The Government has acted quickly and comprehensively in partnership with fruit growers when strong leadership was required.

I thank the growers, the community and the men and women across agency who have worked hard to get where we are already. By working together we are winning and we will defeat this.

Housing - Social Housing Building Program

Ms WHITE question to MINISTER for HOUSING, Mr JAENSCH

[10.53 a.m.]

This graph from your own quarterly housing report shows the number of social housing dwellings that have been built over the past four years. Is it not a fact that over the past four years, under the former housing minister, Mrs Petrusma, a grand total of 37 of 430 social housing homes your Government promised to build have actually been built? This graph shows that over the four years you built 37 houses and we are expected to believe you are going to get to 430 in the next 12 months. Can you explain to Tasmanians, particularly those battling homelessness, how, given your track record, you will deliver the remaining 393 houses in the next 12 months?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, since the last question to me on this issue of houses, my adviser has been able to hand me a print-off of the quarterly housing report from the website of Housing Tasmania, as has the Leader of the Opposition's advisers. This information is publicly available and clearly the Leader of the Opposition had it. I am very happy to be able to read into *Hansard* page 2 of the report on the Housing Tasmania website which gives an update on progress towards meeting the targets of the first affordable housing action plan. It says:

We are on track to assist over 1600 households by June 2019

Construction is well underway for several projects that see an additional 230 new homes completed by June 2018.

We have assisted a total of 532 new households at as the end of March 2018

Of which:

243 households have been assisted into affordable home ownership.

46 new supported accommodation units have been provided

37 households have been assisted into new social housing

65 affordable land lots have been released

24 new crisis and medium-term (transitional) properties have been provided

6 households have been assisted into micro-housing

10 households have been assisted into disability accommodation

101 households have been assisted in escaping family violence

These initiatives have supplied 249 new homes

Statewide Planning Scheme - Effect on Housing

Mr O'BYRNE question to MINISTER for PLANNING, Mr JAENSCH

[10.56 a.m.]

Today's rental affordability index shows the housing crisis and tragedy of affordability is not limited to Hobart. It shows the crisis is spreading statewide. In the north, renters in mid-income brackets now find Latrobe, Port Sorell, Deloraine and most of Launceston unaffordable. Do you agree with your colleague, the Treasurer's repeated comments that the statewide planning scheme is on track despite not one local government area having neither completed nor lodged their local provision schedules, or will you admit that it is an absolute mess and has contributed and will continue to contribute to the housing affordability crisis?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, one of the key outcomes of the housing summit held on 15 March and the actions agreed to by all participants, including Labor and the Greens, was that we would accelerate the progress of completion of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and rollout of the state planning provisions across Tasmania as soon as possible, and also that through Planning we would create a mechanism by which crown land can be rapidly rezoned and brought into the market for the purposes of residential development, including affordable housing development.

I am pleased to say we have now drafted that legislation - it has been out for public comment - and we are now responding to that by taking on the feedback we have received and making some amendments to that bill before we bring it to this place for debate.

I have also been working with the property sector and local government and planners on a plan for the next four years to bring the decade of planning reform - which started quite some time ago under a different government and has changed a few times since then - to a conclusion. Within two years our hope is to be able to have all of the local provisions schedules in and assessed by the Tasmanian Planning Commission so that the Tasmanian Planning Scheme can be operational in around two years from now. We are going to need a degree of cooperation from local government and my understanding from my discussions with them so far is that they are happy to provide that.

The member who asked the question is wrong and the local provisions schedules are starting to come in now and councils across the state are working very hard on them. We will support them in their efforts to get them across the line as soon as possible. In the new Tasmanian Planning Scheme and the statewide provisions that have been created we have a system that will deliver land plan investment faster on the ground, including residential development for Tasmanians waiting for houses to become available to buy or rent and land on which to build.

It has been a stroke of genius of our Premier to put the Housing and Planning portfolios side by side and I am looking forward to the actions we can take in concluding the decade of planning reform and the delivery of more land to market being part of our next affordable housing action plan.

Braddon - Jobs Growth

Mr BROOKS question to TREASURER, Mr GUTWEIN

[11.00 a.m.]

Can the Treasurer update the House on jobs growth in Braddon, which is in stark contrast to the previous Labor-Greens disaster that saw jobs destroyed and people leaving in droves from the state, and how the Government is working to create more jobs? What can be done -

Ms O'Connor - You are abusing question time to pump prime for a by-election. It's off.

Madam SPEAKER - Let us hear the question, please.

Ms O'Byrne - There's only one job he's worried about and that is Mr Whiteley's.

Mr BROOKS - Coming from a wannabe Napoleon, that is pretty funny.

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for his question and his interest in Braddon. I can assure the House I can update the House on jobs growth in Braddon, which has been very strong. Under the Hodgman Liberal Government and the support of the Turnbull Government, Braddon is back on track. There are more opportunities, the region's economy is growing, and jobs are being created from Smithton to Strahan to Spreyton. There are more opportunities, the region's economy is growing but this was not always the case and Tasmanians understand this. Labor and the Greens decimated the north-west coast at both state and federal levels. They tried to shut down the forest industry, they trashed business confidence and the results speak for themselves. Businesses shut -

Ms O'Byrne - The fact you have to read this after four years is a worry.

Mr GUTWEIN - Most people know and understand that Braddon suffered when you were the minister for economic development.

Ms O'Byrne - Madam Speaker, point of order. With greatest respect, the Treasurer should be directing his answers through the Chair.

Madam SPEAKER - Please.

Mr GUTWEIN - Now they are running a protection racket.

Businesses shut, the unemployment rate went from 6.7 per cent in 2010 to 9 per cent by the end of 2014, and many of the local municipalities in the region had double-digit unemployment rates. What happened? Young people in Braddon voted with their feet. The only businesses that did well were the airports and the ferry terminals as parents waved their kids goodbye as they left for the mainland.

Madam SPEAKER - Treasurer, we are at time but I will allow you to wind up.

Mr GUTWEIN - The people of Braddon deserve better than what was delivered under Labor and the Greens. Business confidence is back, the manufacturing sector is back, the forestry sector

is back and our revitalised tourism sector, supported by the refitted *Spirits*, is delivering results for the region.

Devonport Living Cities is coming out of the ground. The university redevelopment across the north and especially in Burnie will support the workforce of the future, giving more kids in the region a reason to stay and remain a part of the community they grew up in. Advanced manufacturing is building Metro's bus fleet on the north-west coast. Manufacturers such as Penguin Composites are supplying parts for some of the biggest defence contracts in the nation.

Braddon is charging ahead under the Hodgman Government and the federal Turnbull Government, with projects such as Cradle Mountain redevelopment we heard about this morning. The Hermal investment will turbo charge Braddon's economy.

I was asked specifically what the people of Braddon can do to keep the momentum going.

Mr Bacon - I don't think he got to that bit.

Mr GUTWEIN - The current federal member -

Ms O'Byrne - He didn't ask you that question.

Mr GUTWEIN - You will be interested in this. The current federal member -

Ms O'Byrne - Just make sure he gets his question up in *Hansard* so they can complete it for him. How about we do that?

Mr GUTWEIN - Madam Speaker, again the protection racket starts. They know what is coming. Justine Keay has not delivered a thing for Braddon. The citizenship fiasco confirmed she was prepared to mislead people to remain in her seat.

Ms O'BYRNE - Madam Speaker, point of order. Standing order 45 is relevance. He is answering questions he was not asked. Now, he is talking about federal issues in a blatant political stand. His abuse of the forms of this House knows no bounds. I ask you to call it out of order.

Madam SPEAKER - He is being cheeky. Could I ask you to wind up very quickly?

Mr GUTWEIN - Very quickly. As I was saying, the former member for Braddon, Justine Keay was prepared to mislead people when she knew she was breaking the law. There is only one answer to ensure Braddon's economy remains strong.

Ms O'BYRNE - Point of order, Madam Speaker. It goes to the allegations made in this House. If Mr Gutwein has a substantive allegation he should be prepared to stand outside of this House and say it. It is not all right to stand in this House and accuse members of parliament of breaking the law.

Mr FERGUSON - On that point of order, that cannot be allowed to go unchallenged. That is not a point of order for Ms O'Byrne to be making at this stage. The Treasurer is answering the question as he sees fit. If the member is offended by it there are other ways for it to be addressed rather than trying to interrupt the answer.

Madam SPEAKER - We know latitude has been taken on both sides of the House, or all three sides of the House for that matter. I rule that this is the finish of question time and hopefully we will have a more respectful debate tomorrow.

METRO TASMANIA AMENDMENT BILL 2018 (No. 14)

First Reading

Bill presented by **Mr Rockliff** and read the first time.

MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Housing Affordability

[11.07 a.m.]

Ms STANDEN (Franklin) - Madam Speaker, I move -

That the House take note of the following matter: housing affordability.

I raise a significant issue concerning the crisis in housing affordability in Tasmania today. I believe the Government has focused on population growth and the economy and has failed to plan adequately to house these people. The Government simply does not care. It has taken an irresponsible approach and over the last four years we have seen a deepening crisis in rental affordability, an expansion of the issue that began in our capital city but we are seeing expand to regional areas. What was once an issue of concern to people on welfare benefits is now impacting people on low to moderate income brackets. It is an unacceptable and deepening crisis.

Today's media release from the Brotherhood of St Lawrence, National Shelter and others - reputable, trusted community sector organisations - have painted a very damning picture around how Hobart 'nosedived' to become Australia's least affordable capital city to rent, with income growth failing to meet soaring rents according to the May Rental Affordability Index. Greater Hobart is now the least affordable capital city in Australia, knocking Sydney from its perch, and rents in Hobart are now unaffordable to even average income households.

This report highlights that the results for Hobart are a real wake-up call. There has been a single-minded focus on population growth with a complete lack of vision of where this growth needs to go and how all households are going to be accommodated. Renting households, many of them working families, are now paying the price. It highlights a serious need for a state and national housing plan.

The report talks about rising rents for even modest accommodation proving unbearable. As a consequence, those on the very low rates of Newstart, as little as \$38.98 a day for single unemployed people, are being pushed into homelessness. Average household rents in Hobart are at 29 per cent of total income, just 1 per cent shy of the definition of housing stress, and this situation is most dire for those on lower incomes, with a single pensioner facing severely unaffordable rents at 44 per cent of income and even worse for a single person on benefits, with extremely unaffordable rents at 68 per cent of income. A single part-time worker parent on benefits rates faces rents at 42 per

cent of income, which is severely unaffordable. It is clearly an unacceptable situation that is getting worse.

I turn now to the Government's record in addressing this deepening crisis. Under the Labor government, as part of the National Affordable Housing Agreement, it was never stated that we would then cut funding and stop investing. It was a nation-leading initiative under Labor; from 2009 to 2015 we have seen the completion of 2217 new affordable and social homes in Tasmania. This was achieved through commonwealth and state funding, and although some were completed in 2014 to 2015, this was the completion of Labor initiatives. Of these homes, 1116 were affordable in the private market and the remaining social and community housing stock.

The Liberals' Affordable Housing Strategy has promised 941 new homes between 2015 and 2019 and to date only 249 have been completed, and I am doubtful they will reach the remaining target. Wait lists have soared to over 3500 from a base of 2400 when those on that side of the House took government, there is \$45.6 million less funding, 506 fewer dwellings, declining stock that is not being replaced, and a wait time of 21 weeks that has now risen, shamefully, to 63 weeks.

We require a minimum of 656 affordable homes per year to 2031 to meet the current demand and this figure is climbing every day. With the Government's plans to increase the population, this is simply a recipe for disaster, let alone the 600 new homes we require under the NDIS, an ageing population and no plan to support ageing in place. Rental price increases of 15 per cent in southern Tasmania in less than 12 months is an unacceptable situation, particularly given that on any given night Tasmania's homeless population has swelled to 1600 people with 38 per cent aged below 25 years.

The situation in Tasmania is that rental affordability has escalated out of control and there is no income growth to match that situation. There is a sprawling from urban to regional areas of this problem and a deepening crisis affecting low to moderate income earners. You need look no further than the quarterly housing report to see this shameful situation of only 37 new social housing dwellings being built in the last three years, only 8.6 per cent of a target of 430 to the end of June 2019. Yet we are expected to believe the Government has this all in hand, no problem, nothing to see here. How on earth will the Government achieve this target, let alone the issue of mismatching? I spoke to so many people throughout the election; elderly people wanting to downsize, young families in smaller dwellings wanting more space. What has this Government done and what is its plan?

That same report goes on to talk about the HomeShare situation which the Labor Government started and we are very proud of it. The target was to assist 250 households on low to moderate incomes into home ownership through the HomeShare program by 2018-19 but it has achieved less than 50 per cent in three years. What is the Government doing to access this program?

Time expired.

[11.16 a.m.]

Ms O'Connor - The minister for the propertied class.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER - Order.

Ms O'Connor - Thanks for making sure that got on *Hansard*.

Mr JAENSCH (Braddon - Minister for Housing) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the member for bringing this matter of public importance forward. I agree it is a matter of public importance and I am happy to discuss it, particularly with some of the new members of this parliament who have come in with their own professional backgrounds and experience related to this area. I welcome Ms Standen having some carriage in this House of this issue, given her background and knowledge of the sector. It is somewhat unfortunate she has picked up the script of some of her more cynical and battle-hardened colleagues and made some assertions about what has been done or achieved and the approaches and commitments that have been made by others.

I need to reject the assertion that the Hodgman Government has no plan for housing and affordable housing or that it has been heartless in its response to housing demand and affordability issues over the first term of government and the beginning of this second term of government. I repeat that in our first year of government in 2014, we developed Tasmania's first affordable housing strategy, a 10-year strategy, and committed and delivered \$73.8 million for its first four years of operation.

The housing outcomes the Labor Opposition acknowledges we are rolling out now are a direct result of that first ever Tasmanian affordable housing strategy. I am proud to be delivering on that plan we brought in when we first came to power so that we had a plan for growing the economy as well as a plan for the growth of our population and the housing they were going to need. That is rolling out now.

I specifically pick up on the point Ms Standen referred to regarding the need for better alignment of our housing stock to the needs of its occupants. I point her to components of the Affordable Housing Action Plan that relate directly to the Housing Tasmania stock-matching initiative which is underway now, whereby existing Housing Tasmania tenants are being offered assistance and incentives to voluntarily downsize so that, as she pointed out, people who have been long-term tenants of a family home who may have had their children move away are now being offered assistance and incentives to relocate into some of the newer, better located, more affordable-to-run units like the two bedrooms units that are part of the 78 being rolled out across the state between March and the end of June.

I have done some media on some of those. Some of the very properties that have been talked about in this place over the last couple of sitting weeks are now occupied by people who have moved through the stock-matching initiative, doing exactly what you are saying and making more existing housing available to families who need the larger properties.

I have covered in my responses to questions today - and will continue to do so - the overall investment in our Affordable Housing Strategy 2015-2025 and the \$200 million now committed to deliver that, including the bringing forward of an extra \$25 million into the 2018-19 Budget, ahead of what was previously scheduled, so that next year at this time of critical pressure of housing affordability, there will be a year of double funding across the first Affordable Housing Action plans, \$73.8 million, and the first year of the second Affordable Housing Action plans of budgeted allocation.

There is work underway right now to present a plan for how that extra \$25 million next year, which has been brought forward, will be allocated to extend the most successful components of Affordable Housing Action Plan number one.

Ms Standen - How is this on track?

Mr JAENSCH - By interjection, the member is referring to the published quarterly report on our Affordable Housing Action Plan, which gives the current update to the end of March 2018. Another one of those will be available in June. We have weekly meetings with Housing Tasmania and they have presented us with their trajectory for delivery on the whole range of targets. As Ms Standen would know if she had been in the process of building houses, there is a lead time in the development of a building site - the relevant approvals, et cetera - which means that a large amount of stock does come online at the end of a period of establishment of that stock.

I also refer to the Housing Summit held on 15 March. We brought it together in response to the very clear concerns and evidence of there being acute housing shortage affecting Tasmania, but particularly the greater Hobart area at the time. The Premier convened a housing summit and invited 34 organisations representing the sectors involved and accommodated all political parties who wanted to participate. That summit delivered a nine point action plan broadly endorsed by the participants, which is now entirely completed or underway on all of those nine points from the immediate to the longer term.

In addition to that work, \$500 000 was provided straight away for our Housing Connect service to extend its on-ground presence and its ability to broker solutions for people in dire need of emergency housing solutions - \$500 000 for greater Hobart and \$250 000 in the remaining parts of the state.

Time expired.

[11.23 a.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Denison - Leader of the Greens) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank Ms Standen for bringing this on as a matter of public importance today. It is arguably the most important debate we can be having in this place today and this week.

I believe the vast majority of Tasmanians will be stunned when they read the details of how extraordinarily unaffordable Hobart has become, that we have outstripped Sydney as the least affordable capital in Australia. It was saddening this morning to hear the Minister for Housing in response to questions start talking about economic growth. You could not be any more out of touch with people's life circumstances as the Housing minister to get up and talk about what a fantastic economy we have, how the Liberals have the budget back on track and rah rah rah and finally get around to talking about housing itself.

We are not interested in your spin. What we want to know, Mr Jaensch, is what your plan is to deal with the housing emergency. Stop misrepresenting the situation; stop misleading this House. Your Government in this term and in the last term has built a paltry number of social and affordable housing homes. We do not have absolute clarity yet on what that number is. What we do know is that the Labor-Greens government under a Greens housing minister built over 2200 homes and had the public housing waiting list at its lowest level in a decade. We were supported by a federal Labor minority government that had delivered the national rental affordability scheme, Wayne Swan's nation building economic stimulus package moneys, and the money that was in the housing fund in order to deliver on new supply. We took housing in that term of government, which I remind the Leader of the Opposition was not a Liberal government. We took our responsibility to provide social housing affordable homes for people extraordinarily seriously. We built five new homelessness facilities. Housing Tasmanians was a priority.

What we have heard from the minister for the property class today is that there is no coherent plan. The evidence of that, apart from his waffling inability to answer a question straight, is that he will not allow Housing Tasmania to provide a briefing to the Greens. As I understand it he has refused a briefing for the Opposition as well. If you want us to believe that you have a plan to make homes more available and more affordable for struggling families open up the department and let us understand what the plan is, ask questions, and have some reassurance that there is a plan.

You can talk about the Affordable Housing Strategy, Mr Jaensch, while you still have your trainer wheels on but the fact is no new public money went into housing in Tasmania for the first two Hodgman Liberal Government budgets. That is why there is a lag. Do not patronise us and talk about a lag in delivering supply.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER - Through the Chair, Ms O'Connor.

Ms O'CONNOR - The lag is here because for two years, Mr Deputy Speaker, through you, there was no new money put into the Tasmanian state budget for delivering social and affordable housing. We went along to the housing summit and you can try to drag us in and say we supported every measure. You know we were there in good faith, Mr Jaensch, that we want to be part of housing solutions. We expressed a number of qualifications about the communiqué that went out from the housing summit and we do not endorse it in its entirety. One of the reasons is that it is inadequate. There is no plan for emergency housing. We have floods go through Hobart. I hope you were thinking about those people sleeping up on the Domain and at the showgrounds when this city was flooding. I hope you were thinking about them the night before last when 96 kilometre an hour winds were ripping through the city of Hobart. I sure hope so because we cannot see any evidence that this Housing minister has a plan for winter. I do not believe he has. That is devastatingly sad, reckless and irresponsible.

To be a good housing minister you must be brave. You must be courageous. You must be determined. You must direct the department to deliver on supply. It is not good enough to get up in here and blame the government before the last. Are you serious? A good housing minister in this space would take two significant steps. Instead of being the minister for the property class, what he would do is commit to having a look at modelling of the Australian Capital Territory, which is to cap the rent increases at CPI.

We know what is happening here. Real estate agents and unscrupulous landlords are hiking up rents because they know that people are so desperate that they will pay 30 per cent, 40 per cent, 70 per cent of their income to keep their home. You need to have a look at models for fairer rents and that means having a look at capping rent for increases to CPI unless there are particular extenuating circumstances that a landlord can argue. That is what a fair and decent society would do. We have the capacity here. You have a minister who was arguing more for landlords' rights than he is for delivering homes to Tasmanians.

The other immediate, most effective step that you could take, minister, that this parliament could take, is to better regulate the short stay accommodation market. There is no question if you got out more, Mr Jaensch, you would understand the impact of StayZ and Airbnb on the availability of homes for Tasmanians. A number of the Airbnb and short stay properties that are on the market are owned by mega investors. Have a look at the data. A number of those mega-investors are interstate or overseas investors. This is not about Tasmanians being able to earn an income out of short-stay accommodation or letting a spare room in their house. Get out there and take some action, Mr Jaensch.

Time expired.

[11.30 a.m.]

Ms HOUSTON (Bass) - Mr Deputy Speaker, there is no end in sight to our housing crisis. Communities tell me they are distressed about the number of properties in their vicinity that are boarded up, and I found out that many of these are community housing. They are owned and operated either by the Government or by Community Housing Limited. In some neighbourhoods in the north these have been boarded up for several months. Surely these houses could have been used for emergency accommodation in the time they have been out of circulation? I personally counted seven within three streets in one area in Launceston's northern suburbs when I was there last week. People in the community are coming to me concerned that these houses will be damaged, burnt down or vandalised because they are not occupied, while people are sleeping rough in their very neighbourhoods.

Working families cannot afford to rent a home, let alone buy one. Social housing is cherry-picking clients and the most vulnerable are missing out. Many single households cannot get a tenancy even with social housing. Long-term rentals are difficult to obtain, and rent is regularly increased at a higher rate than wages. The Housing waiting list has increased by 1100 and the waiting time from 21 weeks to 63 weeks. We require at least 656 additional affordable homes per year to meet current demand.

Planning alone will not house families. It will not house the 150 housing applicants on the books of just one community service organisation providing housing services in the north of the state, nor those living in tents. Tasmanians need homes, roofs over their heads and safe, secure, long-term accommodation. Families need secure housing to develop community ties, to put down roots in their community, and to send children to schools without the constant interruption to their education caused by the need to move out of an area to find new housing. Communities are safest when people know their neighbours and residents feel a sense of belonging. This cannot happen when people frequently move.

Even if the sites that are boarded up are scheduled for redevelopment and could house units, surely they could be utilised in the meantime. I have looked at some of these properties and they are in no worse condition than the ones people are living in just one street over.

What Tasmania needs is housing outcomes. We are willing to work with the Government in a bipartisan way to solve this problem to see people housed. This is a community concern that comes up again and again at every community I am in. We have not had answers as to how many houses have been built. We have not had answers to how many people are really on those lists, or what the real numbers of homeless are, and the community is genuinely concerned.

We need a bipartisan approach and that is what we are offering. We genuinely want to help and we genuinely want to solve this problem. Go to the communities and work with us.

[11.34 a.m.]

Mr SHELTON (Lyons) - Madam Speaker, as the minister has said, this is very much a public importance issue. I compliment the new minister on the work he has done so far and the Premier on initiating in the early days the work that started around this housing issue. The minister has had to hit the ground running and I compliment him on all the work he has done to date.

An issue such as this does not happen overnight. It has been a matter of a number of factors. One factor the Opposition and the Greens wish to ignore is that the housing market and the economy in their four years prior to us gaining government was compressed. They almost ran the economy into the ground and, with that, housing prices and everything stayed low. Consequently, when you get a government that is actively managing our economy and we have some growth then we have growth in all sectors and the housing sector is one of them.

The Hodgman Liberal Government is investing in Tasmania's needs. With our budget back in balance we can afford to invest more in services such as affordable housing. We know there is more to be done and that is why at the election we released a policy that outlined how we will deliver our targets. It is all part of a plan to build for the future to make Tasmania an even better place to live.

Every Tasmanian needs a roof over their head and reducing the housing stress and homelessness will continue to be a top priority under the Hodgman Liberal Government. This is why we held the housing summit and have committed almost \$200 million over eight years to our Affordable Housing Strategy. We can do that because we have our economy back in order. The new members of the House do not understand how bad it was after the end of the Labor-Greens government. We know there are issues but we are getting there and we have the money to invest. We are getting on with the job of ensuring more housing stock is there for people in need and helping Tasmanians to rent, buy and build a home through a range of initiatives.

In 2015, the Hodgman Liberal Government released a 10-year affordable housing strategy, a commitment we took to the 2014 election. It was the most comprehensive strategy ever developed for Tasmania and was backed by \$73.5 million invested over four years. From 2015 to 2019 it will deliver more than 900 new homes over this four years and assist 1600 households into affordable housing. We are on track to deliver on stage 1 outcomes. So far it has helped more than 500 new households into affordable, secure, safe homes and is on track to assist 1600 households into affordable housing by June 2019. This includes 243 households assisted into affordable home ownership, 46 new supported accommodation units provided, 37 households assisted into social housing, 24 new crisis and transitional properties provided, six households assisted into micro-housing, 10 households assisted into disability housing, 65 affordable land lots released and 101 households assisted in escaping family violence.

Tasmania is experiencing a period of economic growth and confidence. More people want to live here, wish to visit here and study here. That is a good thing. As a government we are taking action to ensure no-one is left behind. That is why we will invest an additional \$125 million over five years into the second stage of this strategy. Further, we will bring forward an additional \$25 million per annum, starting this coming financial year. Stage 2 will provide an additional 1500 new affordable homes for Tasmanians and assist around 2000 households.

We recognise we also need to look at the immediate and emergency needs of Tasmanians in need right now. Since the election, this Government announced a private rental incentive scheme targeting properties not currently available to low income earners in the private rental market, opened a nine-unit Youth at Risk Response Centre in Moonah, visited the Devonport 25-unit Youth Supported Accommodation facilities, commenced the preparation for a second Affordable Housing Action Plan and visited a number of 78 new two-bedroom units that will be delivered before June.

We are proceeding with the second action plan, which will involve broad consultation with the community, business and research sectors in its development. As part of this \$125 million

investment, \$20 million over three years will be quarantined for purpose-built homes for people living with disabilities. Our \$125 million investment will further boost the construction industry and provide even more jobs for Tasmanians. Along with the nine action items agreed to at the housing summit, our Affordable Housing Strategy addresses the entire housing spectrum from home ownership -

Time expired.

[11.41 a.m.]

Mr BACON (Denison) - Madam Speaker, I am pleased to speak on this matter of public importance. Housing has become an increasingly difficult situation for many Tasmanians over the last few years. We did not have much faith in the last housing minister. We had some hope we would see someone show a bit of enthusiasm, hit the ground running and really take on the seriousness of the issue when Mr Jaensch was given the portfolio. We have not seen any indication of that. He had to be shamed into going out to the showgrounds. It took 17 days of the *Mercury* reporting that he had not been out there before he went there to see how difficult some Tasmanians are finding it to find a house.

In the last couple days of parliament we have seen a minister who does not want to provide transparency to the Tasmanian people about what an abysmal job has been done over the past four years and continues to happen. One key question he was asked today, which he refused to answer in his first question until the Leader of the Opposition had to answer it for him, was how many of the 430 promised new social housing dwellings by 2018-19 had been completed? Only 37 of those 430 have been completed. The minister said in his contribution today they are on target to hit that 430. I invited him to guarantee, by way of interjection, that the 430 houses will be completed by June of next year. Will you stand by that now and say they will be completed? There are only crickets and frogs coming from the minister. Only 37 of these houses have been built. The only person who was not aware of that appeared to be the minister this morning. The minister now refuses to guarantee the 430 will be built by June of next year.

It is an extraordinary graph. There is a huge increase in the number due to be built over the next 12 months and the minister now refuses to back that up by going on the public record and saying that those 430 -

Mr Ferguson - Let's see if you ask that question tomorrow during the real question time.

Mr BACON - He was asked directly today.

Mr Ferguson - You know -

Madam SPEAKER - Order.

Mr BACON - The chief interference runner for the minister pipes up. What we want to hear from the minister is that those 430 dwellings will be built. Additionally, \$500 000 was promised by the minister to help people with short-term accommodation. He refused to answer yesterday exactly how many people had been helped with that \$500 000. The minister is keen to wave keys around at press conferences, keys to what turned out to be empty houses. The minister should guarantee on the record today those 430 dwellings will be built.

Time expired.

Matter noted.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 22 May 2018 (page 87)

Madam SPEAKER - Mr Brooks, member for Braddon, you have 23 minutes remaining.

Mr BROOKS (Braddon) - Madam Speaker, I will use every one of them because this is an important circumstance. On the return of every member after the election we thank those who supported all of us and comment on what the community said because that is the great thing about democracy. The community has their say on how this state is running, which direction it is heading and whether they support one plan over another, or one plan over no other plan, which was their choice.

Yesterday I was talking about business confidence and where that comes from. We have heard today, without reflecting on the previous debate of this parliament, that jobs are still vitally important to the growth of the economy and for people who want to stay here. If they do not have jobs, they leave, and that is what we saw. We saw people waving their kids goodbye because they thought they had a better option interstate or overseas than staying here in this great state. That is what we set about changing.

Campaigns are interesting things. It is an interesting outcome when you see the behaviour of some in election campaigns. I will have more to say about that but at a more appropriate time.

I acknowledge the work of my dear friend and colleague, Joan Rylah. Unfortunately, Joan did not gain enough numbers to retain the seat. You will not find someone who works as hard for and stands up for the community, who stood up for Braddon, for the north-west and in particular the west coast and Circular Head, her constituency base around Somerset and Wynyard and across the coast everywhere, as Joan Rylah. It is with sadness we could not retain the four seats in Braddon. We went as hard as we could but it is important we remember and acknowledge the effort Joan Rylah put in through her work as the Chair of the Public Works Committee from around mid-term, as a Deputy Chair of Committees, and the work she did for the Circular Head community when the decision was made there, and the working group that she chaired. Joan Rylah is a loss to this Parliament and it is important we recognise the effort she put in. We on this side thank her for the service she gave four years of her life to and for standing up for the people of Braddon. I know she will continue to do that.

I also acknowledge Nic Street, who was not able to gain the numbers. It went fairly close but he was an absolute champion for the community of Franklin. It was a privilege to sit next to him for a year or two. The work he did and commitment he had for the community was a wonderful endorsement of the values our party stands for and for what individual members such as Joan Rylah and Nic Street did for their community.

The people had their say and that was the outcome. It was an overwhelming, resounding stamp of approval for our agenda for Tasmania and a mandate for what we said we would do and what we will continue to do.

Dr Woodruff interjecting.

Mr BROOKS - I knew it would not take long for the Greens to start whingeing but that is all they are good at. I am not going to go there. I do not have the time to debate Ms Woodruff because this is rather important.

Madam Speaker, we took a plan to the community and they overwhelmingly endorsed it with a primary vote of over 50 per cent, which is remarkable for an incumbent government. It is an outstanding result and no matter how much those opposite - and in particular their current temporary Leader of the Opposition, Ms White - try to spin it whichever way they can, it is a remarkable endorsement of our plan and our policy platform, what we said we would do in the last term and what we will continue to do in this term.

On a personal front I acknowledge the work of my good friend and colleague, the Deputy Premier, Jeremy Rockliff. It has been a pleasure to work with him for the last eight years and to continue on to the next term. Jeremy has always been an ardent campaigner and champion of the north-west. More importantly, he has always been a great friend to me and has offered some remarkable advice. It took me a little while to get the hang of speaking up here. It is a bit daunting and it was a bit uncomfortable for me. I believe Mr Rockliff received the advice too and then passed it on to me. He said, 'It doesn't matter how good you are at making speeches in here, it's about what you do for the community that matters'.

That advice Mr Rockliff gave me eight years ago is true. We are here to represent the community that elected us. We are here to represent the people of Tasmania, and unfortunately what we saw at the 2014 election was a government that had forgotten that. People backed a majority Hodgman Liberal government to change the direction Tasmania was heading in. We have worked hard with not only policy platform but with industry, the community and the voters - which was our job to do - and we delivered on what we said we would. We went back to them in March this year with a further plan to say, 'We have achieved much but we know there is so much more to do. We know there is such a huge task still in front of us and we ask for your support and endorsement to continue to deliver for you'. They said okay and they have backed us again. We will not apologise for standing up for the Tasmanian community that voted a majority Hodgman Liberal government in to deliver on what we committed to do during the election and in the previous turn. Whilst those opposite may not like that agenda, the community did, and we will continue to with that.

I congratulate my friend and colleague, Mr Jaensch, on his elevation to the Cabinet after the election. It is great to be working alongside him again. Roger and I are a bit like the odd couple - a bit like Jeremy and I - but as a team we work really well. Roger is a passionate champion for the north-west as well, despite the outrageous commentary by some of those opposite on not only his performance as a minister but on his dedication and the way he feels for those who need a helping hand. Frankly, it is disgusting and ridiculous for them to say those things.

Braddon has a wonderful representation from the Government in Mr Rockliff, Mr Jaensch and me. I will continue to stand up and fight for the issues people feel are important to them and what I feel are important, based on what they tell me. I will not apologise for that. That includes suitable recreational access to the Arthur-Pieman region. That includes continuing to deliver better health outcomes. That includes continuing to back businesses to provide a better platform for government tendering and work. We will continue to do that where we have improved it but we will keep working on that because the biggest purchaser of goods and services in Tasmania is the Government. We had a clear commitment to work with business on that in the last term and we have managed to improve it but there is more we can do. We will continue that work. What I find

really important is the cohesive, united team we have here will continue to fight for Braddon and the whole community.

There are some people I want to acknowledge personally who have helped me during the campaign and the eight years I have been privileged to be a member of parliament. They are my kids, Georgia and Chelsea. Georgia gave me a hand in the campaign and we will get to that. I also acknowledge my partner, Tanya, who is an engineer by trade so she is very good at analysing stuff and telling me where I probably should be focused. It was an amazing level of support from Tanya and I am privileged to have someone like her in my life.

With the campaign, as everyone in here would sit down and plan it, we had a look at what we were going to do. I saw it as a challenge to come up with something a bit different and, because I am a positive person, we decided to go for something a bit more positive and light-hearted, some would say. Some did not like it.

Ms Haddad - Thanks, Gerald Doherty.

Mr BROOKS - Absolutely. If you look at the standard advertising candidates lean towards in their campaigns, I do not think they have been not done elsewhere. I am more than happy to share that I am open to ideas from others that might change a bit of how my campaign went.

I thank Georgia for helping me out with the television advertisements and the campaign. She would also like to thank the community of Braddon for supporting me.

Mr Shelton - She got her way in the finish.

Mr BROOKS - Yes, kids - I am too soft. I also thank Chelsea, my eldest daughter and Sian Stafford who was also happy to help out.

Mr Shelton - They were very good ads, a new perspective to political advertising. Well done.

Mr BROOKS - Thank you, Mr Shelton. We tried to make it a bit different. I also thank Wendy and Leigh Murphy from the Harbourmasters Cafe. It is a challenge for a business to put their name and brand in any political ad for a campaign and I have no doubt Wendy and Leigh copped some feedback from a few people about which way they went and that is unfortunate, but I thank them. I also thank my good friends Luke Emmett and Bill Cowen for allowing me to use their boat; and going in the TV ads as well. We had a bit of fun making them. There is an important message in that. The other advert that was put together by the team was focused on what Braddon is about and where we are heading as a state. It is very important that despite attempts by others we remain focused on what job we are here to do, which is to deliver for the community.

I thank my mum and dad who came down from Queensland. Mum is, as I said in my inaugural speech, a greenie, with my brother. Dad is certainly a Labor-oriented person, but he gets committed to the cause every four years when he comes down to help on the campaign. He is the vice president of the Bribie Island Bowls Club. There are probably more LNP-based supporters of that club than Labor. They thought it was tremendous that he was coming down to help the Liberals in the state election. He probably thought it was a bit interesting that he did not have the heart to tell me he is normally on the other side. I have made that very clear from even my inaugural speech. Dad loves the campaign. He loves to come down, to see all his mates and he catches up with everyone and has a tremendous time. He gives me the feedback and tells me some of the comments he gets -

some of the negative comments as well. I thank dad. It is great to hang out with him. He comes down every campaign to do anything that he can to help, and it is really appreciated.

There were some others that helped - I will probably miss a few and I apologise for that now. There were some such as Pat, the Pendles, TT and Amanda and Batesy, and a few others who did a tremendous job of putting up signs up, helping me write letters and doorknocking and so on. In particular, I thank my electorate officer, Helen Clark. As we all know the staff tend to handle most of the constituent inquiries at the initial stage when people come in while we are here or around the electorate. Helen is an absolute legend. She works very hard, much more than she is paid for, and she supports me completely. The work she does for the community through my office is an amazing.

That was how my campaign was run. It was resoundingly supported by the community and I was re-elected. That was despite the atrocious, disgusting, disgraceful, personal smear attacks those opposite, under the leadership of Bec White, provided. They included a robocall to the electorate attacking my partner. That is what that side consider to be fair. It was a reflection on how desperate the Leader of the Opposition was when it came to trying to get elected and trying to win an election.

Mr Ferguson - She said she would run a positive campaign.

Mr BROOKS - Yes, the positive campaign is a robocall attacking my partner. It did not stop there. They were relentless in attacking my family and my children. They will continue. I see they have continued it again today, which is not surprising: that is the typical gutter politics under the leadership of Rebecca White. The Leader of the Opposition and her Labor cronies think that that is the best way to go. Shame on them, Madam Speaker. I am not going to make this contribution about them because this is a positive thing. The people of Braddon have resoundingly backed in a majority Hodgman Liberal Government, a strong team for Braddon, but Labor could not help themselves. They will continue to do it. I am interested in how their latest stupid attempt to dig stuff up is going, which does not surprise me. That is all they stand for.

As I said, I will have more to say about this at a later time. Now is not the time to have that discussion but it will happen. I look forward to putting on the record the level that those opposite stooped to during this campaign, during the last term, and they are continuing to do it now.

I congratulate the new members who have been elected to the parliament, in particular for Braddon, Ms Dow, congratulations, and of course, Dr Broad for retaining his seat in Braddon.

This Government and the members for Braddon, on behalf of the Government, will continue to work for the community because that is what we are there to do. That is what we are elected to do. That is why we were re-elected with a resounding majority primary vote, unheard of for an incumbent government, but the people said, 'We know what you stand for, what you believe in, what you have delivered, and we know that you will continue to do the job that we expect. We know the alternative'. Those opposite have failed previously and will fail again. We have seen that time and time again. We have seen their continued negative tactics and their continued negative attempts to drag anything and anyone down to make a political point.

The community sees through that. They are not as dumb as the Labor Party hope they are. They are smarter than that. They know when the Leader of the Opposition is peddling them BS. They saw it at the last election and they voted accordingly. That is why there is a majority Hodgman Liberal Government in charge of governance in Tasmania because the Tasmanian community know

that we will deliver for them. We will back them in. We will make Tasmania not only a brighter place but a better place for their future, for their kids, including fixing the health system, the education system and the budget. At the end of the day you cannot have good social policy if you cannot afford it. It is not magic money. You have to pay for stuff. You have to find the funding to do that. We will continue to work on that on behalf of the community and stand up for the community who elected us.

Time expired.

[12.08 p.m.]

Mrs PETRUSMA (Franklin - Minister for Disability Services and Community Development) - Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to speak on the Address-in-Reply. I congratulate you on your election to the Speaker's Chair. I wish you every success in the role over the next four years. I also congratulate all the new and returning members of this House for their successful election on 3 March.

Being a member of parliament is an absolute privilege. It is a great honour to join all of you as members of the Forty-ninth Parliament of Tasmania. Whether we are Liberal, Labor or Greens, I honestly believe we all have something worthwhile to contribute to this place. I look forward to working with you all for the betterment of Tasmania. I commend and thank all the candidates from all parties. Even though they may not have been successful this time, maybe one day in the future through their passion, commitment and hard work they will also be elected.

I especially acknowledge my previous parliamentary colleagues, Nic Street and Joan Rylah. They were excellent members of parliament who deeply and passionately loved their respective electorates of Franklin and Braddon and are greatly missed by us all.

I acknowledge and thank Claire Chandler and Simon Duffy, my other Liberal colleagues in the election for Franklin. It was great pleasure to work with them during the campaign, whether they were listening posts or doorknocking, and I look forward to working with and supporting them in further campaigns in the future.

I congratulate the Premier and thank him for his leadership and friendship as well as for being a wonderful colleague in the great electorate of Franklin for the last eight years. He is a great premier of Tasmania and it is an honour to serve in his Cabinet as we all work hard together to take Tasmania to the next level.

No-one stands for parliament alone. It is a decision that affects many people surrounding a candidate, especially our families. I gratefully thank my husband Tim, my number one supporter, my four children and my three grandchildren. I could not do this job without their support, love, encouragement, commitment, the putting up and pulling down of signs, and keeping the home fires burning. It is the great love of my family that supports, encourages and gives me the passion to do what I can to make Tassie the greatest place it can be for their future, too. I would not be here without them and I am always conscious of the many sacrifices they all had to make to allow me to pursue my career in public life.

I thank all my previous and current electorate and ministerial staff because without them I could not do the job I am doing today. Likewise, all the Franklin members of the Liberal Party who have passionately done their bit in helping us to achieve this quite remarkable and historic re-election. I give my heartfelt thanks to the people of Tasmania who chose to support the Liberal Party in this

election, especially to the voters in Franklin for the continued confidence and trust they have shown in me by re-electing me as a member for a third term. It is truly a great honour and privilege to be returned once again and one I do not take lightly. Once again I commit myself to four years of working hard as a local member for Franklin, working in and with our local community, and representing the residents of the electorate of Franklin both in parliament and in Government.

It was truly an honour to be a minister in the first term of the Hodgman Liberal Government as we, by so many parameters, make a big difference in making Tasmania the best state in which to live, work and raise a family. This is also confirmed in the Governor's Address to the parliament, where a number of important facts were brought to our attention. Tasmania is a very different place from four years ago. Economic conditions and employment growth are the strongest they have been for many years. There is no doubt Tasmania as a whole is a more confident, vibrant and positive place. The Governor also reflected on the challenges that come from strong economic growth and she also correctly noted that this Government welcomes those challenges rather than tries to avoid them. We have received a resounding vote of confidence from the people of Tasmania for our last four years' work and for implementing the policies we presented to the Tasmanian people during the election. This is because Tasmanians want a strong economy with opportunities and employment prospects for their children, their grandchildren and for all future generations of Tasmanians. They also want a government that will deliver quality health and education services, keep their families and communities safe, and that will do everything they can to keep the cost of living pressures they face to a minimum.

It is important to place on the record some of where we started as a government four years ago, where we are now as a state, and why it is so important that the Hodgman Government continues to deliver on our agenda. Since being slammed into recession in 2012-13 under the previous Labor and Greens government, the Tasmanian economy has grown by around 5 per cent and in 2016-17 Gross State Product grew further still to \$28.6 billion. As at April 2018, there are 246 200 people in work, which is up 11 100 since the 2014 election. Under the previous Labor-Greens government the number of Tasmanians employed decreased by 10 000. As at April 2018, the unemployment rate is now 6 per cent, down 1.5 per cent from the previous government. Retail trade has had 22 consecutive months about the half-billion dollar mark; in other words, every month since the 2016-17 budget. In March 2018, turnover was 2.1 per cent higher than the year before. We are the second best among all states and territories and ahead of the national average. In March 2018, small/medium business confidence was the strongest of any state or territory. Hobart is the most confident capital city in Australia and the Hodgman Government is by far the most popular in the nation for the third quarter in a row. None of those figures are down to luck. They are the result of having the Hodgman Liberal Government over the last four years and I am delighted that Tasmanians voted for another four years of this strong, decisive leadership of the Premier, the Cabinet and our whole parliamentary Liberal team.

It is an honour to once again be asked to serve in Cabinet, to take on the vital roles of Disability Services and Community Development, Aboriginal Affairs, Women, and Sport and Recreation. In regard to Aboriginal Affairs, over the last four years under the Premier's stewardship the Government has focused heavily on resetting our relationship with the Aboriginal community, which will be my focus as well. Since being sworn in on 21 March I have been fortunate and blessed to have met with many members of the Aboriginal community. I place on the record my deep appreciation and thanks. I appreciate their time and patience in answering my many questions. I have also been fortunate to have been on country a few times with members of the Aboriginal community, each of which have been deep and profound experiences I will never forget. It has made me even more determined to continue the work the Premier and Mr Groom started.

Perhaps the signature achievement of the last four years of the Hodgman Liberal Government has been the landmark constitutional recognition of Aboriginal people in Tasmania. As important as this initiative was, we also recognise this is only one step in a much longer journey. We are now focusing on areas such as improving employment opportunities and career development for Aboriginal people within the State Service. Work is also underway to develop an Aboriginal employment strategy for the State Service to improve recruitment and retention and to identify stronger pathways for younger members of the community to engage with employment opportunities.

We are also working closely with the federal government and the Tasmanian Aboriginal community on refreshing the targets for the Closing the Gap framework. The wukalina cultural walk from krakani lumi in Mt William National Park to larapuna Eddystone Lighthouse is a great example of how the Hodgman Government and the Aboriginal community can work together. The walk is already a signature tourism experience drawing on the cultural and natural values of the north-east and is delivering strong benefits to the Tasmanian tourism sector. It is also offering new jobs and pathways to skills development for Aboriginal people. Likewise, a project is underway on the development of an indigenous procurement policy to further assist with economic and business development opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Another area of our focus is on Tasmanian Aboriginal history and culture in the delivery of the Australian curriculum in Tasmania. The Department of Education has been working with the Australian curriculum to develop a series of professional and curriculum development resources in consultation with the Aboriginal community.

In the last parliament, the Government worked with the Aboriginal community to introduce several significant amendments to the Aboriginal Relics Act 1975. This 1975 act is an unfortunate example of exactly how Aboriginal people, their culture and their history have been treated for far too long in this state. The change of name to the Aboriginal Heritage Act, removal of the offensive cut-off date for the creation of Aboriginal heritage and a significant increase in penalties for unlawful interference or damage to Aboriginal heritage were important first steps in Tasmania moving forward. We also committed to a further review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act in the previous term of parliament and I look forward to working with the Aboriginal community, the Aboriginal Heritage Council and the wider community on this review. We need to make sure the act becomes an example of best practice Australia-wide with the most contemporary legislation.

One of the fundamental commitments of the Hodgman Government in this term of parliament is to review the dual naming policy and focus on land returns to the Aboriginal community. We fully accept that a connection to country, to land and to sea is a most fundamental pillar of Aboriginal identity. As part of our efforts to reset the relationship with the Aboriginal community we have also committed to exploring joint land management arrangements in parallel with the land return process. We will also ensure full consultation with stakeholders when any possible changes to the land return process occurs. A review of the land return model has already commenced and the review will include the public release of a discussion paper that examines the opportunities for and barriers to returning land under the existing model.

As part of the review, we will also examine land management models in other jurisdictions to learn from successful initiatives. The Government believes land return is an important step in the reconciliation process, both in creating economic and tourism opportunities for Aboriginal Tasmanians and helping to maintain cultural connections to country, land and sea.

Next week is Reconciliation Week and I encourage all members of parliament to attend one of the many events in their area. As Bill Lawson AM, one of the co-chairs of Reconciliation Tasmania, has said, 'It is a wonderful opportunity for us all to unite together in this special week in the spirit of truth and friendship.' Like Mr Lawson, I too am committed to reconciliation. As Bill has said:

... we sorely need truth and reconciliation in Tasmania as I believe that there is a widely held belief that Tasmania's Aboriginal population is treated 'specially' for no good reason.

For me, there is good reason and that is simple; non-Aboriginal Tasmanians like me are the beneficiaries of the dispossession of the First Tasmanians.

I live in a wonderful place with wonderful possessions and places to visit on land and sea.

I often ponder who was here before me and what they were doing before the ships arrived.

Their descendants are here with me today but have often not had the opportunities I have enjoyed and often cannot live as well as me.

I believe I have a personal responsibility to the First Tasmanians and actively seek reconciliation.

This is not guilt, but a sense of fairness ...

I also feel very blessed to continue to look after Disability Services, an area I have been closely involved in for the last eight years, as well as now having Community Development. Community Development has the aim of building community capacity, enhanced access and participation and to support individual and sector development. As minister, I am also focused on continuing to work with the Premier by delivering better social and economic outcomes for groups such as carers, children and young people, migrant and multicultural communities, older persons, men's sheds and people with a disability. Therefore, I am delighted that in my portfolios I am fortunate to work with key government advisory groups, councils and their respective members, including the Tasmanian Women's Council, the minister's and Premier's disability advisory councils, the LGBTI whole-of-government reference group, the carer issues reference group, the multicultural community reference group, the family violence consultative group and the Aboriginal Heritage Council.

Each of these key reference groups and council members provide invaluable feedback and advice and I very much look forward to our meetings over the next four years as we continue to deliver instrumental bodies of work in these respective areas.

In 2017 we released the Tasmanian Carer Action Plan 2017-20 to complement our carer policy released the year before where, along with our election commitment funding, we will be undertaking actions this year to support carers in our community. I also indicate that this year the multicultural community reference group will be undertaking a body of work in regard to the development of our next Tasmanian multicultural policy.

The Hodgman Liberal Government has also funded a Safe Haven Hub, an initiative that supports multicultural Tasmanians into employment opportunities by engaging with industry

councils, employers, jobactive providers and training providers, particularly in growth areas of the Tasmanian economy. We have also made a significant investment in young Tasmanians with a \$25 million youth employment strategy to help assist Tasmania's youth into the workforce as well as funding for the Youth at Risk Strategy.

Over the next four years we will be investing more funding into the community development peak organisations including the Council on the Ageing Tasmania, the Multicultural Council of Tasmania, Volunteering Tasmania and the Youth Network of Tasmania. From 1 July 2018, we are providing core funding to three new peak organisations - Carers Tasmania, the Tasmanian Men's Shed Association and the Tasmanian branch of the Returned and Services League. On top of this extra funding, the Hodgman Liberal Government will provide annual indexation to these peak bodies' core funding of 2.25 per cent from 1 July 2019. This is the first time this has happened and is well-deserved recognition of the importance of these peak bodies as they provide vital services to the Tasmanian community.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm the Hodgman Liberal Government's recognition of the diversity of the Tasmanian community, which is why we have the whole-of-government framework for LGBTI Tasmanians which aims to ensure LGBTI Tasmanians are included and have equal access to Tasmanian government programs and services. Practices that are inclusive of all individuals are critical in fostering inclusion, respect and dignity for all Tasmanians in our community. As such, we have also released Accessible Island, Tasmania's disability framework for action 2018-21. Accessible Island sets out the actions the Tasmanian Government will take to help make it possible for people with a disability to participate equally in all aspects of community life over the next four years.

In regard to Disability Services, this Government over four years is investing \$750 million into the National Disability Insurance Scheme, or NDIS. The NDIS is an exciting initiative and one of the biggest and most important reforms Australia has ever seen. It is revolutionising the way people with disability are able to participate in the broader community. It is providing people with disability greater choice and control over their disability supports and assisting them to achieve their goals and aspirations. In Tasmania the disability sector will grow significantly to meet the demand generated by 10 600 Tasmanians receiving support under the NDIS, which has the added benefit of also helping to strengthen Tasmania's economy with an estimated need for around 2000 additional full-time support workers which will further decrease our unemployment rate. This Government is determined to ensure that the full rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme is delivered in line with the transition agreement.

In addition to providing significant funding to the rollout of the NDIS, our other election commitments for disability mean another \$21.2 million in funding over and above our NDIS commitment. These include \$20 million of the \$125 million in stage 2 of the Affordable Housing Action Plan which will be quarantined for disability-specific housing for people living with a disability. We have also increased funding to the peak body, National Disability Services, to \$200 000 per annum for the next three years so that NDS can help support the necessary growth and transition needed by our disability service providers as Tasmania moves towards the full rollout of the NDIS.

We are also continuing funding for the early detection and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder to ensure that children get the earliest interventions they can for improved outcomes under the SACS-R project. As well as continued funding to the Autism Cooperative Research Centre, we

shall ensure that Tasmania stays at the forefront of autism research in Australia. There is also \$150 000 for disability sports to continue to facilitate sport participation for children with disability.

At the moment we have Tasmanians aged from four to 34 years of age transitioning into the NDIS. From 1 July this year more age groups will transition across until the full rollout is completed on 1 July 2019 for people aged from zero to 64. The NDIS does have its challenges, however we are determined to get it right. The NDIS is a once-in-a-lifetime reform as well as one of the biggest and most important reforms this country has ever seen. The Hodgman Government is a firm supporter of this scheme and as minister I will continue to advocate with the National Disability Insurance Agency as well as my federal, state and territory counterparts in the Disability Reform Council for the best possible outcomes for Tasmanians and all Australians living with disability as we complete the transition to full scheme.

Madam Speaker, it was an honour to be sworn in four years ago as the first Minister for Women since 2006, and I am delighted to have the portfolio again for the next four years. The Hodgman Government has a vision for a more inclusive Tasmania that empowers and enables women and girls to fully participate in our economic, social, political, and community life. The Government also places value on creating a diverse and inclusive work environment. Diversity improves performance and decision-making and a diverse leadership group makes smarter, more informed decisions.

Since 2014 the Hodgman Liberal Government has led by example and elevated women to a number of key roles including Tasmania's first female Speaker of the House of Assembly, Elise Archer, our first female Governor, Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, and our first female Chief Magistrate, Catherine Geason. I also note that Tasmania has now made history by becoming the first Australian state to return a female majority lower House parliament with 13 women and 12 men elected to the House of Assembly earlier this year, and now with Liberal member, the Honourable Jane Howlett MLC, elected to Prosser we now have 50 per cent female representation across the whole of the Parliament of Tasmania, with 20 women and 20 men now elected. Another first, Madam Speaker.

It was the Hodgman Government that launched the first Tasmanian Government Women on Boards Strategy for the target of 50 per cent of women to be on Government boards in 2020, as well as funding \$50 000 per annum to support the Tasmanian Government Board Diversity Governance Scholarship Program through our partnership with the Australian Institute of Company Directors. We have determined that all appointments to Government business boards must comply with the government's policy of gender equality.

I am delighted to report that as at 12 April 2018 52 per cent of our GBE directors are now women, while 44 per cent of the directors of state-owned companies are now women also.

We will be shortly launching our Tasmanian Women Strategy 2018-21 to replace the previous 2013-18 Tasmanian Women's Plan. As Minister for Women I am looking forward to building on the solid gains that have been made over the last four years. Genuine equality where decisions are made without unconscious bias must be the goal of us all. We are not there yet, but I am extremely confident that we have made a positive start and we are on the right path. For example, the State Service Diversity Inclusion Policy in the supporting diversity and inclusion framework that the Government launched in May last year includes priorities such as workplace flexibility policies and includes employment practices to build gender equality in the Tasmanian State Service.

We are indeed making progress, because as at December 2017 the percentage of female Senior Executive Service officers has increased by 6 per cent from 2016 to 36.5 per cent.

The gender pay gap continues to be a major barrier to women's financial security, which is why financial security will be a major area of action in the new Tasmanian Women's Strategy. It will include addressing outcomes for women in paid employment, increasing the number of women and girls in STEMM - science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine areas, and trades, building financial capabilities and increasing opportunities for women entrepreneurs.

Tasmania is full of exceptional women from a range of different backgrounds who share in their dedication and willingness to make a significant contribution to our state. This is why the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women plays such an important role in preserving the stories of women and women's organisations. It is a chance for us all to discover more about the contributions and achievements of Tasmanian women. To date, 295 nominations have been included on the honour roll including female scientists, Olympians, advocates and pioneers in their respective fields. Applications are open now and we are calling on Tasmanians to nominate more women and organisations who have served their community and made an impact at a local, state, national or even international level. Applications can be submitted until 28 September 2018 with the announcement of the successful inductees to be held on 15 March 2019 in Launceston.

One of our achievements that I am the proudest of is our nation-leading Tasmania's first Family Violence Action Plan, Safe Homes, Safe Families. This Government took a whole-of-government approach to tackling the scourge of family violence. Its elimination is a top priority for the Hodgman Liberal Government. With all of the actions under our \$26 million Safe Homes, Safe Families Action Plan well underway, I want to make it clear that we will continue to take responsive and evidence-based approach to addressing this issue. We are also taking note of emerging issues and learning from new evidence as we plan for the next stage of this process.

As we did four years ago, we developed a first 100 days of government plan in order for Tasmanians to readily identify our priorities as we hit the ground running. One of the first commitments of our 100-day plan was to begin a comprehensive review of our Family Violence Action Plan. This evaluation began on 26 March and will be critical to the development of our next five-year action plan, which will be prepared over the next 12 months in time to commence in July 2019.

We will once again undertake extensive consultation with the community, key stakeholders and the Family Violence Consultative Committee to ensure that all Tasmanians can once more have their say in the development of the next action plan. We are also consulting in relation to new laws strengthening family violence legislation. This commitment reflects the government's belief that we need to develop a nation-leading new offence, targeting persistent family violence offenders.

It is my delight to also be the Minister for Sport and Recreation. As a former registered nurse, to me playing sport is key to establishing lifelong healthy habits. It also has a range of individual and social benefits, including improving physical and mental health, fostering social skills, and developing teamwork and leadership skills. Whatever we can do to ensure more Tasmanians can play sport and take part in recreational activities will support the Hodgman Liberal Government's goal to make Tasmania the healthiest state in Australia by 2025 and also to reduce the rates of obesity to below the national average in the same time frame. The Government is therefore continuing to invest in quality sport and recreation infrastructure to encourage all Tasmanians to be more physically active which at the same time provides economic stimulus and job creation.

As the Minister for Women as well as the Minister for Sport and Recreation, I was delighted to officially launch our Levelling the Playing Field EOI process on 27 April. This is a \$10 million commitment over two years to improve sporting facilities for female participants. The fact is, 80 per cent of all sporting facilities are below an acceptable standard for female participants. This is not good enough. We are encouraging all sports to apply to initial EOI process with a strong focus on cricket and football facilities because both of these sports have seen a respective 26 per cent and 30 per cent increase in female participation in 2017. Proposals that can demonstrate genuine match funding will be prioritised as we hope to use the \$10 million to leverage somewhere between \$20 million and \$25 million worth of investment in female friendly facilities across the state over the next two years.

I am extremely proud of our Ticket to Play policy we took to the election. Cost has been found to be the number one prohibitive factor in children not taking part in organised sport and recreation. As playing sport is a key factor in establishing life long healthy habits, we felt that, as a government, we needed to do more to help disadvantaged children to be able to fully participate in sport and recreation. A total of 30 000 disadvantaged children will potentially be able to access up to \$100 each to help with the cost of participation. Work has commenced on the roll out of this policy and I look forward to launching the policy later in the year.

Across the area of community sport and recreation there were many other commitments and policy announcements that were made to support grassroots organisations. We are now well underway and progressing this investment in programs and facilities that are much needed across Tasmania. One area is men's sheds and there is no stronger supporter of men's sheds in Tasmania than the Hodgman Liberal Government. Men's sheds are a valuable community asset to the state and are ideally placed to improve mateship and the health and wellbeing of Tasmanian men. During the election campaign, we committed increasing ongoing support to the Tasmanian Men's Shed Association, TMSA, of \$705 000 in additional funding over three years including our \$125 000 per annum grant fund and \$110 000 in core operational funding, making the TMSA a peak body for the first time as well as around \$320 000 across 11 different men's sheds projects.

The \$125 000 is available across two categories. Category 1 applications are for the purchase of tools, equipment, member training, and community initiatives up to \$5000. Category 2 applications are for capital works up to \$20 000. The grant program is now open and applications will be welcome for the next three months in order to give men's sheds plenty of time to put an application together.

Tasmanians have voted for a majority Liberal government with a strong plan for the future and we are getting on with the job of delivering it. Our priority is to implement the commitments we have made and for which we have received an election mandate. By delivering on our plan over the next four years, we will build on the gains we have made to ensure even more Tasmanians can look forward to a better quality of life.

[12.38 p.m.]

Mr BACON (Denison) - Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to speak on the Address-in-Reply. It is a great privilege, as the member for Braddon, Mr Brooks, spoke about in his contribution, to be elected to the Tasmanian Parliament. It is a hard fight every time in Hare-Clark for every member to be re-elected. It is a great privilege and something I am very thankful for.

I congratulate you, Madam Speaker, on your election in the seat of Denison and your election in the role of Speaker of the House.

I welcome the other new members of the House, all Labor members, all strong Labor women. I congratulate those four members on their inaugural speeches. They were all very different but all fantastic contributions and set out a bit of their own life history and what they want to see for their electorates and the state of Tasmania. It is fantastic to be part of the strengthened and revitalised Labor team, with the four new members and the return to the parliament of the member for Franklin, David O'Byrne, who has also been a breath of fresh air.

All members of the House who have been in opposition know it can be a long, tough grind over four years. Given the election outcome for the Labor Party, it is great to have more new members of the House who are all enthusiastic, hard-working members. They all have a great future in the Labor Party and representing the people of Tasmania. This is particularly so under our leader, Rebecca White, who everyone would acknowledge - even those opposite who have been keen to undermine her leadership since she came into the role on the retirement of Bryan Green - she has done a very good job to lead the Labor Party over a year in opposition in the lead-up to the election, and particularly during the election period, which was a very hard fought election campaign. This is exactly as it should be as we go forward and ask the Tasmanian people to vote for us. I note my appreciation for Rebecca's leadership and my admiration for the job she has done. You only had to watch any of the debates between the Premier and Leader of the Opposition during the election campaign to see how well prepared she is, how hard she works and what a fantastic job she did in those debates and right through the campaign.

I also mention the new Labor member for Denison, Ella Haddad, and the Denison campaign. It was my first campaign as a member of the Labor Party where we had five Labor candidates who all worked together in a really collegial way. In Hare-Clark there are always difficulties between members of the same party but we did not have that this time. Ella ran a very strong grassroots campaign. She started as a relatively unknown candidate but campaigned so hard that she won a lot of respect in the electorate and that paid off at the ballot box. I pay tribute to the outgoing member for Denison, Madeleine Ogilvie. I had the pleasure to run with Madeleine in three campaigns. She is definitely a hardworking person who has more to contribute to the people of Tasmania. It was an enjoyable experience working with Madeleine over the last four years and I wish her all the best for the future.

The election was a very good experience. I had a lot of personal support, which is always important. We have heard that in inaugural speeches. Members have put out their thanks to people who really helped them over the journey. I thank Jenny McLeod, who is my electorate officer and has been for a long time. I could not operate day-to-day without Jenny's hard work, her compassion for the people who come into the electorate office and the way she approaches each person with respect. She gives them the dignity they deserve. It is a credit to her and gives me great faith in all the work she does, particularly through the campaign period, running my campaign out of hours and working hard on it night and day. Thanks to her and to some volunteers we could not have done without.

First and foremost is Cameron Barry, a great volunteer for the Labor Party, a great Labor person and someone who is always willing to turn up at the office and help wherever he can. He is keen to come in if we can make it all about Cameron, which we did for his birthday recently. We still have a shrine to Cameron's birthday in the office which will stay there, no doubt, until he has another birthday next year. I thank Michael, who is doing a lot of volunteer work for Jenny and me at the moment. Thanks to Ron Jones, who letterboxed what seemed the whole of Denison. He is a very enthusiastic letterboxer and a fantastic pastie maker as well, which is a credit to his all-round skill set. Thanks to John Andrewartha, who did a lot of doorknocking with me through the campaign

and put up a lot of signs. John is a tremendously passionate man, a fantastic writer and a really fun person to be around. I also thank Jenny Willie, the mother of the member for Elwick, who did a lot of doorknocking with me. It is not always easy to go out day after day but Jenny is always very passionate and enjoys herself so much I think she wins votes. We saw this in the Elwick campaign, her being so happy no matter the circumstances. I also thank Mark Ransley and his father Greg who once again put up the bulk of my election signs, which is always the most painful job. Also, thanks to Tassie Mansfield who came in when we had a bit of difficulty getting our signs down. We ended up with people coming into the office complaining about signs not taken down quick enough, so Tassie stepped into the breach along with Ron Jones and pulled down a lot of those signs. So thank you very much to all those people and everyone else who helped me in this campaign and in the previous two. You could not succeed in Hare-Clark without a lot of people pitching in and helping you with your personal campaign.

I also had the pleasure to sit on the Labor Party Central Campaign Committee. It was an experience for me to be involved in a central campaign for the first time. It was a very good experience. We did not see the result that we were after. We accept that result and we are going to knuckle down over the next four years and show the Tasmanian people the Labor Party is ready to govern here in Tasmania and we are ready to govern whenever the election comes.

We saw a hard fought election campaign. The Premier, himself, said shortly after the election we need to update some of our disclosure laws. It is important the Tasmanian people know who has donated to which campaigns before the election. I think it would be -

Ms O'Connor - Well, your party didn't tell anyone.

Mr BACON - I acknowledge that. It is true, from the Leader of the Greens. The Labor Party did not disclose theirs either, but we have said when the next election rolls around, whenever that is, we should have updated, modern disclosure laws. It is important we have a level playing field. The only way to do so is to introduce legislation to this House that would require people to let the Tasmanian people know in real time when they take donations from individuals, businesses, unions or whoever it happens to be. They should be fully disclosed in real time so that there is an acknowledgment by the community about where the money has come from to fund election campaigns.

It was a recurring theme no matter where you went in the election campaign. People wanted to know who paid for the Liberal Party advertising that started in December last year. I was asked that time and again. I always told the people where I thought the money came from, sometimes gave a little bit of extra explanation, but it was all guesswork. Mr Brooks, you know how that goes. It is a shame we do not have modern disclosure laws. By the end of this term of parliament we will have modern disclosure laws. The Premier, himself, knows in his heart of hearts we need that for democracy in Tasmania.

Ms O'Connor - You better do it before he goes to the UK Consulate.

Mr BACON - Sorry, what?

Ms O'Connor - Well, we should do it soon, if that is his commitment before he heads off to the UK.

Mr BACON - That is an allegation made by the member for Denison and Leader of the Greens.

Ms O'Connor - Or France.

Mr BACON - Apparently the Premier is off to the UK or France. I would say -

Ms O'Connor - A nice consular job somewhere.

Mr BACON - A consular job for Mr Hodgman, according to the member for Denison, Ms O'Connor. I would say to the Premier, choose France, allow your children to learn another language, but we will leave that decision to him.

Ms Archer - I think they're lying again, are they?

Mr BACON - Lying?

Ms O'Connor - That's a very unparliamentary term for you to use, Ms Archer.

Ms Archer - No, it is not; 'liar' is, 'lying' is not.

Madam SPEAKER - Order.

Mr BACON - Another thing that was shown in the election campaign is that we need an improvement in the way election policies are costed and those costings are provided to the Tasmanian people. There is a need for debate about whether we need a parliamentary budget office to cost election policies. We saw the bulk of election policies not costed by Treasury in time for the election. That was not only the Government's policies but also a lot of our policies as well. We acknowledge that. We think there is a problem with the system. We would have a better debate here in Tasmania if policies could be costed by a parliamentary budget office before they are announced so the people of Tasmania know the full extent of the costs. You only have to look at something like an underground bus mall somewhere in Hobart. There is still no advice from the Government on exactly where that underground bus mall would be and no real indication of the cost of that. The fact that you can get a front page in a daily newspaper without really any detail is a disservice to the Tasmanian people. We could have a better system if those policies were properly costed.

The new Minister for Infrastructure was out talking about ferries today and we welcome that but it will be interesting to see with the underground bus mall first of all where it will be and what it will cost because I do not think the Government has much of a clue at the moment. There is going to be a new bridge across the Tamar, but there has been no real indication of what that will cost. There is something to be said for more transparency in the way election policies are costed, and that is not just on opposition parties but on the Government as well, who had not only 200 secret policies but other policies that were announced but never costed by Treasury.

Something else I would like to put on the record is the sad case of Alice Wood-Jones, only one of the many trials set up by the Government and their media unit during the election campaign and beforehand. We have seen the sad demise of Brent Smith and Gary Boak, who seem to have disappeared. I hope that nothing unfortunate has happened to them.

Ms Archer - All the Labor trolls have too.

Mr BACON - Oh, right. Why don't you name them?

Madam SPEAKER - Order.

Mr BACON - The member for Denison says they are not grubby but they had nameless trolls on the government payroll out there slagging off not only Labor candidates but individual business owners and people who dared to seek an abortion. This is a disgrace and we know this is not an isolated case. The Government knows that too. And how do we know it? Because there is no-one left in the government media unit.

Mr Ferguson - It was an isolated case.

Mr BACON - An isolated case?

Mr Ferguson - What did you just say? There is no-one left in the government media unit?

Madam SPEAKER - Order. Through the Chair.

Mr BACON - I do not think there is, is there? Is there anyone left in the government media unit who was there during the election?

Madam SPEAKER - Order. This conversation will go through the Chair.

Mr BACON - Here is a question for the Leader of Government Business.

Mr Ferguson - I am certainly not answering your questions but I am pointing out that that is an entirely made-up statement.

Mr BACON - Is there anyone left in the government media unit who was there beforehand? Silence.

Mr Ferguson - I am not answering your questions.

Mr BACON - You saying it is not true then. Who is still there? Name one person.

Madam SPEAKER - Through the Chair, please. I am standing. Can we have a bit of order? I know everyone is a bit fragile and about to go lunch but please obey the rules.

Mr BACON - Thank you, Madam Speaker. There is no doubt that this is not an isolated case because Alice Wood-Jones made comments that were then commented on by members of the government media unit. Brent Smith and Gary Boak have disappeared since the election; I think Gary poked his head up just once. There has never been a proper investigation into just how many people on the government payroll were using fake accounts through the election period but at the end of the day the truth on that will have to come out. We know one person has already lost their job and we have seen a number of people moved on to other positions not in the government media unit. The truth of this will have to come out in the end.

We saw a hard-fought election campaign around a number of different issues. One that comes to mind is the economy, and there was much made by the member for Braddon, Mr Brooks, on the economy. It is vital that we discuss the truth when it comes to the economy and exactly what has happened over the last four years. There is no doubt that we have seen an improvement in our economy over that time. The Opposition welcomes that. But what we want to see in Tasmania is

a situation where economic wealth is shared across the entire population. We have seen over the past four years a government obsessed with economic growth but one that does not care about the way it is distributed and what is happening to those less fortunate in our society. We have seen a housing crisis develop. There is no doubt there has been a problem with housing and homelessness in Tasmania for a very long time, but I think everyone in this House knows that has increased dramatically over the past few years. The number of people who come into or call my electorate office now about issues with housing is much more than since I was first elected to parliament in 2010. I am sure it is the same in every electorate.

Today saw the May Rental Affordability Index released by the Brotherhood of St Laurence and SGS Economics and Planning and it shows, shamefully, that Hobart has now become Australia's least affordable capital city in which to rent. We have taken this title off Sydney. It highlights the issues Tasmanians have in finding affordable housing at the moment. You only have to read quotes from the report to see exactly where the fault lies, for example:

There has been a single-minded focus by State Government on population growth but a complete lack of vision of where this growth needs to go and how all households are going to be accommodated.

It also says:

Rising rents for even modest accommodation is proving unbearable.

The consequence is that people are being pushed into homelessness. We saw that on the lawns of Parliament House where there was the attempted protest in the first week of parliament. We have seen it at the showgrounds where there are people living in tents and with the terrible weather of last week those people had to be accommodated in stables and barns. We have to ask ourselves if this is the society we want in Tasmania. We hear a government that is keen to brag about economic growth but do they care about what is happening to those Tasmanians who cannot find a house? All we want to see is a bit of openness and transparency when it comes to this matter.

The Opposition has written to the Government to say that this issue is so serious we need a bipartisan approach. We want to hear from the minister a few answers, a bit of transparency when it comes to this issue, and a bit of urgency. Only 37 of the 430 houses that were promised have been built over the past four years and now there is a year to go before that target is set to be met. Today the minister would not guarantee that target will be met and he refused to answer how many houses had been built in the first instance. The minister announced \$500 000 in funding for people to get into short-term accommodation, people who are in real crisis. That \$500 000 was announced with much fanfare and now the minister refuses to answer exactly how many people that has helped into appropriate accommodation, which is only short-term accommodation anyway. How can the Tasmanian people have any faith that he is doing his job properly and is taking it seriously if he refuses to answer those very simple questions?

We have seen economic growth but we want to see a government that cares about the way that affects the lives of everyday Tasmanians. We want to make sure all Tasmanians can get access to affordable housing and access to the services they need. We have also seen a crisis in our hospital system under this Government and we want to see that improve. We have seen economic growth but a government that does not show any heart in the way that is distributed. We know the Government is keen to boast about their economic successes but we have not heard them talk about broader issues in a way that is genuine. We have not seen a government that has achieved a single

economic reform in four years of government. We have seen a failure to invest in infrastructure. The Bridgewater bridge is a classic example. They put it in last year's budget but without a single dollar attached. Now we know they have a draft plan for the Bridgewater bridge. It is not good enough.

We have seen no major investment infrastructure. You only have to look at the failure of the Treasurer when it comes to our water and sewerage infrastructure in Tasmania to see how disingenuous the Treasurer is in particular, but also the Government, when they say they are worried about water and sewerage infrastructure but you do not see a single dollar invested across four years. Now you have this humiliating backdown from the Treasurer, signing an MOU with TasWater and walking away from the takeover bid that was completely motivated by politics. There was no shred of economic reform in the Treasurer's mind when he went down this path. The only interest he has -

Sitting suspended from 1.00 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from above.

Mr BACON (Denison) - Madam Speaker, Labor believes that we have seen strong economic growth in Tasmania over the last number of years, but what we have not seen is that shared across the entire population. We have seen a government keen to boast about their economic successes, but not keen to talk about things like the improvement in the Australian dollar and the improvement in the terms of trade for our export-orientated economy. What we have not seen is any economic reform from this Government in the last four years and no plan for economic reform in the next four years. We have seen a government that is keen to boast about -

Mr Brooks - Other than fixing the budget, removing the deficit, delivering a surplus.

Madam SPEAKER - Through the Chair, please.

Mr BACON - What we have seen is a government keen to crow about their luck, but no plan for economic reform. We have seen a complete failure, particularly when it comes to things like the Treasurer's ill-fated takeover of TasWater. We saw the humiliating backdown by the Treasurer before the first day of parliament with the signing of the MOU for TasWater. It was one of the most humiliating scenes in Tasmanian political history. We have seen a Treasurer who was keen to pick a fight, a very personal fight at times, too, with Miles Hampton, the Chair of TasWater and members of local government. We even saw him question Mr Hampton's integrity on the floor of the House. Then after 18 months we saw a humiliating backdown.

We saw four years of a government that was not interested in water and sewerage, which we all know is a huge economic handbrake here in Tasmania. We did not see a single dollar invested over the first four years. Now we see a humiliating backdown, which is not a reform at all, but a small ownership change and an equity injection. We welcome the backdown. We think it took far too long. We know that the Treasurer should apologise to Mr Hampton, in particular, for the way he has been treated and hang his head in shame.

What is achieved through the MOU is a far cry from what he talked about for 18 months. Now we are committed to a \$200 million investment in an asset that the Government will receive no return on. We heard the Treasurer repeatedly claim that TasWater was not leveraged enough and that it needed to take on more debt. Instead, he has now committed to doing the opposite, injecting more equity into it.

One of our other concerns with this policy was giving the Treasurer access to the balance sheet of another GBE. We know that his record in managing government business enterprises has been to rip massive dividends out to prop up the budget year after year. Since the first budget, we have seen that when there was a huge dividend to be ripped out of Hydro Tasmania that Hydro Tasmania, themselves, told the Treasurer in writing on budget day, that they could not provide it.

We have seen huge amounts of money ripped out from the MAIB, which looks like it is set to continue, despite the warnings of the Chair of the MAIB at the time, former secretary to the Treasury, Don Challen. He warned the Treasurer that he is taking too much money from the MAIB. It seems that the Treasurer has not listened to Mr Challen; he now wants to go even further.

We know that this is a Treasurer that likes to act like the political tough guy. In the fight with TasWater he had to backdown in a humiliating fashion. He does not have the courage to take on the pokies barons here in Tasmania.

We have a Treasurer whose election policy was written and drafted by the pokie industry. We know that he does not have the courage to stand up to them. We have seen a few developments in recent days. We have seen the sale of the Midcity Hotel which is an opportunity to remove 20 poker machines from our community. We know the harm that they do. We know there is \$110 million ripped out of our economy every year by poker machines in pubs and clubs. There is an opportunity with this purchase by the University of Tasmania of the Midcity Hotel to remove those 20 poker machines and the harm they do to our community and our economy. The Welcome Stranger, only a stone's throw from where we are in this parliament, has been sold as well. The Treasurer and the Premier should say that those machines from those venues changing hands are not to be moved, particularly to areas of our state that already have a large number of poker machines. We know that those areas are targeted by the pokie industry because they are the most lucrative. Some comments from either the Treasurer or the Premier would be much appreciated about those machines that are set to leave the system. We can get rid of them and the harm they do.

During the election campaign the Treasurer said he had not received the social and economic impact study into gambling, the prevalence of gambling in our community. It turned out that it had been received. We know that the Government did not use it when they formulated their policy even though it had been delivered to the Government in December of last year, before the Government released their policy. They did not use it to inform their policy because the report shows that any improvement in the reduction in problem gambling or poker machine use has well and truly stalled and in some cases it is going backwards.

Compared to the last survey we have exactly the same percentage of Tasmanians using poker machines and we have an increase in problem gamblers. What the report confirms is that poker machines are the highest risk gambling activity; that poker machines are used most frequently in hotels and clubs; and that half of the money being spent on poker machines is from at risk and problem gamblers. About 50 per cent of the money going into poker machines is coming from people who have a problem with gambling. We know that \$110 million could be much better spent in other small businesses in our community. We know that the small business around the state

would benefit if poker machines were removed from pubs and clubs but the Treasurer does not have the courage to take this on. Hopefully, this parliament can force him to do so.

Mr Ferguson - Come on. He has the courage of a lion.

Mr BACON - Do you think he does?

Madam SPEAKER - Order. Come to order please.

Mr BACON - I love these tales as much as you do, Mr Ferguson, but that has to be one of the biggest jokes I have ever heard.

Mr Brooks - You admitted to making stuff up.

Madam SPEAKER - Excuse me, through the Chair.

Mr Brooks - You said it this morning.

Mr BACON - That we made stuff up?

Mr Brooks - You did.

Mr BACON - We know Mr Brooks does not get much but he should understand when a joke is a joke. I suppose he only has to look in the mirror to see the biggest joke of the lot.

The other joke that we see is that every year the Treasurer has blown the budget. We know now that this year he has blown it by \$168 million. He has been saved by increased revenue yet again but this is the great financial manager who puts unrealistic expenditure increases into his budget every year and every year he misses out. The last couple of years it was by over \$150 million. It is time for the Treasurer to come clean on the true state of the budget.

Time expired.

[2.39 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Minister for Health) - Madam Speaker, it has been a fascinating debate so far.

First I congratulate you, Madam Speaker, on your election to the position of Speaker. I particularly want to spend some time congratulating my friends and colleagues, Peter Gutwein and Sarah Courtney, who have joined me in being re-elected at the recent election. I say thank you to both of them for the team play we have had going for years now and it is an honour to serve with you as part of the Liberal team. We were delighted to receive a glowing vote of endorsement from the electors of Bass.

I was discussing the vote with Mr Gutwein - 58.8 per cent, nearly 59 per cent, of Bass voters voted Liberal number 1. We believe it is a record and if it is not it would be very surprising. It has to be put into context in what was a genuine contest between the major parties. Labor was telling voters they would be going for majority government. We heard that time and again. Labor was trying to fool Bass voters they would be able to safely vote Labor, there was no risk of a Labor-Greens government; 26.4 per cent of voters in Bass voted Labor. Only 26.4 per cent believed the Opposition Leader's rhetoric and parked their vote with Labor. If that is not a record low I would be very surprised. The Greens party received 9.28 per cent. We were elated to see the Liberal vote was three-and-a-half quotas. Labor's vote was less than two quotas, just over one-and-a-half quotas.

Labor was fortunate to see two members elected on the contest between Labor and the Greens for that seat.

I congratulate Ms O'Byrne and Ms Houston on their election. As I said at the declaration of the poll, I acknowledge the work of the former member for Bass, Andrea Dawkins. I would not agree an awful lot with her on policy grounds, but Andrea put her heart into it. One can only be thanked when unsuccessful at an election.

Speaking for myself, my heart is full of gratitude. I am truly honoured to be re-elected to this place as a member of the House of Assembly, first and foremost as the member for Bass. I say thank you to the people of Bass for putting me here, for their support, their incredible encouragement and to reassure them I am working every single day to ensure they enjoy a better quality of life in northern Tasmania.

It is tough in the Health portfolio at the best of times but given the rather ferocious and dishonest campaign waged by Ms White to scare people, to see the Health minister can be returned - and I am not gloating but I am saying thank you - with such a strong vote is something that reminds me how grateful we all need to be.

There is no way in the world I could be standing here today without my wonderful wife, Julie, my beautiful wife of 23 years, and our children, not that they are that small any more, Eloise, Thomas and James, who have been my constant encouragement. I desperately love them all and miss them terribly when I am away from home. One problem I have not had has been a want of family support. I have to extend that to my parents, Colin and Glenys, and my massive family. We are a big tribe. Never once have any of them asked, what are you doing? Not once have they ever said, this is not for you, or we do not think you can do it. They have been constantly encouraging me since I was a high school boy and I was telling my family about what I wanted to do with my life. One of my brothers said, 'Don't be stupid.'. My mother said to my brother, 'Hey, listen, Michael can do anything.'. That is a message for each of our kids. My mum said to my brother, who was doing what siblings do, 'Listen, Michael could do anything.'. It sat with me for all these years. She is a most beautiful woman. She would have to be the best mother in the world. I think she is and I say that confidently. God bless anyone who can say the same because we are very fortunate and I am one of those people who knows how lucky I am to have my mum and dad both still alive and that I can continue to be grateful for them. That is a blessing. I was starting this off by saying I could not be here without them. I could not do it and my first thanks must go to them.

The voters of Bass and the members of the Liberal Party who endorsed me and allow me to carry the name of the Liberal Party into battle, I thank them for their constant support as well, and our community. They deserve strong government, and they deserve strong representation. That is exactly what we are giving them and will always do.

The significance of this result cannot be understated. That is why I have emphasised some of the numbers. It is a clear reflection of the work I and my colleagues have been doing. Our incredibly dedicated party leader, the Premier, has been leading our state with diligence, intelligence, integrity and focus on what matters to the people of Tasmania. We have done this through our good times, which we have enjoyed, and through our difficult times, where the state has been faced with external challenges and we have worked through those. I thank my fellow candidates in the election, Simon Wood and Richard Archer, who performed so well. I am sorry one more of them could not have snuck across the line.

I pay homage to my former colleagues from this House, Joan Rylah and Nic Street. I wish them both all the very best for their future endeavours. Joan Rylah was a close friend. I loved her tenacity for the north-west community, particularly the Circular Head and western districts. She was tenacious and passionate. I do not think she would mind if I said she cracked the odd teary in here when the issues were close to her heart, such was her passion. She goes with my very best wishes. To Nic Street, who is still a young man and has a lot of life in front of him and plenty of opportunities to pursue in coming years, I wish him the best as well.

I acknowledge the work and life of the late Dr Vanessa Goodwin, our dear friend and one of our most loved colleagues who tragically lost her life to cancer on the day of the election. Vanessa was such a special person and she lived a life of service and dedication. That is well and truly on the record and she will be sorely missed.

Over the last four years we have seen some wonderful commitments delivered in my work as a Bass MP but also as a member of government discharging my role as a Minister for Health and a Minister for IT and Innovation. Some of the highlights for us have been some of the groundbreaking and indeed generational changes we have succeeded with in health. For example, rescuing the Royal Hobart re-development, which was off the rails; building One Health System from the three THOs; bringing our waiting lists down; and the first ever comprehensive suicide package which included a Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy. We have also seen wards re-opened across the state including at the LHG, one of my favourites being Ward 4D. We have supported the LGH with a new children's ward that is now about to see the building program commence. We have seen school upgrades, particularly amongst the high schools not part of the previous program and that has been fantastic to see. Schools like Kings Meadows, Queechy and Riverside are having much needed upgrades, which are long overdue.

We have also seen in the previous term of government the completion of the flood levees for Launceston, which is a project both sides of parliament have been involved with and supportive of. For me, that goes right back to 2004-07 when I was a federal member and secured federal funding toward this. It has been a great success and it has protected Launceston. Reports after the 2016 floods pointed to the success of the flood levees at Longford and Launceston, how they held and how they did their work.

We have also seen wonderful growth in employment. One of the staples for public policy is the extent to which you can see the economy growing. That was being scoffed at this morning by one speaker, but economic growth is the driver for employment growth. Employment growth means food on the tables of Tasmanians and fewer people feeling the need to leave the state. That has been fantastic and is to be supported. When businesses are doing well it means there can be more employees and that is a driver. The opposite of that is what happened under Labor and the Greens where we saw the economy being run down, people being put out of work.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order.

Mr FERGUSON - One thing Ms O'Connor and the Labor Party should be a little grateful for is that they were spared some of the unemployment rate. It would have been much higher had many Tasmanians not fled the state looking for work. It is proven. There was an exodus from this state and it was the disastrous policies of Labor and the Greens in that disastrous period that was the trigger for that.

I was very privileged to take on the Health portfolio in 2014 and again after the recent election. I am thankful for that. My commitment is always to improving the health system in our state and doing better whenever we get the opportunity. I am not sure if there have been previous times where health ministers have continued on but we are up for the challenge because we are believers in it. We have a strong record to build on and a big challenge in front of us as we see rising demand in the community. We have achieved much and further reforms are progressing through this parliament as I speak.

For the first time in the state's modern history there is a clear plan that is agreed on for what services should be provided in what hospital in each community. The Government is committed to improving the health system with a record-breaking \$757 million investment over the next six years which, for all of Labor's talk, blew Labor's health policy well and clean out of the water. This included more doctors, more nurses and opening more beds. How do we open more beds? We have to build more buildings, such is our record in opening beds that the previous minister in the previous government shut down. Recognising the logistical challenges of committing to more doctors, nurses and beds, we are establishing a dedicated workforce planning unit to deliver a strategic health workforce plan as well as focus on the recruitment and retention that is required to support the growth we are funding.

The north of Tasmania will not be forgotten with our Government committing to recruit, fully staff and open 32 new beds on a brand-new ward at the LGH. As part of an \$87 million capital program at the hospital, a new women's and children's precinct clinic area will be built as an additional level on the upcoming ward 4K development and extension. I have to say thank you to my government colleagues for helping to make this ward 4K expansion the success it is going to be. Along the design we adopted the principle that we would fund extra elements to that project that would future-proof it. It has already paid dividends because those decisions we took as a government have enabled us to build an additional layer on it on level three as well.

We will also be updating the LGH master plan, upgrading the air conditioning at the LGH, including areas that have never had it before, funding more car parking places, funding for better accommodation for health professionals at Flinders Island, and investing \$2 million for a purpose-built antenatal clinic at the North West Regional Hospital. The north-west integrated maternity service has been a great success. One of the weaknesses of the new model is the poor building conditions and this addresses that point. We are also going to get underway with the second stage of the King Island hospital development. We will be bringing forward some of the funds for the Mersey community redevelopment to enable that to commence as soon as possible. We are funding more money for the Royal Hobart Hospital including for redevelopment of existing wards at the Repatriation Hospital.

We are also funding a \$2.5 million major upgrade of the Midlands Multipurpose Centre at Oatlands. In addition to that, right around the state in our regional facilities \$15 million will be provided over three years to support and improve them and their capital facilities. We will be basing final allocations of this funding on areas with the greatest need.

The majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$28 million over six years to fully staff and open eight new beds at the North West Regional Hospital. These new beds will be placed adjacent to the emergency department and for high-flow medical ward, which will help put downward pressure on ED waiting times and help improve elective surgery throughput, reducing cancellations. It is estimated that 27 additional staff will be recruited to support these beds. The new unit is expected to open by December 2018.

Our Government has committed \$125 million over six years to ambulance services and infrastructure. This is something that we have heard from our workforce. These commitments include recruiting 42 new paramedics, as well as operation centre staff; implementing secondary triage, which came out of our review of Ambulance Tasmania; providing support for volunteer staff, which has never been done before, exactly what the volunteers - the vollies - who we rely on in Tasmania and who have been calling for this for years but have been ignored; and funding an aero-medical helicopter service. As part of this commitment approximately \$18 million has been allocated for capital improvements to rural and regional ambulance stations at Glenorchy and Burnie, and as something for the wider community, funding is also being provided for a dedicated community defibrillator program.

I love the Community Rapid Response Service. It has been a singular success. GPs tell me it is one of the best initiatives this Government has implemented in health reform, supporting more patients at home with a GP-led model. This is on the bones of the program that was cancelled by the Labor-Greens government. The Government will now, on the success of the Launceston pilot, begin planning for the new service to be expanded into the north-west and the south.

You could have knocked me over with a feather when Labor released its so-called health policy. It was paltry and undeveloped compared to the Liberals' plan. Considering that Labor had had four years to develop that policy and claimed that it was their number-one priority, it was a real disaster. Labor was not even able to say for the money it was promising what new beds they would open, where they would be and how they would be staffed. There were no descriptions at all, just what looked like a big number of extra staff with absolutely no detail.

When the Liberal Party released our policy we then started to see the morphing of Labor's health policy. It was a joke. We counted seven rewrites of Labor's health policy, which is something of a disaster. Labor needs to go home, look at its homework, look at what it did and learn lessons from that, because that is an embarrassment for the party that wanted to be taken seriously on health. They ran their scare campaign, but unfortunately for them Tasmanians had woken up to Labor's Mediscare heritage. It may have worked for them in 2016 but it did not work in 2018. Tasmanians woke up to them and realised that Labor tells lies on health and seeks only to frighten people in the community.

Ms O'Byrne - You can't say we tell lies.

Mr FERGUSON - I am saying it - telling lies to people and painting unflattering pictures of the Premier on television, telling people that they or their loved ones would die is what you did.

Ms O'Byrne - Tell me how women access public abortions if you want to talk about lying. People who lie in this House could not lie straight in bed. You are most dishonest.

Mr FERGUSON - It seems to me that is the voice of the most disastrous health minister ever over there. Tasmanians saw straight through you. They remember you shutting ward 4D. They remember you sacking 189 nurses - sorry, 289 nurses. They remember and they will never forget what you did to the health system in Tasmania. I hear you, but I do not believe you. Labor was telling lies to Tasmanians and were exposed. Tasmanians did not vote for you. Indeed, Michelle O'Byrne, the member opposite who interjects, the member for Bass in her own electorate, the Deputy Leader of the Labor Party, was only able to muster 26 per cent of the vote. Bass voters have had a gutful of the Labor-Greens years and they did not want to go back.

All Tasmanians deserve to live in safety and free from the impact of crime and the Hodgman Government will continue to take a hard stand on law and order. We will ensure Tasmania Police officers have the support that they need so that they can keep us safe.

Another former failed minister, going by the same name, cut 108 police from our police service. My friend and colleague, Mr Hidding, and the Government restored those 108 police and in fact we further increased them by 113. To deal with the challenges of a booming state economy, a larger number of public events as well as the need for higher levels of policing, we will continue the upward trajectory of new police recruitment with at least 125 more police officers to be employed over this term of government. This is over and above the numbers that we re-employed, reinstating the O'Byrne cuts in the Tasmania Police service.

In line with our plan a four-year police academy recruitment schedule was publicly released on 23 April of this year. The 2018 recruit courses are due to start this month as well as in September, and with further intakes in April and July 2019, and three intakes each in 2020 and 2021 the academy is going to be busier than it has ever been.

Policing is a high-risk occupation and we understand the need to improve the safety of Tasmania Police officers and the wider community so we are completing the implementation project for body worn videos and will commence the roll out of equipment this year.

In regional areas police stations are particularly important and help build a positive working relationship between police and the community they serve. The new stations at New Norfolk and Longford will be a contemporary base for policing activities.

We are also investing in marine and rescue infrastructure.

We make no apology for being tough on crime and we will take further important steps to make it clear that criminal activity will not be tolerated. Work has already commenced to implement the government's policy to ban the wearing of colours and other insignia by outlaw motorcycle gangs. It is very disappointing that I have to say this after the Labor Party started going soft on this subject: outlaw motorcycle gangs like the Rebels, the Outlaws, the Devil's Henchmen, the Bandidos and Black Uhlans are first and foremost not nice, law-abiding, social motorcycle clubs. They are organised as criminal gangs whose members traffic drugs, launder money, use stolen firearms, and use serious violence to extort money and enforce debts - debts to themselves and debts on behalf of others. They are not, as some would like the community to believe, recreational or social motorcycle clubs. These outlaw groups are not welcome in Tasmania. Other states have implemented laws and if we do not do the same Tasmania will be the soft target.

Only today as a result of a very concentrated effort, Tasmania Police has made a statement publicly that outlaw motorcycle gang associates have been charged after a major drug operation:

A 49-year-old Devonport man - a known associate of outlaw gangs including the Finks, Outlaws and the Devil's Henchmen for over 20 years - was charged with possessing a firearm for which a licence may not have been issued and possess a firearm in contravention of Firearms Prohibition Order. ... A quantity of white crystal substance was also seized and investigations are continuing in relation to this.

I said, 'A known associate of outlaw motorcycle gangs including the Finks, the Outlaws and the Devil's Henchmen for over 20 years'.

A 26 year old Devonport woman - and confirmed Bandidos associate - was also present ... and in possession of a quantity of cannabis located during the search. She was issued with a drug caution/diversion notice and arrested on an outstanding warrant.

Another 26 year old Devonport woman - and a known associate of the Bandidos - was proceeding against in relation to charges of selling a controlled plant product as well as possess an unregistered firearm, possess a firearm when not the holder of a firearm licence of the appropriate category and fail to take precautions to ensure safekeeping of the firearm.

A 40 year old Bandidos outlaw motorcycle gang member was arrested and charged by Devonport CIB in relation to a number of outstanding matters including burglary, evade police ... drive while disqualified ... and use an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle.

A 37 year old Burnie woman - a known Bandidos associate - has been proceeded against in relation to selling a controlled drug namely methylamphetamine ('ICE') after her residence was searched as part of the operation.

I was gutted to see the Labor Party going soft on this subject in the public media, trying to again confuse the public about the impact of this legislation, which specifically targets outlaw motorcycle gangs, the smaller number, by conflating that.

Dr Broad - Where is the legislation?

Mr FERGUSON - Read the issues position paper, Dr Broad, where it is extremely clear even to the point that the five groups are named by Tasmania Police. Yet you would dare conflate that with what you said was the '50 000 legitimate bike users'.

Dr Broad - No, I never said anything like that. Quote me.

Mr FERGUSON - I will quote you, 16 May, Dr Broad said, 'We need to ensure -

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER - Order. Minister, through the Chair please. Dr Broad, I ask you to cease interjections. I am sure you will have an opportunity to speak.

Mr FERGUSON - The headline is 'Labor doubts over bikie laws'. The story goes:

Labor has voiced concerns the State Government's proposed anti-bikie laws will affect law-biding motorcyclists.

You said:

We need to ensure the proposed laws do not impact on the 50 000 law-biding motorcyclists in Tasmania.

The police have already said that and you are conflating it.

Dr Broad - What is wrong with that? Show us the bill then. Where is the black and white?

Mr FERGUSON - I can see your embarrassment. The way you carried on.

Dr Broad - No, you are conflating.

Mr FERGUSON - You then said:

We are concerned that the power to decide which clubs will be stripped of their colours rests entirely with the Police Minister.

That is what the lawyers and the civil libertarians want, so somebody could be accountable to the parliament and the people of Tasmania. That is really disappointing. Given what is going on in your own electorate, I invite Dr Broad to listen to Tasmania Police and read the position paper which they have published which even gives names to groups involved. To conflate that with the law-abiding social motor cycle riders is beneath contempt. It now falls to Dr Broad to explain himself to the Tasmanian people as to why he would conflate those issues in the way I believe he mischievously has. If that is the way the Labor Party want to play their politics, that is not responsible.

We are going through the consultation process and we will be cracking down on these groups to make Tasmania safer.

Time expired.

[3.09 p.m.]

Ms ARCHER (Denison - Attorney-General) - Mr Deputy Speaker, it is an honour and a great privilege to have been elected again to represent the people of Tasmania, specifically Denison, although I presume we are due to have a bit of a name change at some stage which is going to be difficult for all of us to get used to, I am sure.

We are now in the Forty-ninth Parliament. It was very pleasing for me to have received my highest vote to date, and topping the Liberal poll, and to now also be a minister. It is a great honour.

It was also a great honour becoming the first female Speaker in this place after practising law for 17 years. Being a bit of a Westminster system buff, to have carried out the role of Speaker for over three-and-a-half years was something that was a great honour for me. I thank the Premier for that opportunity. I thoroughly enjoyed the role. I thoroughly enjoyed shattering another glass ceiling.

It is very pleasing to have welcomed so many new members to this place, some new female members as well, another bit of glass ceiling we have shattered. We can all strike that as something achieved and continue with the job of treating each other equally.

I am a proud member for Denison and the Hodgman Liberal Government team. It is a team that has already delivered so much for Tasmania and we will continue to work hard each and every day to build a stronger future for our state. Tasmanians have voted for a stable majority Liberal Government with a strong plan for the future and we are delivering it. Our priority is to implement

the commitments we have made and for which we have received a strong mandate. By delivering on our long-term plan to take Tasmania to the next level, over the next four years we will build on the gains.

We have already ensured even more Tasmanians can look forward to a better quality of life. Jobs remain our number one priority, particularly for our young people. We have committed to reduce the unemployment rate to the lowest of any state by the year 2022 and as at March 2018, there are now 246 900 people in work, which is up 11 800 since the 2014 election. It is an achievement of which we are very proud. This means there are nearly 3400 fewer people in the unemployment queue since 2014.

Our economy is growing at a record rate and confidence in the community is high. This is reflected in increased levels of household consumption and business investment. Tasmania's export sector is performing strongly. The door is well and truly open for business and investment in Tasmania and the community is benefiting from this. Tasmanians can rest assured a Hodgman Liberal Government is delivering our priorities and Tasmanians know from our proven track record we can be trusted to deliver them. At this juncture there is an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the past four years, as well as highlighting my priorities as a minister for this term.

As a Government, our law and order credentials have been firmly established. We have delivered on our commitment to ensure our legislation and sentencing practices reflect community expectations, enhance the rights of victims of crime and provide a strong deterrent to criminal behaviour. Our achievements to date, and this is by no means an exhaustive list but one which demonstrates the major areas we have concentrated our law reform agenda on, are that we have introduced national family violence order laws that provide for the seamless recognition and enforcement of any family or domestic violence order in Australia, across borders. National consistency is always seen as an advantage. In this example it is also to ease the burden of family violence victims or survivors, as is often the case, in not having to seek to reapply for what I still call restraint orders. I am a bit old school since I have practised but I am sure people know what I am talking about when I say restraint orders and family violence orders. It eases having to go through the whole process again, bringing up the past and establishing evidence required for a family violence order. That is something all of us in this House can be proud of passing.

We have also legislated to provide that a victim of family violence can apply to be listed as an eligible person in the eligible persons register. They can be given information about an offender's location and progress in the prison system. It is important that victims of these crimes feel they have this knowledge at hand. We have legislated to ensure a person who has incurred the funeral expenses of a primary victim may apply for compensation without funeral expenses affecting the amount paid to those most affected by the victim's death. This is something my predecessor, the late Dr Vanessa Goodwin, pursued. We have also amended the Sentencing Act 1997 to ensure summary courts, that is the lower courts, can receive victim impact statements on matters involving family violence, death and serious injury.

We have introduced a range of new sentencing options to better enable courts to tailor sentences to fit individual offenders. We have strengthened Tasmania's criminal justice response to acts of unsafe driving, including increasing the maximum sentences of imprisonment for the offences of negligent driving causing death and grievous bodily harm, as well as transferring the offence of dangerous driving from the Traffic Act 1925 to the Criminal Code Act 1924 to properly reflect its serious nature. It is a crime when it is listed in the Criminal Code, therefore sent to trial in the Supreme Court.

Yesterday I announced our historic step to opt into the National Redress Scheme, a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. I made a detailed ministerial statement so I need not go through all of that again. I can say I have been overwhelmed with positive response from many groups in the community that provide support services to many of the survivors. It is pleasing to have that support for the Government signing up to the National Redress Scheme, the understanding of the complexities involved and why it took the time it has to reach this point. It was always our intention to do whatever was possible to reach the point we could sign on to the scheme. We had to ensure the process was open and transparent, fair and in the best interests of Tasmanian survivors, most of all. I thank everyone affected for the patience in that regard.

In relation to law and order, there is always more work to be done. Looking into this term I have already stated a number of key priorities. It is not an exhaustive list but I can point to a few of those now. It is my priority to maintain focus on key areas of law reform so we always prioritise community safety, protect our most vulnerable in our community, protect our victims and always strive to ensure our laws reflect the community's expectations. We will move to implement a range of reforms to protect law abiding Tasmanians whilst ensuring those who break our laws are prevented from putting others at risk. That is key to a lot of our law reform agenda.

I am mindful and I cannot stress this enough, we must also ensure there are opportunities for rehabilitation to ensure people who break the law have the best possible future prospects through rehabilitation. Through this, it is hoped that they do not pose a risk to their victims or the community's safety on their return. This is often difficult to achieve. I acknowledge that and later in my contribution I will note how our infrastructure spend can assist with fulfilling our rehabilitation obligations, with new facilities coming on line into the future.

I will also be progressing important reforms to Tasmania's outdated bail laws so as to provide the courts with a clear statutory framework, as has occurred in other Australian jurisdictions, and to ensure that community safety is a primary consideration when a decision on whether someone is granted bail is actually made or not. This is necessary because at the moment our Bail Act does not deal with all of the procedures or set out a clear statutory framework as to how our bail system operates. Currently magistrates and judges have to look to the common law. There is nothing wrong with that, but it does not codify everything and it certainly does not provide a checklist of things that need to be gone through.

To ensure consistency and to make it easier and more to the point, because I have no doubt that magistrates and judges work through the system - and this is by no means a reflection on how they operate - we need to ensure that our bail laws are modern. We will reverse the onus of proof for serious and repeat offenders so that they have to establish whether they should be granted bail or not, rather than the other way around. Again, that has happened in other jurisdictions.

Similarly, the law in Tasmania relating to dangerous criminal declarations is also in need of reform and will be progressed. From talking to the profession and the judiciary, that is currently a difficult thing to establish. There have been numerous cases where a judge has wanted to make that declaration but has not reached the threshold required. Our planned reforms will ensure that dangerous criminal declarations are available to the judiciary for a greater range of serious offenders and importantly, will ensure that those offenders who are discharged from an order remain under supervision on their release back into their community. Again, community safety is of utmost importance, and of course the victims of those perpetrators are at the forefront of our mind.

Continuing our reforms to address the insidious problem of family violence remains an absolute priority for our Government and we will be legislating to introduce a nation-leading new offence of persistent family violence that will enable the courts to take into account the full extent of an abusive relationship. This is important because we know that family violence can and does occur over a period of time with a number of different incidents. Currently the court system operates so that you are charged with singular offences and to prove those offences evidence must be brought in relation to each and every offence. This looks at it globally and means that evidence can be taken into account over a period of time of persistent behaviour of family violence and will make it much easier to establish persistent family violence.

The Government has committed to making serious cyber-bullying a criminal offence. During this term I expect to be able to table a bill to target those who use the internet with the intention to cause serious physical or mental harm to others. I know that is something that has been in the media quite constantly, unfortunately, due to serious occurrences, and I will not go into what can occur but we know that the worst-case scenarios are people taking their own lives, which is simply unacceptable. It will send a clear message that this behaviour is not only unacceptable but also a criminal act.

Cyber-bullying and bullying is also a national law reform issue and Tasmania is contributing to this COAG reform agenda through the Council of Attorneys-General, which I attend. I have already attended one of those meetings by delegation before I was Attorney-General and we have another one listed for June this year. It is also on the reform agenda of the Education Council as well.

When it comes to our prison we know that there will always be a need for incarcerating serious and/or continuous offenders, which is why we are taking a strategic approach to actively managing the needs of Tasmania Prison Service. The prison service does a wonderful job. I know that my shadow or shadows have visited recently, which I was only too happy to facilitate, because I believe it gives an idea of not only the layout of the prison but the services on offer in terms of rehabilitation, as well as the housing of prisoners and meeting staff involved. I will have a bit more to say about staff in a moment but I take this opportunity to thank them for the incredible work they do. It is a very difficult job, we can all appreciate that, under very difficult circumstances. Their safety is also at the forefront of my mind in setting a reform agenda as well. It has to be a safe place for everyone.

Prison populations across the country are increasing and Tasmania is not immune from this national trend. Under our Government there has been considerable investment in both staff and infrastructure at Tasmania Prison Service. We have recruited correctional officers at an exponential rate. Since May 2016 we have recruited 78 new correctional officers. Although prisoner numbers have increased within the last year, for every additional prisoner there has been at least one new TPS staff member recruited during this time.

We have also invested substantially in prison infrastructure with 81 beds anticipated to come on line this year. I am sure members saw the announcement in the media, but I had the great pleasure on Mother's Day to visit the Risdon Prison site and specifically provide an update on the work to the construction of the new specially designed mother and baby unit and associated facilities. I was very proud to announce that it will be named the Dr Vanessa Goodwin Cottages in honour of the late Dr Vanessa Goodwin, our dear friend and colleague and previous minister for corrections and attorney-general.

Members - Hear, hear.

Ms ARCHER - That was something I was very proud to propose. It was fully embraced by all my colleagues and I am hearing a resounding 'hear, hear' from around the Chamber. It is very difficult when you are trying to work out what to name something after someone like Vanessa. I did not want it to be a facility that was not fitting or appropriate or did not really get noticed, but I believe the mother and baby unit is appropriate in so many ways. Not only was it something she proposed herself, but Vanessa was very passionate about families and supporting the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community. This included providing rehabilitation opportunities for those who find themselves within Tasmania's criminal justice system. She did an enormous amount of work in that regard, not only as minister and attorney-general, but in her former profession as a criminologist. I share that rehabilitation aspect with Vanessa and will continue to pursue it.

I was joined for the announcement by Vanessa's closest family members, Libby and Maggie Saunders, Claire Goodfellow and Rebecca Terry. I extend my thanks to them for giving up their time, on Mother's Day no less, to be part of that announcement. We had to change dates, but then we realised Mother's Day was probably the best day possible to make an announcement on the mother and baby unit.

Just briefly, the mother and baby unit will provide a safe and specially designed environment for new mothers, pregnant women and newborn babies, allowing increased opportunities for parent and child attachment whilst in prison, which is the most important thing. It will be a specialist unit for five mothers where uniformed and non-uniformed staff work together in a dedicated area, including the provision of specialist services and programs.

Five mothers might not sound a lot, but at the moment we do not have any. Currently we only have a facility for one. Five, we think is future proofing for the day we might need to go up to that number but it will ensure we are able to, should that occur.

In addition to the mother and baby unit, the infrastructure works will include an extra 20 minimum security beds for female prisoners, thus increasing the overall operational capacity of the Tasmania Prison Service.

The 2017-18 Budget committed \$2.6 million in capital funding for these works. They are expected to be completed towards the end of this year. They are going up very quickly. I believe they are ahead of schedule. This is consistent with the Government's strong investment in the Tasmania Prison Service and reflects the fact that prison populations have risen nationally and Tasmania has not been immune to this trend.

It is also why, in addition to the current infrastructure work occurring throughout the prison, the Government has committed considerable funding for a new southern remand facility in the order of \$70 million and a new \$270 million northern prison. This will accommodate a larger prison population and increase the rehabilitation and reintegration prospect of prisoners from the north of the state. We know that if people are closer to families it increases their reintegration prospects. They are closer to their families; they have more contact visits with their families and it is important for some prisoners.

When I visited the Risdon Prison site I talked to some of the prisoners from the north before I made this announcement. It was still in the conceptual phase. It was seen that if they could be close to their families it would make it a lot easier for them.

During the previous term, the Government successfully passed and implemented important legislation to increase transparency and protect victims. The Office of the Custodial Inspector has been established after legislation passed both Houses of parliament to provide for ongoing, independent scrutiny of the prison system and the Ashley Youth Detention Centre and the Corrections Act has been amended to ensure the Parole Board includes a victim of crime representative. They were things the late Dr Vanessa Goodwin strongly pursued.

During the election, we announced we will add a new member to the Parole Board with police experience. I am currently pursuing that at the moment and it will occur very soon.

My other portfolio areas are equally important and, as is always the case, time starts to escape. I will try to dedicate as much time as possible and thank as many people as possible at the end.

I am glad the member for Denison, Ms O'Connor, is here. I have climate change within my environment portfolio. I can see no better place for that portfolio because it is integral and directly related to the environment. I meet with the Climate Change Office regularly; I get briefings. We have a climate change action plan, which I encourage members to have a look at.

Member interjecting.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER - Order.

Ms ARCHER - I am going to keep going because I would really like to get through my speech.

Tasmania's unique natural environment is one of our state's greatest assets, contributing significantly to our enviable way of life and our Government is committed to safeguarding our natural environment and preserving what makes our state so special.

We will continue to strike the right balance between sensible, sustainable development plus the need to preserve our natural environment. It is important Tasmanians and visitors experience our beautiful natural assets but in a sensitive and sustainable way. That is why we also support the important work of the independent environmental regulator. During the previous term we moved the responsibility for the environmental regulation of the salmon industry to the independent EPA and significantly improved the regulatory system to create a robust framework that will enable the sustainable growth of that industry.

We will work to streamline our environmental assessment and regulatory processes. This means we can guarantee proper protection of our environment whilst ensuring those proposing projects are clear on the process and on their obligations, importantly.

We have identified key areas of focus for the coming term including tackling illegal rubbish dumping and the problem of litter. We have committed to keeping our natural areas pristine and in line with Tasmania's clean brand. Importantly we will continue to lead the nation in addressing the serious issue of climate change by implementing our Climate Action 21 plan, which was developed last year. We intend leveraging off our natural assets to maintain zero net carbon emissions and to promote the state's renewable energy resources.

Our emissions data for 2015-16 confirms reported emissions have declined by 100 per cent from 1989-90 levels, down to minus 0.01 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This meets our target to have zero net emissions by 2050, over 30 years ahead of schedule, confirming our state

is the national leader in the ongoing response to climate change, which I had great pleasure of presenting to my fellow ministers for environment at the recent ministerial council meeting in Melbourne. They were quite jealous of that.

I will move on to Arts, a portfolio very close to my heart and one in which I am very proud to continue. I am a strong supporter of Tasmania's cultural and creative industries. Our Government is focused on generating jobs in the creative sector and building momentum in our economy for the benefit of all Tasmanians. During the previous term former members will remember that we successfully passed and implemented the Cultural and Creative Industries Act 2017 - I believe it was the first bill I took through as minister - in those last three sitting weeks. This legislation reinforces the very important principle of peer assessment in the decision-making process, enabling the creation of expert panels to assess and provide recommendations to the minister for assistance across the sector. I just sign off. It is peer assessment that provides that independence.

We also passed the Tasmanian Art Gallery Act 2017 to establish TMAG as a statutory authority, providing greater clarity on the functions and powers of the board of trustees who are to be responsible for the strategic direction of TMAG and the stewardship of the collections. I have established the Tasmanian Youth Art Strategy, a great new initiative that will support and invigorate Tasmania's youth arts sector, improving the social health and wellbeing of our young people through arts education and engagement.

We have also invested substantially in Tasmania's screen sector which has thrived over the past four years under our Government. Significant expenditure on screen production has produced great results for Tasmania. Recent successful releases of Tasmanian productions such as *Rosehaven* and *The Kettering Incident* have entertained audiences, won awards and driven further interest in Tasmania as a production location. That is really key here: it provides jobs and exposes Tasmania to the world. In light of the screen industry's recent successes and the growing reputation of Tasmania as a viable filming destination we are confident that Tasmanian stories will continue to enthrall audiences throughout Australia and the world.

During this term our strategy will ensure the supported industry thrives long into the future. We made a number of key commitments in the election that I look forward to delivering over the coming term, including investing \$1 million in a new permanent children's exhibition at TMAG. We have funded a program to support galleries to export Tasmanian art to the key contemporary art markets in Sydney and Melbourne. We have also committed \$2 million in additional funding to Screen Tasmania to back key strategic screen projects.

In closing, I congratulate all new members of this House. I thank my campaign team. I am not going to mention names because I have not written them down and I will miss someone. But I would like to thank my campaign manager, who happens to be my husband, who has always stood by me. He is an amazing campaign manager, very easily accessible of course, when I call. But he is very experienced, as we all know. I thank him, all my staff and team.

[3.40 p.m.]

Dr BROAD (Braddon) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I am humbled and privileged to be here to give my Address-in-Reply. A bit over 12 months I stood here as someone who was elected on a recount, so after two failed election campaigns it is really a privilege to be here as an elected member in my own right. I truly thank the people of Braddon for their confidence in me to put me here to keep representing them and I will keep working as hard as I can and to the best of my ability.

Like everyone else, I have not arrived here purely on my own volition. I put my hand up, but there were so many people who made this happen for me. First of all the people of Braddon for giving me their number-one votes, but also my family - my wife Alicia and my children, who have been very supportive and are the ones who bear the cost more than others of me being in this place. I thank them for the time they give me in allowing me to be here.

My parents also participated in my campaign. My mother minded the office while we were out campaigning. My father, along with Gordon Austin, erected signs and seemed to have a great time doing it too, I must admit. They were out day after day putting up signs and then after the election taking them down and had a great time. I also thank the number of people who allowed me to put a sign up on their property. It is something that takes a little bit of courage to do, I think, to stake a claim and be very visual in their support for somebody and I honestly thank them for that. It shows a lot of confidence in me. When somebody allows you to have your face on their fence or in their paddock or wherever it is, it is a boost of confidence. Some have had my signs on their property six or seven times when you consider council elections and so on, because I have been through a few council elections as well as state elections, and I really thank them.

There are also people who appeared in my TV commercial and I very much appreciate that, as well as people who helped me with doorknocking and phoning. I especially thank my electorate officer, Kaye, who makes my life so much easier, and also Amina, who works for me one day a week as well. There are some volunteers and I will be daring enough to name some. I will not name everybody but I would like to thank Tresa, Stacy, Kim, Sue, Amy, John, Maryanne and Rodney for helping me out. I did not get a full quota in my own right, so I would also like to thank my fellow Labor candidates Danielle Kidd, Themba Bulle and Wayne Roberts, who worked just as hard and put just as much on the line and it was the Labor vote that elected two Labor members.

In that regard I also welcome Anita Dow, my fellow Labor MP for Braddon, to the Labor team. She is a fantastic addition. She was a fantastic mayor for Burnie and we are working well as a team. We really want to represent and grow the Labor vote in Braddon, which no doubt we need to do.

I also congratulate my fellow members for Braddon, including Deputy Speaker Adam Brooks, Jeremy Rockliff and Roger Jaensch. Elections are a funny thing - there are winners and losers. I pay tribute to Joan Rylah who has had tribute paid to her already. She was passionate and I really hope she is in a good place. No doubt losing an election when you are a sitting member is not easy so I wish her all the best.

I am very invigorated by our new Labor team. We have 10 members in the lower House and four in the upper House and we are a much expanded team, even from when I first came on board a little over 12 months ago. We have won elections and have new members. I especially welcome Jennifer Houston, Jen Butler, Ella Haddad and Alison Standen, and welcome back David O'Byrne. David and I are now parliamentary colleagues and I look forward to working with our whole Labor team and recognise the amount of work Rebecca White put into the election campaign and the time she spent in Braddon. She definitely helped out and worked as hard or harder than anybody. She went above and beyond the call.

I will now talk through some of my portfolio roles. I am very privileged to be the shadow minister for primary industries and water, police fire and emergency management, and resources.

I am a strong believer that our future in our primary industries lies in our brand, value-adding, being able to produce products consistently and, above all, profitability. There is no use focusing

on production if it is not profitable, but integral to this is biosecurity, irrigation and innovation. Now we have a new minister, as Jeremy Rockliff has moved on from Primary Industries, and I think there are some issues he has left behind, in particular in the salmon industry and biosecurity with this ongoing fruit fly outbreak. There was also the potential conflict of interest with the revelation that, as a minister, Mr Rockliff made a roughly \$200 000 decision that directly related to his own farming interests. That was specifically with the Sassafras-Wesley Vale irrigation scheme debt. I believe there are still some questions around whether he stepped back from making that decision or he made the decision. Were protocols put in place? Conflict of interest is something we always have to be wary of and maybe -

Mr Hidding - Be wary of making allegations without it being a substantive motion. You want to be very careful. You want to make a substantive motion if you think there is a problem.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER - I will listen carefully to what you say.

Dr BROAD - Yes, listen carefully and maybe these questions will get answered.

I will move on to biosecurity. This Government has, it must be said, a terrible record on biosecurity. In the last four years we have seen, roughly in order, myrtle rust, blueberry rust, pacific oyster mortality syndrome, Norwegian salmon on our shelves, and now we have seen fruit fly. It shows that the Government is not learning lessons from the past. For example, myrtle rust came to Tasmania through the nursery industry, then a couple of years later the first blueberry rust outbreak also came through the nursery industry. Both of those outbreaks were from plants sourced from Victoria so it seemed that the lessons were not learned.

The blueberry rust outbreak especially demonstrated that the Government was not prepared. When blueberry growers Ronald and Heinz Schwind at Barrington had blueberry rust identified at their farm they tracked down the plants. There was blueberry rust in the nursery system and they tracked down the people who bought plants from the nurseries and then located blueberry rust on the Schwinds' property. That was located in late November. Basically, their blueberry plants were quarantined and the Schwinds were not allowed to manage the plants including a period of time when they were not allowed to spray them. They were asking to spray the plants and were not allowed to for a week or so. Anyone who knows anything about rust knows that you really need to control them straight away. Rusts are wind dispersed so if they get into the wind currents they can spread for tens or even potentially hundreds of kilometres depending on the wind conditions. It seemed the Government did not know what to do about blueberry rust. Along they came in January, some three months later, and basically all the plants were then removed. Something like blueberry rust needs to be treated straight away.

Then the Government crowed that blueberry rust had been eradicated only for it to show up at Howth the next year. Suddenly blueberry rust cannot be eradicated and Tasmania's blueberry growers now are pretty much left to deal with it. I know there are blueberry growers in Tasmania who challenge the ruling that blueberry rust now has to be managed rather than eradicated. I believe it is potentially too widespread for eradication but it shows there was a significant failure in the process of biosecurity. To let in myrtle rust through the nursery system but then also blueberry rust through the nursery system and then not eradicating it means now farmers are going to have to deal with it in an ongoing sense.

It highlights as well that the Government does not appear to be prepared when it comes to biosecurity. Preparedness is a key part of biosecurity. The biosecurity principles that were put

forward in the Biosecurity Act still remain stalled. It was put on the notice paper last year and never taken to a vote. The principles in the new act were consistent and there were appropriate levels of protection, least restrictive sanitary and phytosanitary measures, evidence-based risk analysis, regional difference in risk status, risk-based resource allocation, cost benefit decision making on control and eradication, whole of government approach to biosecurity and shared responsibilities. That says nothing about being prepared.

The biosecurity continuum put to me by Biosecurity Tasmania mentions: pre-border risk assessment; import requirement certification and national arrangements; at-the-border monitoring, inspections, seizure, compliance activities; post-border surveillance, diagnostics, response and recovery. Again, it says nothing about preparedness. You have to be prepared.

The idea in biosecurity is to prevent anything coming into the state. That is the number one priority of any biosecurity system; to prevent something entering the state in the first place. The next thing, if it does arrive you have to be prepared. You must have plans in place and the last thing we want is for the Government to run around for months, as they did with blueberry rust, not take any action and remove plants some months after the original incursion. This is not how biosecurity systems should work.

When a disease is, unfortunately, detected in the state the government should know exactly what to do. For example, what biosecurity plans were put in place after the first outbreak? Blueberry rust is endemic in New South Wales. Costas have farms in New South Wales and the workers move from New South Wales to Tasmania as one season follows the other. What did the Government do? Did Biosecurity Tasmania look into that as a possible pathway for rust to come into Tasmania? Simple things could have been put into place such as washing clothes and boots, as rust can travel on clothes, hair and anything else. Now it is present and it is very difficult to control.

We turn to fruit fly. It is obvious in what happened with the fruit fly outbreak that the Government was not prepared. There are various examples of that. Originally, we had the incidences of Flinders Island. It looks as if Flinders Island is going to be an ongoing issue, potentially for a number of years. We saw the minister talk about eradication from mainland Tasmania in question time today, but she did not mention Flinders Island because Flinders Island is a bit warmer and the likelihood of fruit fly wintering on Flinders Island is quite high. I hope for eradication on mainland Tasmania especially, but what we can see is the Government was not prepared. We see that by the reactions and the delays in putting up signage. The protocol is you find fruit fly, you spray, lay down mats and all of that is well established. They had to pull people from everywhere and it took days and days for things to happen. Fruit fly is one of those things you have to move on straight away.

Another example of not being prepared is that fruit fly larvae were found in a Devonport supermarket, which was tracked to a Melbourne fumigation facility. Then the Government says, we have identified that, problem solved. A month later fruit fly larvae were found in a Hobart supermarket. How does this happen? This is about not learning the lessons of the past. What it shows, as the minister spoke about today in question time, is that fruit fly has been in the supermarket supply chain. All that needs to happen, when fruit fly is in the supermarket supply chain, is for somebody to find rotten fruit from the supermarket, decide it is unfit to eat and throw it to the chooks or put it on the compost heap and bang, you could have another outbreak. We have seen nine separate outbreaks, nine separate sites, where fruit fly have been located, including the supermarkets.

We are lucky we have had vigilant members of the public, including people in Mowbray. I believe a lady locked a fruit fly into her house and caught it, and we have people identifying larvae in supermarkets and so on, as well as the trapping program we have and have had in place for a number of years. Suddenly, fruit flies are popping up. This does not mean we caught them all. The minister was talking about the modelling done to say fruit fly is unlikely to overwinter. I am not so certain if we have a warm or mild winter. The hope that winter is going to kill off the larvae is not good enough. The fruit flies came from the Victorian growing areas such as Mildura, where it becomes really cold. Mildura can be colder, but not for as long. Let us hope for a very cold winter to kill off fruit fly.

We have been lucky in the way the outbreak happened and in the order it happened. The first fruit fly in mainland Tasmania was found in Acacia Hills and we saw another one at Sassafras. It could be argued there was an extension of the zone and the next occurred in George Town, which meant the zone could be extended. If that had happened in a different order, if Acacia Hills had been followed by George Town - they work on a 15 kilometre radius and Acacia Hills to George Town is a lot more than that - it would have constituted a second outbreak and would have locked us all out of our markets. It could have been disaster.

The protocol is that if you find one pregnant female, a gravid female fly, or five male flies in a rolling two-week period, if you find a male fly every two weeks for five weeks, that constitutes another outbreak. Two flies have been found in Mowbray. If we find three more male flies that constitutes an outbreak and we are locked out of our markets, markets that will take a long time to win back. We are treading very close to the edge of losing our markets. With something such as apples it is fine because apples travel, they are chilled and the chilling kills the larvae. It would be industries such as cherries, especially, that would be devastated by fruit fly and being locked out of markets.

Other issues we have are with salmon. We went to the election campaign with a comprehensive plan for the salmon industry. We continue to call for a biosecurity plan for the salmon industry. We have seen outbreak of pilchard orthomyxovirus and we have seen companies losing pens of fish in Macquarie Harbour and in the south-east. Evidence from overseas tells us it is disease that ruins the salmon industry, disease that puts them out of business and disease that causes devastation. Yet, we do not have a biosecurity plan for the industry. We have seen the Government is hands off and the industry has stepped in and is making changes, as we have seen in Macquarie Harbour. We need the separation of age classes of fish. We need greater biosecurity management because something like pilchard orthomyxovirus builds up in the fish. When the new fish come in they are very susceptible and it can wipe them out, as it has. They have lost pens of fish and it has had some devastating impacts on companies such as Petuna.

We are still calling for a full review of Macquarie Harbour. We need a plan for Macquarie Harbour. We have seen these reductions in biomass that has put the industry more than on notice. Eight thousand tonnes of biomass, still not confirmed, is the approximate quantum for the near future. That is significantly less than the roughly 30 000 tons estimated for that area. We need a full review of Macquarie Harbour so we can understand what the long-term future of Macquarie Harbour looks like.

We were also calling for increased regulation monitoring and protection of the salmon industry. We were proposing an independent aquaculture advisory panel to independently review data, assess compliance, give greater accountability to the regulation of the industry and provide advice for the EPA to make a decision. We were planning on that being an extension of the Marine Farming

Planning Review Panel. They would be an advisory panel to the EPA, independent and publish their independent results. We were keen on improving the environmental performance and so on. The public has lost confidence in the regulation of the industry. We need a circuit breaker, an independent body providing advice to the EPA and increasing the transparency.

We took to the election the development of a robust biosecurity management plan for the aquaculture industry. We would like to see that delivered within 12 months. The Government is not interested in biosecurity in the salmon industry. I have not heard any minister, whether it be Mr Rockliff or the new minister, Ms Courtney, talking about biosecurity in the salmon industry, when it is a key part of the survival and future of the industry. We would have liked finfish farms to show they have taken reasonable steps to minimise interactions with seals by locating pens in appropriate areas and installing seal-proof pens to minimise seal interactions and roll that out by July next year. That was the policy we took to the election. We still have not heard anything more about seals after Mr Brooks' seal plan. The seals are going to start coming back from their summer holidays and interacting with the salmon industry pretty soon and we still do not have any clarity on how that is going to be managed.

One of the key parts to Tasmania's agricultural industry is being able to consistently produce products and irrigation is a key component of that. I was a bit bewildered that in her answer in question time the minister, Sarah Courtney, discussed their commitment to tranche 3 of the irrigation scheme. She said:

Tasmanian Irrigation is starting the development of a business case for federal funding for tranche 3 to complement the state government's \$20 million commitment.

Then I interjected and the minister claimed I was not supporting the tranche 3 irrigation, which could not be further from the truth. I was just wondering why the Liberals had suddenly dropped \$50 million from their election promise, because during the campaign they promised \$70 million for irrigation, so I would like that clarified. There has been a \$70 million drop in the tranche 3 allocation. Is that because maybe \$50 million of that is coming from the federal government? I do not understand the clarification.

Their election promises on irrigation looked fairly much like a grab-bag of projects. One of the projects that really stood out to me was the Meadstone dam. Suddenly that has currency again. The only issue with that is that maybe the minister and staff should read the file, because the Meadstone dam has been proposed a number of times but the rock is fractured at that dam site and will not hold water. I am not sure if they are planning to line the whole dam site with plastic, or something has changed, but fractured rock will not hold water. I am not sure why the Meadstone dam has been given currency again. It seemed quite bizarre and like there was a bit of padding-out of the number of projects the Government was going to put on the table. I worked for the water management branch for a while and I remember reading the file. That was some time ago, so this has been proposed three or four times and has been knocked back for the same reason.

Mr Hidding - I didn't think it was rock fracture. I believe it was other matters more political, like being an in-stream dam and all that.

Dr BROAD - No, it was fractured rock; it would literally not hold water. There are in-stream dam issues as well all through the north-east, especially with ovata communities and so on, which is an issue that has prevented dams from being built all over the north-east.

One policy we took to the election that I am particularly proud of was the establishment of a centre of excellence in agriculture. The language was taken by minister Rockliff but did not have the coherency of our plan. We know that north-west Tasmania is the heart of Tasmania's agricultural research and also where many of the commercial operations are based. I wanted to establish a centre of excellence which would see a whole-of-sector approach to agricultural development and bring together agricultural research that TIA does but also bringing the education side that TAFE puts into place, as well as encouraging people like FermenTasmania, Sprout and others in establishing a semi-commercial kitchen and so on so we could have a true paddock to plate, fork or packet research facility which would go hand-in-hand with the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture and turn it into a globally recognised centre of excellence and put it up there on the same level of the Menzies centre. This policy was applauded by Peter Skillern, the chief executive officer for the TFGA.

In the agriculture portfolio there is much work left to be done and a number of issues that are outstanding. For example, in the animal health sector we still do not have a report about the 16 pony deaths that occurred on the *Spirit of Tasmania* on the trip to Victoria in January. It now appears that maybe we will not get a report for another two years. We still have not heard about the 62 cattle deaths that occurred crossing Bass Strait with MV *Statesman* in April 2017. That is a year already and we have not heard anything.

On top of my previous resources shadow portfolio responsibilities I now have the privilege of handling the forestry portfolio as well. Things have changed in forestry. There is no doubt about that. The industry is a long way now through a long-term transition. We have seen the difficult process that was the Tasmanian Forest Agreement - and business and the industry is coming out the other side of that - the collapse in the industry caused largely by managed investment schemes and then Gunns collapsing as well, taking out half the industry with it. Now we are seeing the benefits to the economy of the TFA package. One thing that the minister is loath to say is that the Tasmanian Forest Agreement was not just about forestry. It was about transitioning an economy. There were a number of projects that were funded through the money that came, especially from the federal government, which are now resulting in a transition in the economy. We had money for Costas exchange, for example, for a modified atmosphere packing facility, Tasmanian Pickled Onions' production facility, we had things like hydrowood which was funded by the Tasmanian Forest Agreement. Haulmax, an advanced manufacturing business got a \$3 million package, Huon Aquaculture got some money to help with their processing facility at Parramatta Creek, and Caterpillar got some money for their advanced manufacturing development. The Dial Blythe irrigation scheme got money out of the TFA.

Mr Barnett - When did you help the forest industry?

Dr BROAD - You were glad to cut the ribbon on that one.

Mr Barnett - You decimated it.

Madam SPEAKER - Order, minister.

Mr Barnett - Two out of three jobs. You destroyed the industry.

Madam SPEAKER - Order.

Dr BROAD - Plywood mills, the SFM wood, the Tasmanian wood panels and it goes on and on. This has facilitated a transition not only in forestry but also in the economy of the north-west and the north. You have to look at the totality of it. What we are seeing now is businesses having confidence to invest, for example, the fantastic announcement that the Hermal Group is going to build their cross-laminated timber facility at Hampshire. What the minister will not tell you is that the Hermal Group is 100 per cent committed to two things: being plantation based and FSC certified. They will not deal with anything else. It has to be plantation based and it has to be FSC certified. This is what they have rock-solid guarantees on. Investments by the Hermal Group and the changes in the plantation industry and having more players and so on means that there will hopefully be more incentives to get back into plantations and continue the rotations.

At the moment we are seeing plantations being harvested and there is not as much planting as the industry will need down the track. We are still seeing conversions back to agriculture, which in some cases is not necessarily a bad thing, but the minister conveniently overlooks the massive injections of funds that the TFA delivered to the Tasmanian economy.

Mr Barnett - Do you support the TFA? Come on, just say it.

Madam SPEAKER - Order, minister.

Dr BROAD - The minister complains about the TFA but has not changed any of the policy settings. For the sake of the industry -

Time expired.

[4.09 p.m.]

Mr HIDDING (Lyons) - Madam Speaker, I thank the House for the opportunity to make a contribution to this Address-in-Reply moved by my colleague from Lyons, Mr Shelton. Naturally I need to commence by thanking the voters of Lyons for yet another term in the Lyons electorate and in so doing also congratulate my fellow Lyons candidates. All five of us performed as a team better than I have ever seen. The results show three strong seats. There were no concerns about whether we might not get the third seat. On the night, Lyons was one of the first that the ABC's Antony Green actually called the three seats.

Ms O'Byrne - If it's good enough for Antony, it is good enough for everyone.

Mr HIDDING - Yes, it is. These days he has that sort of worried look about him. He is not quite sure whether he wants to call it or not. The Tasmanian context worries him a bit, but he is getting better at the Hare-Clark arrangements.

I thank the voters of Lyons and also recognise the other two members elected in Lyons being Rebecca White and Jen Butler.

In her speech Her Excellency, the Governor, spoke about the fact that the first sitting of a bicameral parliament in Tasmania was in 1856. It reminds us that this is one of the older parliaments in Australia; in fact the second in a unicameral system after Sydney. I believe also the second in a bicameral system. We need the former Clerk, Mr Bennison, to correct me. If he were here, he would let me know precisely the date and the time of day that took place. I recall that in the sesquicentenary celebrations in 2006 Mr Bennison had a big role, as did our current Clerk. It was

a big job for the Clerks of this House to put that function together. It was held at the Grand Chancellor. It was an honour to be a serving member at the time of that sesquicentenary.

In her speech Her Excellency also pointed out that it was the first time since the 1970s that a political party achieved better than 50 per cent of primaries in consecutive elections. What was also worth noting was the fact that this House is now as good as balanced with 50 per cent in gender. That is great. Any parliament that reflects the make up of the gender mix in the community is better off for it. I welcome the election of all new members. I will speak to that in a moment, but in terms of addressing the balance of genders it was a great outcome.

Today we were discussing some matters of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I recall being at a plenary session where for about the third year in a row there had been a long, turgid debate about more women being required in Commonwealth parliaments, particularly in the African and Indian areas. I was not able to say that in Tasmania it was terrific, because it was not at all. The arguments were appalling as to why we should not worry too much and just let the system take its place, but there was a priceless moment when the Speaker of Malawi stood up and roundly - in African incidentally - condemned the male African delegates and said:

You know the truth. The truth is that while we are in the village, while we are downtown sitting around our tables, drinking our tea, or drinking beer and playing cards, who is it that is back at home looking after children, keeping the house clean?

If there is ever a shortage of money, it is the man who has spent it and the woman tried to hang on to it.

It was a really down-home speech. For a while, the male African delegates hung their heads but then they lifted them and roared laughing at the truth that he was telling. He also pointed out in a really basic way, which was later on validated by studies to show that when there were more women in a parliament, particularly in cabinets and so on, integrity issues greatly improved. It is just one of those things. Here was a very home-spun contribution from a person at that level, just explaining that the world would be a whole better place where there was gender balance in representational politics, in parliaments, so that was great.

I want to talk about the people who are not here now. Naturally, there are a few who are voluntarily not here - Matt Groom, David Llewellyn and Lara Giddings. We spoke about them in the last days of the last parliament. But those who would have liked to have been here but are not include Joan Rylah. She is a brilliant woman and a leader in her own community in Braddon. When she was elected it was not the first time she had been in this House. She had been in this House eight or 10 years prior to that when I brought her to Hobart to try to encourage her stand for a Liberal ticket in Braddon. I did not quite get her to commit. Later, I was delighted that she did. The reason she did not commit was that she was a highly successful financial planner and adviser on the north-west coast, very highly regarded by the whole community. She was a terrific, hard working Liberal member on many committees. She chaired an inquiry into end-of-life arrangements which was an outstanding body of work in its own right. She was an exceptional government member. I am sorry I am not serving with her now. She was a big hearted woman and great to be around. I miss her.

Nic Street, an absolutely good bloke, very professional member, missed out by a couple of hundred votes. I expect we have not seen the last of him and that would be nice. Madeleine Ogilvie

displayed integrity and dignity. She is a fine person. I know she would be deeply unhappy about not being here. She gave it everything. It is fair to say that she appeared to be, from somebody on the outside, somewhat of a target for people on her own side of politics.

Mr Barnett - She was. She was targeted.

Mr HIDDING - If she was targeted for her faith and for her world view on matters then I regret that a lot.

Others have spoken about Andrea Dawkins. Andrea had an elegant passion for her job and for the environment and for the electorate of Bass. She was a warrior; she was never shrill and was an exceptional member of the Greens. It is sad not to have her in this place. But Jen Houston would not agree with that because we got her instead. I am very happy about that too, but I do want to recognise that Andrea Dawkins put in a big effort in the last term.

Turning now to who did get in on our own side: the honourable member for Denison, Sue Hickey. We had two strong performances in Denison. We appear to not be getting any closer to the dream of three seats in Denison. It has been a while but we can be aspirational. I know that Madam Speaker is going to enjoy her role here in parliament. I am very happy for Jen Butler. I know her people. Her mother served in this place. In St Helens you do tend to run into Heather and people regularly. She is a hard worker in the community and I congratulate Jen on her election. As I do with Anita Dow, Jen Houston, Ella Haddad and Alison Standen, all of whom I have to say made outstanding inaugural speeches in this place. Each of them very different and worth reading again some time, which is what inaugural speeches should be.

I can say from some 22 years in this place that somebody will come to see you about something, particularly if they are from elsewhere in Australia or overseas, and in order for people to understand who you are, the kind of MP you are, they go to your inaugural speech. I often say to people, make it right, explain who you are in your inaugural speech. To a great degree, all our new members have made an exceptional contribution to *Hansard*. It is there for people to see and I look forward to their contribution to this House.

A returning member, David O'Byrne, have you spoken yet?

Mr O'Byrne - No.

Mr HIDDING - I have to stick around for that. It crossed my mind that it would have been amusing to have been the minister for infrastructure, with former minister, Mr O'Byrne, being on the other side. It did not transpire, we had other plans. I was the shadow minister all the time David was the previous minister. We have gone a few rounds together and I recall the very first thing when I came in as minister for infrastructure I asked, did that minister, Mr O'Byrne, leave any money in here for a rail to match the federal government's \$60 million? They said, not a zack. I said, 'It has to be here somewhere.'. It was not.

Mr O'Byrne - Following instructions from the Treasury, you know how it rides.

Mr HIDDING - The good news is we found our share of that, D60, for \$119 million, and the second tranche has been agreed to, by the federal government and us, which is a great relief to Tasrail. It has now been well over 12 months since there has been a genuine derailment. To their horror, one wheel stepped off on the East Devonport rail yard. They are not really counting that,

although the regulator does, which is a great testament to the operation of the rail and the work and massive investment going into rail. They are doing well and that company is in good shape. It still has more to go with all that expenditure.

What I want to see is rail completely contestable against road, and I want to see road transport completely contestable against rail. That is when we hit the sweet spot in moving product up and down the Tasmanian landscape between the southern part of Tasmania and the north, where our active ports are. When we have that right our economy will be the better for it and we have moved substantially toward that.

For the rest of the House, the key people are back, all three leaders are back, which is good news. It is not always the case. There was the Liberal leader, Bob Cheek, who lost his seat as leader some time ago. It is not a given that leaders win their seats back. I note there do not appear to be any immediate changes for any of the three political groups in this place although there could be some party room tension going on between the two of my colleagues on my right, sitting in the back.

Ms O'Connor - Which colleagues? Over on your side or the Opposition side?

Mr HIDDING - No, no, your side.

Ms O'Connor - I do not know who you would be talking about.

Mr HIDDING - I was amused to hear the Opposition Leader welcome the Leader of the Tasmanian Greens and point out she is back in reduced circumstances and lacks a cause. I was equally amused to see the horrified reaction of Ms O'Connor. It crossed my mind that Ms O'Connor could be described as somewhere between James Dean, *Rebel Without a Cause*, and Boadicea. Boadicea was a woman who charged around old England looking for Romans to chase out. She was sensational when there were Romans to chase out but when there were none left, Boadicea lost some of her shine.

Ms O'Connor - There is the old saying, Mr Hidding, be careful how you treat people on the way up the ladder because no doubt you will meet them again on the way down.

Mr HIDDING - I am not treating you badly.

Ms O'Connor - No, but to buy into the myth the Greens do not have a cause -

Madam SPEAKER - Order.

Mr HIDDING - No. It was an observation and the Greens are working very hard to try to create a new cause and that -

Ms O'Connor - What, the environment? You are doing it for us.

Mr HIDDING - huge language was there yesterday. Nets with holes the size you could drive trucks through and 600 million fish or something or other. Then it turns out there were small holes and a few fish.

Ms O'Connor - Well, we do not know.

Mr HIDDING - No, but it did not stop you from making up nonsense anyway. I have been listening to this overwrought language for 22 years, a small hole in a net becomes something you could drive a truck through. Tasmania is waking up to that kind of rhetoric.

I noticed that many of the women in the Opposition were wearing EMILY's List badges on the opening day and are proud members of EMILY's List. We do not have a quota system in the Liberal Party but we have a commitment to improving the numbers of women in our party, in the House and across the public sector. If you asked around the public sector it would be recognised the Hodgman Liberal Government has made great strides in appointing women to senior executive positions and board positions. As a minister, with five companies to other various organisations, it was my pleasure to work hard to find women prepared and competent to do the job and be able to appoint them after they applied for and won roles in their own right, on merit. We declared early, and that is still the position of the Hodgman Liberal Government, the only appropriate number of gender mix in all jobs, everywhere, is 50 per cent because that reflects the community.

On election night, it was an error by the Leader of the Opposition not to use the courtesy available to her. It may be that she did not see that as a courtesy. Over the many years of the development of the Westminster system the loser of the election in the two horse race is given the courtesy of coming out first, makes the phone call to concede and makes a concession speech congratulating the winner. It reflects the fundamental system of the Westminster government, which is a courteous handover of power. If there had been a change of government, last time and there was not but when there is to be a change of government, it is the most courteous system in the world. To not take the courtesy available to her on election night -

Mr O'Byrne - She corrected the record the next day and she did apologise.

Mr HIDDING - Did she?

Mr O'Byrne - Yes.

Ms O'Connor - It is very stressful up there.

Mr HIDDING - I have been there.

Ms O'Connor - That is right. When you are in the bright lights and the pressure is on.

Mr HIDDING - I recall that the courtesy was made to me to make the concession so the Premier, the winner, does not have to come out, grab all the air and leave you with a feeble, 'me too'. The first person out to speak is the proposed Leader of the Opposition.

Ms O'Connor - I congratulated them both.

Mr HIDDING - Did you.

Ms O'Connor - Yes. First up, no bull.

Mr HIDDING - Tasmania is going well and I am pleased for Tasmania that it returned the Hodgman Liberal Government. We have record employment levels. In civil construction and in construction generally we said some time ago that if you are in Australia and wear a high-vis vest you need to be looking at Tasmania. They have come back in their truckloads to work in Tasmania

and it just so happened the wind-down of the coal industry in Queensland and the wind-back of the iron ore sector in the Kimberley meant there were people available to return to Tasmania. It is great to see.

It never ceases to amaze me how a sentiment of confidence drives an economy. That business is so important and in business I include the commercial banking sector that has confidence in lending for businesses in Tasmania and for employers to take on either government work or private sector work. All the investment in new hotels, particularly in the south of the state and some in the north, has been a wonderful thing.

I see other companies such as Hayward Constructions at Launceston Airport. I was parked outside a couple of days ago and saw all these massive steel box girders that would be going on a truck over the mainland somewhere. We can do it in Tasmania. We have the trucks that can take them to Burnie or Devonport, we have the ships to take them on and then we have the structure of them moving through with permits everywhere through the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator now for them to get to where they are going and be competitive. The number of jobs that sustains in the north of the state is extraordinary.

With all the new roads that are under construction and will be constructed over the next few years, I expect high productivity on our roads. I want to see improvements there and a contestable road freight system against a contestable rail system.

It is not for me to stand here and talk about my time as minister but I want to go to some of the lesser spoken-about matters because they are important to me. One of the first things I did when I became minister was to address a concern I had for ages, which was that an L-plate driver was not allowed to drive over 80 kph anywhere, even a major highway. At the end of the L-plate, when they went to P-plate, they could drive 100 kph but they had never legally driven at 100 kph so they are untrained at that. It was a hole in the process.

Ms O'Connor - A dangerous one.

Mr HIDDING - Yes, because traffic backed up and people tried to pass. The very first thing I did as minister was ask for that to be fixed and it was fixed within a fairly short time. Thankfully, I am not aware of one crash or issue with a P-plater or an L-plater being given the higher ratings to be able to do it. There were huge changes to motorcycle training. We talked about that in this place before, but we completely reset that. It was a long process but worth doing. In this last election we have doubled down on the testing for L1 licences to P1 licences to be privatised. It was successful with the L1, it cut right down on waiting times and I know the department and the industry will work that out between them over the next 12 months.

A small matter that was huge to all Tasmanians who drive Special Interest plate vehicles was that for whatever reason, just one of those things, it was twice the price and half the value of almost every other state in Australia. It is historic the way it has come about. What we have done is double the time available, which brings us into line with most states, and taken the motor tax off, which is a hit on the budget but we have worn it. I know there are 6800 SI plate holders who are delighted with their status, knowing very well what the situation was on the mainland, that they are able to do that now in Tasmania. That was one of those lesser-heralded things that I had great pleasure in taking to an election and now I am sure the minister will bring it home.

There are still some tough issues out there because of a growing economy and sometimes despite a growing economy. One is housing affordability and the housing shortage. Private rental housing shortage is a concern and clearly our Minister for Housing is doing a cracker job right in amongst it with a great department and people behind him scoring runs in that area. When I speak to young people who are in private rental housing I plead with them and try to explain to them how important it is for them to come out of there with a decent reference that they did not damage the house, even if they fell behind in the rent. I know a number of people in my circle who bought a number of homes and are in the private rental market, and if somebody falls behind in the rent they will always work something out, catch up at \$5 a week extra maybe - all those things are in play. It is when they damage a house for whatever reason that they cannot get a reference. When things get tight the reference is everything.

What we need to see is people with the heart to understand that young people make mistakes and particularly if it has only happened once, I would call on people to understand that there is a continuum here and you can break that cycle and give them another go. If they are continually doing that and they do not have the reference then they become a crisis housing situation, which is a slightly different public policy area. It still has to be there, but this private rental market does get tricky when there is an imbalance of more people looking for housing than there were before. I wish everybody looking for a house would be able to find one and I know our Government and our minister is doing all the very best they can.

I was also pleased with a small program that is in place as a trial at the Bridgewater Trade Training Centre where, with a modest application of funds and volunteers coming in to help, it is the goal of that plan that everybody who graduates grade 12 with a cert 2 certificate or better that not only leaves with their cert 2 certificate but also with their P1 driver's licence. The lack of a driver's licence is a massive barrier to getting a job in Tasmania. We simply do not and will never have a bus service to take people to where the jobs actually are. I visited a labour hire company and said, 'Tell me what goes on here,' because I had had a whisper, and he said, 'We've got 5500 people on the books. Every day we have people coming in and asking if there's any work and we ask if they have a licence and if they say no it's, 'I'm sorry we can't help you'. There are no jobs for people without licences. If you get a licence come back and see us.'

At the trade training centre, the aim is that every grade 12 graduate will graduate with a licence and hopefully with a white card as well, job ready. Let us see if that works. If it does work as I hope it does I will be leaning on the Infrastructure minister and skills minister, who happens to be the same person now, which makes the argument even easier to roll it out further around my own electorate at least. In regional Tasmania the lack of a driver's licence is a huge barrier to employment.

Madam SPEAKER - I think you have reached your time limit.

Mr HIDDING - I have. I thank the House for the opportunity to speak on that. I look forward to serving in this parliament for the full four years.

Time expired.

[4.40 p.m.]

Mr O'BYRNE (Franklin) - Madam Speaker, I rise to make my contribution on the Address-in-Reply. In doing so, I acknowledge that there was a bit of politics in the contribution from Mr Hidding; the gracious nature in which he referred to other members in the House both present

and previous. I acknowledge that was a bit of class there. Politics can be a rough and tumble game. You get into the ring and you take your punches and your swings, but I thought your contribution was very respectful and gracious.

As a returning member, I thank the people of Franklin for giving me another crack. This election was a tough one but a good one for Labor. The Labor team that stood in Franklin was a solid team. We worked extraordinarily well together. I acknowledge Alison Standen, who gave a cracking inaugural speech yesterday. She will not only be an asset to the Labor Party and the people of Tasmania, but an asset to this parliament in the business we conduct. She is intelligent, articulate, considered and passionate about so many good things on the progressive side of politics. I congratulate her on her touching speech yesterday, particularly the moment with her young son, Nick. It was the interjection of the parliament so far, I would say. It was lovely.

Having two members returned in Franklin was an improvement on the 2014 election and was due in no small way to the other members of the Labor team. Heather, Kevin and Kathy, who all worked extraordinarily hard for the Labor cause to get Labor back to the two seats. Alison and I are the fortunate ones to be representing the Labor team. I also acknowledge Labor's new members who have all, in their inaugural speeches, demonstrated not only a diversity of journey to this point in their lives and their political careers, but also levels of compassion, passion and integrity that will hold this House in good stead. I congratulate them. To those sitting members that were not returned across the state, I thank you for your service. I know what it is like to miss out on the seat; when the music stops and you are still dancing. I pass on my acknowledgements to them and thank them for their service.

I did not serve in the House with Joan, Nic and Andrea, but I was aware of their contributions. I did not have the pleasure of meeting Joan Rylah but I did meet Andrea Dawkins. She was a feisty, passionate activist. I am sure where ever she finds herself, she will still be a passionate, feisty activist. Tasmania is a better place for that. I wish Nic all the best. Mr Hidding is right: we will see a bit more of Nic in the future.

I also thank the people who contributed to my re-election. I will not try to name all of them. I had an amazing campaign team who worked with me from essentially nine months out. Obviously, when you get closer to the election things become more focused. The campaign team was amazing. Also, a number of people who helped out on my campaign were not necessarily Tasmanians, but from the union movement and the progressive movement across the country. The Labor movement works on the foundations of solidarity. The concept of solidarity is that there are moments when you are required to provide support to people. You do that and it is returned to you.

It is no secret that I have been a lifelong trade unionist. I am from a family of rank-and-file trade unionists. We are passionate about workers acting collectively in their best interests to ensure that they have a decent working life, a safe working life, and they can provide for their families and communities. Through my working life I have been fortunate enough to work with many unionists not only across Tasmania but across the country. I have assisted them at various times in various campaigns, on wages, and industrial and political issues. I was humbled to receive support from across the country from a number of trade unions and from a number of individual labour movement activists who sought to put their faith in me to represent them appropriately, hopefully with dignity and respect.

I thank Harriet Leadbetter from the Victorian Trades Hall Council who took time off to come down and assist in the campaign. Harriet was an champion in terms of my field campaign and

volunteer organisation. I was fortunate enough to have more than 100 volunteers who doorknocked and letterboxed. Beyond that, a range of people put posters up for me. Family and friends played a role in that as well, so I thank all of those people who contributed to my campaign.

I also acknowledge the Labor team, the 14 members that we have both in this place and the other place. We are a formidable team, led by an impressive woman in Rebecca White. When I made the decision to run again, Rebecca was crucial in my decision-making process with her vision for Tasmania and her vision for where the Labor Party stood. We were elected at the same time in 2010. I remember when she was working for Duncan Kerr, she sought advice about whether she should run in 2010. I had great joy in encouraging her to run. Whilst at times we have moved in different directions, she is a long-time friend and a very good leader of the Labor Party. In no small part, her leadership led me to making a decision to run again.

If I can be a little self-indulgent now. The Hare-Clark system has been referred to a number of times in contributions. I got more votes in the election I lost in 2014 than the one I won in 2010. Preferences and preference flows can be a cruel beast in Hare-Clark. I fell short by 700 or 800 votes in 2014, but I improved my primary vote by over 10 per cent. That is the way the cookie crumbles and I missed out in 2014. Anyone who has gone through an election campaign and been unsuccessful will know that it is a moment of reflection and a time when you question whether this is for me. I was only ever a minister for four years, between 2010 and 2014. For a large majority of that time I had five portfolios, averaging 80 hours a week away from home. It does have a massive impact on your family and your friends. I will not say it is taken away from you, because it is not something you own.

When that first chapter of my life concluded I took stock of my life, my passions and my values. At that point I realised that I was not just going to be a politician. My passion through all my working life through the trade union movement and through not-for-profit organisations, both as a volunteer and as an employee has been about making social change and making a difference. Those are the values that my parents gave me. My mother was a cleaner. She challenged us: it is not enough to feel sorry for someone, you have to get in and have a go. Do not come back and tell me that you saw something and that you felt sorry, but you did nothing to make a difference. The values my mother gave me was to get up and do something.

Both of my parents were elected union delegates in their workplaces. My father was a painter. 'There is a right and wrong, son, and you do right and look after your mates'. He gave me very working class values. I knew that whilst my parliamentary role had finished at the end of 2014, my values had not changed, my passion had not changed. I was fortunate enough to be elected the national secretary of one of the largest trade unions in the country, United Voice. It used to be the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union, known as the Missos many years ago. That had a union of over 120 000 members across the country and I was elected national secretary, working out of Sydney. It was a job I loved doing and I was proud of the work we did campaigning for saving penalty rates, dignity, respect and fair wages for early childhood educators.

We launched a report with the Tax Justice Network on corporate tax evasion in the country and we did some research that showed a large proportion of the ASX200 listed companies in Australia averaged 14 per cent tax. That, to us, was a shock. That changed the national debate regarding corporate tax in the country. It led to change but not enough and more needs to be done. We did that because the members of United Voice are predominantly low-paid and will rely on the state to provide appropriate health care and pensions when they retire, and unemployment benefits if they find themselves unemployed. A number of the professions United Voice members work in are

those that rely heavily on government support. In some states, United Voice has significant health membership, in aged care and in early education and care. There is not one category of member we identify as not at risk of relying heavily on the state to at least keep a roof over their head, access health care when they were sick, provide some level of income support if they were unemployed. They also relied heavily on funding in their employment. We are enormously proud of that report.

After 18 months of travelling, I was based out of Sydney and we had to make a decision about whether the family was going to move out of Tasmania to the mainland. That is a common question for many Tasmanians, whether they leave the island they love and work on the mainland or work overseas. We had to make a call, and we made the call 18 months in, that I was not going to leave the place I love. Tasmania is the place I am passionate about. Sixth generation, and the future of Tasmania is extraordinarily bright. I wanted to be a part of building that future. There was a moment where, in a hotel room, I opened up my bag to take out the suit for the week and do the ironing, prepared for another week away from home and there was a little note from my daughter, 'Dear dad, have a great week at work, love you, see you next week.'. That was enough for me to say I have had enough of the travelling, I miss my kids, I miss my wife and my family and I want to come home.

I have been lucky in my life in all my roles, in the union movement, in politics, in state and national roles, as a minister, but I was given an enormous opportunity at the Beacon Foundation. I worked with an amazing group of people who are passionate about the future of young Tasmanians and Australians. They work in every state. Being the chief operating officer for two years was an extraordinary privilege. The work of the Beacon Foundation is significant, it is impactful and it makes an enormous difference to the lives of thousands of young Australians in achieving their potential, giving them the best possible chance to be the best they can be and make sure when they move on from secondary college or from high school they have a plan. It is either finding a job, beginning training or going to university. We have people from outside the classroom working with educators in the school community to ensure they have as much information as they can as early as they can to make better decisions from grade 7 onward. Hopefully we reduce the situation of young Australians leaving the school gate without a plan. We wanted to make sure they had a plan.

Not all Australians start from the same starting point. There are many things thrown at young students at school, in the community and in their homes. As a community, we have an obligation to ensure we provide the best support to them possible. I feel the Beacon Foundation plays an enormous role and I thank the chair, Greg Woolley and CEO, Scott Harris and the team at Beacon for that opportunity.

There was a lot of media speculation about whether I was going to run again and everyone said, 'you have the moxie, you were always going to run again', but it was not until the conversation with my wife, which is the crucial one, and the conversation with Rebecca White, the other crucial one that I decided. I had a conversation in the Salamanca car park one night toward the end of 2016 that made me think again about whether I was going to go back into politics. In my mind, I was putting my head down and working with the Beacon Foundation. I pulled up in Salamanca, a car pulled up next to me and a bloke stepped out and said, 'David O'Byrne, you don't know me, we've never met'. Usually that is the prelude to a not-so-positive interaction and I said, 'G'day mate, how are you?', put my hand out and shook his hand. He said, 'Mate, I just want to thank you because you saved my life'. I immediately thought he was setting me up for a bigger spray but he was not, he was genuine. I asked what he meant. He said, 'Mate, I am a firefighter'. I knew exactly what he meant because when I was the workplace relations minister and emergency services minister,

firefighters came to us and said they were dying in larger numbers and contracting a range of cancers because of the environments they go into and the work they do. The medical evidence was overwhelming but the workers compensation laws at that time dictated that you had to identify at which fire you contracted the cancer, which effectively meant firefighters did not gain access to workers compensation. They were relying on GoFundMe pages, running down their sick leave and their insurances.

We know when you are fighting a cancerous disease stress plays a debilitating role and can determine whether you are able to survive the fight. We thought that was wrong and in the last parliament we changed those laws to create a presumption for firefighters. He said, 'Mate, four months after you brought in that legislation I contracted cancer. If I did not know my family would be looked after, that we would have the wages coming in, I don't know what I would have done so I just want to thank you'. It is those moments, it is not me individually, I was the minister and we championed it hard, that shows me the power of politics to make a positive difference to people's lives.

Those three conversations with that firefighter, with Rebecca White as leader and understanding her vision and passion, and my wife, decided I should run again. We ran pretty hard, we doorknocked thousands of houses, had thousands of conversations with the people of Tasmania. I was fortunate to be re-elected with a strong vote I was a little surprised at. It exceeded what I thought I might receive and I was pleased to be re-elected.

Any member who has doorknocked will know doorknocking is an extraordinary privilege; 99 out of 100 people are polite and nice and a large proportion of those 99 people will invite you into their home. They will invite you into their lives and have conversations with you about their lives, how they see their personal future and their community's future. It is not often they have access to a potential politician or a volunteer in a campaign team and they want to have their say. It became clear to me the reasons I ran in 2010, 2014 and 2018 are still strong. Disadvantage in our community is still rife, inequality is increasing and people deserve a choice in who they believe leads the state.

There is no doubt Tasmania is in better economic times. I know every question time - the Minister for Infrastructure and the Treasurer had a crack at it today - they will have a crack at my time as economic development minister but I am extraordinarily proud of the work we did to prepare and work with the Tasmanian business community and the community to deal with and face the issues that we were confronting back then. At the time of my becoming economic development minister the Australian dollar went through the roof. On average, the Australian dollar usually bumps between around 60 cents to the mid-70 cents and, as an export-orientated economy, our terms of trade, our exchange rate, is a key determinant to the success of our economy. The Australian dollar went up to \$US1.08 so we had a 30 per cent to 40 per cent depreciation in our terms of trade purely on that single exchange rate. The London metals price went through the floor so we had significant issues with our major industrials. We had the global financial crisis, which I know people dismiss and I believe the actions of the federal and state governments at the time with stimulus packages really shielded the Australian economy from what was happening across the globe.

We were facing some of the strongest headwinds the Tasmanian economy has ever faced and I know for a fact that as soon as there was a change of government in 2014 the now Department of State Growth but then economic development staff were told to take all the economic development strategies off anything with Labor or my name on it and hide it but, effectively, it was just changing the name. They adopted the strategy of diversification of Tasmania playing to our strengths, of

working hand-in-hand in investment and innovation with Tasmanian industry, small, medium and large. I do not think they really backed it in; they have not put the shoulder to the wheel. They have relied on improving exchange rates and terms of trade. They have relied on the eastern seaboard states, economic recovery as opposed to some of the resource intensive-based states. They have relied on an uplifting GST for stimulus packages but essentially it was the strategy that we started and the work we did when you look at the irrigation investment.

Look at our work with the fruit industry, the dairy industry; all the work we did across agriculture and across the ICT industry. You name it, we basically sat down with every industry to work with them. At one stage, and it is not an exaggeration, we were very concerned that because of the exchange rate and the international global times, at least three of the four major industries were about to close shop. We met with them monthly and worked extraordinarily hard to keep them here. They kept the doors open and kept trading. We were working with industry leaders like Ray Mostogl to keep the doors open and keep Tasmanians employed and at the toughest economic times that is when you are tested in terms of how you respond. We had GST but we had less money. There were GST write-downs from the federal government, the toughest economic conditions, yet we managed to hold the economy together to get through that time.

Politics is timing and timing is everything in life, but once we got through that tough period in good enough condition, we kept not only the lights on but we kept the economy chugging over and as many players up and running. Through our innovation and investment fund we funded companies like Willie Smiths in Huonville a small grant to open up that shed. We worked with Harold Hanson from Hanson's orchards, we worked with the seafood industry, Huon Aquaculture and Tassal and others, ensuring they could employ Tasmanians through the toughest of economic times.

This Government has benefited from an uplift in economic circumstances and an increase in GST receipts. If you had people really putting their shoulders to the wheel to support the Tasmanian economy, how much better the Tasmanian economy would be running. Instead we are seeing them sitting back and looking at the good economic times, basking in the reflected glory of others, David Walsh and the tourism industry, and throwing out the occasional bit of stimulus package. There is no strategy and no vision. Just imagine how strong Tasmania would be if you had a government that got that they have got a role to get in and get their hands dirty to make a difference.

Ms O'Connor - And to look after the brand.

Mr O'BYRNE - And to look after the brand; that is also important. Also what I found by doorknocking was that not all Tasmanians were getting the benefit of the improving economic times. We have seen the disaster and the crisis in the health sector. We have seen ramping, we have seen our hospitals lose accreditation, and people on elective surgery waiting lists waiting to get onto a waiting list to get onto a waiting list. The health system is in absolute crisis.

Housing is a key issue. When I was a member of parliament last time the number of people who came through and talked about housing was a regular stream. They talked about housing, about maintenance, about getting access and about potentially wanting to own their homes. We dealt with a number of issues but in doorknocking the number of people I met who are sleeping rough or sleeping on couches or in tents in backyards was appalling. I believe a measure of a community and our success is whether people put a roof over their head. No-one in Tasmania now can say with a guarantee they are not now a heartbeat away, a pay check away or a health complaint away from losing that roof over their head. I could not stomach any leader of this state saying how

great we are going as a state without referencing, taking into account or taking tangible steps to put a roof over Tasmanians' heads.

This is an indictment on this Government. The housing crisis is significant. When he first was elected Premier in 2014, Will Hodgman said one of the key points he would be measured by would be his relationship with the first peoples of Tasmania, Aboriginal Tasmania. He championed resetting and rebalancing the relationship, yet at the first opportunity of a reshuffle he loses the portfolio. Now it is no longer important to his premiership so he no longer holds the Aboriginal portfolio, which is a significant matter for the Premier to reflect upon and his relationship that he has not reset with the Aboriginal community.

I am very fortunate to be given a number of portfolio arrangements in infrastructure and I will acknowledge the previous speaker, Mr Hidding. It was the greatest pleasure to see in the election in 2014 that his infrastructure strategy was essentially what we had put to the Tasmanian people in 2014 and a number of forums in the 2014 election. He said, 'We will match what Labor has done', and I take it as a pat on the back that he implemented it. There were a couple of times where he dragged his feet on a few things but we cannot be too ungracious in these contributions. Essentially he backed in the Labor plan, but what worries me now is that there is no plan beyond some thought bubble ideas. There already is a bus lane in Kingston on the Southern Outlet, but we have seen the thought bubble of the ferries and the thought bubble of the bus lane. I am not saying I am against those things, but -

Ms O'Connor - Why are ferries a thought bubble?

Mr O'BYRNE - Where is the network plan?

Ms O'Connor - We all support it.

Mr O'BYRNE - Yes, but where is the network plan? Congestion in Hobart is a significant issue and if you just go, 'Well, we'll just do this over here, then the next couple of weeks we might do something over here', where is the strategy, where is the plan? There is no plan. There is no land use plan. Planning is a disgrace in Tasmania. There is not one word of policy that backs in the new statewide scheme that the Treasurer has said in press release after press release is done and dusted but we know is at least two or maybe more years away.

Ms O'Connor - It is a disaster.

Mr O'BYRNE - It is a disaster and not one council has completed the work required to even get them closer to completion. There is so much work to be done and I am enormously proud to have the shadow portfolios I do.

We will keep this Government to account. They are not a good government, they are a bad government. They are not acting in the best interests of Tasmania. They are lazy. They do not have a vision. We will hold you to account and this will be the longest four years of your life as minister.

[5.10 p.m.]

Mr JAENSCH (Braddon - Minister for Housing) - Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak on this Address-in-Reply. In doing so, I thank the electors of Braddon for the enormous honour and privilege to represent them again in their parliament. I use the language very

deliberately. This is their parliament. This seat I occupy here is their seat, not mine. I have been re-elected to one of the seats of Braddon. I feel particularly honoured that real Tasmanians and north-west coasters, even more so, have chosen me, someone born and raised elsewhere, to represent them in their parliament. This is, in my life, the second greatest compliment I have ever been paid. Second only to my wife Steph, accepting me to be her husband, the difference being the people of Braddon have now accepted me twice. Arguably, Steph does every day - until further notice at least.

Steph and I chose this phase of our life together. I wanted to serve my new home, Tasmania, but I could not do it to the detriment of my family. I had heard lots of stories, witnessed people leaving politics because of its effects on their families or not entering because of the potential for that. I have been very fortunate that my wife has instincts and interests in politics herself. She is a marketing person. She was working in a minister's office before I took her away from Western Australia to come here. She knows and understands politics and together with my three kids, Lexie, Reuben and Charlotte, we talk a lot about what this opportunity to serve means for me, for us as a family, for the community we are in, for the circles, the friends and networks around us. As the member of parliament who lives furthest away from this place for now, I am away a lot. When we are home we talk about what is going on, what I am doing, so that when they see me on TV or when someone makes a comment at school, they have some back story. They are in this with me to the extent they can be, even though it plays out so often, so far away from home.

I am fortunate to have been elected by the people of Braddon. I am even more fortunate to have a family around me who has chosen at least to humour my ambitions to be someone who is able to serve my community and hopefully, through this experience we have together, it will in some way be enriching and offer them insights into their community and a life in service, which some families get to share and get a sense for. I hope my kids have a sense of that as they go through their lives and take that away from the experience of me being in this role.

I thank my election team, those who helped get my name and my message out and who supported me and worked hard and continue to work hard to support me as a candidate and now as a local member as well. Steph, my wife, is also campaign manager and chief of staff at home. I acknowledge Leanne Bonney and Kate Keenan, who run my office and who face my constituents every day and serve in my name in our region when I am not there, and who support so much of the work I was doing before portfolio responsibilities took more of my time and continue to do so. Their loyalty and dedication and support are invaluable.

Although there are dozens and dozens of friends and supporters, and others who have invested in me in all sorts of ways to support my campaign and my operation in this role, I would like to mention another small circle of people who are key to my campaign team. Jarrod, David and Mike, Richard, Nigel and Lucas, were the backbone of my doorknocking volunteer team, my sign-making and distribution team and were keen to learn, to provide feedback and to get out in people's streets and be at their front doors and talk about me as a candidate as if they had known me all their life and not all of them had. I really appreciated what they did.

I mentioned my wife and kids, but I will also acknowledge my mum and dad who came and spent a couple of weeks at our place a couple of times throughout the campaign to be mainly drivers for my kids so that they could get around to all of their commitments and obligations while I was busy on the campaign trail. To Mum and Dad for all of that, and for all of their support over the years, I thank you.

I will acknowledge, as others have, people who did not return to this Chamber after the election. Others have mentioned Joan Rylah. Joan and I were elected together, campaigned together, served together as first-time members. We were both the whip for our team at different times, and we both come from the same corner of the world. Joan was further west than I was in her growing up. It is deeper in her soul and in her blood, the deep love and association she has for the land and the people of Braddon, particularly in the Circular Head area. I will miss that; I learnt a lot from it. I feel a deep sense of obligation to ensure that those people are not less represented for Joan not being here. That is something that I take some personal responsibility for. I wish her well and I thank her for showing us her spirit and representing our region so strongly in her time in this place. It was too short.

I also acknowledge another running mate, Felix Ellis, another person you have not heard the last of. Felix, the tradie, found his mojo in the campaign. He was the non-incumbent member of our team. Often when you are putting a team together in the Hare-Clark system, and there is a position there, it can be viewed as a place-holding role. Felix put his life aside, stepped into that role and gave it absolutely everything. He became a feature of the campaign in Braddon, a different generation, but someone who messed with people's minds, because he is a deeply intellectual plumber and chess champion. He writes books and poetry, and serves in bars. He is an enigma, a very intelligent and driven man. He played his campaign very well. He supported the rest of us and also made real inroads in Braddon. We have not seen the last of him. He will be an asset to our political life as a state in the future, mark my words.

Jarrold Boys, who is 17 years old, came to me and volunteered to be part of our campaign. He wanted to learn everything he could from it. He absorbed everything like a sponge, threw his heart into it. He announced to me a couple of weeks ago that he was going to stand for election for the Burnie City Council, as a 17-year-old, later this year, possibly the youngest ever to do so. He has had shirts printed with his name on it and is doorknocking Burnie as a 17-year-old candidate for the Burnie City Council election. I wish him every luck in what is going to be a long, successful and valuable career of contribution that I am sure he will make.

I would like to honour Nic Street who we fortunately still see around the halls of the parliament in a different role. Nic and I were also part of that first intake in 2014. He came in a little later but we served in our first term together. I enjoy Nic's company, his mind and his belief in his values. He came to parliament very anxious about speaking in this place, very nervous as an individual and somehow that washed out of him in a very few months and he made a couple of the most emphatic and courageous speeches in here, but wonderful ones lots of people will remember. I was inspired by him and look forward to hearing and seeing more of Nic Street in the future.

I acknowledge Madeleine Ogilvie and Andrea Dawkins, both of whom I had a very happy relationship with. We served on committees together, shared jokes and some interests. I thought they were here, as is everyone, for the right reasons. They were clear in their intent and the issues they stood for and took their opportunities to speak their minds and their values in this place, which is all you can ever ask for. I hope both of them find success and satisfaction in the next stages of their careers.

To my Braddon colleagues, Jeremy and Adam, I thank them again for putting their respective hats in the ring for another round. They have both served for longer and fought more elections than me. I respect anyone who keeps coming back for more and investing themselves and putting their talent, reputations, lifestyles and families on the line to do this. I know it is not easy and there is a price to be paid for it. Both of these fellows as they accrue terms also live through some of the ups

and downs of life in this game. I take my hat off to both of them for putting themselves forward again to serve our electorate despite all of those things. I trust they get satisfaction and reward from winning this election again, and the significant votes they had which were orders of magnitude higher than mine hopefully tells them that everybody else in Braddon or a large proportion of them want to see them doing that again as well. Congratulations to both of them and thanks to them.

Dr Broad, congratulations on your election in your own right as an elected person for the first time and your return based on what you have done here. That was well deserved. Welcome back and I am glad to be serving alongside you. You are an excellent MC, I might add.

I have known Anita Dow for a number of years as mayor of Burnie and in other roles and I know her well enough to know where she is coming from. She is another person who is here with much to contribute and for the right reasons. I look forward to her putting her time in here.

Ms Houston, Ms Butler, Ms Haddad, and Ms Standen, I listened to your speeches and enjoyed them all. I encourage you if I can, as I think Mr Hidding did too, to keep your speeches handy in a drawer and get them out from time to time to see how you are tracking. I know that every now and then in the four-and-a-bit years I have been serving here so far there is something you say or do that resonates with something you put in that speech at the beginning that you stood for. There is a great deal of satisfaction that comes from being able to check your compass against your truths and your true north and know you are still on track. That is a pretty important thing. For those who are new here, pure and clear in your intent, your speeches shared that with the rest of us. Please keep them and refer to them; it can be a very rewarding thing. There are many distractions from your truth and your true north in this space, but from what I have heard from you we will hear many valuable contributions as we go through our debates.

Earlier today, Ms Houston offered bipartisanship on the issue of housing, and I admire and accept the intent of that offer. As I found and you might find, sometimes technical bipartisanship on matters where we debate is difficult to achieve, but if there is common purpose and a common wish for a good outcome that can go a long way. I look forward to working with everyone, particularly in this important and sensitive area of housing, who all want the same outcomes for Tasmanians and need to hold the Government and myself to account and who can contribute ideas along the way to improve and refine how we get there. I am looking forward to that. In return, I offer that I will always play the ball and not the man on these issues. The issues are too important and the people we serve here expect that we focus on achieving outcomes that are good for Tasmanians, not scoring points off each other.

I will always speak and act in the interests of the vulnerable people we serve here, even if it is sometimes to protect them. Whilst I do not resile from scrutiny in this place, I do not think this is the place where the lives and circumstances of vulnerable people need to be brought out for political purposes and picked apart or kicked around like footballs. I will uphold the precedent I tried to set in my first sitting week here in question time not to bring complex, personal stories of individuals into this place in a political debate. I will protect them from that.

In my first term in parliament I very much enjoyed my roles, including my time as parliamentary secretary for small business, which was a wonderful ride with a fantastic sector that is going gangbusters. I enjoyed the opportunity to learn a bit about holding a role in a parliament with some portfolio to it. I thank the Premier very much for the privilege of serving Tasmania as a Cabinet minister and particularly in portfolios that offer the opportunity and responsibility to improve the lives of Tasmanians. It is a very great challenge and responsibility I have been given

and I console myself sometimes when it seems a bit overwhelming that at least you think that I can do this well. I will go with that and do my very best. Thank you for the compliment you have paid me.

Braddon, the electorate I represent, is a very different place to what it was four, five or six years ago. There is a great sense of positive optimism and confidence in our region and it is partly to do with the fact that people see things happening around them. There is success and growth in companies like Elphinstone, in projects like the Granville Harbour wind farm, and the new Hermal cross-laminated timber plant coming aboard. They see visible activity returning in the forestry and mining sectors. They see that on our roads and in our landscape. They see the projects such as Living City as a place rather than a plan and it is something they can occupy and experience. They love the new Dial Range Sports Complex. They are thrilled the north-west coast will continue to be the home of the TT-Line and two new big ships that will sit alongside SeaRoads' first big new ship and another one coming, we hope. Toll's reinvestment in its shipping servicing the north-west coast and King Island's new *John Duigan* service, all of which points to investment that is confident about the future of our region and us as an island needing to move things to our markets and bring visitors and goods to us.

People in our region see action now in commitment and real financial grunt behind the Cradle Mountain master plan, our icon destination we host in the heart of our region. That is talk turning into investment, giving it a birthday and putting it back at the top of people's lists of a must-see, world-class destination where the experience rivals the natural assets and values on display.

They are excited about what is happening with the university in our region and its relocation of the campus to West Park precinct. Waterfront developments at Wynyard are to join the others along the coast, joined together up and down the coast by the growing coastal pathway, which has been substantially funded over the past four years by our Government and which the Cradle Coast Authority has led and brokered a further episode of investment in. We are considering as a state Government how we co-invest further against that to bring the full coastal pathway to life.

We have seen state and federal commitments to further investment in the Bass Highway along our coast. It is a critical freight corridor linking the far north-west and our greater region to the ports and to the world we export things to. We have seen investment in the Dial Range and Wild Mersey mountain bike experiences, which point to a new kind of recreation for our region and another layer of tourism we have not had before. It is driven by passionate individuals, local councils and clubs along the north-west coast. Seeing those plans turning into real assets for our regional drawcards is a massive boost.

The current economic figure of 6.1 per cent only in unemployment on the north-west coast is a metric we often point to but people on the ground who do not follow statistics see the economic activity and the buzz going on. That 6.1 per cent is a far cry from the double digits we became used to over decades, characterising our region as one of the lowest employment areas in Australia. That is changing. Whilst that number fluctuates, the sort of projects and developments I have listed are giving local people the confidence that the lift in employment, the drop in unemployment in our region is not a flash in the pan and there is a pipeline of opportunity is coming for them and their families.

They know there are now more options for their kids to finish school without leaving home. Due to the confident nature and the investment going on are more reasons to continue and obtain a

complete education and participate in the economy because there is one to participate in our region. It is a bright future.

Those things, combined with the evidence they see of a Government that wants to facilitate more of that sort of growth and investment, provide more services to them and drive down the cost of living where it can, is giving our region confidence and they wanted more of that. That is why they voted the way they did, to return a strong, stable, majority Liberal Government already delivering a better version of our region for them and their families to grow up in.

I will touch briefly on some of my areas of responsibility. Housing is one we have had a lot of discussion about over the last couple of sitting weeks. I do not intend to go over the same ground but I need to reject outright the claims there is no activity and no plan in response to the housing crisis, so-called, for some the housing shortage for all Tasmanians that Tasmania is experiencing right now. I acknowledge and point to the Affordable Housing Strategy and the Affordable Housing Action Plan my predecessors in this role had created with the help of a broad spectrum of stakeholders, experts, evidence, data, good policy, which has informed that first stage of the action plan. That is what we are seeing the benefits of rolling out now. Anyone who says there is not a plan, a strategy or a response to affordable housing pressures or housing shortages in Tasmania only needs to look at the website, the plan, which has been there since 2015. Look at the investment of \$200 million that has been put against that by this Government in the most evidence-based, comprehensive strategic plan to address housing affordability this state has ever seen.

I welcome the contributions of all parties and all new participants in this parliament, informing and adding value to the second stage of the Affordable Housing Action Plan for which consultation will be starting shortly. If they can help to inform and enrich what it delivers, building on the successes of the first Affordable Housing Action Plan to address the changing challenges that Tasmania faces, I welcome their input and encourage them to be actively involved in that process. No-one has all the answers. The more minds and ideas we can bring to the table, the better. Even if we continue to challenge each other across the Chamber, if what we are doing is challenging each other on the delivery of a plan we all agree on and believe in then Tasmania will be the beneficiary. I am proud of the work my predecessors have done and I am committed to ensuring the full potential of the plans they built are realised for Tasmania and for Tasmanians.

I will respond to some comments made about planning and acknowledge that Tasmania has been in a process of planning reform for well over a decade across successive governments. There have been waves of change that have come through each for their own good reasons. This will contribute to us having a sound statewide approach to planning that is simpler and more effective than where we started. We need the decade of reform to come to an end and for us to have a result, a planning system we can work with that delivers what Tasmanians need and the policies and the intent to drive it. In some ways our planning system has been built from the beginning, backwards, starting with planning schemes and hopefully ending in this term of parliament with statewide planning - policies we can then use to align those schemes with a common purpose. That is the undertaking I have given to the sectors, local government and others involved with planning in Tasmania to do what I can to bring the decade of reform of planning to an end and to deliver us at the other end of it a functioning statewide planning scheme aligned to Tasmanian planning policies as the scheme was originally intended to have well over a decade ago.

Time expired.

[5.40 p.m.]

Mr HODGMAN (Franklin - Premier) - Madam Speaker, the state election held 81 days ago on 3 March delivered a very clear result and a majority Liberal Government has been returned for a second term. It was a clear endorsement of my Government's performance over the last four years but also of the plan we took to this election and the team we have to deliver it. Tasmanians voted and a majority government was returned to provide stability, confidence and certainty. I believe it is incumbent on us all to respect the will of the people and to provide that stable majority government. While I accept not all Tasmanians voted for the Liberal Party, a majority government was elected and we will govern to the very best of our ability in the interests of all Tasmanians in mind.

It is a privilege to be a member of this House of Assembly that now has more women than men, the first Australian state parliament ever to do so. I take the opportunity to congratulate Madam Speaker on her election to the parliament and to all new members. I send my best wishes to those who are no longer here.

I particularly acknowledge the previous members of my team in this parliament, Matthew Groom, Nic Street and Joan Rylah, and thank them for their significant contribution to our state, and send another thought to Vanessa Goodwin who we still miss and always will but by whose memory we remain constantly inspired.

Following a more recent election for the Legislative Council seat of Prosser, we now welcome a new member to our team, Jane Howlett, from a large field of 13 candidates, as the endorsed Liberal candidate. The voters of Prosser sent another very clear message about this Government and our plan for the team to deliver it.

Tasmania is a very different place now than it was a few years ago. When we came into government the budget was in a mess. We said we would fix it and we did, recording a surplus four years ahead of schedule and delivering the best budget result in a decade. S&P recently confirmed our AA+ credit rating, citing strong financial management of this Government and noting the very strong economy, exceptional liquidity and low contingent liabilities.

Under this Government, for the first time ever, the state general government sector is net debt-free. Tasmania's economy had slid into recession under the former Labor-Greens government and we said we would kick-start the economy and we did. Annual growth in state final demand in the December quarter was the third strongest of all the states and above the national average and 8.9 per cent above the level recorded in 2014 under Labor and the Greens.

Tasmanian businesses are amongst the most confident in the nation, according the Sensis survey, the strongest and 29 points higher than it was in March 2014 under Labor and the Greens, when it was worst in the country. The April 2018 NAB business survey reports Tasmania is ranked the highest of all states for business confidence and equal third for business conditions.

Exports and international tourism have had the highest rate of growth in the country. Retail trade has had 22 consecutive months above the half-billion dollar mark. In March turnover was 2.1 per cent higher than the year before, the second highest of all states and ahead of the national average. Business investment and new capital for the December quarter was more than 16.6 per cent higher than the year before, significantly outperforming the national average growth. The average number of dwelling approvals was 24.4 per cent higher than the year before, compared to a national decrease. We have had the strongest growth of any state or territory.

There are now more Tasmanians employed. Our unemployment rate, which we got down to the national average, as we promised, is at 6 per cent, down 1.5 points from the time of the 2014 election. The participation rate is up from the same time last year. There are around 11 000 more people employed now than when we came into government. Under the last Labor-Greens government 10 000 jobs were lost.

Our population is growing and we have implemented a strategy to sustainably build our population and invest in the infrastructure services to support it.

Ms O'Connor - Where is it?

Mr HODGMAN - You were complaining about it this morning so you know exactly where it is. A key driver is the fact that our economy is growing so strongly. Jobs are being created. People want to be in Tasmania now and they want to return to the state they love. It is necessary to deal with what has been described as a demographic time bomb where under previous governments we had not only the fastest ageing population in the nation but also the consistent loss of young people from our state. In fact under Labor and the Greens who, by their own admission had no plan or strategy, there were sixteen quarters of negative interstate migration. Without sustainable population growth our state will not prosper, meaning a decline in our labour force, less taxation revenue and declining services.

I believe our state is a much more confident, stronger and prouder place than it was. It is undeniable that on almost every key economic indicator and in important improving social indicators, our state is performing well. Tasmania can compete with the best. In fact, we can be better and outperform every other state and territory. There is no reason we should not aim high, as this Government does, to take our state to the next level and for Tasmania to be number one.

While I recognise many members opposite do not fully appreciate or even value the importance of a strong economy and good financial management, I believe most Tasmanians do recognise the fact that without them we are not able to build a better health system, improve school results or provide more homes for people who need them. Our strong management of the economy and the budget was a very important factor for people at the election and it is a hallmark of this Government.

I want to make it clear, as I have always done and always will, that there is much more that needs to be done. We accept the responsibility of managing the challenges that arise through such strong economic growth. We accept the fact there are many Tasmanians who are not feeling the benefit of a strong economy and a balanced budget. Although we have reduced hospital waiting lists to the lowest level on record, Tasmanians need better health care. While our education results are improving and more students are getting the education they need, Tasmanians are worried about job opportunities for their kids. We have massive strains in our housing sector and Tasmanians are needing urgent accommodation. Tasmanians want to feel safe in their communities and are facing cost of living pressures. We need to invest more into the infrastructure our growing state needs. Our plan is to critically deliver more in these important areas of responsibility.

Looking to the future and our commitment to continue to manage the state's finances well and to sustain our economic growth so that we are able to invest more into essential services, to keeping cost of living pressures down and protecting our special way of life, our aim is to have the strongest performing economy and for Tasmania to be the most competitive place to do business and invest because this will lead to economic growth and more job opportunities for Tasmanians. We will, for instance, lessen the tax burden on businesses by reducing payroll tax rates for businesses to

deliver one of the most competitive tax environments in the country for small- to medium-sized businesses.

We have cut the red tape that strangles business, last year for example dealing with 72 pieces of red tape through legislative and policy changes. We will back Tasmanian businesses, including through the local benefit test, to give local businesses every chance of winning government tenders while still ensuring good value for money for our taxpayers. As a result, Tasmanian businesses are participating in government tenders at a higher rate and are winning more business now than they were under the previous Labor-Greens government, and the share of the total value of contracts awarded to Tasmanian businesses continues to be higher under this Government.

We are supporting more young Tasmanians into employment and meeting the increased demand for skilled labour with incentives of payroll tax relief and grants to smaller businesses to take on an apprentice or trainee, which will focus on growth sectors of the economy such as tourism and hospitality or the building and construction sector. We will take action to keep business costs down, particularly power bills, and we have intervened to insulate businesses from the upheaval in the national market. We are supporting small businesses through an energy efficiency loan scheme that provides them and households with access to low-interest loans to buy energy efficient appliances.

As my ministers have so clearly outlined during this debate, we will continue to back very strongly our competitive strengths and to invest in those sectors that drive economic growth and support businesses and jobs for Tasmanians across the state.

Tourism, Events and Hospitality, for which I am minister, is one of those sectors. My Government is their strongest supporter, but also a firm believer in their value to our economy and our community. I also have responsibility for the important areas of Heritage, for Parks and for the new ministry of Trade, which points to the fact that my Government considers our visitor economy and the key pillars that support it as central to our state's prosperity.

Our precious parks and wilderness areas, our unique and remarkable built heritage, the 38 000 people who work in tourism or hospitality to give our visitors the finest possible Tasmanian experience are essential elements and the key to sustain and sustainable growth in our tourism sector. They will continue to have a sharp focus in my Government.

We will do so through the trusted framework that is the T21 Strategic Partnership with industry that shapes our shared goals and our vision, which we regularly review and refine, and which we will reframe for beyond 2020. We also have Parks 21, Access 2020 and a recently signed MOU with the TICT to also guide our strategic planning and investment to progress the targeted growth of our tourism industry.

Our vision and our plan is to not only increase the number of visitors, but then to increase the time they are here, to increase the time they are spending in our regions and to increase the amount they spend while they are here. As a matter of priority we are developing a plan to disperse our tourists more into our regions and to secure the best return on investment for our state and our operators. We will target a particular group of traveller, including through our latest marketing campaign. Plan for how our infrastructure supports the experience of our visitors to protect those parts of the state that are experiencing very strong growth and to divert visitors into the areas less travelled, in the process relieving pressure points where there is increased visitation.

My Government will continue to encourage and support the sensible development of attractions and experiences in our parks and natural areas. It must be done in a way that is sensible and sustainable. Tasmania is seen as a place that can now adequately manage appropriate development in our precious natural areas.

We are also especially conscious of the need to protect what brings so many people to our state in the first place. Tasmania's parks and reserves are one of our greatest assets. We want to increase access for more people to enjoy them and for our state to benefit from that. In that context we welcome the Turnbull Government's \$30 million co-investment into the Cradle Mountain Cableway, which along with the development of the master plan, will further turbo charge our great tourism industry, particularly the north-west coast and west coast regions, providing a world class visitor experience at Cradle Mountain that cements it as a national natural treasure to indisputably rival the Great Barrier Reef and Uluru. It is expected it will attract an additional 60 000 visitors a year.

Since coming to office my Government has committed in excess of \$200 million to enhance the visitor experience and improve facilities for people who spend time in our parks and reserves. We have more commitments announced during the election that will support our parks and wildlife service, infrastructure upgrades, including \$72 million to invest in roads across the state that support our tourism industry. We plan to increase access to the island with more flights, two new generation *Spirits* on Bass Strait by 2021, develop new events that will attract more visitors to the state and to our regions, develop iconic drive journeys to take our visitors off the beaten track into every corner of the state and, as I have already referred to, sharpen the focus of our marketing campaign to target travellers who offer the highest value to our state and to increased yield.

Our hospitality industry employs 22 000 people, and supports around 2000 businesses, which we have supported very strongly, including during an election campaign when they were under attack. To support the industry and reflect the important role that it plays in our visitor economy we will invest \$1.7 million a year into targeted initiatives to meet demand to ensure the visitor experience matches our reputation to support the great customer experience program, workforce development, stop the coward's punch campaign and in skills development.

Trade is, of course, a vital part of our island economy, not only exports, but also inbound trade, not only international, but also interstate, not only commodities, but also things like services, education or intellectual property. Our exports make up about 14 per cent of Tasmania's gross state product, and are vital to our economy. Tasmania's export economy is booming. In the year to March 2018, the nominal value of Tasmania's international goods exports increased by 36 per cent, compared with 9.7 per cent nationally. In fact, the next closest state was Queensland on 13 per cent. Tasmania's exports of goods and services comprises about 1.1 per cent of Australia's total exports.

We believe there is more to do to support Tasmania's trading businesses. We are developing our state's first whole-of-government trade strategy to provide greater certainty and strategic direction. This will build on the existing work of government, industry and exporters, which have a value of the sector up to \$3.52 billion in the year to March 2018, the highest year average level of exports since mid 2009. We are engaging with industry and exporters across the state to hear firsthand about issues that limit the capacity for industry to grow exports, the role government can play in maximising export opportunities, to identify priority international markets, where we can support our exporters and outline a coordinated range of supports to meet the needs of new and emerging exporters.

The strategy will also have the flexibility to respond quickly to the changing market conditions and any emerging local or global issues. Over the coming months we will also be undertaking one-on-one consultation and targeted industry-wide research with stakeholders across key sectors such as advanced manufacturing, international education, the Antarctic industry, agribusiness and mining. Our trade strategy 2018-2025 will be released by the end of the year, sending a clear message to the world that we are open for business and Tasmania is ready to take the next step in growing our international trade.

As I have repeatedly said, and as our plan clearly demonstrates, we must do more to support Tasmanians in need, to make them safer in their community, to protect those who are vulnerable in our community. They are as important as any key part of our plan, possible only if we keep our economy strong and our budget in balance. But they are essential responsibilities and priorities of my Government. To meet the increasing and urgent demand in all forms of housing that is impacting our community we are getting on with the job of delivering Tasmania's first affordable housing strategy.

We are progressing the new initiatives and outcomes from the Housing Summit, where most, except perhaps the Labor Party, came to work on solutions and be part of a community effort to support Tasmanians in need. We have committed almost \$200 million over eight years to our affordable housing strategy and are on track to deliver stage 1. We will also increase our efforts, given increased demand, with an additional \$125 million into the second stage. As the minister has said today, we have helped more than 500 new households with affordable, secure, safe homes. We are on track to assist 1600 households into affordable housing by June 2019. We are continuing to roll out 127 accommodation places by the end of June, including 78 new two-bedroom units across the state and nine unit facilities for youth at risk at Moonah, a 25-unit youth accommodation facility at Devonport.

The innovative community house stock leverage program will deliver 172 new housing properties on 21 run-down homes upgraded by transferring the title to 500 homes to community organisations. Our rapid rehousing program is creating a pool of 50 properties to people suffering family violence. We are providing policy support to our great building and construction sector to be a key partner in the solutions, for example by extending the first-home builders' boost, providing a 50 per cent stamp duty holiday for first home buyers and offering a three-year exemption from land tax for all newly built houses that are made available for long-term rental market.

We are putting \$500 000 into immediate emergency accommodation and support. We are piloting a private rental incentive scheme to identify properties that might be available for low income earners to enter the rental market.

We realise and accept that there are issues and challenges presenting for those who need a home or shelter. We are continuing the work we started during our first term in government and we are implementing new measures to deal with the escalation of demand in this area.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I will look forward to another 20 minutes or so tomorrow to talk about our support for Tasmanians through improved government services that are only possible with the strong economy and a budget back in balance including, most notably, education.

Debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Trucks - Maydena and Westerway

[6.00 p.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Denison - Leader of the Greens) - Mr Deputy Chair, I rise tonight to speak about a matter of significant concern to the residents of Maydena and Westerway, and I am not the member for Lyons but this is an issue I am concerned will not be raised by other members in this place because of the matters involved.

There was a community meeting at Westerway on Thursday 17 May 2018. It was to discuss an increasing level of worry amongst residents, of Maydena particularly, about the increase numbers of log trucks moving through Maydena and the limestone quarry approved by the Derwent Valley Council through a process which the locals now believe was opaque and rushed over the Christmas period. Safety concerns came up about the log trucks on the narrow, winding Gordon River Road. Residents recognise that up to 60 trucks a day will also be using the road from the new Jenkins limestone quarry west of Maydena.

My understanding is the limestone quarry has been approved and, as a project of state significance, the Derwent Valley Council made no comment in relation to community concerns. It simply indicated it was a matter for State Growth. One particular focus of concern is the safety risk to school children in Westerway, which has a primary school on the main road with no footpaths and houses located too close to the road to enable construction of a footpath.

I acknowledge Labor MLC, Craig Farrell, attended this meeting and I hope he raises this issue with the Minister for State Growth and the Minister for Infrastructure. For anyone who wants to know why the locals are so worried, there is a picture here from Westerway last week. It was posted on *Tasmania Times* and it shows schoolchildren and a log truck driver working really hard not to place the schoolchildren at risk. You can see from this image, the log truck driver and the schoolchildren are put in a difficult situation because of the road.

The representation made on *Tasmania Times* by residents, Andrew Kellett and Bert Lawatsch, say this -

Do you enjoy a drive to Mt Field or the South West or perhaps you enjoy fly fishing in the Tyenna River? If so, I'm sure you are aware of the condition of the underfunded section of road from Maydena to Westerway.

Now you will have to deal with the recently approved 80+ year life span Jenkins Limestone quarry, just 1.8kms west of Maydena, that will be predominantly using Gordon River Rd as a supply route, with the development proposal stating up to 60 truck movements a day.

The development proposal was released to the public over the Xmas period 2016/17 when people would have had limited time and awareness to write a submission ... Also unbelievably, most Derwent Valley councillors were unaware of the development 10 days before they had to vote on it, having then to read 400+ pages of a development proposal.

The Tyenna Valley contains a number of outstanding natural assets that attract both local residents and visitors from afar. These include the Mt Field and the South West National Park, Styx forest World Heritage area, the newly opened Maydena Bike Park as well as many caves, rivers and streams, all of which are growing our tourism.

...

Despite the large recreational visitation, state government and some councillors do not see a problem with increasing heavy vehicle traffic from new developments along the same road that the visitors and residents use.

Gordon River Road between Westerway and Maydena is a windy and narrow road, with no shoulders to enable car drivers to give more room for approaching trucks. The road is completely unsuitable for trucks, yet no traffic assessment was undertaken from Maydena to Westerway for the quarry development proposal.

This correspondence continues but I ask the Minister for Infrastructure, why was a traffic analysis not done before the limestone quarry was approved? What sort of analysis was done of the road safety repercussions of having log trucks travel down that road and now having around 60 truck movements going through the place as a result of the limestone quarry?

Bert Lawatsch says in this article -

If there is a death or injury due to a truck/car collision on this section of road, I believe the local council and state Government are responsible since the safety problem has now been pointed out to them. Westerway in particular is a death trap with no footpaths, a local school and small distances between children and passing log trucks. Will it take the death of a child before the council/government act?

This is a challenge to the Minister for State Growth and to the Minister for Infrastructure. This is a matter that should be of concern to the Liberal members for Lyons. I note they were not represented at this community meeting.

Surely we can all agree we need to keep our children safe on the roads, we need to keep visitors who come to this island and are not used to our road conditions and the number of heavy vehicles on the same road. We need to take some responsibility. As a parliament, we need to tackle this. The first place this needs to be dealt with is through the Minister for Infrastructure. He should be engaging much more closely with this community, who are deeply concerned and believe the safety of their children will be even more at risk when the limestone quarry is fully operational. They want to hear from their elected representatives in Lyons, from the Liberal Party, and they want some answers from the Minister for Infrastructure.

I call on the minister, on behalf of the residents, to provide those answers and engage with that community because the last thing we want is for those words by Bert Lawatsch to be prescient and true. We can avoid a tragedy by dealing with this issue.

Smithton - Keep Australia Beautiful National Tidy Towns Award 2018

Smithton - RSL Centenary Committee

[6.07 p.m.]

Mr JAENSCH (Braddon - Minister for Human Services) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise today to advise the House that Smithton, in my seat of Braddon, has won the Keep Australia Beautiful National Tidy Towns Award for 2018. I ask all members to join me in congratulating all residents of Smithton on this wonderful achievement of an impressive five awards in the competition. As well as winning the national award for 2018, they were joint winners of the Community Action and Wellbeing Award for effort in addressing illicit drug use through the production of Two Trains, a documentary and extensive youth education and community health and safety programs. They also took out the Environmental Sustainability Award for the Duck River Irrigation Scheme and Circular Head Landcare's rice grass eradication program. Kurtis Maher won the Young Legends Award for his work on the Two Trains documentary and as president of Circular Head youth leaders.

A highly commended award in the category of heritage and culture was awarded to Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation and Smithton High School for telling the story of tunnerrinnerwait.

Last but not least, the RSL Centenary Committee received a high commendation award for many project honouring local war veterans. I will read into the record the word of the national judge, Gail Langley, who said -

Smithton is a highly driven community with determination to pinpoint and address issues bestowed on them. The parties involved with projects are highly motivated and demonstrate a sense of dedication to each other and to achieving their set goals.

I congratulate Mayor Daryl Quilliam, his council and his community for their collective efforts and recognition through this award, and recognise the contributions of the following organisations and their staff and volunteers: Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation, RSL Centenary Committee, Smithton High School and Trade Training Centre, Circular Head Christian School, Rural Health Tasmania, Seven Up Youth Centre, Landcare Circular Head, Rotary Club of Smithton, the Bureau of Meteorology Cape Grim Baseline Station and Treasure Chest. Tasmania has yet another reason to be very proud of the north-west coast.

Volunteers Tasmania - Annual Awards

Launceston RSL ADF Welfare Team

[6.10 p.m.]

Ms O'BYRNE (Bass) - Mr Deputy Speaker, on Monday members of this House and members of the other place, Ms Standen, Ms O'Connor, Ms Lovell, Mr O'Byrne, Mrs Petrusma and I, joined with Her Excellency and Volunteers Tasmania at the announcement of their annual awards. There were so many amazing nominees and worthy winners on that day, as well as a wombat.

Tonight, however, I want to pay tribute to a group I have been involved with in Launceston one of which was a recipient recognised on Monday. They are the Launceston RSL ADF welfare team, whose mission statement is that all ADF personnel, past and present, allied forces and/or families of these forces are looked after to the best of our ability.

The team exists because the president and founder, Ms Titley, identified a gap in the provision and access of welfare and support for serving and former ADF members. Many of these individuals have found themselves in crisis for a range of reasons. They can experience challenges with mental health and wellbeing, relationships, housing access and affordability, and financial stress. They have to navigate support options whilst at the same time applying for claims through DVA, benefits through Centrelink, or simply dealing with the processes of coming out of the Australian defence forces.

Some of the support group clients find themselves out on the street due to their financial stress or an inability to navigate the support services. This is where this amazing team comes in. The volunteer team provides access to housing, checks on mental health and wellbeing, provides the basic tangible support such as food packages, toiletries, household goods and access to DVA advocates, social workers and doctors in a supportive environment. Each participant is respected, supported and guided in a way that assists their current situation without judgment or criticism. The program has been a huge success and it is hoped it can be adopted by some of the other 51 sub-branches around the state.

I pay a particular tribute to the seven incredibly hardworking volunteers on the team who bring much-needed targeted skills and a genuine compassion to the project. Month on month they donate around 1000 hours of their time. A tribute today to Nadia Titley, the president and founder; Dianne Bredsky, the secretary; Joy Brooks, Trindy Hogan, Lena Paul, Liam Teahan and Adrian Radford. They are always keen for more volunteers as demands upon their service grow. The team includes people with lived experiences, families of returned personnel, people who work in the property and homelessness sector, DVA advocates and TPI members. Each volunteer receives training in welfare support and an outreach house has been set up for homeless veterans where they are supported to work on their issues before moving to independent living, a safe and secure place that they can call home.

The program is self-funded by donations from the community, fundraising and the odd successful grant application. A total of \$13 000 was spent last year supporting 55 clients. The fundraising goal this year is at least \$20 000. The team feel their volunteering efforts are rewarded when they see suicide intervention and prevention, security in housing and engagement in community, a smile and hope.

Whilst I am sure that we all wish that our support of our returned service personnel was comprehensive enough that groups like this were not needed, I am very pleased that they are there. I know all members will join with me in commending this service and the generosity and commitment to the volunteers.

Members - Hear, hear.

Wear Orange Wednesday - Appreciation for State Emergency Service Volunteers

[6.13 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Minister for Health) - Madam Speaker, if I may say you are rocking your orange ribbon beautifully, as are all of my colleagues around this Chamber. It is Wear Orange Wednesday. Today is our annual opportunity to signify in a small way our appreciation for our State Emergency Service volunteers.

The extreme weather event and subsequent flooding that occurred on 10 and 11 May caused major disruption and substantial damage to communities in the south of the state. I acknowledge everyone affected by this extreme weather event. I especially commend the resilience of the Tasmanian people who pitched in to help each other through this difficult period just as they have numerous times before. Earlier this week we saw wild winds destroying trees, shopfronts and house roofs in Hobart.

The point of my contribution this evening is to point to those volunteers who go out of their way when many of the rest of us are tucked away in bed. Those who actively step up to help communities in their time of need for events like this, we truly appreciate. Today is Wear Orange Wednesday, a day to support our SES volunteers. Wear Orange Wednesday is a national campaign with a very simple call to wear something orange in recognition of the thousands of SES volunteers who give up their time and in many cases their wages to serve their communities in floods, storms and other emergencies.

Our SES volunteers come from all walks of life, all backgrounds and professions. The main thing SES volunteers have in common is a desire to help their community through difficult times such as storms and floods, road crash rescues, remote area searches and rescues, and public relations community events. We Tasmanians are extremely fortunate that our Tasmania Fire Service and State Emergency Service personnel are so ably supported by dedicated, highly trained and hardworking volunteers.

Approximately 5000 TFS volunteers operate from over 200 fire stations in the suburban areas, larger towns and rural areas across the state, while approximately 550 men and women SES volunteers boost the services operational capacity of 35 SES units and teams located throughout Tasmania. When emergencies occur they are the first to roll up their sleeves to assist our career firefighters and SES personnel. Our volunteer emergency workers embody the spirit of mateship, hard work and kindness - Tasmanian values - provide a very high level of capable service to our community and their value cannot be underestimated. I know that none of us here do.

The Hodgman Liberal Government recognises and supports our emergency volunteers and through our election commitment we will provide updated equipment, more opportunities through an increase in the number of remote area teams and improve their safety while at work.

On behalf of the Government and I am sure all members of our House and on behalf of all Tasmanians, I extend our deepest gratitude to our volunteers who are fearless in the face of fire, floods and other emergencies and who serve us with such generosity.

Nugent Community Hall - Request for a Defibrillator Smithton Ambulance Service

[6.16 p.m.]

Ms WHITE (Lyons - Leader of the Opposition) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to seek some further information from the Government following a couple of letters that have been written to different ministers. The first is a letter that I wrote to the Premier on 21 December last year asking for him to consider funding a defibrillator at the Nugent Community Hall out of his Premier's Discretionary Fund. This is a matter I followed up with him again in April this year. Unfortunately we have had no response and the committee of the Nugent Community Hall would like to know whether the Government could support their request to fund a defibrillator. I remind the Premier if

he could please take a look at his correspondence and see whether he can fund from his discretionary fund to support that community, given how remote a location it is and how difficult it can be to access for emergency services in times of need.

The second is correspondence written to the minister, Michael Ferguson, on 5 February. This is regard to the Smithton ambulance service, so it is correspondence that again to which we are yet to have a response. I will provide some context. It is regarding the provision of a training room and further facilities at that site. As you would be aware, the department approved a three-stage development at this site which involved the demolition of the old unit training room and extending the existing garage. That stage has occurred, so that was stage one, but stage two was the building of a new training room and some other changes making the kitchen area more open planned, moving the toilet and adding a second toilet. Stage three is building a two-bedroom unit on the same block similar to the Sheffield station, meaning that Ambulance Tasmania would no longer have to continue to pay rent on a relief house.

Correspondence I have received from the volunteers at the station indicate they are really crying out for the training room to be replaced as a priority. They understand some of the other capital improvements that are part of stage 2 and stage 3 may not be able to be requested at this stage, but in an email I received from them they indicated to me that there are around 17 volunteer ambulance officers who provide an invaluable service to that community. This number fluctuates and at times has been higher. However, even with the current numbers it makes it very difficult to facilitate their fortnightly group training nights and the volunteers, in particular the longer-serving ones, are very passionate about this issue and are getting frustrated and fed up with the inadequate facilities. I have also been informed that the other aspect of this is that all their training gear ends up being stored in the bedroom due to the lack of space rather than being able to be permanently set up and ready for use.

Minister, I wrote to you about this on 5 February and have not had a response. It may be that things have moved along and since the correspondence to you funding has been provided and some training spaces have been available to the Smithton Ambulance Service. If you could reply to my letter then I would know that and I would be able to correspond back to the Smithton Ambulance Service. I ask if you could please follow that up with your department.

Wear Orange Wednesday - Appreciation for State Emergency Service Volunteers

Petition - Heybridge and Chasm Creek Communities

[6.20 p.m.]

Dr BROAD (Braddon) – Mr Deputy Speaker, I echo the comments of the minister, Mr Ferguson, about WOW Day. It is very important. The SES and other emergency services do a fantastic job. I know the work they do from personal experience. The area where we live is at the end of a couple of kilometres long road. One particular area is quite unstable. There is a bit of bush there. At least half a dozen times I have driven that section of road and a tree has come down in the middle of the night. The only evidence of the SES's really good work is sawdust and some tree branches put to the side of the road. I know from personal experience that they get up in the middle of the night in the rain and the wind and they service our community well.

Tonight I would like to talk about another safety issue that was raised by the residents of Heybridge in the electorate of Braddon. This is to a petition that they put together to reduce the speed and accidents at Heybridge in Chasm Creek town boundaries. Unfortunately the petition is

not in the appropriate format because it does not address the Speaker of the House but I would like to seek leave to table this. I have discussed this with the Leader of the House and with the Greens and they are in agreement.

Leave granted

Dr BROAD - The petition reads -

We the citizens, friends and family of Heybridge and Chasm Creek communities request the current Police and Infrastructure Minister, the honourable Rene Hidding -

Dr BROAD - It is a little out of date.

- enact to follow your own statements in the Towards the Zero Tasmanian Road Safety Strategy 2017 that allow built-up communities to have a fundamental right to safety by allowing a maximum of 80 kilometres an hour through the townships. Most of Heybridge and Chasm Creek town boundary lies in the high speed 100 to 110 area causes great stress that continual near accidents when entering and leaving this highway. This is of great concern to all residents especially us the local residents and heavy truck operators who must handle 110 kilometre an hour speeding traffic, crossing four lanes of traffic from both directions.

We thank Minister Hidding for maintaining a high quality road in our area but this only encourages further speeding and the recent speed sign modifications made at the Heybridge roundabout has only provided minor relief for continuous speeding and reckless driver behaviour.

We the residents of Heybridge and Chasm Creek seek nothing less than your total respect, responsibility, commitment and action for our community as a community to be safe on our roads and with increasing traffic to discourage the threats of abusive drivers and speeding hooners now and into the future. Having a safe 80 kilometre an hour maximum through our communities would be consistent with all other towns along the Bass Highway, thus not discriminating against us and jeopardising our community's safety.

This petition is not about bureaucratic politics but simply common sense for your reasonable responsibility and your duty of care.

While the idea is an 80 kilometre zone from Howarth all the way through to Burnie, there are a number of people who do not agree with this petition. I have received some letters since that petition was advertised. There was a story in the *Advocate* so I went out to meet the residents. The residents, not me, invited the *Advocate*. The *Advocate* wrote a story. Subsequent to that I received some communication from people who did not think it was a good idea.

There have been changes made at that roundabout where there is a speed reduction that used to step down from a 110 to 60 with nothing in between. There was a strategy put in place for an 80 kilometre zone with a short stretch and then a 60 kilometre zone but with even a cursory inspection of that intersection, you can see skid marks where crashes have been. The residents report consistently hearing a lot of crashes there. While a lot of those crashes are minor in nature, they

are still very concerning. Some of the residents spoke with the department and had information that since 2000 there have been approximately 218 recorded crashes at that intersection on that stretch of road. That is quite high. Although there were only three serious crashes, the continual crashing and the residents being stressed about it has caused them a number of issues.

Subsequent to the article in the *Advocate*, where I pointed out the state of the road where the roundabout was, was not very good, I was quite pleased that within a matter of weeks the surface of the roundabout itself was upgraded. That was duly noted by the residents. I thank the appropriate people for upgrading the surface of the roundabout itself. Hopefully that will give more traction. When it was getting wet you could see that it was not draining properly. That was potentially resulting in some minor accidents.

I noticed this matter has been communicated to the Government. The residents received a letter back from former minister, Mr Hidding, on 20 February last year, which highlighted that the crash history for the site was low, with 27 crashes over five years; however, exploration of the data found that that figure was indeed 218 for the stretch of road that they were talking about.

I am speaking here tonight to give them the opportunity for their petition to be tabled and discussed, but also to keep an eye on this intersection to make sure that things do not get out of control. Probably one of the biggest issues with this intersection is not the speed limits themselves, but it is people not obeying the speed limits and going through that roundabout at a speed greater than 60 kilometres an hour, or even attempting to do it at 60 kilometres an hour. Another thing that would be good is for there to be a police presence there on more occasions, or a speed camera to try to impact the people who are using that intersection in an inappropriate manner by taking it too fast, then cutting the corner and so on. I thank the residents for raising this issue with me. I will continue to keep an eye on it.

Noel Wallace Kelty - Death

[6.24 p.m.]

Ms BUTLER (Lyons) - Mr Deputy Speaker, this House expresses its deep regret at the passing of Noel Wallace Kelty on 2 May 2018, and places on record that this House respectfully tenders to his family its sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

Noel Wallace Kelty was born in 1924 and recently passed at the age of 94. Noel is survived by his devoted wife, Paula Kelty. Noel and Paula shared a remarkable 70 years of marriage. Noel was a life member of the Australian Labor Party and made a terrific contribution to the people of his community, as well as the party. Paula is also a life member of the Labor Party.

Noel represented shearers and other workers during his life and was always regarded highly wherever he lived, wherever he worked. Noel was also affectionately known as 'Tyke' to some, a nickname he was given by his uncle George when he was six years old. Noel lived life to the full. Through his 94 years he experienced both the highs and lows of life, but through it all he maintained a sense of graciousness, humour, respect and good old-fashioned common decency.

According to Noel's family, everyone who knew Noel always had a story that reflected their personal relationship with him. Whether that story related to shearing, fishing or bowls, everyone always had the same thing to say about Noel: he was a true gentleman. His mind was always as sharp as a tack. According to Noel's grandson, he was not backwards in telling his grandmother

what a great memory he had, especially when it contradicted hers. Noel was born at Cressy in 1924, the son of James and Rose Kelty. He went to school at Cressy and upon completion worked on various farms in the local area.

In 1942, Noel and his mother moved to Melbourne to join his father, a contract shearer. Noel worked in a foundry in Coburg. In 1943 Noel joined the Air force. He went to Camden in New South Wales to undertake a rookie course and was transported by ship to New Guinea where he served for two years. During the two-year period Noel kept a detailed diary, which I am advised makes a really interesting read. It is also kept by the family as a legacy to Noel's life and the Kelty family.

Noel was involved in heavy combat with shelling and bombers throughout the South Pacific. Of most note, Noel survived a gunshot wound to the stomach during his service. In 1946, at the end of the World War II, Noel was posted back to Brighton Army Barracks until he was discharged. It was at this base in Brighton where he met the love of his life, Paula. It is my understanding they started their relationship when Noel offered Paula a ride on his motorbike. He would then ride his motorbike from Brighton to Hobart every weekend to see her. They married in 1947 after a 12 months courtship.

Paula and Noel settled in Cressy and bought a house. He first worked on farms and then started shearing with his father. Their only child, Joanne, was born in 1950. Noel's family discussed his travels and the interesting places he worked and apparently the details Noel conjured in recounting these stories was quite remarkable. Noel was known as a great storyteller and the passing on of these experiences I am sure will be part of Noel's legacy. Although Noel would talk in detail and enthusiasm about the places he visited, every story had a common theme. The best part, apparently, was when he arrived home to see Paula and his beloved daughter, Joanne.

In the early 1980s Noel decided to stop travelling to be closer to his family and his elderly parents. Noel stopped shearing and became a subcontract manager for farmers looking to hire shearers. This job allowed him to work in an area he knew very well and to remain in his beloved Tasmania. Noel retired at 65 in the late 1980s and he lived in Cressy until the year 2000. Noel's family recall visiting the Cressy family home most weekends and one of the great joys of those visits was going into grandpa's shed with him, as he apparently tinkered around fixing things and showing his grandchildren how to use tools and talked about his life experiences.

Apparently Noel was a fantastic gardener and the garden Paula and he had at Cressy would be probably be classed as a market garden these days. Noel's knowledge of the garden and how to bring the best out of it would rival Peter Cundall, according to his family. He never missed listening to Peter Cundall on the radio of a Saturday morning. When they moved to Longford from Cressy they had a smaller garden, but it was still right up there with the same kind of quality and he was always handing out gardening advice to Paula.

Noel loved fishing, a passion he shared with his son-in-law, Wayne, and there were countless trips to Arthur's Lake where they also had a family shack. Noel had a beautiful boat and that boat has now been sold to a man called David at Westbury. The boat is called *The Tyke* and is quite well known in the area.

Both Noel and Paula started playing lawn bowls as a way to stay active together and enjoy a common interest. Noel started playing bowls at Cressy and he was a foundation member. When Paula and Noel moved to Longford they joined the Longford Bowls Club. Noel always enjoyed

the game and he made lots of friends. Even when his eyesight started to fail him in his later years, he would still bowl, particularly indoor bowls at Perth. Although his eyes were a source of frustration they did not prevent him from participating and enjoying a social time with his friends.

According to the Kelty family, one of the topics that would always guarantee a spirited conversation with Noel was football. As with my colleague here, he was a spirited Collingwood supporter. Watching the football and following all the goings on at Collingwood brought him great joy. Noel's grandson, Scott, told me a story of how he became a Collingwood supporter when both his parents supported St Kilda. He was advised that when he was young Noel sat him on his knee, wet his finger and put a cross on his forehead.

Time expired.

Shirley Amos and Dot Jones - Tribute

[6.35 p.m.]

Ms STANDEN (Franklin) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I pay tribute to some friends in National Volunteering Week who have recently left this state - outgoing president of the Geeveston Pensioners Association of Tasmania, Shirley Amos and social coordinator, Dot Jones. The Geeveston Pensioners Association of Tasmania is alive and well and the heart and soul of the organisation survives in the Huon Valley. These fine women have given years of service to the Geeveston Pensioners Association but due to ill health they have recently relocated to Queensland. Together with Lara Giddings I attended a wonderful farewell in the valley to pay tribute to their wonderful service to the community.

Currently there are three local branches of the Pensioners Association of Tasmania and this is a sad contraction from maybe 20 years ago when there were up to 30 or so branches with thousands of members statewide. I note the importance of the friendship of the pensioners association in pulling people together, particularly elderly people across the community, overcoming social isolation. In the case of Dot, she worked so very hard gaining the appropriate licences and organising trips for members for social outings, both within the valley and farther afield across the state from time to time, holding regular barbecues and lunches which I had the privilege of attending several times during my campaign. They provide wonderful friendship opportunities for those people to come together and share stories over food.

Dot and Shirl have now handed over to new executive members and I am sure they have done as wonderful a job inducting these new members as they did in the hot seat themselves. I am sure they will make a wonderful contribution to their new home in Queensland. In National Volunteering Week I particularly pay tribute to the wonderful contribution Shirl and Dot have made to the Geeveston Pensioners Association. I wish them all the best for their future and to all involved in the Pensioners Association of Tasmania because volunteers really are the heart and soul of communities.

The House adjourned at 6.38 p.m.