



PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

REPORT OF DEBATES

Thursday 16 May 2024

REVISED EDITION

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Thursday, 16 May 2024

The Speaker, **Ms O'Byrne**, took the Chair at 10 a.m., acknowledged the Traditional People and read Prayers.

QUESTIONS

Efficiency Dividends - Government Departments

Mr WINTER question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.01 a.m.]

Yesterday, Treasury published the March budget update. The report showed that in the first nine months of the year, you have already racked up an operating deficit of nearly \$600 million. That is five times worse than the deficit at this point last year and on track to be more than double the deficits incurred during COVID. You are so focused on your own political survival that you have given up trying to govern. Do you still intend to impose a \$300 million efficiency dividend on government departments?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for his question. As we have stated on many occasions, we have diligently worked through the difficult budget situation since the pandemic. We invested \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion to ensure that Tasmanians were kept alive, well and in work. That is a very necessary investment, as is the investment in several areas that the member and others have raised in this place when it comes to more paramedics, the 1390 more nurses and the 2500 more health professionals over the course of the last 10 years, investment in our schools, new schools, new classrooms, teachers, and resources for years 11 and 12 high school extensions. If the member would like to point to anything across those areas that we should not have invested in, such as paramedics, then please let us know. For us it is a worthy investment in terms of those frontline services.

I am mindful of the irony of the member's question regarding the expenditure and what the Labor opposition put on the credit card, or tried to, throughout the election campaign. They outspent us by two to one at least - three to one - including capital, to my understanding. Very irresponsible indeed, particularly the member himself.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order, members on my left.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Every single second - which might be a slight exaggeration - but every hour or so there was a new Facebook release from Mr Winter saying he is going to invest in this and that community group and those types of things. Desperate, towards the end of the last election.

We are very mindful of the need for strong budget management as we work through and recover from the pandemic and invest in those crucial areas. Not only the areas of key frontline

services such as health, police and our schools, we also need to be mindful of bringing that budget forward in a sustainable way. We are working through the budget now. The budget will be delivered in September, and we are prudently working through that. Every state and territory of Australia has budget challenges.

Madam SPEAKER - The minister's time has expired.

Efficiency Dividends - Government Departments

Mr WINTER question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.06 a.m.]

The budget update yesterday revealed the full scale of your budget disaster and clearly something has to give. You did not answer my question earlier about the \$300 million efficiency dividends. This time, can you answer? Has the so-called efficiency dividend been allocated across departments yet? If so, will you outline for the House how much each department is being asked to cut?

ANSWER

I thank the member for his question. We outlined an efficiency dividend way back in 2019 and then COVID hit. We took that efficiency dividend off so we can invest in our community, to keep people and work alive and well. We announced an efficiency dividend last budget, and departments are working through that now, mindful of the very important additional investment required when it comes to the commission of inquiry, despite the fact that we have a strong track record of responsible fiscal management over the course of the last 10 years.

I am not sure where the member is going with this question. Is he reinforcing the fact that they are committed to the \$2 billion in cuts proposed by them over the course of the last state election? Is that where you are going with this, Mr Winter? Perhaps you would like to advise the House of that, but we will ensure that with prudent financial and budget management, we will not only deliver the services that Tasmanians need and care about but do so in a fiscally responsible way.

You would appreciate the responsible fiscal strategy that we released during the election and how we are going to ensure that the Superannuation Provision Account, which the Labor Party, in conjunction with the Greens in government -

Mr WINTER - Point of order, Madam Speaker, under Standing Order 45, relevance. I asked the Premier if he could outline how much each department was being asked to cut. Could you draw him to the question.

Madam SPEAKER - I cannot put words in the Premier's mouth but I will draw him to the question, which was specifically around departmental impacts.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I appreciate that, Madam Speaker, and I look forward to the first alternative budget being delivered by a state opposition in over a decade in September, where we might see the colour of the \$2 billion of cuts across the public service.

Madam SPEAKER - Premier, with respect, you have 30 seconds, and I did ask you to get to the question or I will sit you down.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I respect your ruling, Madam Speaker. We remain committed to delivering on the budget efficiency dividend. We are currently working with agencies to determine the most appropriate approach to achieving the \$300 million budget adjustment, with a strong focus on improving efficiency and productivity while ensuring that key essential services are delivered. The budget efficiency dividend represents 0.6 per cent of total annual expenditure, or 60 cents out of every \$100 of expenditure. Instead of spending \$100, we will invest \$99.40 as a comparison.

Madam SPEAKER - The minister's time has expired.

Mr WINTER - Madam Speaker, a supplementary question, if I may.

Madam SPEAKER - I will hear the supplementary and, if appropriate, will rule it in.

Supplementary Question

Mr WINTER - Premier, will you rule out job cuts in the September budget?

Madam SPEAKER - As a result of the efficiency dividends?

Mr Winter - Yes.

Madam SPEAKER - I will allow the supplementary on that basis. Supplementary questions must be to elicit information that has come from an answer. I will allow that one, although it strays very -

Mr Abetz - She is helping you, Dean.

Madam SPEAKER - Thank you, I do not need your assistance. It does stray close to a new question, but I will take it as part of the efficiency dividend. Premier, you have the call for one-minute answers on supplementary questions.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Madam Speaker, I respect your ruling. I thank the honourable member for his supplementary question. If you want to talk about jobs, let us talk about the 50,000 jobs that we have created during the last 10 years - we are very proud to do so - in every corner of the state. We are working through the budget situation. We have a strong focus on improving efficiency and productivity while ensuring that essential services are delivered.

Madam SPEAKER - Thank you. Before calling the question, I will explain how I intend to conduct question time. I want to get answers to questions that members have asked. I will allow a certain amount of latitude in answers if there is latitude in the questions. Unless people want to have many supplementary questions, answering questions will be useful. Thank you, ministers.

Environment - Commitment to Conservation

Dr WOODRUFF question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.12 a.m.]

A key policy of your election campaign was your plan to go into 40,000 hectares of high-conservation value reserve forests to log and burn them - a climate crime. You then appointed former federal forestry minister, Eric Abetz, as your new resources minister. Minister Abetz is famous, or should we say infamous, for the failed plantation Ponzi managed investment scheme that bankrupted many Tasmanians, and the plantation companies themselves.

Just last week, we understand the forest policy unit and Private Forests Tasmania were moved from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment to the Department of State Growth. With them also transferred is the Forest Practices Authority, the industry's regulator. Your government is planning to log this island's most precious forests and you have moved the notional environmental regulator into the industry expansion tent under the watch of such an ideologue-driven minister.

Madam SPEAKER - Do we have a question?

Dr WOODRUFF - When will you stand up to your anti-science colleagues and end the assault on the environment?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the honourable member for the question. I am not going to engage in personal attacks. Regarding what we saw yesterday, not so much from you, Dr Woodruff, yesterday, but today. I will not be going there.

Madam SPEAKER - Through the Chair.

Dr Woodruff - It is an important question that was based in fact.

Mr ROCKLIFF - This is a new parliament. If there is one thing that -

Madam SPEAKER - To avoid this cross conference, questions are through the Chair and answers are through the Chair. Thank you.

Mr ROCKLIFF - At the last election we committed our forest policy. It was clear. We intend on implementing all our commitments. We were elected 10 years ago to rebuild our forest industry. We tore up a job-destroying agreement between Labor and the Greens that almost halved the production of forest estate and gutted wood supply for industry. We have restructured Forestry Tasmania into Sustainable Timber Tasmania, putting it on a secure financial footing.

Dr Woodruff - We are in a biodiversity and climate crisis.

Mr ROCKLIFF - We stopped the lockups and turned back the tide by converting land previously earmarked for reserves into a wood bank.

Dr Woodruff - It is a shame for our children's future. This is public land. High conservation value forests.

Mr ROCKLIFF - There is nothing secret about this. It is legislated.

Madam SPEAKER - Leader of the Greens, please. I really do want to go through my first week without having to warn anyone.

Mr Abetz - Native forests, high conservation.

Madam SPEAKER - The Leader of the House will also mind that.

Mr ROCKLIFF - The wood bank provides resource security that sawmills need. We have committed to work with the sector to begin the process of unlocking the wood bank, which is legislation that went through both Houses of parliament. This should be no surprise to anyone. We want a sustainable forest industry. We want to grow our plantation resource and base as well, but our sawmills are a very valuable industry in and around rural and regional Tasmania.

Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995 - Review

Ms JOHNSTON question to MINISTER for BUSINESS, INDUSTRY and RESOURCES, Mr ABETZ

[10.15 a.m.]

The last 12 months for Tasmania's world class ocean environment has been nothing short of alarming. Twelve months ago today, IMAS released an interim report showing the Maugean skate numbers had dramatically declined. Tasmania experienced its most severe marine heatwave yet, from which the critically endangered red handfish was temporarily removed to captivity to protect them. The invasive long-spined sea urchin runs rampant on the east coast, turning our iconic giant kelp forest into urchin barrens. Sand flathead numbers were declared depleted, along with several other species. This has recreational fishers feeling extremely worried about whether their kids and grandkids will even be able to catch a feed in the future.

When will the long overdue white paper for the review of the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* be released? When will you get on with the job of updating our archaic marine laws for the first time in 35 years?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the honourable member for the question in relation to the release of the report. I will take that on notice.

The matters that the honourable member has raised are matters of concern for, I suspect, all of us in this Chamber. We need to ensure that we manage our oceans to the very best of our ability to ensure that they are there for job creation and recreation, whilst maintaining a good environment.

In relation to the sea urchin that has been creeping down the east coast of Australia and has hit Tasmanian waters, that is a matter of concern. The government has invested money in that, and we are seeking support from the federal government to assist in doing whatever we can to eradicate that element in our waters that we do not want. It is destroying the kelp forests, which are so important for our abalone and rock lobster sector.

These matters are front and centre of the government's considerations of how we manage our sea fisheries and our aquaculture sector. We are doing what the Tasmanian people would want us to do in these areas. That is to ensure that jobs are protected, recreations protected, whilst also protecting the environment. It is not one of these situations that is either close everything up or let it rip. We are very firmly in the middle where we seek to protect jobs, recreation and the environment. That is why those sectors within the community are so supportive of the Liberal government and the 2030 Strong Plan that we took to the last election.

Supplementary Question

Ms JOHNSTON - Will the minister indicate when he will be returning with an answer to the question on notice, please?

Mr ABETZ - As soon as possible.

Madam SPEAKER - I note that the Leader of the House came in last night and answered all questions that I noted were taken on notice. I appreciate that and hope as much as possible that we can provide answers by the end of the day. To that end I will give the Leader of the House the first call in adjournment each night if that is the new process, unless the Premier jumps.

Budget - Family Violence Services

Mr WINTER question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.19 a.m.]

The budget update yesterday showed that you are on track for the worst budget deficit in Tasmanian history, and this morning you have refused to rule out job cuts. On Monday night, calls to the Family Violence Counselling and Support Service after-hours phone lines were left unanswered because the line was unstaffed due to vacancies. The first 24 hours after somebody decides to leave a violent relationship are the most dangerous. Being able to contact the after-hours service is critical and could be life-saving. Will you guarantee family violence services will be spared from any cuts in the September budget?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the honourable member for the question. We are investing more in those services, and we will continue to do so. I mentioned the National Cabinet discussion the other day. We will not be cutting anything from those services.

Mr Winter - No one was there to answer the phone.

Madam SPEAKER - Thirteen seconds. The Premier has an opportunity to answer. Thank you.

Mr ROCKLIFF - We have made the importance of protecting frontline services clear. We have a strong record of investing in them. The third family violence action plan, if I have that correct, is being implemented now with a significant investment of more than \$50 million - if my memory serves me correctly - over a four-year period.

I take the question seriously. I spoke to the minister for Health this morning about this issue. He has spoken to the acting secretary and indicated that it is his expectation, as it is mine, that this situation does not happen again. We are advised that on Monday evening the Family Violence Counselling and Support Service was experiencing staff shortages due to unplanned leave. A contingency was implemented to ensure those seeking assistance from the extended-hours service could access support. The contingency involved redirecting calls to Tasmania Police or the 1800Respect line for assistance. A total of six calls were received during this time. The minister has spoken with his department. It is my expectation that this situation does not happen again. If unexpected leave occurs, they must set up an automated diversion to ensure calls are answered. It is unfortunate. It is our expectation that this does not happen again. We apologise for any grief that has caused any person.

To the point you raised before, Leader of the Opposition - who, incidentally, I will remind of their savings strategy of \$2 billion cut across the public service -

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order. Both sides will hear the Premier in silence.

Mr ROCKLIFF - We will always have the right-sized public service to ensure the services needed by Tasmanians are delivered. We have a strong record of frontline service investment over the course of the last 10 years, particularly over the course of the last three or four years. Every state of Australia is a Labor state and has budget challenges. You would have seen the Victorian budget more recently.

Hospitals - Market Allowance for Pharmacists

Mr O'BYRNE question to MINISTER for HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH and WELLBEING, Mr BARNETT

[10.23 a.m.]

At the Royal Hobart Hospital alone, there is currently a staggering 30 vacancies for pharmacists. This is jeopardising the health and safety of patients and is exacerbating an already chronic bed block situation by delaying patient discharge. At the health debate held by the Health and Community Services Union during the election, you made a commitment that you would pay the market allowance to pharmacists if you were re-elected. Despite your reappointment as Health minister, you have not followed through with this commitment, and it is making the pharmacist staffing crisis in our hospitals worse by the minute. Why are you stalling on this, creating further angst and devaluing the work of our important pharmacists?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for his question. It is an important question with respect to the delivery of health services. That is why we took unprecedented levels of commitment to our healthcare system to the election. We are building a better health system, delivering record funding and employing more people. Earlier, the Premier indicated the 2500 additional healthcare workers we have put on board in the last 10 years, 1390 of those being nurses, for which we are incredibly grateful. I put that on the record again. You referred to the Royal Hobart Hospital. We have plans of a \$187 million commitment to capital upgrades. We treat it seriously and are totally committed. You made mention of the pharmacy commitment at the Royal Hobart Hospital. I am pleased that the multi-million-dollar commitments there are locked in and progressing well.

You referred to the market allowance for the pharmacists. That was raised during the debate in that election period. I gave that commitment during that election period and that commitment will be met. That market allowance for those pharmacists will be delivered. I followed up on that in a recent meeting with my department secretary to get an update on that. That is my expectation and that is what this government will deliver.

Supplementary Question

Mr O'BYRNE - Could the minister indicate the timing of that payment, please?

Mr BARNETT - As soon as possible.

Youth Justice - Diversion Policy

Ms BADGER question to MINISTER for POLICE, FIRE and EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, Mr ELLIS

[10.26 a.m.]

The government's Youth Justice Blueprint aims for improved therapeutic justice and prioritises diversion away from the youth justice system - a move made obvious by the commission of inquiry. Contradicting this, last year police announced plans for high-visibility policing and increasing the rate of youth offenders being sent to court. You then doubled down during the election campaign, announcing a youth strike force. Your comments at the policy launch referring to broken families were widely and rightfully condemned. As the Commissioner for Children and Young People said, your statements have no place post-commission of inquiry. Populist, tough-on-crime announcements make for good media, but they do not make Tasmanian communities safer.

What is your government's plan? Is it to divert young people away from the justice system or to charge and lock up more kids?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for her question. I welcome her to this place and look forward to her contributions in this place.

Fundamentally, we have a disagreement on views. Ours is a government that is tough on crime. We know that the Greens will always be weak on crime.

Dr Woodruff - Madam Speaker, I object. That is offensive language.

Madam SPEAKER - It is okay, you do not need to, I will deal with it. Let us not invite those kinds of interjections. Please just address the matter before the House.

Mr ELLIS - Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will try to stick to your ruling. We do have a fundamental difference. On this side of the House, we believe we need to be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. We want to deliver safe communities. We want to support young people to get back on the right track. However, the community also has, quite rightly, an expectation that those people who do the wrong thing, including very serious crimes against people, are held accountable.

We made major new investments in terms of police over the course of this government: hundreds of new police officers, a 31 per cent increase since we came to government, after the Labor-Greens government defunded the police. They sacked 108 police officers. Absolutely shameful. No doubt if Labor had found their way to delivering the \$2 billion worth of cuts they promised at the last election, police would be part of that.

We have a strong plan with our Youth Justice Blueprint so that we can divert young people away from the youth justice system. At the same time, we need to be ensuring that people are held accountable, particularly when it comes to violent behaviour. There are people under the age of 18 who have attempted murder in this state, who have committed serious crimes against people. We make no bones about the fact that we invest in police, we protect our communities and also that we look to targeted, effective ways that we can bring young people back on track in life.

Major investments are being made under the stewardship of the minister, Mr Jaensch, and Children and Young People, so that we can help some of these young people turn their lives around, we can intervene with families, there is a stronger support unit, we can bring together community partners and deliver more services for these young people. However, as minister for Police, we continue that approach of investing in police, of backing community safety and ensuring that we can protect the community.

Ambulance Tasmania - Single-Response Shifts

Ms ROSOL question to MINISTER for HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH and WELLBEING, Mr BARNETT

[10.30 a.m.]

Short-staffing in Ambulance Tasmania is causing increased harm to patients and creating an unbearable burden for staff. Last week the Greens heard from yet another long-serving paramedic who is leaving their position due to the shocking conditions. One of their biggest struggles was being forced to frequently work shifts alone. It is a concern many share. Single-response shifts mean paramedics often cannot give patients the care they need at the scene itself or when transporting them. If you are driving the ambulance, you cannot monitor your patient. Whether you are responding to an emergency or transferring a patient to a new

facility, this can be dangerous. We know, as I am sure you do, of cases where harm has already occurred. Single response shifts also add to workload fatigue, and stress. Nobody should have to work under such conditions.

Do you agree that if we ask paramedics to deal with these circumstances, the least we could do is recognise the impact on them? Will you commit to sitting down with the union to figure out fair compensation for paramedics who work shifts alone?

Madam SPEAKER - I remind members asking questions of the one-minute time limit, please. If I am going to hold ministers to account, I will hold the questions to account as well. I call the minister for Health to answer the question.

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for her question, and her special interest in health, as health spokesperson for the Greens. It is a very important question and very important area. That is why, as a government, we take it so seriously. That is why with respect to our ambos, we have their back, we do support them, we do appreciate them. We have employed another 220, in fact, since we have come to government, and now we have made recent commitments to a further 78. Fifty-one of those paramedics are to be all around Tasmania, but a further 21 are community paramedics. This is in addition to what we already now have.

Those community paramedics will be based in our rural and regional hospitals, delivering the health care that is needed in those rural and regional parts of Tasmania, which is important. This is extra care to what we already have. They will be able to treat Tasmanians in their own home. That is a good thing. This is in addition to the Hospital in the Home program, which is working really well - we are expanding that - and caring for Tasmanians in their own home, wherever possible, taking pressure off our EDs, for example.

You have reference to the support for our ambulance officers and paramedics, dispatch officers and the like. I indicate that we agree. They need that support. We support them. You have asked the question about sitting down with the union and discussing these important matters with them. I have done that and I will continue to do that. In fact, I convened a round table just last month with respect to not just that particular union, HACSU, but likewise with the AMA, with the ANMF, and with my department specifically about transfer of care delays. I will be having another round table. It is expected at the end of this month.

It is a heads-up: this is a priority for our Government. We are working in collaboration with those on the frontline, with the unions, with the department and with those healthcare stakeholders. It is really important. I thank you again for the question. I take this very seriously.

In conclusion, I acknowledge the leadership of Ambulance Tasmania, Jordan Emery and his team. We are very fortunate to have such a fine leadership in this space.

Of course there is more work to do. That is why we are investing record funds to deliver better healthcare that Tasmanians deserve.

Supplementary Question

Madam SPEAKER - Are you seeking a supplementary?

Ms ROSOL - Yes.

Madam SPEAKER - The question did appear to be fully answered. Unless it is genuinely from the question I will take it on that basis.

Ms ROSOL - Madam Speaker, it is to follow up on whether the government will figure out fair compensation for paramedics. I do not believe that part of the question was answered.

Madam SPEAKER - I think that is actually a second question from the original one that I listened to, I am afraid.

Dr Woodruff - That was in the question. That was the question.

Madam SPEAKER - Was in the question?

Dr Woodruff - Yes, that was the question, to sit down specifically to talk about compensation.

Madam SPEAKER - I am not sure of that. I will take it as a supplementary then, if you would like to repeat the question for the Chamber. I do want to be careful with supplementary. I do not want to move to additional questions just for the sake of it.

Ms ROSOL - Thank you, Madam Speaker. To follow up on that question, will the government sit down with the unions and figure out fair compensation with the paramedics? Sitting down with them is one thing, but will their compensation be part of those conversations?

Mr BARNETT - Madam Speaker, I am always happy to sit down with the unions, stakeholders and the like to work through these matters. The answer is yes, we are more than happy to have those further discussions. We work through these matters. We take it very seriously. With respect to any matters that are raised with me as minister, I am more than happy to follow up and follow on.

Port of Devonport - Cost of Upgrade

Mr WINTER question to the PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.35 a.m.]

The latest budget update shows your budget is completely out of control. Part of the reason for skyrocketing debt is the massive blowouts you are overseeing on major infrastructure projects. Last night, the Leader of the House returned and denied that the latest estimate for the Devonport port was \$350 million, but he did not say what the estimate actually is. What is the cost of the project, and how much extra will Tasmanian taxpayers have to pay for these vital upgrades because you still have not delivered them?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for his question. I have highlighted already the \$2 billion-worth of savings contained in the Labor Party's costings -

Madam SPEAKER - Stay relevant to the question, Premier.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, it is very relevant to the question, Madam Speaker. I respect any ruling that you may well have in the future. I just wanted to highlight the fact that -

Madam SPEAKER - Perhaps not now. We were going so well, too.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I am not sure which version this was, Dr Broad? First, second, or third?

Madam SPEAKER - You can ask your question through the Speaker, as long as you do not use a prop. You may quote from a document.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, but nonetheless, he did say that what I said before is not true.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Order, everyone. The Premier can be heard now. He may read from his document but not use it as a prop.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. I might come to that document probably a number of times in the future, Madam Speaker, but we will see.

The port infrastructure costs as the member has raised, are not part of the quarterly report, as I understand it, so I am not sure about that. Incidentally, the March quarterly report shows that the government has invested an additional \$207.2 million to fund the staffing required to meet demand in the health services.

I note that some of the savings you are making, or promise to make, are in the health service as a result of reduced demand. I am not sure which health system -

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - You are free to raise a point of order, but interjections on both sides will cease.

Mr ROCKLIFF - will be reduced in demand across the country. Nonetheless, we will work with that while investing in our primary healthcare service.

Mr Willie - Answer the question.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you, Mr Willie. As advised to the House, the TT-Line Board made the decision during caretaker to rescind the preferred tenderer status in relation to Berth 3 due to a significant increase in the lump sum offer for the project. TT-Line re-entered and modified the tender process to resolve its concerns. This is in line with sound commercial

practices and ensures value for money for the Tasmanian people. It is going through a tender process, Dr Broad, and of course, the government was advised of this decision on 22 April 2024.

Mr WINTER - A supplementary question. The Premier has just mentioned the delay in the port and the re-tendering. I am wondering whether that delay in the wharf and the port upgrades would delay the TT-Line's ability to actually berth and operate the new service.

Madam SPEAKER - Sorry, I am going to have to rule that as a further question. In ruling out the supplementary, I remind ministers that I am going to require answers, or they will be sat down if they are not addressed in the question. There is latitude in the latitude of what is given to the questions as well, which I think is where Ms. Rosol's question got a bit further out. If we genuinely want this to work, we are all now going to be held to the same standards.

I will rule that one out. Please feel free to rephrase it for a new question and the Premier, by then, should have an answer.

Robbins Island - Suitability for a Windfarm

Mr GARLAND question to MINISTER for ENERGY AND RENEWABLES, Mr DUIGAN

[10.39 a.m.]

In 1812, tunnerminnerwait was born on Robbins Island. tunnerminnerwait is the Aboriginal word for water bird. He was hung in 1842. Robbins Island was the meeting place of the 12 tribes of the north west. That is where they converged every October on the full moon and conducted their intermarriage and ceremonies.

My question to is: is this is the most unsuitable place to put a windfarm? I would like to hear his response to that, please.

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for his question and welcome him to this place. It is always good to have another fisherman to discuss such matters with.

Mr O'Byrne - That is not going to help.

Mr DUIGAN - No, indeed. In the case of Robbins Island, which I see as a hugely important piece in Tasmania's energy future, I note that there are people who do not share that view. I make that point at the start.

Tasmania, as has been identified, needs more energy generation on the island. We make no apologies or seek to hide that fact. That is agreed across this Chamber. We are very fortunate to have the Hydro, which, for more than a century, has delivered renewable energy to power our industries and our homes, and has made us a jurisdiction that is the envy of not only the nation, but the globe. We are indeed fortunate.

We need to be careful, though, as we progress to new forms of energy, that we do it carefully, with great consideration and with great respect to our natural environment, which is important to all of Tasmania, and to me particularly as the minister for Environment.

That is why we have such a robust process to assess things such as the Robbins Island Wind Farm, which will help deliver prosperity to the future of Tasmania. I point to that very robust process, and the ability for people to air their concerns. I note your particular interest in Aboriginal heritage. That is one of the issues amongst many issues that will be considered as part of that important project for Tasmania. We take those issues seriously. We will look at them, and there is a process to do so. Ultimately, I might not get what I want, you may not get what you want, but there is a very sound process upon which we can rely to deliver an outcome for the state.

As we proceed with Robbins Island, with other renewable energy processes, there is a role for government to make that a more streamlined process. In the weeks to come, I will be looking at instigating Tasmania's first renewable energy zone, which seeks to put renewable energy projects in more appropriate areas, or the most appropriate areas. Later we will be looking at a renewable energies pathway which will again seek to streamline, and make that a better process so that proponents know -

Madam SPEAKER - The minister's time has expired.

Rauma Marine Constructions - Additional Payment

Mr WINTER question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.44 a.m.]

As the latest budget shows, you have lost control of the state's finances. Part of the problem is that you have become reckless with those finances, the most recent example being yesterday when your government admitted to a secret \$80 million gift that you have given to a Finnish shipbuilder. Yesterday, you appeared to suggest that the reason you made that secret \$80 million payment to the shipbuilder, despite being under no obligation to do so, was because the company would otherwise go broke.

Did you make the payment because you had concerns about the solvency of the shipbuilder, who were bailed out by the Finnish government only two years ago? If so, why is bailing them out the responsibility of Tasmanian taxpayers? Is that not that the job of Finnish taxpayers?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for his question. I reject the way it was irresponsibly framed.

I am happy to defer to the minister responsible for these matters. We have answered the questions very openly and honestly. It is a decision for the TT-Line Board. The member, who clearly was not briefed by the then shadow treasurer and Leader of the Opposition when they were provided with a briefing during caretaker with respect to matters concerning TT-Line. With TT-Line leading the charge, we will deliver these two new ships. It will be an exciting

opportunity for the Tasmanian people and our visitor economy, increasing freight capacity by 40 per cent and passenger numbers by 40 per cent, growing our economy and employing many thousands of Tasmanians.

Madam SPEAKER - Premier, resume your seat. I will take a point of order, Dr Broad.

Dr BROAD - Standing order 45, relevance. The solvency of this Finnish shipbuilder is a very important issue. I ask that you draw the minister to the question.

Mr Ferguson - That's a different question.

Madam SPEAKER - Thank you very much, Mr Ferguson, for providing me with advice, but I will take my own now. I will stop the clock for a moment so I do not take any of the Premier's time. The question that I noted - and I am writing down questions as you ask for this reason - whilst there was a preamble around the loss of control of our finances and reckless behaviour, the question was specifically around the solvency issue. I will draw the Premier to the question. Thank you. Restart the clock.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you, Madam Speaker. These matters, as we have explained in the House in full transparency and accountability -

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - I have drawn the Premier to the question. Interjections will cease.

Mr ROCKLIFF - are matters for the TT-Line Board, which makes these decisions, not the government and not individual ministers in this case.

Supplementary Question

Mr WINTER - Madam Speaker, a supplementary?

Madam SPEAKER - As a new question or a supplementary?

Mr WINTER - Supplementary to that in relation to the answer given. If RMC appears to be teetering on the edge of insolvency, what protections are in place to protect Tasmanian taxpayers and TT-Line?

Madam SPEAKER - I will take it as a supplementary given that the Premier did not use all his time.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you, Madam Speaker. As I said before, the board makes prudent decisions in order to be able to deliver what is a huge infrastructure investment opportunity for Tasmania, not only in increasing capacity in terms of freight and passenger numbers. I am sure the shadow treasurer and the then leader of the opposition had a briefing pertaining to TT-Line matters.

Madam SPEAKER - Premier, you have a very short time on a supplementary answer.

Mr Winter - I understand that. Perhaps the Premier could take this on notice. What protections are in place to protect taxpayers and TT-Line in this instance?

Madam SPEAKER - Thank you. The Premier has the question, and he can choose to take it on notice if he wishes, but he is answering the question and has 13 seconds left.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. There is a strong contract in place to ensure that Tasmania's interests are best served. They are challenging circumstances, but we will deliver the ships. TT-Line is in charge of delivering the ships -

Madam SPEAKER - The Premier's time has expired.

Container Refund Scheme - Progress

Mrs BESWICK question to MINISTER for PARKS and ENVIRONMENT, Mr DUGAN

[10.48 a.m.]

The container refund scheme known as Recycle Rewards was enacted in March 2022. The subsequent tenders were opened, assessed and those who have been unsuccessful have been notified. However, the successful tenderer has not been announced. On the NRE website is the following statement:

We acknowledge that the scheme will commence later than previously anticipated, but we cannot specify the time when it will start.

Tasmanian councils and potential collection points are awaiting information as to what the infrastructure and space will be required and what is expected of them. When will the tenders be announced, when will these details be confirmed and when will this game be up and running?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for the very important question and one I know that she has personally had a great deal of involvement with. It is relatively new to me in this space. The short answer to your question is imminently. We will be releasing details of our exciting container refund scheme imminently.

Containers are a really important issue in terms of litter. The public amenity on our streets and our roads around the state and getting our circular economy going in that space is important to the government. The government has progressed this legislation. The previous minister for the environment, Mr Jaensch, has had carriage of this important initiative through the last period of time. It has been, as I understand it, quite a challenging negotiation to land on our container refund scheme and to have Tasmania, with its scale, land on what we would see to be appropriate contracts for that.

When the scheme starts people will receive a 10-cent refund for returning eligible drink containers to a designated refund point around the state, which will significantly reduce litter and increase our recycling rates. That competitive procurement process is still underway but is

getting very close to completion. At that point we will be able to appoint the scheme coordinator who will run the administration and finance. There is then a second part to that, which is the network operator, and they will run the collection points which will be located around the state. Our hope is that there will be a lot of them. That is what we want and why we have chosen this particular delivery model because it incentivises more collection, which I think is the key that we want for meeting those twin objectives of reducing litter and increasing our recycling rates.

NRE Tasmania is running this process supported by experts. Obviously, these are pretty complex legal arrangements. The beverage companies typically run the scheme coordination role. They are large companies with a fair bit of wherewithal when it comes to progressing their position. We have needed to act very carefully and diligently in terms of protecting the outcome for the Tasmanian people, but as I say, we are very close to seeing that roll out.

Madam SPEAKER - The minister's time has expired.

Firearms - Antique Firearm Legislation

Ms BADGER question to MINISTER for POLICE, FIRE and EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, Mr ELLIS

[10.15 a.m.]

During the election, your government announced that they will be winding back antique firearm laws, overriding police advice on public safety. The police commissioner was crystal clear that technological advancement means that previously obsolete ammunition for antique firearms is now available. Police were crystal clear that a firearm can be used to intimidate or threaten, regardless of whether it can be fired. That is why replica firearms are not legal. Police are simply requiring firearm owners to get a licence and go through the fit and proper persons test, just like any other firearm owner. Can you justify to the community why you will be moving to allow people to own antique firearms that, to be clear, can be fired without any licence or background check?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I thank the member for her question. Perhaps a bit of background would be helpful on this. Police received legal advice that the exemption that was issued by a former commissioner regarding antique firearms was not legally valid. That then required the police commissioner to take action to establish a process of registration under the act. We committed to subsequently legislate in this space to clarify this area under Tasmania's firearm laws.

It is important that this parliament decides how antique firearms are stored, collected and registered. We will be bringing legislation back into this parliament to finalise that work because the act is currently broadly silent on the treatment of antique firearms pre-1900.

Dr Woodruff - No it is not. That is not true.

Mr ELLIS - It is true, Dr Woodruff.

Madam SPEAKER - We can avoid the conversations across the Chamber. The minister will come to the question, please.

Mr ELLIS - Our government is committed to legislating in this space. We recognise that antique firearms are important historical artefacts and family heirlooms. It is important that we are protecting responsible firearms owners in terms of the ownership of those heirlooms.

Firearms capable of being deadly weapons are a separate matter and we will be working through the legislation in this space. When it comes to firearms, we need to weigh up twin priorities: community safety and supporting responsible firearms owners. We think our proposal will get the balance right.

Supplementary Question

Ms BADGER - Will the minister be taking advice from police on this matter?

Mr ELLIS - Of course.

TT-Line - Solvency of Shipbuilder

Mr WINTER question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.56 a.m.]

Does your government or TT-Line hold any concerns around the solvency of Finnish shipbuilder RMC, which is contracted to deliver *Spirits IV* and *V*? Further to that, was your \$80 million payment, in fact, a secret bailout?

Mr Abetz - Silliness personified.

Madam SPEAKER - I am sure the Premier can say that in his answer, Mr Abetz.

Dr Broad - Is that all you have got?

Madam SPEAKER - Dr Broad, thank you, too. The Premier has not even risen to his feet.

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, again, I reject the characterisation of the question. False, as the minister responsible has said. We will go back a couple of steps. To ensure the delivery of the two new vessels, the TT-Line board made the decision to approve a further increase in the contract price for the two vessels by €50 million. As we stated yesterday, the board considered this the only viable option, as the alternative was to potentially go back to market for a new ship build. This would have cost -

Mr Winter - Why? Because they were going to be insolvent?

Dr Broad - They were going under?

Mr Abetz - Listen, you will learn.

Madam SPEAKER - I think the whole House can actually listen. The Premier is pausing majestically for us there. If everyone could be very quiet, we will have the answer from the Premier.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you, Madam Speaker. This would have cost more than we are now paying and resulted in a significant additional delay. The board also made its decision on the basis that the Finnish government had agreed to underwrite the future financial viability of RMC over and above the TT-Line contribution of €50 million.

Members interjecting.

Dr Broad - The Finns had to bail them out as well. A joint bail-out?

Madam SPEAKER - Unless everybody wants to bail out of the room, we will listen to the Premier in silence.

Mr ROCKLIFF - This did not require a caretaker decision as the project was already previously approved by government, as we stated yesterday. The decision to pay the variation was commercially based. These are the facts of the matter. Notwithstanding that, this is a hugely exciting opportunity for Tasmania. I know those opposite like to be negative and mischaracterise the circumstances, but Tasmanians see through the Labor opposition, as they saw through them at the last election.

Madam SPEAKER - I am sorry, member for Clark, I will not take you for the moment. The opposition has another question before we have done the entitlement. That means you get the extra question if there is time at the end, which I imagine we will not have. That is just to explain why I have not taken your call. JLN also has a question left. That does not open up other spots at this point.

TT-Line - Notification of Problems with Shipbuilder

Mr WINTER question to TREASURER, Mr FERGUSON

[10.59 a.m.]

Section 13 of the *Government Business Enterprises Act* states that a board must notify the treasurer or portfolio minister of any development that could significantly affect a business. It further states that this notification must be immediately after the board becomes aware of an adverse development. Did the TT-Line board provide notifications to you in relation to both the additional delays with the new *Spirits* and the \$80 million additional payment, or bailout, to the Finnish shipbuilder? If so, on what date were those notifications made?

ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I will do my best to answer the two parts to the question. The first is in relation to delays and the second is in relation to the extra payments. I will take the question on notice for the benefit of making sure I provide the House with the detail sought.

Madam SPEAKER - Can I confirm if that is the whole question on notice?

Mr FERGUSON - I still wish to provide some commentary now, Madam Speaker.

First of all, I was notified in relation to the new shipbuilding contract variation by the TT-Line board by letter dated 5 April. I note that was not a decision made by me as shareholder minister, both as portfolio minister and Treasurer, during and in the leadup to the election campaign and caretaker mode. That is the date of me receiving the official notification. I was certainly aware of the concerns and the matters that the board, quite properly, had to work through. It was the subject of a caretaker convention briefing provided to me by the Treasury, which was also provided to the then leader of the opposition and the shadow treasurer. It appears that the current Leader of the Opposition has come into this place entirely unaware of that.

In relation to delays, the board itself -

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - Can I hear the Treasurer in peace, please?

Mr FERGUSON - In relation to the timing of the handover of the new vessel - in fact, I do not need to take this on notice at all because it was part of the statement made by the company yesterday, which said:

As noted in the parliament, TT-Line Company Pty Ltd briefed Treasury, the Liberal and Labor Party during caretaker mode that Rauma Marine Constructions (RMC), the shipyard building the two new vessels, were experiencing severe difficulties in completing the two vessels for TT-Line due to several factors, including material price increases, material availability and labour shortages.

At the time, Treasury advised TT-Line that any decision to pay additional funds for the vessels was a commercial matter for the board under the existing contractual arrangements.

In relation to the date, I skip a paragraph and read from the statement again:

RMC is working diligently towards delivery of the vessels within the contract signed with TT-Line. If the *Spirit of Tasmania IV* vessel fully complies with the contract, TT-Line will assume ownership of the vessel in the third quarter of the year. There are important clauses in the contract regarding the performance of the vessels during sea trials that need to be met before TT-Line will accept delivery of the vessels. This information was provided to the Tasmanian government after the new Cabinet was sworn in.

I have fully dealt with those matters. The Leader of the Opposition has egg all over his face because the previous leader and the previous shadow treasurer have not been speaking to him.

Madam SPEAKER - We have an entitlement question under the standing orders for anyone from the JLN, if you have a question to ask now on that basis. Do we still have time for another question, Clerk? No. In that case, time for question time has expired. We move now to the constituency questions. As advised yesterday, the rotation is two government, two opposition, one Greens, one JLN, and two for any other member, but I will prioritise an independent member under those rules.

CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

Royal Hobart Hospital - Installation of Handrails in Lifts

Mr BEHRAKIS question to MINISTER for HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH and WELLBEING, Mr BARNETT

[11.04 a.m.]

One of my constituents, 83-year-old Bert from Moonah, has raised with me his concerns that lifts in the Royal Hobart Hospital do not have any handrails, which causes some difficulty for the elderly and those with disability who attend the hospital. Would the Royal Hobart Hospital consider ensuring handrails are installed in the lifts?

Recreational Fishing - Great Lake Trout Fishing Weekend

Mr WOOD question to MINISTER for BUSINESS, INDUSTRY and RESOURCES, Mr ABETZ

Many Tasmanians and I enjoy the annual trout-fishing weekend up at the Great Lake. With much regret it was cancelled this year. Can we look forward to one next year?

Dorset Council - Board of Inquiry Report

Ms FINLAY question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

Greg from Dorset would like to know why the board of inquiry report into the Dorset Council has not been released, despite the government having it for the last fortnight and previously promising to release it in the next seven days?

Madam SPEAKER - I am sure that Greg from Dorset is watching with great interest right now. Also, his anonymity is protected in the House. Is there a second constituency question?

Caravan Park Legislation

Ms FINLAY question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

Some of my constituents in Beauty Point are extremely concerned by the legislative uncertainty around the arrangements for operators and residents in caravan parks across

Tasmania. Will you commit to introducing legislation as a matter of urgency to clarify the relationship between park owners and long-term residents, especially those who own their dwellings, local councils and state government, especially in relation to planning matters?

Salamanca Arts Centre - 2021 Lift Maintenance Report

Mr BAYLEY question to MINISTER for PARKS and ENVIRONMENT, Mr DUIGAN

My question comes from disability advocate Kate Kelly. The 2021 maintenance report into the Salamanca Arts Centre lift was tabled last night and it raises significant questions. Three years ago, the report outlined the need for urgent repairs to make the lift safe for use and to avoid eventual failure, given the evidence of ongoing water ingress. As the lift remained operational for public use for almost three years, the report was done in early 2021 and the lift failed in November 2023, were any of the safety repairs outlined in the report as vital to make it fit for use completed? If so, what repairs were carried out, when were they completed and how much did they cost? If not, why not?

Patient Transfer Assistance Scheme

Mrs BESWICK question to MINISTER for HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH and WELLBEING, Mr BARNETT

A Flinders Island constituent recently travelled to Melbourne to seek medical treatment under the Patient Transfer Assistance Scheme. They successfully received their medical treatment but extended their stay, delaying their return travel. As a result of the small delay in return travel, the constituent was ineligible for a full reimbursement under the scheme. The PTAS information on the website does not clearly advertise that a delay will negate reimbursement and the application for reimbursement process commences after travel. Considering the principle of equity underpinning the scheme, how is this fair to families who are relying on this funding to make medical treatment affordable?

Paediatric Endocrinologist Appointment Availability

Ms JOHNSTON question to MINISTER for HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH and WELLBEING, Mr BARNETT

Fiona is a constituent of Clark, and her 7-year-old daughter Emily lives with ketoacidosis, a condition that is accompanied by rapid onset of symptoms that can lead to severe ill health or death. Ketoacidosis is associated with diabetes, but for a definite diagnosis Emily needs to see a paediatric endocrinologist, who is only available in Tasmania through the public health system. Despite Emily's paediatrician strongly advocating for Emily to see a paediatric endocrinologist, all requests for an appointment have been refused. Emily's condition means she misses a lot of school and is constantly lethargic and drowsy, which I am sure you agree is not much fun for a 7-year-old. Fiona would like to know why Emily is unable to obtain an appointment with a paediatric endocrinologist.

Franklin Liberal Party Chair Appointment

Ms BROWN question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

My constituent, Peter, is a former Liberal who lives on the eastern shore. He says the Liberal Party president informed him that, 'They could not find anyone stupid enough to take on the role as Franklin chair given the depth of feeling in the Liberal members'.

Members interjecting.

Madam SPEAKER - I will hear the question and then decide if it is in order.

Ms BROWN - They also said, 'Dean Young was pressured to take on the position as part of getting a government job'. Was Mr Young pressured to take on the role of Franklin chair as a condition of his employment with Mr Barnett?

Madam SPEAKER - I appreciate the intent of the question. I am sure we have all enjoyed it, but I will rule it out of order. Questions to ministers are to do with their portfolio areas. Unless the operations in that circumstance impact on the Liberal Party's ability to govern, that might make it a relevant question. At this stage, I would probably rule it out of order.

Mr Winter - Maybe Mr Abetz could answer the question. He would have a different view.

Mr Abetz - Ruled out on the first attempt.

Madam SPEAKER - No, I will not take that. Constituency Questions are new. They are being tested. That was an appropriate process to ask for, Ms Brown. However, it strayed a little bit further than Standing Order 2, which allows how questions are conducted. Reframing may have brought it into order, but we will rule that one out and a written answer is not requested in its current form.

SENTENCING AMENDMENT (ALCOHOL TREATMENT ORDER) BILL 2024 (No. 7)

First Reading

Bill presented by Mr Barnett and read the first time.

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Moving MPI before Inaugural Speech

Madam SPEAKER - As members are aware, by tradition, there are restrictions upon new members contributing to debate prior to having made their inaugural speech. That usually means that a member can contribute to an MPI debate, as Mr Garland did yesterday, but they are not able to move their own MPI. In accordance with the rotation for the allocation of the MPI agreed by the House, it is the turn of the Jacquie Lambie Network to move the MPI today.

I do not wish to have another long debate about Standing Orders being needed to be amended today, so I am using my discretion. To not disadvantage members and have that debate again and comply with the rotation that has been agreed by the House, I am content to allow this to occur and will not treat this as the member's inaugural speech.

MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Wielangta Road

[11.14 a.m.]

Mr JENNER (Lyons) - Madam Speaker, I move -

That the House take note of the following matter: Wielangta Road.

Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to speak without spoiling my inaugural speech.

I have been asked to raise this matter by constituents on the east coast following the announcement by the government in December that it would not proceed with plans to seal the full length of the Wielangta Road between Copping and Orford. The reason put forward by the government was that an investigation had revealed it would not represent value for money for the Tasmanian people. I have to say that the financial reasoning does not seem to add up when you consider \$120 million east coast tourism industry, which remains highly vulnerable to the highway closure at Paradise Gorge, plus the cost to residents in time and money with an extra hour and a half on their travel each day.

No-one on the east coast has forgotten the disastrous six-week closure of the highway in 2021 to enable them to remove fallen rocks. Major disruption was caused to local residents, schools, businesses and of course emergency services, where some residents had to be helicoptered out for further medical treatment. Thank God there was not a major fire incident. The Tasmanian tourist business was also severely affected.

The real issue we have here is that it is not a case of if, but when it will happen again. There was also a second partial road closure at Paradise Gorge in the following year of 2022.

The east coast community was reassured by the allocation of \$1 million in the 2022-23 budget to investigate the sealing of the Wielangta Road and further encouraged by the comments of the minister for Infrastructure during the debate last year about the state budget.

The government's response, in paraphrase, was that it was committed to carry out a feasibility study for the second sealed access to the Tasman Highway by upgrading the Wielangta Road. We would like to see it sealed for its full length between Orford and Copping. We are particularly attracted to the vision from the point of view of tourism and providing a further route for vehicles travelling from the Tasmanian peninsula.

However, in December, the minister released the Wielangta Road options analysis summary and said that the government had rejected the proposal to seal the full length of the road because of costs. Instead, the minister said it would prepare to consider a cheaper option and that the Liberal Party was committed in the election campaign to provide a \$6 million

contribution as long as the federal government put in 80 per cent of the money and costs. We now know that Wielangta Road was missing in action from the Australian federal government's announcement and its budget initiative this week.

Once again east coast residents and the tourism industry, in particular, are feeling shortchanged. The outcome is very disappointing.

Recognition of Visitors

Madam SPEAKER - As I call the Treasurer, I will briefly welcome, before they run away, the students from Scotch Oakburn College. I know that the Treasurer and Deputy Premier are very happy to have them here, as are all members, I hope you enjoy the proceedings. Thank you, Treasurer, I give you the call.

Members - Hear, hear.

[11.18 a.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Minister for Infrastructure) - Madam Speaker, before I begin speaking on the matter of public importance, I appreciate that you have welcomed students from our shared electorate of Bass from Scotch. It is great to have them here. I hope they are enjoying their visit to the Parliament House, which is a House for all Tasmanians.

I also express gratitude to my new parliamentary colleague, Mr Jenner, for bringing forward this matter of public importance. This has been a very disruptive journey, particularly for the communities that Mr Jenner has referred to in the honourable member's opening address, because the closure of the Tasman Highway through Paradise Gorge in 2021 was a major disruption not just to the local community but to people wondering about our resilience going forward. Here is a quick recap of history. It was the then-mayor himself, the previous mayor of the Council of Glamorgan-Spring Bay, who, as a frequent user of the road, identified and asked the question about some particular rocks through Paradise Gorge.

On receipt of his question and noting his concern for safety, my office and the department ordered an investigation into that. Those particular rocks were quite sound, but the wider investigation identified other rocks that showed a safety risk. There was a risk of rockfall that could happen in one month or in 10 years. It was uncertain, but nonetheless not stable.

The decision to close Paradise Gorge was fairly immediate and fairly disruptive. We are all aware of the difficulty then of traffic from that east coast and south-east coast community to travel to its capital city by one of two paths: going the long way through Lake Leak Road, the sealed road, back to the Midland Highway; or using the unsealed Wielangta Road, often known as W Road. It is unsealed and not owned by the government. It has four owners.

I commend my team in State Growth, who - within 48 hours with the support of the local council - got that road into adequate condition with gravel, sheeting and grading. They got it ready in the hours that we had, and they did a great job.

Since then, we have been focused on how we can make that network truly resilient. While the Tasmanian government has no management responsibilities for the road, we deployed

workers there and got it going and committed then to the feasibility study for a sealed access to the Tasman Highway by upgrading Wielangta Road.

Unfortunately, as some people may have expected, the true cost of sealing that entire length of some 33 kilometres was identified, as Mr Jenner has said, as \$90 million. It does not pass the feasibility test question that ordinarily should apply and does apply. We look to allocate precious public funds in the way that will provide the best benefit to the community. However, we have made commitments here. That is why in the last election, honouring my previous statements, I indicated that the Tasmanian government would allocate \$6 million on the usual 80/20 share, which I will come to if there is time, toward a \$32 million, smaller scope project to upgrade the most important, critical middle sections of Wielangta Road. This is where it is most wet, most covered by canopy and needs the most work in terms of bridge replacements. That is a \$32 million estimated project cost.

I received positive noises from the local federal Labor member, Mr Mitchell, who in good faith said he will back it as much as he can. I am not blaming Mr Mitchell, but it was not in the federal budget this week. I would have liked that it was included. I dare to believe that we will get it in through the MYEFO (Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook), noting that there is a federal election on the way, or at worst, an election commitment when the election is due by next May. I do not want it to be subject to those kind of time frames.

We will be budgeting our funds in the budget to at least provide the opportunity for the state government to hold up its end of the deal. These are roads that we are not responsible for, but we would be prepared to grant those funds on condition and subject to the Australian government meeting its proper share. We are going to keep working on this. I am grateful for the attention that the House has been able to give it here today. I want to see this going forward. I also thank the state Opposition, who I am advised in the lead up to the recent 2024 election copied our policy, if not word for word, then basically the same, which shows some bipartisan support for this initiative.

Time expired.

[11.23 a.m.]

Mr BAYLEY (Clark) - Madam Speaker, thank you to the member for bringing this on as your inaugural MPI. It is a great topic, and from a Greens' perspective, we are keen to talk about Wielangta. The road is an important part of Wielangta; it is that link between the east coast and the Tasman Peninsula. More so, it is an ingress into an incredible corner of Tasmania and an incredible corner of Tasmania's forests. There is immense potential there and certainly the road needs to create and deliver the ability to access that safely.

There is the Sandspit River Conservation Area, the Cape Bernier Nature Reserve, the Three Thumbs State Reserve and the Wielangta Conservation Area. For decades these were disjointed, quite beautiful, quite well visited reserves. They were on adjacent private land and there was a conservation covenanted area as well. Through the Tasmanian Forest Agreement, an entire range of state forest areas that linked these forests were put into reserves. They are now part of the reserve network. They are future potential production forests, and they may well be part of the 40,000 hectares that the Liberal government wants to open up and log again.

Why were they put into reserves? It is really simple. There are incredible trees there, incredible tall stands of blue gums. 'Wielangta' is the palawa kani name for 'tall trees'. There is

incredible remnant rainforest in the Wielangta area - glacial refugia, myrtle, sassafras, and others in the wet valleys that have never burnt. There are some incredible species: the wedge-tailed eagle, the Wielangta stag beetles, and the swift parrot. There are immense amounts of carbon stored in that forest as well.

The importance of those species and the threat that they are under from logging was completely exposed in 2007 when then-senator Bob Brown challenged the federal government and challenged the Regional Forest Agreement and its explicit exemption for logging from federal environment laws. I note of interest that Eric Abetz was the federal minister for logging at the time, and senator Bob Brown famously won that case. He proved that just because the Regional Forest Agreement said that species would be protected, those species were not necessarily protected. What was senator Eric Abetz's response to this? It was not to actually change the logging to fit the law. Together with Paul Lennon, the then premier, I believe, Minister Abetz and John Howard changed the law. They amended the Regional Forest Agreement to fit the logging. That is shameful indeed.

That is the history of this area. There is now a 10,000-hectare block of forest that is part of the Tasmanian Reserve Estate. We have yet to see whether these are some of the forests the Liberal government wants to give back to an industry that does not even want it.

This is a potential new national park. A Wielangta national park has long been proposed for the east coast. There are already tours that are running through this area. There are proposals for mountain bike tracks in this area. There is a tramway, and there are walks from the Sandspit River down to the old sawmill sites. It is an incredible spot that offers a massive amount of potential. It has incredible views across to Maria Island and it is on that important tourist link between the east coast and the Tasman Peninsula.

The reason we are in this argument, as the Deputy Premier said, is that there are a number of owners and there have always been a number of owners, including forestry companies. I think Forestry Tasmania and Gunns used to share aspects of it and would regularly fight about who was responsible for its upkeep. That is why, particularly when those forests were not being logged, they would fight about who would maintain it and the road fell into a state of disrepair.

It is an important road link. We Greens support ensuring that it is safe, stable and allows access not only from the east coast to the Tasman Peninsula and vice versa, but also access to those incredible tourism opportunities there. What we need to do when it comes to tourism is make sure that people have more opportunities to do day activities in our great forests so that they will stay regionally at an Airbnb, they will eat at the cafe and drink at the pub. That is one of the opportunities. We are not convinced that the \$90 million spend is value for public money but we are certainly supportive of more work being done so that this is a safe and accessible road.

Time expired.

[11.29 a.m.]

Ms DOW (Braddon - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) - Madam Deputy Speaker, I welcome the students from Scotch Oakburn and welcome Mr Kerry Vincent, the newly elected member of the upper House.

Unlike the Greens, I am going to stick to the topic at hand and talk about my experiences and thank Mr Jenner for bringing on this matter of public importance. I remember quite vividly the events that happened across that community when the road was closed. It was very sudden. This Government's response to the concerns of the community was not quick enough. There was continued advocacy from that community over a period of many weeks around very serious concerns they had, not only about the economic impact of that and what that meant for people accessing essential services.

At the time I was acting leader of our party and I met with a number of people from that community, from small business owners to the local pharmacist, who were concerned about people's ability to get their medication and access to medical services. There was significant uncertainty for that community. Reflecting on it, the government did not handle that situation very well.

It reminds me of a similar situation on the north-west coast when we had issues with the Cam River Bridge. Mind you, we still really do not know what caused the Cam River Bridge to be partially closed; the government still has not been forthcoming around that. They have undertaken a feasibility study and a commitment to look at building a second crossing.

Not unlike this situation, whenever the government is called upon to do something, they look at doing a feasibility study. You can see that with a number of infrastructure projects across the state. My colleagues and the Labor members for Lyons have worked very closely with the community over the years on this issue. We, too, reviewed that report that was done, I think, by KPMG. At the last election we made a similar commitment to that of the government.

I ask the government to uphold that commitment, regardless of whether there is federal funding secured for this project. Work needs to be done regarding the ongoing maintenance of this road: restoring bridges and making sure it is a safe thoroughfare for people to use in the event there is another emergency in that community. If there are issues for a number of additional landowners on that stretch of road, then the government should be working constructively with them and the local council regarding roles and responsibilities for improving the maintenance and access of this critical infrastructure for the people of the east coast.

I want to bring you back to that time and there was, after lots of advocacy from the local community, financial support provided to businesses. There was financial support provided around petrol. It took some time but those things did occur. Similarly on the north west coast, when there was the partial closure of the Cam River Bridge, many members of the community, small business owners, people who had their ability to get to school, to get to the major hospital significantly disrupted, there was no compensation provided by this government to those members of the community and there should have been.

Young's Vegie Shed on the Bass Highway had their business severely disrupted and this government did nothing to support them. It was not their fault that there was disruption to their small business. It was entirely at the foot of the government. The government should have been working closely with those small business owners to understand exactly what their needs were at the time. That is what eventually happened with the issues around Wielangta Road and the closure of the Tasman Highway, but it did not happen under the severe disruption that we saw to the Bass Highway on the north west coast.

At a time when he has time to do so, I call on the Minister for Infrastructure to provide an update to the House on the feasibility study that has been done regarding a second Cam River crossing to give certainty to the north-west community that this is a priority project for your government and that in the instance that there is a severe disruption again, that the economy and the community of the north-west coast stays connected.

It is critical that this government provides certainty around this very important piece of infrastructure for our region.

I thank Mr Jenner for bringing forward this matter of public importance today. I have talked about a couple of different issues, but the principle remains. It is about the government planning for the future, doing audits around the safety and structure of roads and bridges. across the state and making sure -

Time expired.

[11.32 a.m.]

Ms WHITE (Lyons) - Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise for two reasons. One, because the topic we are discussing is in my electorate of Lyons, so I am obviously quite interested to speak on this issue. I am also doing it as a bit of a filibuster, Madam Deputy Speaker, but do not tell anybody. We have a member giving an inaugural speech very shortly and we are hoping to buy a little bit more time until all the family members arrive. Therefore, I am going to have a little chat about Wielangta Road and how nice it is.

I remember when the rockfall happened at Orford. It was very disruptive in the middle of winter. It was very hard for everybody who lived on the east coast to cope with travelling to and from the city, if they had work or education, or if they were running a business on the east coast. Getting basic supplies through was very challenging.

Traffic was diverted through Campbell Town and Lake Leake. Wielangta Road was opened up to enable access for vehicles that could go that way to create a shortcut for people who were otherwise stuck on the east coast.

That was in 2021, if my memory is correct. I can remember going along Wielangta Road and it was raining and had rained a lot. The rockfall had been a consequence of quite a lot of wet weather. I was driving on Wielangta Road. I had a four-wheel drive ute, so thankfully I was in a vehicle that was suitable, but I was also very, very pregnant at the time. I can remember thinking, is this the wisest decision I have ever made? I was probably a week or two off giving birth, driving along a very wet and slippery Wielangta Road where there is no phone reception. For those of us who have the honour to represent the electorate of Lyons, we know that is a pretty common feature of our electorate and something I would love to see improved. I was driving along a very slippery and muddy Wielangta Road very slowly because there are some pinch points on that road where the gradient is incredibly steep compared to other regular roads.

I am sure this is also a consideration for whether it is appropriate to seal because there needs to be significant modifications made to that road in order for it to be at a standard regarded as acceptable and safe. Anyway, made it through to the other end and came out at Orford. I caught up with a couple of people - probably some of the same people Mr Jenner has heard from, his constituents on the East Coast, who are advocating, lobbying and working very hard to see Wielangta Road sealed. I met with them and then had to make my way back along

that road. Made it to the end, reached home safely, and the baby did not arrive at a time it was not expected.

Mr Ferguson and I have had some further discussions across the Estimates table about progress on the report commissioned by the government to look at sealing Wielangta Road. That report took an extremely long time to finally be delivered to the minister. The report the minister released late last year, early this year - it all kind of melds into one - provided advice to the government that there were options available to them. These ranged from repairing a couple of bridges in certain sections of the road right through to sealing and what the costs associated with that might be. What that ended up meaning is that the government took the advice to repair a couple of the bridges and certain sections of the road.

The land tenure of that section of road is complicated. It is privately owned in parts. It is owned by different councils in parts. There are sections where I think there are still disputes about who the responsible land manager is. That, of course, adds complication. The government has powers to acquire land if it wished to do so, if it wanted to change the alignment of the road, if it sought to seal the road, to bring it up to an appropriate standard. All of that has to be weighed against what the benefit is to the community and the cost to the budget.

As the Opposition Leader has outlined in this place already today, the budget is under significant pressure and there are competing priorities for government to weigh up every single day. The question for the government, the minister and us in parliament is whether sealing a road is a higher priority than putting that capital funding into a different project like repairing a school or upgrading a hospital. That is ultimately the test of whether it would be a good investment. I have a lot of sympathy for the people of the east coast -

Time expired.

[11.37 a.m.]

Ms HOWLETT (Lyons - Minister for Primary Industries and Resources) - Madam Deputy Speaker, I welcome to the Chamber Mrs Willie. Welcome Jenny. The member for Prosser, Mr Kerry Vincent, has departed.

During the works to manage the risk of rockfall on the Tasman Highway at Paradise Gorge, the section between Orford and Buckland was closed to traffic. This was an incredibly trying time for people in my electorate. The community was encouraged to take the alternative route via the Lake Leake and Midland Highway to access Orford and the East Coast to and from Hobart. The detour added up to four hours to the travelling time, while Wielangta Road could be used as a shorter alternative. However, due to its gravel road nature, it was not suitable for large volumes of traffic. The community expressed concern that there was no shorter sealed alternative route and requested the sealing of Wielangta Road to provide a shorter alternative route. The Tasmanian Liberal government listened to the community concerns and acted, as the minister has explained.

The total length of the road requiring sealing is approximately 33 km. This is a significant distance, not just to build but to maintain in the future. The maintenance is a liability, which the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council has made clear it has no interest in taking on. There is a further combined total of approximately 4.7 km of existing sealed surface along Kellevie Road and Bream Creek Road. This may require some rehabilitation or minor road widening to improve road safety.

The corridor has four road owners, including Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, Sorell Council, Forico and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. I am advised that the Department of State Growth has been engaging with these road owners since 2022 and will continue to engage with them during the project.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Liberal Party took its plan to invest \$6 million on this project to the March 2024 election, focusing on the most important section of Wielangta Road. Remarkably, a week later, this \$6 million investment was repeated by Labor as a one-line dot point in its so-called infrastructure policy, three days before Tasmanians went to the polls. Given the lack of detail, we can only assume that the \$6 million the opposition pledged was for the exact same section the Liberal Party committed to. I cannot check for myself because all of Labor's election policies have been 'disappeared' by the new regime. I hope Ms White and Ms Butler will lobby their federal colleague, Brian Mitchell, and continue to lobby him, to fund the 6 km of Wielangta Road, beginning with the section identified by the Tasmanian Liberal government feasibility study. I thank Mr Jenner for bringing this important motion to the House today.

[11.43 a.m.]

Ms BADGER (Lyons) - Madam Deputy Speaker, I thank my fellow member for Lyons, Mr Jenner, for raising this important matter. Much like my other fellow member for Lyons, Ms White, I spend an awful lot of time on the east coast. I have run a tourism business there. I have lived there for many years. I have seen not only the impact of Wielangta Road, but similar single entry and exit roads across Lyons. This is just one example of a far broader issue we are seeing for regional and rural communities. It is time to have a big discussion about reassessing the safety and fit-for-purpose nature of our roads and various infrastructure, particularly when it comes to the safety of getting communities out and signage for tourists.

A great example of this was the bushfires at Coles Bay in September last year, when the road was blocked by a fallen burnt tree. Had the fire moved further south, getting people out of the town was going to prove incredibly difficult. There was no set plan in place. The tourists did not know what to do. The community came to their rescue, setting up the town hall as an emergency shelter. However, it should not have come to that or fallen on stressed community members to pick up the pieces. There should have been a plan in place and an alternative to the single entry-exit road when it was blocked. The Cam River Bridge is another fantastic example of isolating different communities.

We need to assess the liabilities of our infrastructure and ensure that they are going to be fit-for-purpose as we see climate change exacerbating natural events such as floods. We are going to see more landslips with more rock falls on various roads.

The other thing we can do with roads such as Wielangta is to look at future tourism investment in the area. The proposed Wielangta National Park is an example of that. We also have a similar situation in the Styx Valley with the Styx tourism road. We have world heritage-valued tall trees at the end of that road and it is very difficult for people to access parts of that. We need to be looking at roads that can have complementary benefits - safety, tourism and economic value - and invest in them appropriately. That may be with more signage, sealing them or simply improving their quality so that they can be accessed by far more people.

The Styx is another example in terms of getting people around safely. It offers an alternative exit for regional towns such as Maydena and Westerway, if there were to be a bushfire that were to cut off the main highway there.

Thank you again to Mr Jenner for raising this as one example of the much broader conversation we need to have about our single entry-exit roads and infrastructure.

Matter noted.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Continued from 15 May 2024 (page 108).

Madam SPEAKER - Before I call the member for Clark, Mr Willie, I remind the members that whilst it is his second first speech, it is the member's first speech and inaugural speech in this House. I ask that the House extend the usual courtesies to the member.

I call the honourable member for Clark, Mr Willie.

[11.47 a.m.]

Mr WILLIE (Clark) (Inaugural) - Madam Speaker, in recognition of the deep history and culture of this island, I would like to acknowledge the muwinina people, the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we meet today, nipaluna/Hobart in lutruwita Tasmania. I acknowledge and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. I pay my respects to any members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community here today.

I acknowledge the continued connection of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people to this land for well over 40,000 years. I acknowledge this land was never ceded and that the Tasmanian Aboriginal people survived invasion and dispossession and they continue to maintain their identity and culture.

It is with great pride I rise to deliver my inaugural speech in this place. Inaugural can mean new beginning, and for me, at this moment it is a new beginning in the House of Assembly. Others might say I am moving out of the frying pan and into the fire. As I embark on this new journey, it is important to acknowledge my time in the other place where I have learnt so much, as well as building an understanding of different perspectives.

If my former colleagues from the other place are listening, it was not you, it was me who changed in the end, but I cherished the time we spent together. I now have the rare opportunity to deliver one of these speeches in each House of the Tasmanian parliament. The privilege to serve in both Houses is not lost on me and it is a responsibility I take very seriously. I would like to thank the people of Elwick for allowing me to represent them for eight years. I am still a part of that community, and I will always work for them.

I now thank the people of Clark for trusting me to represent them too. In my first speech I made a commitment to work at all times with determination, compassion and commitment. Today, I not only make that commitment as the member for Clark, but to the whole island in my new role as shadow treasurer. I know the understanding that I have built over time in different regions will inform my work in these new roles.

Like so many Tasmanians, I have family connections across the state. I had grandparents from Braddon, John and Marie. I spent a lot of my childhood visiting them in Somerset. I love the north west coast and feel deeply connected to the region through my family. I remember all of the day trips to nearby towns like Wynyard, Penguin and Ulverstone.

I also have a set of grandparents from Bass, Alf and Mary. They were small business owners. Their business, Glasgow Engineering, has been running continuously in Launceston for 132 years. It is a fourth-generation family business and my uncle John is the managing director.

I say this tongue in cheek, but it was a great disappointment for my Nanna that I ended up in this place and not as the fifth generation running the Glasgow. She did tell me she was immensely proud of me when I was elected back in 2016, but she later noted that I was on the wrong team. Spending all my childhood living a couple of doors down the road from Alf and Mary they had a big influence on my life and how to live it, but definitely not on my politics. I know there are members of Bass here today who knew Alf and Mary well. Great people.

I grew up in Launceston but I have lived my adult life in Hobart. The mates I had then, I still have today, and we are close. Like many Launceston kids I left to go to university. I followed the trail, blazed by many before me with the experiences of share houses and pubs and the occasional lecture thrown in. Other friends left to pursue their dreams, working in hospitality on the mainland, and they have become very good at what they do.

Whilst this trend has always been there, we lose too many good, hard working Tasmanians for better opportunities elsewhere, which is costing our state dearly in terms of skills shortages and economic growth. On a personal level, it makes it exceptionally hard to catch up with close friends when they are so far away, especially when we all have young families.

One of my goals in this place is to encourage more skilled Tasmanians to come back to the state and encourage others to stay. My close friends have been so important to me during difficult times in my life, but it was in Hobart where I met my wife, Holly. We share the aspirations of our community. Holly is everything to me. My colleagues will attest that she makes me a better person through her intelligence, understanding and care.

In my first speech, I spoke about us expecting our first child. Well, Alfie arrived healthy and happy, and now all of a sudden, he is seven. He is a delightful kid, but where does the time go? He loves YouTube and like many parents with children, we constantly struggle with screen time. I would be happy to take any advice on that matter.

Teddy, his little brother, arrived not long after. He is a lot like his dad. He likes a bit of trouble or fun. He is very active, loves sport and this year he started school full time. Of course, he attends a fantastic local public school.

Elsie is their baby sister who is here today. She has a happy nature and a cheeky grin. We celebrated her first birthday during the campaign, but I was so time poor that her birthday decorations served as a backdrop for my Zoom meetings for the remainder of the campaign.

Like others who work in this place, our families make huge sacrifices. I am not seeking sympathy, and there is certainly not much of that in the community for politicians, but I want

to express my gratitude to my family. I feel it deeply every day when I am with them and when I am away. I know sometimes the kids would like dad to have a job like some of the other parents at school because they tell me, but I also know they want to support me, to be here, to make good decisions for our community, and that they are proud of me. I guess there is a balance.

I would also like to thank my parents-in-law, Marilyn and Bruce, who are here today, who give so much love and support to our family at the drop of a hat when I might not be present.

Speaking of gratitude, I would like to thank my campaign team who supported my election to this Chamber. There are many people to thank. We ran a very grassroots campaign and I was wonderfully supported by many letterboxers, doorknockers, and people helping me get the message out in the community. Like all campaigns, there is a small group of individuals who put their lives on hold to support me whenever it was required. Thank you so much to Ellie Morris, Jordie, Tessa and my mum, Jenny. Your commitment to the Labor Party and to me has been unwavering and I appreciate your solidarity.

Madam Speaker, I know it is cliché, but the saying life is a journey, not a destination rings so true to me. People often hear me say it because it can bring perspective to a difficult decision or experience, and we learn from it.

I have experienced highs and lows like many others. I spoke in my first speech how I miss my dad, Mike, who would be so proud of moments like this. That will never go away. As an education leader in his community and a person with very humble beginnings and strong Labor values, I really wish I could turn to him for advice. Luckily, my mum provides plenty of support and encouragement. She is very proud too. She spent her life teaching in Tasmanian schools across the state and has a deep understanding of inequality in our communities. We are very close and I am thankful for the guidance of both my parents. I am acutely aware not everyone is so lucky. I guess when both of your parents have such strong social justice values, it is inevitable to become part of you too.

I will always miss my brother, Jonathan, who died at a young age. Even all these years on, his loss is still very raw. I will never forget the support and understanding of my mates during those teenage years that were so tough.

Madam Speaker, we are all shaped by our life experience, and I know my experience has given me an insight into the importance and strength of community. At times, I have relied on strength, understanding and compassion of the community around me. Caring and kind communities make us all stronger.

I am a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a teacher, a member of parliament and always a learner. I approach everyday wanting to make a difference. That is how I came to be here. I have learned that hard work accompanies opportunity and education is lifelong. I know the difference having an opportunity can make to a life. Not everyone is so fortunate to have that choice, and sometimes it does not have to be that complicated.

Like access to transport. I was particularly interested in a *Mercury* article recently where Oscar Wattersley and Conan Masuda spoke out about Tasmania's youth brain drain through their participation on the Committee for Greater Hobart. Among other important issues, they

highlighted limited public transport options being a barrier to access other services like education and job opportunities.

As a teacher, I know education is a tool of social justice and a vehicle for opportunity. As a member of this place, I know education is a fundamental driver of economic development and it will underpin how we move into the future. Tasmanians in our regions need to have equal access to opportunity, equal access to education and skills and training to make their communities stronger. That is why being part of the Labor movement is so important to me.

I am aware that I stand on the shoulders of giants in being in this place today. The Labor movement is a guiding light. It has been the forefront of advocating for the rights of workers, challenging oppressive systems and championing social justice. It is a natural progression for me to be drawn to the Labor movement, a movement that reflects the resilience and strength of ordinary people who refuse to accept injustice. It knows true prosperity cannot be achieved when wealth and power are in the hands of a privileged few. It seeks to empower marginalised people and uplift their voices to create an inclusive society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Fighting for these values extends well beyond the workplace, and it crosses into every aspect of our lives, our communities, political systems and, importantly, policies that impact education, healthcare, housing and the environment. It offers hope for communities where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

That is why being a member of parliament for Tasmanian Labor has been the greatest privilege. The party is over 100 years old and still going strong because of the values and the extraordinary people committed to the cause. I will always be a servant, trying to give back and contribute after the opportunities it has afforded me.

Along with the Labor Party, I love this place. Over my 40 years, Tasmania has given me a good life. I am grateful for the opportunities I have had and I see my purpose here is to fight for others. The Tasmanian people have my greatest respect. I firmly believe Tasmania can become a beacon of hope and innovation in a world grappling with the urgent challenges of climate change, inequality and unsustainable development.

At the heart of this are our people, but we need to give them a fair go, not just some. I am still passionately committed to improving education outcomes across our state because I believe it is the strongest thing that any state government could do to improve lives, not only economically, but socially too. Without an improved education system, our workforce issues will continue and we will not be prepared for the changing world.

We need to plan to make the most of our opportunities as a state and realise our human potential. Better education and training will mean we have workers where we need them the most, and that, of course, means more jobs and better lives for Tasmanians. Despite these historical challenges, Tasmanians are resilient and determined. We share a unique island with rugged landscapes and we are isolated, yet connected more than ever to other parts of the world.

Living on an island brings a culture of creativeness. We need to harness all the skills of our people in every sector to come together. We need to support small businesses too and work to bring jobs and opportunity to everyone, but also make sure Tasmanians are supported to live their best lives with quality education, skills and training, healthcare, housing, infrastructure

and transport. We have such an opportunity at this moment to be smart, sustainable and inclusive as we confront climate change.

We need to learn the lessons of the past and sometimes they are painful lessons which are ingrained in our history. These lessons demonstrate the need to build a future that is rooted in empathy, compassion and solidarity. We live in a time of great uncertainty and chaos, yet in this environment we live in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. As an island, if we are smart and agile, we can lead the way.

We have done it before. Tasmanians built the Hydro. We invested in it for 100 years and we have preserved large parts of our natural environment. The developed and developing world wants so much of what we have: a zero-emissions economy powered by clean, renewable energy resources. Tasmania's emissions profile and renewable electricity assets provide a strong foundation for us to be leaders in emissions reduction and climate change mitigation whilst also growing the economy and jobs.

However, we cannot rest on our laurels. We need to redouble our efforts developing more renewable energy, particularly wind and hydrogen projects, to drive our economy. It is staggering that we have not built any new generation assets since 2013. With more renewable energy production underpinning the Tasmanian economy, we can become world leaders in many other sectors, like transport in its different modes. I can think of one magnificent example of what is possible with innovative thinking and that is Incat's new battery-powered passenger ship which is being built in the heart of my electorate. There are other opportunities too in agriculture, aquaculture and other advanced manufacturing, and eventually doing the hard things like producing green metals right here in Tasmania.

Progress does not need to come at the expense of the planet, but most of all, what we need to do is invest in and look after our people. On our small island, our communities and our fates are intertwined. Actions and decisions can reverberate across the entire community. That is why inclusivity lies at the heart of the way forward. We need to hear young people's voices. They are going to be the ones that lead us into an uncertain world. It is not good enough that there are young people who cannot get to school on time because of poor public transport, like the young Tasmanians I heard on ABC Radio during the election campaign. It is not good enough that rents are too high, and that young people are stuck in the rent trap and that the housing they can afford is nowhere near their workplaces.

We have to put more effort into making sure every voice is heard, every perspective is valued, and it empowers Tasmanians to contribute to the common good. We need to make sure that our decision-making processes are transparent and participatory to ensure that no-one is left behind in our quest for progress.

It is going to take a lot of work to improve our decision-making processes in this parliament and in the parliaments of the future. Processes need to move beyond the rhetoric of serving governments and become woven into the fabric of our societies. Our island should celebrate its diversity. It enriches all of us and if we collectively work together, our differences make us stronger. That includes in this place where we make decisions. From our schools and our workplaces, every corner of our island state should reflect the richness of the human experience; cultures, traditions and beliefs coming together for the common good. Parliament can and should do this too.

In summary, when we live on an island, we need to defend each other. Our relative isolation in this place is deeply ingrained in our consciousness. In isolation, we can flourish by harnessing the power of innovation, investing in our people, lifting education standards, making our established industries more sustainable, and creating a society that is truly self-sufficient. Living on an island, we should understand that our strength lies in togetherness, collaboration and solidarity.

Madam Speaker, I might have disappointed my nanna by not becoming an engineer, but in this place my sleeves are rolled up and I am ready to get to work.

Recognition of Visitors

Madam SPEAKER - Before I call on the next speaker for this debate, I acknowledge the attendance in the Gallery of students from Scotch Oakburn. I am not sure if it is the same group we had before but let us just wave hysterically at them anyway because we are very pleased that they have joined us. I am sure they enjoyed hearing the speech of an old boy of Scotch just then.

Members - Hear, hear.

[12.07 p.m.]

Mr BARNETT (Lyons - Attorney-General) - Madam Speaker, first, I would like to congratulate the new member of this House who has come down from upstairs and say what a wonderful contribution that was. Well done to Josh Willie, new member for Clark, with lots of handshakes and congratulations passing around the Chamber, which is entirely appropriate. To his wife, Holly, and family and friends, congratulations as well.

I also want to acknowledge those members in the Chamber as well as those in the Gallery, students from Scotch Oakburn College and elsewhere. Thank you very much for being here. This is the seat of democracy in Tasmania hard at work in the new parliament with a collaborative approach, and I would like to use the word goodwill as well, because that is what the community would be seeking of us, to work in collaboration with goodwill to get the best outcomes for Tasmania. The Governor has delivered her Address, and we are responding to that with contributions of up to 20 minutes.

I am very pleased and proud to be part of the Rockliff Liberal government, which is now in a historic fourth term in Tasmania. It is such a proud moment, certainly for me and I know others, to be part of a fourth-term Liberal government delivering on what matters for the people of Tasmania.

I would like to congratulate all the new MPs as well. I have already done that personally, but I want to do so publicly here today. We have another member who has come down from upstairs, Jane Howlett, but I would like to say congratulations and well done to all new MPs. The contributions last night, for example, from the Greens members for Bass and Clark, were excellent. I really appreciated the observations about the kaleidoscope of views in this parliament, which is probably broader than I have ever seen before. That is a healthy thing, and we want to make it work so that we can work together for really good outcomes on things that matter.

I am pleased and proud to be backing in the government's 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, because I am excited about it, certainly in my portfolio areas, but across the government and for the community.

Before I touch on that, I want to acknowledge my colleague and friend Mark Shelton for his wonderful representation of the people of Lyons, and for his re-election, along with Jane Howlett and myself. I have congratulated Jane. To Mark, thank you for your service to the people of this state, and in particular in recent years as Speaker. I thought you did an outstanding job as Speaker. You were impartial and fair. You ruled wisely. I thank you for being willing to be available again. You are a grassroots member of parliament, you connect with your local community, you have a wonderful wife in Merrilyn and a wonderful family. You love your family. That is appreciated. You are an excellent role model. We are all role models in this place, but Mark Shelton is an excellent role model for his community, and I want to acknowledge and pay tribute to him today.

The election has been had, and at this time I want to specifically thank all those in the Lyons electorate who supported me to be re-elected, topping the Liberal poll. I acknowledge the former leader of the opposition, as I did at the declaration of the polls, and congratulated her on a very strong result. It is one of the toughest jobs in politics, being a leader of the opposition. I want to acknowledge that and pay tribute again to Rebecca White.

Right here and now, I want to thank those who provided that support for me in the Lyons electorate and to me personally. Top of the list is my wife, Kate. I love you. Kate has supported me and has been there shoulder to shoulder for 34 years, and in my 20 years this year in federal and state parliament, starting in February 2002, and then for nine and a half years in the federal Senate, and now coming up to 10 years in the state parliament. Kate, you are my rock.

To all those who provided support, there are too many names to identify today but they know who they are: the volunteers. They gave their time and effort for the campaign, to me and the Rockliff Liberal team. I often use the words 'Team Tasmania working together', and I hope that together our Team Tasmania in this parliament can get the job done during this historic fourth term. We need to work together in collaboration, with goodwill, to get positive outcomes on things that matter.

Thank you to the Premier, Mr Rockliff for reappointing me to each of the portfolios: Attorney General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Health and Minister for Veterans' Affairs. I am delighted and honoured to take on the new responsibility of mental health and well-being. I shared last night on adjournment - it is a real privilege to be in that space. I cannot follow in the very big shoes of the Premier, former minister; those shoes are way too big. I will be addressing this and advocating in this portfolio from my own shoes and from my own experience. I am really looking forward to it. I thank all those I have met over the last many weeks: stakeholders; people with lived experience, people in the department and those delivering the services. It is fantastic.

It is a great privilege to be Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. I am very pleased to be leading these important legislative reforms to ensure Tasmanians have access to justice and support and to promote a justice system. Separation of powers is incredibly important. Here we are in the parliament, one of the three legs of the stool, the other two being the executive and the judiciary. Of course, there needs to be a balance between the three. I am an absolute strong supporter of the justice system and the rule of law. I was pleased and honoured

to address the ceremonial sitting of the Supreme Court to mark the Supreme Court's bicentenary last Friday.

Mr Ellis - Hear, hear.

Mr BARNETT - Thank you for the hear, hear, member for Braddon. Very important. Tasmania's Supreme Court is the oldest Supreme Court in all of Australia; seven days older than that of New South Wales. I am pleased and proud of that, and last week was honoured to present on that occasion. Of course, the Supreme Court of Van Diemen's Land by the Sovereign under the Third Charter of Justice was created at that time, on the 10 May 1824. The Supreme Court remains an essential and core element in upholding and strengthening our democracy and the rule of law.

The rule of law is so important, going all the way back, not just 200 years, but going back to the *Magna Carta* more than 800 years ago. Chapter 40 of the *Magna Carta* says, in terms of that document, the so-called 'invisible cargo' of the First Fleet, 'to no one will we sell, to no one will we refuse or delay, right or justice.' That ancient principle, an essential legal and constitutional principle through and from the British Empire, informs the foundation of the court and its role as an independent and impartial tribunal. That court is part of the unbroken thread that connects us to the British legal system, the democratic tradition, and that Judeo-Christian ethic on which it rests. Following the ceremonial sitting, I attended the launch of the new book by Justice Stephen Escourt AM, *From Convicts to Computers - 200 Years of the Tasmanian Supreme Court*. As the title suggests, it traces the 200 years of the Supreme Court of Tasmania. I perused it again last night. I say congratulations and thanks to Justice Stephen Escourt. I was honoured to be presented with a copy of the book by Justice Escourt just a week or so ago.

We are celebrating our legal system and the important role it plays. That will be continued when Law Week begins on the 20 May 2024. Law Week is the annual event, held each May, across all Australian jurisdictions. The program of events and activities is designed to raise awareness within the Tasmanian community of the role of the legal profession and the law, providing access to justice in Tasmania. I acknowledge the work of the Legal Profession Board Tasmania and Law Week. I look forward to hosting in this place on Tuesday, where we will hear from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on the 200 years of the Supreme Court. We will also hear from Kristen Wylie about the 50-year anniversary of Legal Aid in Australia and Tasmania. I am really looking forward to marking those events next Tuesday in this parliament to pay honour and respect accordingly.

Our government's reform agenda is very clear. It is about delivering and prioritising community safety, enhancing the rights of victims of crime, providing a strong deterrent to criminal behaviour, reducing the risk of reoffending and protecting the rights of all Tasmanians. We are committed, as the Premier, Mr Rockliff and others have said many times, to the commission of inquiry. Acting on the 191 recommendations outlined in the commission, including the 54 legislative reforms, with which I will be very involved. It is a legislative priority of our government.

Regarding other efforts, I am more than happy to speak to our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future in due course. We have already delivered so much in terms of law reform and there is more to do. I acknowledge the former attorney-general Elise Archer and thank her for her steadfast leadership over a long period of time in delivering on those reforms.

There is a range of other matters I would like to address, but in the time available I want to touch on health, mental health and well-being. It is a real honour to be in that space. I have lived experience as somebody with Type 1 Diabetes since 15 January 1997, my wife's birthday, when I was diagnosed. It was a big shock at the time, but I absolutely appreciate and thank God for my diabetes. I have been able to advocate for, connect with and support other people with diabetes, whether it is Type 1, Type 2, or gestational diabetes and the like. I love supporting and advocating for people with diabetes, their families, and those at risk. I played a key role, as an ambassador for Diabetes Australia for more than a decade at the federal and the state level. That was a real honour. I have resigned that position now, but it was a real honour.

My dad had motor neurone disease and there were connections there yesterday. Helen Burnet made contributions in this place in her inaugural speech. I look forward to working across the parliament in a collaborative way with all MPs to deliver better healthcare outcomes, to build a better health system. We are delivering record funds of \$8.3 million a day on health services. We have employed 2500 new healthcare workers since we came to government 10 years ago; of those, 1390 are nurses and midwives. We just celebrated International Nurse Day on Sunday 12 May 2024. It was a wonderful, special day. Acknowledgements included two new inductees into the roll of honour of nurses and midwives, and scholarships; another 120 scholarships to support further education and training.

Last Sunday was special in the mental health space as well, with the new \$9 million commitment for the Mother Baby Centre, a four-bed facility with daycare support based at the Launceston Health Hub in the north. That service will be made available across the north and north-west. I am really excited about that. We have the \$70 million commitment with the Launceston Health Hub to build a new hospital and that commitment is progressing as well.

We have a very strong plan for Tasmania's future when it comes to health and a raft of measures. I reflect on the federal budget of two days ago and say how disappointed I am that we did not get our fair share when it comes to urgent care clinics and support for primary healthcare. This is a responsibility of the federal government; pure and simple, this is their responsibility. GPs are independent, private organisations and they are supported through Medicare by the federal government. It is hard for many Tasmanians to get access to a GP, and it is time they stepped up. Yes, we have stepped up and stepped in with respect to St Mary's, Bridgewater, East Devonport and, just in the last seven days, at Glenorchy. We should not have to - this is a federal responsibility - but we are because we know it is vital to the Tasmanian people and we want to get on with the job. We have the GP Now, rapid response team in place, and we have the commitment to get another 40 new GPs in rural and regional areas by picking up their HECS fees of up to \$100,000. We have the funding support for GP practices of \$250,000 grants to provide better health care across Tasmania. We are really excited about that and seeing it roll out.

We have measures in place to end ramping. We made that commitment during the campaign and that commitment is now being delivered. I was on radio this morning talking about the incremental improvements, where in every major hospital across Tasmania we have hit that target or above in the last seven days. It goes up and down a bit, but I am so pleased and proud, and I thank our healthcare workers for stepping up and delivering that awesome care consistent with the report and recommendations of the independent experts and delivering on that. Thank you so much for that.

We have an array of commitments to support better health care across Tasmania in the years ahead and I am really rapt about that. We are investing in a purpose-built \$82.5 million 40-bed older persons' mental health complex at St John's Park, a health and wellbeing precinct and a \$7.6 million mental health hub in Devonport.

I mentioned earlier in an answer to a question this morning the \$187 million commitment to the Royal Hobart Hospital and more than \$170 million for the north west in the masterplan. We have \$53.5 million for a near doubling of the emergency department at the Launceston General Hospital. I see the nodding of the new member for Bass, Rob Fairs, and I congratulate him on his election and his terrific support for the healthcare sector in Launceston and the electorate of Bass. It has been great working with him these last few weeks.

We have nearly half a billion dollars in commitment in terms of delivering that capital. I have mentioned Rob Fairs, but it was great standing and getting that support from Rob and others for the Northern Heart Centre in Launceston. This is a \$120 million commitment over the next five years, and it is consistent with expert advice. I am really rapt with that; it is a really exciting thing. Tasmania has amongst the highest rates of heart disease in all of Australia, and the north-west coast in particular, so this will absolutely help address that and I am really looking forward to delivering on that. There is much more to do in that space.

In the few moments I have left I will indicate that we will not stop lobbying Canberra for the funding support that we need to deliver the healthcare services that Tasmanians need. I ask all members of this parliament to do what they can to reach out to their federal MPs in their electorate or in their area to say, 'Tasmania needs more support. This is a responsibility that you have, not just for our hospitals, but specifically in the primary healthcare area, whether it is GP, after-hours support or through mental health services'.

I say thank you to Emma McBride. I met her recently, now twice, once online and once in person. She is the federal Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. They were collaborative and positive meetings where we were working together, supporting our veterans with their mental health and wellbeing. I wanted to say that.

In the few moments left, there are 17,500 veterans in Tasmania and their families. They deserve honour and respect. I want to say what a wonderful Anzac Day it was where we were able to do that, and I know many members around this Chamber were involved. Thank you to RSL Tasmania for being the peak body for veterans. They undertake very important special projects and are wonderful advocates. I enjoy working with them as well as the other ex-service organisations such as Vietnam Veterans and a whole host of others.

I reckon I have the best job in the world. I love my job. I love helping and supporting the community and my stakeholders and constituents to get the best outcome. We are focused on the things that matter and that is what we need to do in this Chamber. I really look forward to continuing to do that over the next four years and beyond. It is a very exciting time for our government and for our community, and I thank the House for the opportunity to share these remarks.

Time expired.

[12.27 p.m.]

Ms HADDAD (Clark) - Madam Deputy Speaker, this parliament represents a significantly changed one, where the House of Assembly has been restored to a 35-seat Chamber for the first time in over two decades. I want to congratulate the 10 new members elected to represent their communities in this place at the last election. It is indeed a true honour and a solemn responsibility to fill one of these 35 seats, to come to this place, to bring the stories and experiences of the people and communities we represent and to work hard every day to make sure we do the very best we can to represent their needs through the work we do here.

I formed part of the committee that considered the bill to restore the parliament to 35 seats, together with my Labor colleague Anita Dow, yourself, Madam Deputy Speaker, and former members Joan Rylah and Sue Hickey, with the committee chaired by former Greens leader Cassy O'Connor, the sponsor of the bill. That was the first time I was able to participate in a select committee in this place and the experience was an overwhelmingly good one. It was the first time I saw politicians of every colour take off their political hats and instead work exclusively on hearing evidence and making evidence-informed policy recommendations.

We heard from community members and leaders, academics, political experts and commentators, as well as leaders of all three political parties, Labor, Liberal and the Greens. Each of those leaders spoke to us clearly about the serious damage the reduction in the size of parliament had done to the way this place operates. There is no doubt that 10 new politicians is not something that is widely or deeply popular in the general public. As I have said in this place before, even yesterday, each of us here today is doing this job at a time when trust in our profession is at an all-time low.

It is incumbent on each of us to do all that we can to restore that trust in politics and show the people of Tasmania that they can have faith and trust in the jobs we do here and in the institution of parliament and the institutions we oversee as parliamentarians. What we heard at that committee was that reducing the size of the parliament meant that this place did not operate how it used to or in the best interests of Tasmanian democracy. There were fundamental building blocks of how parliaments like ours are meant to operate that were significantly damaged by that reduction, so it is a positive thing indeed that this has now changed, and the parliament will be the better for it.

I congratulate each of the newly elected members. To my new Labor colleague, Meg Brown, congratulations on your very well-deserved win. You ran a truly grassroots campaign and thoroughly deserve your success. While I have enjoyed working with you for a while now in the Labor Party, I know I am going to really enjoy working with you in the caucus room and you are already working so hard for your community and bringing a breath of fresh air to our caucus room.

Congratulations to the three Jacquie Lambie Network members. It is quite historic to have a new minor party represented in this place. While I know you have copped a fair bit of criticism over the deal that you signed with the Liberal Party, which we saw tie your vote yesterday when the government wound back question time by half an hour, I encourage you to stay true to your values and vote with your hearts and your consciences in this place.

Congratulations to the newly elected Greens members, Ms Burnet, who I know well from her time on Hobart City Council, Ms Rosol, Ms Badger, and the new Liberal members,

Ms Howlett and Mr Fairs, as well as yourself, Mrs Petrusma, returning to this place, and to the new independent member, Mr Garland. I have really enjoyed hearing the inaugural speeches of those of you who have spoken so far this week and I look forward to hearing more inaugural speeches about your passions, your motivations and your plans for your time in this place.

In particular, I congratulate my continuing Labor colleague, Josh Willie. What a fantastic inaugural speech we just heard. Josh and I have already worked together for many years, both in the Labor Party and in the parliament, while Josh was member for Elwick in the other place. As members know, Elwick takes in most of the northern suburbs of my electorate of Clark. I know we will work well together serving the people of Clark from the Bridgewater bridge in the north to the northern tip of Kingston in the south and everywhere in between. I look forward to working hard with you to continue increasing the Labor vote in Clark to make sure that we can get a few more colleagues in here at the next election.

To the other Labor candidates who ran alongside us, I say a huge thank you. It is not easy running an election campaign, especially when you do not get to win. I say a huge thanks to my friends and colleagues, Stuart Benson, Simon Davis, John Kamara, Rebecca Prince and Susan Wallace. Each of you ran excellent campaigns and deserved to be elected to this place.

Hare-Clark can be a difficult electoral system to campaign in. In my view, it is one of the most democratic systems there is. It can feel really hard campaigning in what feels like competition against your own. I can honestly say that the 2024 election was the most collegial and harmonious Hare-Clark election I have ever been involved with, either as a candidate or a volunteer and I thank you for the work you did to build our Labor vote. I know that the last campaign will not be the last for any of you, and I am committed to working alongside each of you until we see you elected.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I recognise my colleague, comrade and dear friend, Rebecca White. It has already been said by many that Rebecca is the best premier this state never had. We need to respect the will of the Tasmanian people in having returned the Liberals to government, but one of the biggest regrets I have from our recent election loss is the reality that Tasmania is missing out on seeing just what a phenomenal premier Rebecca would have made for our state.

Many of you might not know this, but I worked in Rebecca's office when she was newly elected back in 2010. A bit like me in 2018, Rebecca had not been expected to be elected at that election. She was elected against the odds. She hit the ground running as a parliamentary secretary for small business. We set about working hard in a portfolio that was new to both of us, running forums and workshops around the state to hear from business operators and contribute to the economic development plan the Labor government was working on to set Tasmania up for a bright future.

I have worked for many other MPs in the past, and I can safely say that Rebecca is the hardest working, the most committed and the most passionate. She stands head and shoulders above most of us and has been an outstanding leader for our party and our movement. I was proud to work with you in your office back then, Rebecca, and I was really proud to serve in your shadow cabinet for the last six years. Most of all, I am proud to call you a friend and I am glad we get to keep working together in this parliament.

To our new leader, Dean Winter, I give my full support. I know Dean will make an excellent Labor leader and, hopefully in the not-too-distant future, an excellent Labor premier. Thank you for the opportunity to take on the new portfolio challenges of health, mental health and wellbeing, community services and disability. These are key portfolios to our party and movement and are sincere passions of mine. Having spent roughly a decade working and volunteering in the health and community services sector, alcohol and drugs community sector, and in the public sector in health and human services, I have seen firsthand what happens when people cannot access the primary care, preventative healthcare or acute care when they need it most. It is these people and their stories I seek to represent in carrying these portfolios. Their experiences will inform the policies we put forward and build on, along with the outstanding policies we took to the election under my colleague Anita Dow's time as shadow health minister.

Tasmanians have been missing out for too long. After 10 years of Liberal Party neglect, we are now facing the worst health crisis and the worst housing crisis in the state's history. People are suffering now more than ever. I am incredibly proud of the policies we took to the election. I know they would have made a profound impact on the lives of Tasmanians at every level. While there are some who cynically and dishonestly try to argue that there is no difference between the Labor Party and the Liberal Party, I know that is absolutely and demonstrably false. They do this for base politics and political gain alone. The fact is we are fundamentally different movements, and we are driven by entirely and fundamentally different values and priorities.

The Labor Party is driven by the values of equality, social justice and fairness, of the value of safe, secure, well-paid jobs, of collective action and of the power of people to make grassroots-led change. It is the Labor Party that puts people at the heart of every decision we make in government. The policies we took forward at the recent election did just that and would have made an enormous impact on our state. Things like: increasing social and public housing, as well as affordable private rentals to increase supply and reduce rents; establishing a public sector housing maintenance workforce that would have guaranteed secure, well-paid public sector jobs and apprenticeship pathways, as well as dignity and respect for housing tenants; a standalone court for children and young people that would have tackled the causes of youth offending and addressed those causes through a therapeutic justice system; as well as a raft of health policies and commitments that would have improved access and focused on prevention and delivering care in our regions.

Finally, Madam Deputy Speaker, I thank the people who contributed to my election campaign. I have said to my small election campaign team that my success in being elected to this place is really their success. Our tight little core team has been around since 2017 and it is so dedicated, committed and deeply connected to our community. We have fought three elections together now, two of them called months early, one over a year early. Each time we have been ready to go. I am lucky to have that same team around me right from the very start. It feels quite overwhelming at times.

I have volunteered my time to Labor Party campaigns since I was a teenager, but it feels entirely different to know that others are willing to give up their time and volunteer for you. We have done it as a team. I was elected last in 2018, against the odds and not expected to make it here on my first try. I was elected third in 2021 and I was fortunate enough to be elected first for the electorate of Clark this election. That is a responsibility and an honour I do not take for granted. I am extremely grateful to the people of Clark for placing it on me. To my core

team, Natalie Jones, Scott Plimpton, Michael Fitzgerald, Claire Vickers and Terry Aulich: thank you so much.

Since 2017, our core team has grown substantially so I want to thank those who came onto our campaign team this year. To my incredible electorate officers, Jane Atkinson and Emma Bridge, thank you. They are two semi-retired, extremely experienced women who many would say are quite overqualified for the job. I am very lucky to have you job-sharing the one position in my electorate office and am proud to work alongside you both. I thank Stewart Jackson, who worked in my electorate office until the campaign began. He then took on a policy role in the Leader's office. He has now moved to the mainland to work for a Labor senator, and I cannot wait to see his career continue to grow and rise. To my dear friends Robin Black and Kathryn Wakefield, thank you for being part of our core team this year. I also thank you for the incredible amount of work you put in over the campaign, not only printing, folding and stuffing envelopes with direct mail, but also delivering the lion's share of that mail single-handedly around the electorate.

Most of all, to my beloved mum, Anne Ripper: you have always supported me in every way, but this last election was something next-level. My mum had just retired before the election was called and she was very much deserving of a break after a very long and hard-working career. Instead, she took on the enormous task of coordinating all of the letterboxing for my campaign. She worked tirelessly for five weeks without being paid a cent and with the tough task of getting the whole electorate letterboxed in just a few weeks. She found it quite daunting at the beginning, but by the end we had the most organised, colour-coded Excel spreadsheet I have ever seen, with a system of Post-it notes and instructions for volunteers on which packs had hillier areas, which is most of my electorate. We did it and that is down to my mum, so thank you.

To my sister, Alex Haddad, and her partner Bruce, my dad George, and my daughters Charlie and Lucy, thank you for the support you showed me and being the best family anyone could hope for.

To the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU), thank you for your support both to me and to the Labor Party state campaign. Thank you for valuing the quality of the housing policy we put forward during the election and for recognising the impact that policy would have on the Tasmanian people with tangible and welcome support.

Finally, I thank every person who contributed to my campaign and to the broader Labor Party campaign. To every Labor Party member and every union member who joined a campaign team, who doorknocked, who made phone calls, who letterboxed, especially on those hilly parts of our state, thank you. Your efforts are not in vain. Every conversation you had during the election campaign about the value of supporting the Labor Party counts. We will continue to build on those conversations and important work into the future.

Thank you, in particular, to Rebecca Flanagan and Anne Carswell who are doorknocking legends and came out with me most days in our little team. Thank you for doing that again this time round. Thanks also to my dear friend Hilary Smith and her baby Stella, Bish Adhikari and Manju Joshi for the roles you played in my campaign.

And finally, a big thank you to interstate friends and comrades who travelled to Tasmania especially to doorknock, not just with me but to support the broader Labor campaign.

To Melissa, Maddie and Zach; to Harry, Braith, Flynn, Georgia, Liam and Lucy; to Declan, Daniel, Jacob and Kathy; to Kylie, Elizabeth, Emma, Rhett, Dean, Lisa, Corey, Chris, Jimmy and Joe, thank you for the part you played in our campaign.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I move -

That the debate be adjourned until a later hour.

Debate adjourned.

APPROPRIATION (FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION FOR 2023-24) BILL 2024 (No. 3)

Second Reading

[12.39 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Treasurer) - Madam Deputy Speaker, I move -

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Appropriation (Further Supplementary Appropriation for 2023-24) Bill 2024 seeks a supplementary appropriation of \$82.050 million from the public account for this financial year. Of this amount, \$74 million represents an operating services appropriation to Finance-General. This amount is to be applied for the purposes of delivering the government's commitment to pay a supercharged Renewable Energy Dividend of \$250 to households and \$300 for small businesses, including embedded network customers.

The bill also seeks additional operating services appropriation of \$8.05 million for the Department of State Growth.

For members' benefit, of this amount, \$5.25 million is to be appropriated for the purpose of funding and administering two grant programs: King and Flinders islands primary producers seasonal conditions and mainland Tasmanian livestock producers seasonal conditions scheme; and to provide relief to eligible primary production livestock businesses on King and Flinders islands and mainland Tasmania that have or are expected to experience financial impact causing some hardship due to extended dry conditions. Funding will also be provided to the Rural Relief Fund to be administered through Rural Business Tasmania.

The bill also provides \$300,000 for an initial grant to FermenTasmania to assist with the fit-out and equipping of their fermentation hub at Legana in the Tamar Valley. The amount relates to a 2024 state election commitment to provide a \$1.7 million state government contribution for the creation of a purpose-built fermentation facility to support Tasmania's agricultural producers for value-adding to their produce, creating products such as bread, wine, cheese, cider, whiskey and sauerkraut, as well as creating jobs in the Tamar Valley. Construction of the facility is due to be completed by the end of the year and be operational in early 2025.

Finally, \$2.5 million is sought for an initial grant to the Devonport City Council towards its sports infrastructure priority investment plan, building a sporting legacy to deliver state-of-

the-art sporting and community infrastructure for the region. The amount relates to a 2024 state election commitment to provide a \$25 million Tasmanian government contribution to the \$60 million investment plan, which includes the development of an indoor stadium and sporting facilities at the Devonport Oval precinct, along with investment in the Valley Road Regional Football Centre.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I commend this bill to the House.

[12.45 p.m.]

Mr WILLIE (Clark) - Madam Deputy Speaker, I congratulate you on becoming the Deputy Speaker and look forward to working with you.

It is also my great privilege to stand here and work through my first bill as shadow treasurer. I would be the first to admit that I have a lot to learn. I am always a learner, as I said in my speech earlier today, but it is a challenge I am willing to take on and do my best for Tasmania.

Appropriation bills have become much more common in recent years, and we have seen a number of sizeable appropriation bills in recent times, including one just recently for the commission of inquiry and the injection into Metro, which was much needed. I know from my former time as shadow minister for transport that Metro needed a boost, and it was very welcome by the workforce there in particular.

It is not the only way that supplementary appropriations can happen. For smaller amounts there is a section 20 provision, transfers or appropriations for appropriated amounts that get transferred from one line item within and across departments. There is a section 21 provision, spending of the Treasurer's Reserve, where amounts that have been appropriated have been spent. In the current budget there is a \$50 million line item for unexpected outlays, noting that that has been reduced from COVID times from \$150 million and the Treasurer and I have had a number of discussions across the committee table about that particular provision in the budget in the Public Accounts Committee. There are section 22 amounts where an appropriation is needed in cases where Commonwealth grants are more than what is contemplated by the original government budget to be received, always a welcome scenario, and section 30 amounts where the government has approved emergency funding. Any of these movements are then reported through supplementary Estimates.

The bill before us, though, provides some parliamentary scrutiny for a large amount. It is a bill that is appropriating \$82.05 million from the public account for the services of government for the financial year ending 30 June 2024. This is an appropriation for operating services, namely the renewable energy dividend of \$74 million in 2023-24 and \$8.05 million for operating services for the Department of State Growth. A welcome dividend for a lot of households that are struggling at the moment with household bills, 254,000 households, I am told, will receive a \$250 dividend and 35,000 businesses will receive \$300.

The State Growth component of this includes \$5.25 million for relief for emergency primary livestock businesses on King and Flinders islands. I have been listening to the media, particularly radio when driving around, *Tasmanian Country* from time to time, and I have been listening intently about the hardship our fellow Tasmanians are experiencing on King and Flinders islands because of the dry conditions there. It is just heart-wrenching what they are going through, so this support is absolutely necessary and well supported by the Labor Party.

There is \$300,000 for FermenTasmania, which I believe is an election commitment and \$2.5 million for the Devonport sports precinct, which is an election commitment too. It was pleasing to see the Liberal Party match the Labor Party's commitment in the election. I had a number of engagements with the Devonport City Council around that particular development in the lead-up to the state election as the shadow minister for sport. They had a funding shortfall and it seemed like a no-brainer to me. It is pleasing it has bipartisan support and that the \$25 million will activate that development. It is a very smart development in terms of providing world-class facilities for multiple sports, which is what we need to do more of, making sure we are getting high usage for the taxpayer's investment.

I have some questions for the Treasurer through the Deputy Speaker. Yesterday in the briefing I was told that the supply bills that are coming up - I know that is not before us - do not contain election commitments and that this appropriation bill does contain election commitments. The question I have is how is the government going to deliver its 100-day plan when it contains many election commitments? It seems like there will not be approval from parliament for the appropriations to fund those commitments. There are a couple of commitments in here that are in the 100-day plan.

We were just talking about the Devonport building and sporting legacy precinct plan. The 100-day plan says that within 100 days it will:

Deliver the \$25 million required towards the Devonport Building and Sporting Legacy Precinct plan to unlock the Devonport City Council \$60 million community development.

I am interested in how that is going to be funded within 100 days.

For FermenTasmania there is an initial payment and I believe from the briefing that these initial payments have been done through negotiation by the Department of State Growth and the stakeholders involved. Also, within the 100-day plan is to provide funding of \$1.7 million to FermenTasmania to fit out and complete its hub at Legana in the Tamar Valley so it can be up and running in early 2025. We have \$300,000 here as an initial payment. Where is the rest going to be funded from within the 100 days is a question for the Treasurer. I will make it clear that we are not questioning these projects. They are valuable projects that we support, but given that the supply bills coming up later in the day apparently have no election commitments in them, how is quite a lot of this stuff going to be delivered?

There are other things in here too, like 'deliver within 30 days the \$1 million promise towards marine rescue vehicles, trailers and vessels committed to the seven volunteer marine rescue units around the state'. I will not read out this whole document, but there are a number of commitments in here within 100 days that require funding, Madam Deputy Speaker, and I am interested in how that is going to work. Is it the department that will have to find the funding within their existing allocation? What it seems is there is not an approval from parliament to deliver these election commitments yet.

That is my concern with this bill. I do note that the quarterly report was out yesterday. The budget update got a deteriorating position for the financial year, nearly \$600 million of deficits and here we are appropriating more approvals for spending.

As I noted at the outset in my initial comments, it seems to be more commonplace that we are doing this now from my first time in parliament around 2016. In that time in parliament in the other place, in those eight years, I have certainly noticed a difference from this government in terms of budget discipline. The former treasurer, Peter Gutwein, was very rigid in how he managed the budget. I say quite disciplined, even though I disagreed with some of the decisions he was making. We are not seeing that same discipline from the current government. We are quite frequently seeing things funded outside the budget cycle. We are seeing appropriation bills come to parliament. We are seeing a deteriorating budget position, record deficits and debt across the forward Estimates. It is certainly a very different attitude from Liberal governments past and it is concerning. It is not just me saying that as the shadow treasurer. There are highly qualified, highly respected people in the community, people like Saul Eslake, who are raising the alarm bells too.

It is interesting that the budget will be delivered in September, significantly late. I might leave some of those remarks for the next debate.

There is \$1.7 billion of additional commitments that the Liberal Party made in the election that now have to be shoehorned into a budget that is deteriorating over the forward Estimates. There are many problems for the Treasurer to work through. This is the first bill that we are discussing today with me in this new role. I will certainly be holding him to account for every decision he is making, to make sure it is in the best interest of Tasmania, that he is not kicking the can down the road for political expediency, and that he does his job.

[12.54 a.m.]

Mr BAYLEY (Clark) - Madam Speaker, I rise to make a contribution for the Greens on the passage of the Appropriation (Further Supplementary Appropriation for 2023-24) Bill 2024 and make the note at the outset that budgets in every form contain political choices and political priorities. They put the dollar value on the commitments of the government and the things that they see as the most valuable to deliver. While we may disagree on many of those priorities, we will not be obstructing the passage of this bill. I want to compliment the departmental and treasury staff who have pulled it together. It is critical to keep the services of government going in the interim until we get to September when we do have the full budget.

I want to make a few comments and put them on the record on behalf of the Greens, because there are certainly some things in here that do need to be highlighted, they do need to be pulled out of this budget and some attention given to them.

First in that vein, I want to talk about the so-called supercharged renewable energy dividend. What rhetoric and spin that is. I agree, Mr Willie. I would like to make the point that it is inappropriate to use this kind of hyperbole in a fact sheet for a bill. We are talking about the expenditure of \$74 million from the public account, so let us not use silly marketing terminology, spin, or rhetoric like that in any of the supporting material, because it certainly does no honour to the document. To spell it out for members and anyone who is reading or listening, this is a credit issued to the energy accounts of households and small businesses of \$250 and \$300 respectively.

It is not a dividend. It has no particular relationship to renewable energy itself. While it is a somewhat objective term, it is hard to make the case that it is supercharged in any kind of way. Let us call a spade a spade please. When it comes to the serious matters of legislation and expenditure from the public account, let us just be straight down the line with how we describe

these things, and not necessarily drag into it all of the election rhetoric and spin. The Greens' position on this so-called dividend is that it is a poorly targeted mechanism to address the cost of living.

It was clearly a cynical vote, an election promise, contrived in an attempt to buy votes during the last election. I want to be 100 per cent clear: we need action on energy bills, and we also need action on the cost of living. We need to have action that is targeted at the right people and is value for money. The issue at hand here is that a more targeted policy could have delivered twice the benefit to those who need it at more than half the cost. If the government was serious about cost-of-living relief for energy bills, they would be expanding concession programs and investing in energy efficiency for public housing and low-income households. That is where we can deliver genuine cost-of-living reform for Tasmanian people, and particularly the Tasmanian people that need it most.

There are people, probably including most of us in this House who - let us face it, frankly, on a salary of \$140,000 plus - do not need this kind of support to pay our household bills. We do not need it. There are people that could do with my share and therefore double this level of contribution to their relief. What we are seeing from this Government is a one-off payment, a one off, post-election commitment. Their plan for energy bill credit payments and a halving of the cost of public transport are short term, half-baked measures.

The \$74 million is a lot of money being spent on paltry \$250 or \$300 credits. It will make a difference to some people, but many do not need it and we could make a bigger difference to the people who really do need it. For this sum, the Government could make public schools, TasTAFE and public transport all free statewide for a year with about \$20 million to spare. This is an extremely inefficient use of public funds from the party of self-proclaimed sensible economic and fiscal managers.

When it comes to the drought funding that the Treasurer mentioned in the second reading, I want to make a couple of points as well. The Greens and I are certainly in favour of drought funding. As the son of a farmer and someone who still spends a fair bit of time on the land: I do concur, it is incredibly tough out there. We have had nearly no rain and virtually no rain in the autumn break and it is getting to the point now where it is almost too cold for growth anyway. Let us hope that rain comes, but it will not necessarily deliver immediate relief for farmers, so I want to make clear we do support these kinds of payments for farmers.

I want to highlight what I observed as incredibly cynical politicking during the election campaign, where drought and drought relief was effectively used as a political tool. The Premier flew to King Island first - I think it was - to announce drought relief. Flinders Island had to wait a couple of weeks until he could get a flight a couple of weeks later, then he announced drought relief for Flinders Island. It was a week or so later before he declared it for the whole state. It was so clearly needed for the whole state on day one. A declaration could clearly have been made for relief and to give confidence to struggling farmers. Some farmers that are not only struggling with the prices they are getting for their products and the amount of rain that is coming out of the sky, but this is causing serious impacts on their mental and other health and their relationships.

To have this kind of funding politicised and staged in election context based on the campaign plan that the Liberal Party had delivered, I think was truly cynical and really, really lamentable.

Whilst we support these payments I wanted to make those points about how they were staged and how they were rolled out in an election context.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I also want to talk about the government's grant funding commitments during the election campaign.

The sitting was suspended from 1.00 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

APPROPRIATION (FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION FOR 2023-24) BILL 2024 (No. 3)

Resumed from above.

Mr BAYLEY (Clark) - Madam Speaker, some of those funding commitments from during the election campaign are actually contained in this supplementary appropriation. In 2022, the Integrity Commission released its second research paper in its series on ethical conduct and potential misconduct risks in Tasmanian parliamentary elections. This paper's subject was grant commitments in election campaigns. This paper made clear the case against the Liberals' pork-barrelling approach to elections.

The Liberals' practices do not meet good practice grant management principles. They do not have objectives, selection criteria and an application process. They are not publicly advertised or competitive. They do not identify decision-makers and they do not involve a public record of how or why recipients were chosen.

We acknowledge that at least these grant commitments were identified in the associated papers, unlike Bracknell Hall and some other commitments in past years, but this report from the Integrity Commission made recommendations to introduce clear rules and guidelines with compliance mechanisms for grant commitments made during the election campaigns.

This fell on deaf ears with this government. This government insists it wants to be a government of integrity, but this is not a commitment anyone can take seriously. This government ignores integrity recommendations from the Integrity Commission itself that would require them to act with integrity.

We will support this budget bill, the supplementary appropriation bill. We leave you with those comments about some of the political failures with the construction of it, some of our views on how that money could be better spent and those issues regarding integrity and pork-barrelling in election context.

Debate adjourned.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from above (page 46).

[2.33 p.m.]

Ms BROWN (Franklin) (Inaugural) - Madam Speaker, I acknowledge the First Nations people as the traditional custodians of the land of which we meet, and pay my respects to elders,

past and present. I extend that respect to First Nations people here today and watching on the webcast or reading the *Hansard*.

I congratulate all members of this place on their election to the House of Assembly in the Tasmanian parliament. I thank all candidates for running in the last election. Running for political office and seeking to serve the public demands dedication, resilience and a great deal of courage.

I also thank the families, who often make tremendous sacrifices when offering unwavering support and adjusting to the demands of campaigning.

I thank Rebecca White for her leadership of the state parliament, particularly throughout the last election, and for her support of me. Even whilst running the state campaign, Rebecca found time to check in with me. She cared about each candidate and their well-being.

I congratulate my fellow member for Franklin, Dean Winter, on his appointment as the new state Labor leader and I look forward to working with him to achieve positive outcomes and to drive change for Franklin and Tasmania.

I also place on the record my appreciation of David O'Byrne for the opportunity to work as his electorate officer and allowing me first-hand experience to serve. I am grateful for the experience and trust.

I also congratulate you, Madam Speaker, on your election to the position of Speaker. Over your career you have strived for fairness and to give Tasmanians the very best. With this in mind, I can confidently say you will be an excellent Speaker.

I also thank the parliamentary staff, catering and kitchen staff and the cleaners on their exceptional welcome and their professional guidance.

I feel truly fortunate to have lived in Franklin for most of my life. I went to school in Franklin, I work in Franklin, and Franklin is where I call home. One of my favourite things about the electorate is that every part is different but equally as beautiful. From South Arm and its stunning beaches to the Huon Valley and its rolling hills, each part holds a unique charm.

Recently, I revisited Tahune Adventures in Geeveston with Labor leader, Dean Winter. We were talking about jobs in our regional areas. Geeveston holds a special place in my heart because it was where fond childhood memories were made. It was here that my grandfather insisted on taking out of town relatives to marvel at the beauty of Geeveston and, indeed, Tasmania.

I come from an immensely proud family history of Labor and union activism. My great, great grandmother, Mary Butler, was a founding member of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) Hobart branch in Tasmania. My great uncle, Leo, was secretary and president of the Miscellaneous Workers Union in Tasmania, a union legend and president of the Tasmanian Labor Party. Most old school unionists have a grand story to tell of Leo Brown. As a matter of fact, I only heard a new one this week. My grandmother, Julia Brown, was a life member of the ALP; she was a strong willed and formidable woman. She and my grandfather, Rex Brown, raised their 13 children in the great electorate of Franklin. She lived in the same

house on Resolution Street in Warrane for over 60 years. In fact, this is where I kicked off my campaign, letterboxing nan's old street. My Auntie, Carol, is a Labor senator and has always worked hard for the people of Tasmania. She is committed to equality and giving everybody a fair go. I am so proud to have grown up with her as a role model.

To my mum, Julie. She has worked in the party for 20 years, Madam Speaker, and like Leo, everybody has a story to tell of the legend that is my mum and how much she has helped them. She is the most strong-willed and determined woman I know, which is evident in my election to this place. She was with me every step of the way and you can probably see a theme forming of really strong-willed women in my family history.

Coming from a strong and proud Labor and union family means being steeped in tradition of resilience, solidarity and advocacy. It is about knowing the value of hard work and collective action, passed down through generations. It is feeling a deep sense of belonging and camaraderie within a community that fights for fair wages, safe working conditions and social justice. It is witnessing the power of unity to create positive change, both in the workplace and society at large. It is carrying on a legacy of standing up for what is right, even in the face of hardship, with unwavering determination.

Despite coming from a family with a rich history of politics, I never thought the political world was for me. After college, I decided to follow in the footsteps of my father and brothers and get a trade. I worked as a hairdresser for some years, managing salons, training staff and competing in competitions. Along the way I met many people and as the stereotype suggests, everybody confides everything to their hairdresser. Working in this industry, I was able to see everyone has a story to tell; work and life stresses, and for many, life is difficult.

I decided there was more that I could do, so I entered the world of politics to make a difference. As an electorate officer, I found out that I was wrong. For some, things were not just difficult, their circumstances were downright dire. Hearing their stories spurred me on and made me determined to always be making a difference. Over the five years of working as an electorate officer, I was able to work with the community to achieve positive outcomes.

During the election, I doorknocked a house and a young woman answered. Before I could even introduce myself, she called over her shoulder to her mum and said, 'Meg is here'. I assumed it was a relative that I had not met yet, because there are quite a few of us. However, it turned out, I had called upon a family who I had helped in the past when their circumstances were at their most critical. Although I had never met their daughter face-to-face, she remembered who I was. You never know what someone is going through and the impact you can have. Whilst I do not think of myself as a natural politician, it is moments like these I am reminded that I am on the right path.

Madam Speaker, as many in the House know, I love netball. I have been playing since primary school. I have played school netball as well as club and it has been a significant part of my sporting life. Along with Dani Shields, we saw that there were no established clubs on the eastern shore. After a few conversations, we founded the Eastern Shore Jets Netball Club in 2020. Our first unofficial meeting was just Dani and me in her kitchen in Mornington. However, our dream caught on and our committee grew.

I would like to acknowledge all the past and present committee members by name, because without their dedication and determination, The Jets would not be here today. Dani

Shields, Ash Moore, Karen Whelan, Courtney Kettleton, Liz Walker, Rachel Hellessey-Young, Tara Bond, Jess Direen, Cheyenne Ellis, Hayley Bromfield, Hannah Devine, Kristy Burgess, Landa Papi-Watson, Amy Greenwood and John Hickey, a very proud Labor man and everyone calls him Granddad.

Our first season rolled around and we went in to the hope we would form three teams, which is the minimum to form a club. We ended up pulling together five and four seasons later, we have now entered 22 teams, including junior sides to premier league. We have been incredibly successful, and I believe this is because we have always endeavoured to put our players first by creating an encouraging and inclusive club culture.

Part of my role has been managing our sponsors so that we are able to subsidise fees and union costs for our players. By our club putting so much emphasis on this, we have made playing netball more affordable for our community. We believe that anybody who wants to play netball should be able to play and is welcome at home with us at The Jets.

I am incredibly proud of what we have been able to achieve for our community. I could go on about The Jets all day. You may be wondering why I recount this story. Well, for a couple of reasons. First, because I have seen firsthand how important sport is, not only for our physical health, but for our mental health, fostering teamwork, discipline and resilience. It also promotes social unity, personal growth and creates lifelong friendships. Importantly, it is seen as the great leveller where people are judged solely on their skill, determination and dedication. It creates a level playing field, enabling everyone, regardless of background or personal circumstances, to play netball.

Second, it shows how I wish to operate in the parliament. I am somebody who is outcome-focused and driven by achieving results. I will prioritise action and decision that will lead to positive, tangible outcomes. My interests in parliament are deeply rooted in advocating for critical issues such as the prevention of family violence, access to justice, access to healthcare, to education, to quality housing and the issues around the cost of living. Equality and fairness are core values that guide my actions in parliament. I will advocate for policies that dismantle systemic barriers and foster inclusivity in all aspects of society.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the many people who helped me during my campaign, without whom I would not be here today.

First, to the people of Franklin, thank you for putting your faith in me. I do not take this responsibility for granted and I pledge to always work hard to represent your voice through proactive engagement and advocating on your behalf.

To my partner and my rock, Michael, I am forever grateful for the love and support you give me each and every day. Your calming soul and encouragement have allowed me to push forward even through the toughest of times.

To my beloved children and the lights of my life, Finley and Evelyn, you are my purpose, my drive and my reason for always moving forward. Everything that I do is for them.

To my parents, Julie and Graham, and my siblings, Steven, David and Samuel, thank you for always being by my side and making me the person I am today.

To my sisters-in-law, Kellie and Christy, thank you for being the sisters I never had.

To my auntie Carol, thank you for believing in me and always providing sage life advice.

To my auntie Mary, thank you for your unshakable support of me. I know those hills in Geilston Bay were a steep climb to doorknock, but I am glad to have had you with me.

To my auntie Cate, thank you for being an experienced listening ear and your gentle guidance along the way.

To my dear friend Sophie, thank you for being my biggest hype girl and raising my spirits when things were not easy. I am so grateful for your friendship.

To my dear, dear friend and fellow candidate at the last state election, Ben, thank you for always being on the other end of the phone and your honest and unfiltered advice.

To my campaign team and many volunteers: team, we did it. I cannot thank you enough for your belief in me and the support you gave me. Every door knocked, every letter dropped, every phone called cold, and every street stall had a massive impact on our campaign being a success. Every volunteer played an essential role, and I am immensely grateful.

To Julie Collins, federal Labor member for Franklin, I am so grateful to have you in my corner. Your guidance, encouragement and knowledge have been a major source of strength for me.

I would also like to acknowledge my union comrades - Amy and the United Workers' Union (UWU), Robbie and the Health and Community Services Union (HACSU), Mick and the Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union (CEPU), and Zach and Richie from the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU) for all their support.

To Nicole Wells, thank you for your hard work, frank advice and determination. I am eternally grateful for your strategic leadership and political knowledge.

To Pamela Anderson, Kirsten Livermore and the team at Emily's List, thank you for your support and endorsement. I am proud to say that I am an Emily's List member, as are many on this side of the House. I support the values of Emily's List that seek to positively impact policy to benefit women, children and families.

Finally, I would like to thank the Tasmanian Labor Party for pre-selecting me as a candidate and the support given to me at the last campaign. It is an absolute honour to represent the Tasmanian Labor Party, a party that represents equality, social justice and environmental stewardship, with a rich history of fighting for workers' rights and universal health care, and creating a fairer, more inclusive society. I am proud that one of the first acts of our Labor team will be our leader introducing the industrial manslaughter bill to the Tasmanian parliament.

One of my greatest takeaways from the election was the friendships formed. I would like to give a shout-out to Samantha Facy of Braddon. Sam, thank you for being a listening ear and a sounding board, even from the other end of the state. I look forward to one day sitting in this place with her.

Madam Speaker, I am ready for the challenge ahead of me. I would like to conclude my first speech to parliament by reflecting on a question I was asked while doorknocking. That was, what type of politician do I want to be? My answer was simple: to always be making a difference. You see, I truly believe in the people of Franklin. I believe that it should not matter what circumstances you are born into. Everyone should have access to the same opportunities, to live without fear of persecution for being who you are, to be able to work in safe, secure jobs, to have access to quality education and health care, and to always have a safe place to come home to at the end of the day. This is what I believe. This is what I will strive for every day to achieve. This is the type of politician I want to be. Let us do it.

Members - Hear, hear.

Debate adjourned.

APPROPRIATION (FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION FOR 2023-24) BILL 2024 (No. 3)

Second Reading

Resumed from above (page 52).

Madam SPEAKER - I believe you have finished your contribution, Mr Bayley. Do we have somebody jumping for the order of the day, or are we moving to a vote? The matter is completed. If no one else is jumping, I will call the Treasurer to sum up on the supplementary appropriation bill.

We will, with discretion, allow a few moments for members to congratulate the member on her first speech before commencing the next speech.

I will start by saying how much I appreciate all members coming into the House for people's inaugural speeches. It has been quite a lovely thing to do so far. We look forward to the others next week.

[2.54 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Treasurer) - Madam Speaker, I appreciate the support expressed around the Chamber to support supply, the bills in this case being appropriation for the 2023-24 financial year. I will be fairly brief in my remarks but appreciate many of the comments that have been made, and their own observations, some of which I will perhaps address more fully in the supply debate.

Madam SPEAKER - I appreciate you being very understanding of the noise in the room. As members finish congratulating, they can resume their seats. The Treasurer does have the call and should be heard in a modicum of silence.

Mr FERGUSON - Thank you, Madam Speaker. I believe the debate has been largely covered. The only areas I will defer to a subsequent debate are questions of funding for matters in 2024-25. I will pick these up in the supply bill debate. Mr Willie, on behalf of the opposition, has raised concerns about particular initiatives in the 100-day plan, but I will mostly contain my remarks to the initiatives funded in this supplementary appropriation bill. We do have an

ambitious 100-day plan, it has to be said. It is very comprehensive, and ministers across the board and their departments are getting on with the job of delivering on those many commitments. In this particular bill we have included the appropriations required at this time.

Many of our commitments, if they require funding - and some do - will be funded through existing departmental operating funding. Again, I will pick up that element in the supply bills. You did specifically come to those matters, Mr Willie, and you were quite right to question whether they would be adequately covered through the supply bill arrangements. They will be. If I can provide any more individual answers, I will do that at that time.

I will make one other point, which is that there is a really tight time frame around this bill. Once it goes to the other House, is presumably passed and then receives royal assent, it allows the Treasury and relevant departments a matter of days - if as much as a couple of weeks only - for the actual supply period to be useful to them to, as we say in politics, get the money out the door. The largest of this is of course the renewable energy dividend.

I want to compliment my team in Treasury and in the other departments, State Growth with ReCFIT, everybody has been working magnificently to pre-arm the various retailers. We mostly think of Aurora but there are actually about eight energy electricity retailers in Tasmania. They are all gearing up for this because they are on notice, because we have told them that the window of time to get this money paid out of government funds to them as retailers with the right data on their customer base means that we need them to apply them to their customers' bills before 30 June. Everybody has, in principle, agreed to that.

There is a big body of work to achieve that. Members who may be interested in Treasury matters would perhaps be interested to know that that is why there is a really tight time frame around this particular bill, given the date at which this sitting is occurring and the looming 30 June date.

I will pick up again if there are any further questions around supply in the new financial year in the next debate. I acknowledge the other more political or party policy-oriented comments made by the Greens member, Mr Bayley, around your questions of hyperbole of payment language. You would have liked to have seen different constructions on election promises, but we are actually all about keeping the commitments we made in the election campaign, and in particular the ones that are listed here by name in this bill relate to the ones that we need to get on with in this financial year, recognising that time is quite short.

I appreciate the comments from the new shadow treasurer of the Greens. I am not sure if I call you the shadow treasurer - probably not - the Greens spokesperson on finance and treasury matters. I thank the House for its support of this important step today.

Bill read the second time.

Bill read the third time.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 1) 2024 (No. 4)

Second Reading

[2.59 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Treasurer) - Madam Speaker, I move -

That the bill be now read the second time.

As members are aware, the 2024-25 Budget will be released on 12 September 2024. As is standard practice, when a budget has not been passed by the commencement of the budget year, a supply bill is needed to make interim provision for the appropriation of funding from the public account to enable the provision of government services until the budget appropriation bills are enacted.

Treasury estimates that an appropriation totalling \$3.5198 billion is required to enable the continuation of the normal services of government, including services in respect of parliamentary and statutory officers for a period of up to five months from 1 July 2024 to 30 November 2024. This amount has been determined with reference to actual agency expenditure for the first five months of 2023-24, the revised 2024-25 Estimates as presented in the 2023-24 Revised Estimates Report and in consultation with relevant agencies.

Madam Speaker, in accordance with current appropriation conventions, two supply bills have been prepared. The bills reflect the allocation of agency outputs to ministerial portfolios in accordance with the structure of the Tasmanian government under the Administrative Arrangements Order 2024. Supply Bill No. 1 2024 makes an interim provision for the appropriation of \$3.4996 billion for the services of the government. This includes \$3.1835 billion for the expenditure on operating services. A further \$316.1 million is provided for expenditure for capital services to allow the government's infrastructure program to continue to be delivered in the new budget year. It is important to note that no new capital projects have been funded in the supply bill.

In accordance with section 21 of the Financial Management Act 2016, an allocation of \$12.5 million is provided to Finance-General for the Treasurer's Reserve to meet expenditure which cannot be reasonably foreseen, and which is necessary for efficient financial administration. The amount of appropriation for the supply period also includes an allocation of \$29.8 million to ensure relevant agencies have sufficient funding to continue the implementation of the government's response to the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings during the supply period. The allocation has been determined by the Department of Premier and Cabinet in consultation with the Child and Youth Safety and Wellbeing secretaries board.

Supply Bill No. 2 2024 makes an interim provision for the appropriation of \$20.1 million for the services of the government in respect of parliamentary and statutory offices for operating services expenditure.

Madam Speaker, these supply bills are administrative in nature as they provide for the continued provision of existing government services and capital expenditure, pending

parliament's consideration of the Budget for the 2024-25 financial year. I commend the bill to the House.

[3.04 p.m.]

Mr WILLIE (Clark) - Madam Speaker, we are here today discussing these money bills outside of the Budget because the State of Tasmania was forced to an early election by the Premier, supposedly for stability and certainty and supposedly this has interrupted the budget process. Minority government is bad for business confidence, we were told, and the state could not afford a coalition of chaos, but now the Premier leads one. To the JLN and independent members, if you are listening, the 'coalition of chaos' are not my words, they are the Premier's. The Budget is now delayed, with the 2024-25 Budget set to be delivered on 12 September. This is not usual, as the Premier tried to claim recently in the media.

Madam Speaker, I have some research here which shows budget delivery time frames for the last 25 years. Starting from 1998, where there was an incoming Labor government, the Bacon government, the election was held in late August that year. It delivered a budget not long after, at the start of November. In 1999-2000, the budget was delivered in May; in 2000-01 it was delivered in May; in 2001-02 it was in May; in 2002-03 it was May; in 2003-04 it was May; in 2004-05 it was May; in 2005-06 it was May - might have been the election, I am not sure about the timing there; in 2006-07 it was June, so most of these are in May and June, until we get to 2014-15 when there was an incoming Liberal government for August.

The other major disruption was because of COVID, which meant that, reasonably, Treasury needed more time to deliver that budget. Parliament had been shut down. The economy had been shut down in large sections and there was a lot of work to do. I find it hard to believe that we are forced to an early election by the government of the day, a year early, their call. Budget processes were already underway. Organisations had been submitting their submissions to the budget process. We have the same Premier, we have the same Treasurer, yet the budget has been delayed so significantly. Is it because there are now \$1.7 billion worth of Liberal election commitments they have to fit into the budget, which is deteriorating over the forward Estimates? We have Treasury itself sounding the alarm through things like the Fiscal Sustainability Report.

There are some deep concerns. I feel sorry for a lot of the organisations that were participating in the budget process in good faith. There are a lot of organisations I spoke to who were caught on the hop by the early election. They did not know whether they had funding past this year. I think several organisations are still in that situation. They were looking to us for election commitments, some sort of security. We needed to talk to the department about some of these programs to understand what their thinking was. We did not have that opportunity. I felt really sorry for the community that had been caught in this situation because the government of the day could not make it full term. They had to put the state of Tasmania through an election for stability and certainty.

As the Premier, Mr Rockliff, said, minority government can be bad for business. Since his government fell into minority, there have been 5000 jobs lost and now we have the uncertainty of this parliament. Many people in the community do not know how long this parliament will last.

That is why we are here, discussing these supply bills today. I accept some of the words from the Treasury staff, in the briefing yesterday, about some staff having to finalise financial

statements at this time of year, as well as doing the budget work. I accept that. However, it has been demonstrated in previous years, when there are elections and things like that, that it can be done.

The supply acts are required to be in place from 30 June 2024 to enable agencies to meet the cost of delivering government services until the passing of the budget appropriation bills later this year. The amounts have been determined with a reference to actual agency expenditure for the first five months of 2023-24, but producing as accurate a figure as possible is a very complicated process; much more complicated than just taking the actuals from the first five months of the year.

They have used the revised estimates which have been considered. They have also negotiated with relevant agencies about their funding needs. Supply Bill (No. 1) 2024, which we are talking about, has \$3499.6 million, and it is an approval, which is important to note. We are not passing funding. We are passing an approval from parliament to go and use that expenditure. There is \$3183.5 million for operating services and \$316.1 million for capital services to allow the government infrastructure program to continue.

I want to pick up on something interesting in the second reading speech the Treasurer, Mr Ferguson, just delivered, which was, 'It was important to note', I think these are the words; I do not have it in front of me, 'it is important to note that this supply bill will not fund any new capital projects'. This relates to the previous debate about the appropriation bill. We have a capital project in the Devonport Sports Precinct in the First 100 Days Plan. I was told, in briefings, these supply bills do not contain election commitments. I am very interested in how some of these things in the First 100 Days Plan are going to be funded. If the Treasurer could answer that question, I will be all ears.

In accordance with clause 21 of the *Financial Management Act*, there is also \$12.5 million for the Treasurer's Reserve, in finance general, to meet expenditure which cannot be reasonably foreseen. That will get us across to the budget.

The commission of inquiry; very important work. We had a supplementary appropriation bill for that just prior to the election late last year. There is additional funding in this supply bill for that work to continue, which is \$29.8 million. That has been considered separately to the government agencies needs which is proper and correct.

The bills themselves do contain some high-level figures for each agency. It is such a large amount - we are talking about five months of approvals here from the parliament - which is almost half a budget, and not a lot of scrutiny. We are not going to have estimates committees or anything like that. It would be good to have some further figures and information at the agency level to get a full appreciation of what we are approving today. From my time in the other place, when we pushed the government, we could extract that additional information that was not presented to parliament.

The other question I have for the Treasurer is the efficiency dividend, which was part of the budget that was delivered last year across the forward Estimates. I am interested in the efficiency dividend and how it applies to these supply bills. If the Treasurer could provide me an update on the amount and how it will apply across government, that would be appreciated.

It is obviously a money bill. It is a very large approval that we are discussing today. We are not going to stand in the way of money bills; that is generally not the done thing. We absolutely need to support the operations of government. However, I think there are some questions for the Treasurer to answer with regard to the First 100 Days Plan. We want some more information at the agency level and about how the efficiency dividend will apply.

I look forward to the debate on Supply Bill (No. 2) 2024 because I have some questions there, but we will support the bill.

[3.14 p.m.]

Mr BAYLEY (Clark) - Madam Speaker, I will be very brief. We will support this bill, of course. We note the funding for government services and the important work the public service does to keep Tasmania running. We have no intention of diving into the detail of this bill. I note some of the comments made by the shadow treasurer and look forward to the answers. Regarding Supply Bill (No. 1) 2024, we do not have any specific questions. We thank the Treasury staff for their diligence in pulling this together and look forward to the Treasurer's answers.

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Treasurer) - Madam Speaker, I thank the House. I do not mind the occasional political narrative that comes into these debates; I expect that. If I were the shadow cabinet or the Greens, I would do the same. It is good to have some perspective come in to these debates, but nonetheless, again, in advance, I appreciate the fact that -

Mr Willie - It is called holding you to account.

Mr FERGUSON - I am actually about to pay you a compliment. I appreciate the fact that, once again, the House continues to demonstrate support for supply mechanisms. It is very important. It is a good thing for a Treasurer to be able to say something like that without sarcastic remarks in reply.

Supply is really important. Because of the timing of the election and the date of the budget to be brought down, supply arrangements are really vital, not only for the ordinary operations of government, but to enable important initiatives to be progressed.

I did mention, during the second reading speech, the importance of continuing the implementation of the commission of inquiry recommendations and without interruption. That, together with a reduction in the Treasurer's Reserve, is the only deviation in the supply bills to the ordinary calculation of five twelfths of the 2023-24 financial year, rolling over for the new financial year to give effective cover to the end of November. By that time, we would expect all stages of the new budget to be agreed and in receipt of Royal Assent.

I am not telling anybody anything new when I say that when the budget is brought down, it fully replaces the supply bills that are being asked of the House today. I am happy to pick up all the questions raised by Mr Willie and Mr Bayley.

First of all, I am tabling for the benefit of the House the agency level outputs that were referenced and requested by you, Mr Willie. You will find no surprises there because, with the exception of the reduction in the Treasurer's reserve, I made that decision. I will come back to that for a different reason, and the commission of inquiry response. You will find that it works out to five twelfths of the previous allocations and the only changes you may see is where there

have been different acts administered by different ministers after the new ministry has been sworn in with the administrative arrangements order. I supply that to the House.

In respect of the Treasurer's Reserve, this may support a question or comment made by you, Mr Willie, in the earlier debate which discussed the more frequent nature of supplementary appropriations bills since I have been Treasurer. That is deliberate. I am doing it with a reduced and a deliberate decision by me as Treasurer, now just over two years. I have wanted to provide more. I remember Cassy O'Connor, the previous member, who made it clear every time. I think they were called something different before the FMA came down, but whenever there was a debate in this House about quarterly returns or supplementary appropriations that there was always - I would describe it as - the quite painful process of waiting for the debate, waiting for the questions to be asked, and then eventually the Treasurer of the day would give the information.

I have just been proactive in giving it. I have made that my practice. Additionally, with the Treasurer's Reserve, which got to something like \$150 million a year, one of my first decisions - and I was open with this House about it at the time - was I believed in the notion of discipline by this House of me and myself to be more forthcoming when I saw the need for more allocations to be made to agencies. I did not feel that I had anything to fear from that. It was just a case of submitting the process to parliament, knowing in advance that it would be a debate.

Mr Willie - I did not say it was a bad thing.

Mr FERGUSON - It is about transparency.

Mr Willie - Yes, that is what I said -

Mr FERGUSON - But I have brought that forward. It is perhaps with respect to you, Mr Willie, as a new member of this House, you may have not been aware of those comments that I have made in the past, but I have made them very willingly.

Second, when we brought forward supplementary bills, you have never had the detail that I have put in the second reading speeches ever since I have been Treasurer. I say that without embarrassment nor gloating. It is a good thing. It is about providing increased transparency. Also, I realise I will not be Treasurer forever and I want the next treasurer of whichever colour to conduct the same sort of practice, perhaps even better than I have done.

Regarding the efficiency dividend, I do not have anything further to add to what the Premier said this morning during questions, but I am happy to put it on the record. Agencies in the 2023-24 Budget did not have an efficiency dividend, but it was forecast that it would come into effect in 2024-25. That was quite carefully constructed. Unlike previous efficiency dividends, which came in with weeks of notice, this one was intended to get back to that notion of financial discipline and fiscal improvement, which I have talked about in the fiscal strategy. It also gave agencies 13 months' notice to gear up for that, to prepare for it, to have well planned efficiency dividend strategies that minimise impact on essential public services. For that reason, the supply bill has not been reduced by an amount to take account of an efficiency dividend. It is based on five twelfths of last year's budget. We will have more to say and be able to answer more detailed questions at the timing of the budget and the subsequent Estimates committees.

Regarding the setting of the date of the budget, there is not much benefit of me going through this, but I make the gentle point that it is quite normal in an election year for a budget to be brought down later and often for supply bill arrangements to come into place.

The bottom line here is that in all cases there is no way for the government and government services to continue without the blessing of this parliament, without the support of the House.

There are some roll-over mechanisms, which are for a much shorter period of time and which are not useful in this case. We want to do a good job of this. We have just come through an election with significant new commitments, of which we are working through the delivery. The 12 September date, which was decided on advice to me as Treasurer, was very sensible.

Picking up on the point, which is a reasonable one, about where in my second reading I said it is important to note that no new capital projects have been funded in this supply bill. I would say to Mr Willie that is perhaps a misunderstanding of the word 'capital' - that would refer to government capital investment program in the general government sector. For example, when Devonport City Council are doing their capital project for us, that is not capital for us as GGS, that will be a grant. That will appear in the budget papers as operational expenditure even though you and I both know it will in fact build bricks and mortar, but it will not be sitting on the government balance sheet. That is why that is a grant payment and that will be funded out of operating services. I hope that is a good account of all of those.

I have a few other pointers to election finances, but I do not really want to go there if I can avoid it, comparing Liberal and Labor spending promises. We will deal with those in the budget.

Thank you to the Labor Party, the Greens and the crossbench members for the express support - with your own political complexion on it - for supply, which is a mainstay of the way this parliament works.

Bill read the second time.

Bill read the third time.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 2) 2024 (No. 5)

Second Reading

[3.25 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Treasurer) - Madam Speaker, I move -

That the bill be now read the second time.

Madam Speaker, in accordance with current appropriation convention, two supply bills have been prepared: one to provide funding for the services of the government; and the other to provide funding for the services of the government in respect of parliamentary and statutory offices.

I recently outlined the need for the supply bills to be introduced to parliament this financial year in my second reading speech on Supply Bill (No. 1). The information provided in that speech applies equally to this bill.

Supply Bill (No. 2) 2024 seeks parliament's approval to provide for the appropriation of \$20.1 million out of the Public Account for expenditure on operating services in 2024-25 until the Budget Appropriation bills are enacted.

I commend the bill to the House. I table the same information relevant to this bill.

[3.25 p.m.]

Mr WILLIE (Clark) - Madam Speaker, this is another supply bill for government in respect of parliamentary and statutory officers and, by the nature of those, we obviously do not have much of a role to interfere, as several of these agencies maintain their independence and participate in the budget process. Whilst the approvals are ultimately a matter for the Treasurer and executive government, they subsequently are a matter for the parliament. These agencies know their funding needs to function effectively.

There are forums where we can engage in their budget process. I know through the Public Accounts Committee we have a good relationship with the Audit Office and have discussions with the auditor from time to time. There are budget estimates processes where some of these offices highlight some of the things that may or may not have been funded in the budget and how that impacts their program, but ultimately many of these offices do maintain a level of independence, particularly the parliament, and potentially your budget and the parliament's budget. We will be supporting this bill.

[3.27 p.m.]

Mr BAYLEY (Clark) - Madam Speaker, similarly, we will be supporting this bill. It obviously funds a range of really important functions of our system, which is very welcome. I have a couple of important questions. As was outlined by the Treasurer, these bills are approving another five-twelfths worth of funding based on the allocations that were in the existing budget already, so they are just flowing through.

The one that stands out for me is number four, Legislature-General, the money that runs this very place we are in at the moment. This House, at the very least, has gone up in its demands. There are an additional 10 members drawing on the services of the Parliamentary Library staff, the services staff and others. I am interested in the Treasurer's approach in the interim, until we get to the new Budget. What provision has been given to the parliament to meet the needs of the restored size of the parliament, given that I am hearing that this is just the previous budget flowing through for another five months?

Has there been any provision to top things up so that it can meet the needs of this House in particular and the members of this House? By that I mean all the services we draw upon. Is there a commitment from the Treasurer and the government going forward that the needs of the Legislature-General and any other of these facilities that are servicing us as members - particularly the extra 10 members - are going to be funded adequately so they can deliver the very high level of services that we collectively have come to know?

I am sure everybody can understand that any system attempting to do more with the same amount is going to be challenged delivering the same level of service. Something usually has

to give, and I would not like to think that the staff in this place or the service delivered by this place suffers because we have not managed to resource them adequately in this interim period, or indeed going forward.

That is my one concern I put on the record, Treasurer. We will support this bill and we urge you to look carefully at any requests in that space going forward.

Madam SPEAKER - If there are no further speakers I call on the Treasurer and declare a significant interest in that question.

[3.30 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Treasurer) - Madam Speaker, thank you again for the discussion.

To respond to Mr Bayley's question, in this case funding for the Parliament of Tasmania and Legislature-General is not five-twelfths of the previous year. It has been adjusted for the extra membership of MPs. The number was circulated with the accountable authorities of the Legislature-General and House of Assembly.

Feedback was received by Treasury and the newer number has been incorporated in here. I do not want to verbal on behalf of others, but I will indicate to you that that has been considered and extra funding has been added to this to enable the five months of funding required, but not on the basis of five-twelfths of the previous year.

Mr Bayley - Was the request met?

Mr FERGUSON - The answer is yes, but I did not feel that I should say exactly because I did not have that advice, but there is a higher amount that has been allocated and I am quite happy to just check with my advisers to see if maybe it is the exact amount.

I will say Treasury undertook a similar calculation along with the other agencies that we discussed in Supply Bill (No. 1). Treasury then consulted with Legislature-General and the House of Assembly and factored in additional supply at their request. I am now going to seek advice as to whether it is the exact amount being met but I may not be able to give you that answer.

I will leave my answer there, because I do not want to speak on behalf of others when we do not have that specific advice, but it seems to me on the advice I have received verbally that the need has been met.

Again, I thank members for their speeches and questions and commend the bill to the House.

Bill read the second time.

Bill read the third time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from above (page 56).

[3.33 p.m.]

Ms OGILVIE (Clark - Minister for Small Business and Consumer Affairs) - Madam Speaker, it is wonderful to be back in the House. I thought, as is traditional with me, I would start with a quote that I think will resonate with all of us. It is:

The problems of government are not the problems of statistics, but the problem of human values, human hearts and human feelings.

So said Enid Lyons in her inaugural speech. She was of course the first woman elected to the House of Representatives at a federal level and a truly great Tasmanian. As it happens, Joe Lyons was in Cabinet here in Tasmania with my grandfather and my great-uncle, and I think it shows what a wonderful tradition we have of working collaboratively and across the Chamber. I think it is worth noting that as we re-establish our parliament with 35 seats. I say re-establish and other people say enlarged, but really, we are just going back to how it was back in the day.

I thought in this speech, because I have been around a while now, I would note that I have had a decade in public life and in parliament in the service of Tasmania and the people of Tasmania, which I have enjoyed and loved. I have said often and will always say that I put Tasmania and Tasmanians first. I will work with everybody and anybody who will put Tasmania first. We have had some great successes along the way.

I want to reflect briefly on the election. I quite enjoyed the campaign. It was a hearty campaign, and I was very pleased to be returned in Clark. That is now around a decade, with a few ups and downs for me.

I have a range of portfolios which I would like to roll through very quickly, but before I do that I think it is important to thank and recognise everybody in this place who keep it going: the staff, the clerks, the teams that keep us going, and it is really lovely to be back seeing all the friendly faces throughout the building, some of whom have become my friends, I think.

As far as portfolios go, I have a bit more to say, but at a high level I have the Arts and Heritage and I intend to make the Arts a very prime piece of the work I will deliver this year and going forward over the next four years. Prime and big. We are an arts state. I think we ought to celebrate that and do what we can. We might need to have a bit more self-help in that regard. I am pleased to see particularly the Music Teachers Association and their advocacy and work teaching young people music. They are joining orchestras, coming through the pipeline, filling up our pubs with music. It is a wonderful thing, and I am pleased to have been made to feel so welcome.

Women and the Prevention of Family Violence: as we know, a new mood has swept the nation in relation to this dreadful and insidious crime. It is my intention, and it is our government's intention, to amp up our response. I will be reaching out and up to the federal government after its recent budget regarding funding opportunities it has identified. I will also be endeavouring to work at a very grassroots level across Tasmania, particularly in the women's

portfolio, to make sure we are listening and doing what we can to help women when it comes to the prevention of family violence.

I have Corrections and Rehabilitation. We will be leaning into the recidivism problem we have. We will be utilising technology to improve the way we run things and to assist people who need additional help, particularly with education, so that they come out of prison not just with a place to be, but with work to do. It is important that we centre this work on the human side of things, and corrections is an area in which we can do so much good work.

I am delighted to be leading the UTAS STEM project, also leading to the wonderful news that the Sandy Bay campus will be retained. Those who have graduated from the university, particularly in the STEM subjects of science, engineering, math, technology and IT, know there is a need to upgrade, as we all do. That is particularly in those areas that are large - engineering, mechanics, computing, supercomputing, quantum computing. Those areas really are global and will take Tasmania into a new realm of science and tech. However, it does not just happen by us locally saying we need to do that. It can only happen with the work we intend to do with the federal government, particularly around securing Tasmania's rightful contribution of \$500 million of federal money for our important university. That is work I am looking forward to doing. It is going to be hard, and I am looking forward to a lot of support from across the Chamber. I know there are quite a few UTAS alumni in the House and I look forward to having a cheer squad on that.

I have Consumer Affairs, which is an important area. We try to manage the balance between consumer rights and suppliers in relation to many things. Most recently, in that area of consumer affairs and Consumer Building and Occupational Services (CBOS), we have banned engineered stone. That has been a long time coming. I am delighted to have delivered that move on my watch. It was a bit of a change for Tasmania to do that but, at the end of the day, safety is our number one concern. We have been able to work closely and well with industry to do that, particularly around getting appropriate transitional plans into place, despite the resistance of some other states for us to do that. We have landed it well because we have acted prudently.

In relation to Small Business, one of my favorite areas, I will talk a little bit more about this later. However, I will never forget the day we stood in this House during the middle of the pandemic and had to make the tough decision to close the borders and close parliament. I went from this place and walked up Salamanca, up through North Hobart. I spoke to as many small business owners as I could, many of whom I have known since school, who were standing sometimes in their shops or in their restaurants, in tears with a fridge full of produce and workers, many of whom were migrant workers, in very serious straits.

We were doing the work we needed to do with Peter Gutwein at that time to save those businesses and keep them going. We worked hard at that. I always feel nice when somebody remembers and says thanks. They recall that when the chips were down, Tasmania and Tasmanians worked together to make sure we protected as many people as we could.

In relation to Worksafe, which is also one of mine, we have heard the issue of industrial manslaughter, something on which we are already consulting. I am looking forward to having fruitful conversations in relation to that. Consulting is always a key piece of the legislative process. That is something dear to my heart and, when pressed, I will always revert to more, rather than less, consultation.

In relation to what we have coming up in the electorate, this is my favourite piece. I am a bit of a people person. We know that Clark is an interesting electorate. I say it is the best electorate. I know others may feel theirs are, but I would like to put my money on Clark. It is heartwarming to see the sense of community I have just spoken about continuing, particularly with the new members of our community who have moved here from other places internationally.

There are many organisations I would like to thank for their support. Some of my favourites, just quickly, include Tassie Mums, who we all know and love. We have been able to assist them with a vehicle for logistics support and the great work they do in the sewing room in prison, which fills us with love that there is that connection. There is the Greek Orthodox Church in Hobart, which is beautiful. If you have not been there, please go and have a look. From a heritage perspective it is just gorgeous. They have welcomed our commitment of \$175,000 to upgrade the Holy Trinity Hall. There is also the Nepalese Football Club. The Nepalese are a great and growing community in Tasmania, and we are helping with \$15,000 to support them.

We work collaboratively with local groups, of course. Having been around a long time now, I am circling back the next time or a third time to some of these groups, and I am seeing the results of the work we have done and the work I have been able to put in over a decade. One of these is the great news that we will deliver a \$5 million commitment to the Glenorchy Memorial Pool. I have been out there with the engineers, inspected it, and I have listened, seen what needs to happen there. It is such an important pool. I grew up swimming there. We had our school swimming carnivals there. It is such an important meeting place. That is because it is a local community place. It is our open-air pool, which is lovely, and we want to see that reopened, knowing and understanding that longer term solutions will also be needed. This \$5 million in funding is in addition to the \$200,000 we committed in September to investigate options to conduct a full evaluation of the pool. That work is ongoing.

In relation to UTAS and STEM, it really is an iconic site. It is an institution that has educated generations of Tasmanians. I am a third-generation graduate of the law school myself. Now, there is a disclosure. We know there has been a concerted effort not just by the community but also right across Tasmania from educationalists who want to see the focus on students, and to make sure they have campus life if we can deliver that. The pandemic, again, was the great disrupter; it put everybody on their screens. There is a sadness to that, that we do not see the congregation of students as we may have known and loved to do ourselves in our younger days when we went to university.

We think we have struck the right balance with the proposed legislative change between protecting the public interest and allowing the university to get on with their business. Their business is educating young Tasmanians. That will be front and centre, and foremost in many of our minds, particularly those of us who are parents.

I am delighted to be leading the government's overall relationship with UTAS again, not just on that retention piece, but in relation to reinvigorating and enhancing the university's science, technology, engineering and mathematics facilities, or STEM, as we know and love them. There is so much opportunity for educational excellence, research and commercialisation. We will reach into industry and ask them to come to this discussion and join us at the table to work out how we can best partner and work together for this amazing project we will now endeavour to do jointly. We know that the science and technology sectors

offer huge potential for Tasmanian economic growth, together with global work opportunities. I have had those global work opportunities. They are doable from here.

Hi, everybody from Scotch. It would be wonderful if we could have our children with opportunities from Tasmania working globally and we can do that with digital technology and we are focused on that. We know also that ICT leadership and industry leadership is needed to close the digital divide for all Tasmanians. I have been pushing this and am at the forefront of engagement with local, national and global companies in the tech sector. I have been off to Silicon Valley. I have met with Microsoft. They all want you to come and work for them when you get through your degrees. We have developed those key relationships to support and articulate Tasmania's STEM excellence future.

We want Tasmanian students to have access to the most contemporary tertiary education opportunities, including research, innovation and commercialisation, access to industry partnerships, professional opportunities and we want to tackle equality and equity challenges. Equally, we need to understand the need to meet workforce challenges and demands for the ICT sector in the future, which is precisely why we are acting to address this issue. It is not going to be without its challenge, but I think we are up for the task, and I am delighted to take that leadership role. I will be working with the university, STEM industry leaders and our Commonwealth counterparts to support UTAS' enhancement and STEM-led plan.

This idea of upgraded STEM facilities is not new. They have been on Infrastructure Australia's radar since 2017. Yet, given seven years has now elapsed. I will need to work with UTAS to update the business case and pursue a Commonwealth investment for some \$500 million into revamped STEM facilities at Sandy Bay. We understand that the work opportunities and leadership that is required will take us to a new future. We are bringing industry to the table to hear their voices and bring their capacity to this important dialogue. It is industry, particularly the ICT sector, which serves to offer endless opportunities for innovation, growth and jobs of the future. What better way than to have our homegrown talent study, be employed and remain in Tasmania? This is what a STEM-led future holds.

UTAS' STEM project is one I am deeply passionate about and one I look forward to keeping you abreast of, delivering for the future of UTAS. Tasmanian students seeking a future in STEM, tech innovation and global industries is what drives me. I have noted the Premier has often commented that we want young Tasmanians to have a future in Tasmania and you should not always have to move away to have a great career, a great job or get an opportunity. The STEM future in Tasmania is bright. Through this partnership I am really hoping we can capitalise on opportunities for all of us.

There is a range of other portfolios I hold and ones I have held in the past, but perhaps if I just highlight in the few minutes remaining the work we are doing around small business, in particular in relation to our small business growth strategy which I was fortunate to launch two years ago and a \$1 million grant program for capital purchases which we will announce and release soon. Grants up to \$10,000 will be available to purchase items, including technology, small-scale manufacturing equipment, computers or electronic payment terminals. It is going to be good.

Tasmania's multicultural communities, as I mentioned earlier, are vibrant, diverse and innovative. This is dear to my heart. We are putting some funds into their small business sector to assist them in the start-up and growth of their businesses. This will look like a \$400,000

grant program over two years. We will deliver specific support to eligible multicultural small businesses with up to \$5000 to help finance projects.

There is lots to do. Coming up tomorrow we have one of my personal favourites, the Heritage ministers' summit. This is our second year of doing it. It has become quite the hot ticket; we are sold out again. I am very pleased about that, and I am delighted at the quality and capacity of the people who will come to our Heritage summit to talk about all things history and heritage in Tasmania.

Our arts and cultural heritage sector is so important. In relation to making films, which we also love to do in the Arts portfolio, we have committed to grow the capacity, talent and creative skills of the Tasmanian screen industry with the support of Screen Tasmania. To do this, we will introduce a \$1 million pilot incentive scheme to bring more high-budget screen productions to our state, with productions like *Bay of Fires* and *The Survivors*, just to name a few. There will be opportunities for young people to get involved and untapped potential just waiting to be explored.

Then there is our \$500,000 rebate program to encourage development in the gaming sector and fuel digital gaming activity. I am super excited about this. We are going to support young Tasmanians with a \$1 million youth arts grant funding program and a one-off \$1.5 million increase in arts organisational funding.

One area that is often missed out, I think, but one that I have an absolute passion for, is Corrections and Rehabilitation. The more I meet the people who organise, manage and run this important part of government business, both in Community Corrections and the prisons, the more I realise that there is so much work to do.

As I said when I opened today, we will be leaning into the rehabilitation space on this. We will be people-focused, and we will use technology in an innovative way to make sure that those who are in Community Corrections or incarcerated in prison have opportunities to study and improve. By doing this, we take the pressure off our prisons, we give people opportunities to improve, and we deliver outcomes to ensure that we keep a lid on how many people we have in the sector.

Time expired.

Recognition of Visitors

Madam SPEAKER - Before calling the next member, I believe this will be the final takeover of the gallery by Scotch Oakburn this week, and I once again welcome all the students from Scotch Oakburn grade 9 and hope they have had a fantastic trip down to Hobart.

Members - Hear, hear.

[3.55 p.m.]

Ms BUTLER (Lyons) - Madam Speaker, it is an honour to rise as a member of the 51st Parliament of Tasmania. Unfortunately, we did not win a majority of seats in the election. I thought we ran a disciplined, methodical campaign and our policies far exceeded the Liberals and other groups such as the Jacquie Lambie Network, who did not have any policies.

It was again another early election, the third in six years. The usual spin, the usual cheap and degrading one-liners, treating the people of Tasmania with contempt to maintain and win power at any cost, regardless of the outcome for our beautiful state. The result is a patchwork coalition. There is no real stability for Tasmania, and we will not see this until Labor are in government again, though I do believe there is good will amongst all of the successful 35 members of parliament.

It is daunting beginning the journey as an elected member. I remember when I started here, I had been working for the previous Speaker of the House, Michael Polley, as an adviser. My mum had been a member here too and I had worked for other members of Parliament and been in and out of here for 15 years and I remember feeling really daunted and overwhelmed on my first day as an elected member.

I would like to make mention of those candidates who did not get across the line this time and, in particular our Lyons Labor team, Edwin Batt, Richard Goss, Casey Farrell, Ben Dudman and Carole McQueeney. I also enjoyed my interactions with Richard Hallett. I thought he was really lovely to deal with and ran a really successful campaign. Also, Justin Dirksen and running into Mark Shelton from time to time in odd places and backstreets in St Marys, as we were going and having a bit of a chat. It would be interesting if the public could see that sometimes there is quite a bit of camaraderie between people from different parties.

I thank the people of Lyons for re-electing me for the third time; your support is appreciated. I endeavour to continue working hard to ensure the people of Lyons are represented and I will never forget that. That is the reason I am here. Those people have trusted their vote in me and therefore I will represent their voices in the House.

I congratulate Michelle O'Byrne, before she leaves the Chamber, on her election as Speaker of the House. She is assertive, she is tenacious, and she knows the standing orders like no one else. I think Ms O'Byrne's stewardship may be one of the reasons why we have a good opportunity of this parliament lasting.

I pay my respects to my fellow Lyons member, Rebecca White MP, my good friend and colleague who worked so hard to represent the community as leader of the Labor Party for many years. It was through a difficult time for our party and a time of great reform. I believe that the discipline that we showed during our last election campaign - we may not have been successful, but we were very disciplined - comes down to that leadership of Rebecca. Thank you very much. She has very much helped to build an extremely strong foundation for us.

I congratulate Dean Winter on his appointment as the new Labor leader. He has a different approach and a new energy as we navigate this interesting and hopefully collaborative 51st parliament. Dean has a political nose like no one other and he is also one of the most genuine, hardworking and clever people who I know.

I also congratulate the member for Franklin, Meg Brown, on your appointment - even though I said this to her privately. You are warm, you are vivacious, you are gutsy and you are going to have a go. You are going to represent the people of Franklin well. It is just wonderful to have you as part of our team and you bring a new energy.

I am sure some upper House members will miss Josh Willie, who left the upper House to come to the lower House as a member for Clark. We are pleased to have him as part of our

team and his speech this morning showed he is very stately, poised and measured and he means very well.

The election result reflected the mood of the Tasmanian people. The style of politics, which major parties have been repeating campaign after campaign, is not fitting anymore to the Tasmanian people by and large.

One of the best examples I had of this was during the election campaign: I had done a full day of doorknocking in Triabunna. I like doorknocking in Triabunna. The people are really friendly, down to earth, and like to have a good chat. I pulled in at the Tandara hotel to visit my mate Dennis, who runs the hotel. I had a beer with him at the public bar and there was a television on in the background. During the election campaign, like most people in this room, we do not have time to watch television; we are not sitting there, we are not watching the news and we are not seeing what all those political ads look like to members of the public. I was horrified because the television was on, and I am sitting around this public bar with about eight people having a chat to Dennis. It was so embarrassing. It was just ad after ad. Much of it was absolute garbage. Not one person in that pub was watching any of it. I said, is it like this every night? Excuse my ignorance. I know I am a member of parliament, but is it like this every night? And they said, yes, it is like this every night. We just hit the mute and that is all they were doing.

They were listening to the lovely Kim Millar on 7 News, providing the news of the week and then hitting mute. They were all just talking to each other because they did not feel like any of that related to them. We need to be mindful of that. I chose not to do television advertising because I knew it would get lost in a huge blanket of potentially - well, we had 35 seats - just a huge blanket of candidates. It would be a waste of money, especially when people are muting and much of it is so condescending to the people of Tasmania. Much of it was spin, lies, fear campaigns and traffic lights. Not appropriate at all.

We need to think about how we campaign and speak to people in our communities and do more during our terms other than turning up every six weeks or when there is an election campaign. Then we knock on a door there and they have not seen you for the three years. If you are lucky, you might get three years, the way you guys run through elections.

We need to make sure as elected members that we doorknock outside of election times because it is a genuine conversation. It is something that I have always done, and my mum always did. Other people who I have worked for also did this, including David Llewellyn and Michael Polley. They always engaged with their communities. You are not just knocking on a door for a vote. You are introducing yourself and genuinely asking if there are any constituent issues that they would like to share with you, which you could represent in the House. It is our job. I think the way in which we have gone about it for many years does not work anymore.

Another thing that was annoying me during that election campaign, and is still annoying me, is I cannot believe that you guys are still using these terms, disingenuous statements such as 'ban ramping'. It was like a 1980s PR call. It was something that the *Mad Men* series would come out with. 'Ban ramping, ban ramping.' What does it mean? It means nothing. You know it means nothing. I thought that that was just something that you would be using during an election campaign, but no, you are still using those terms now.

That has to be relooked. We do understand that the reason why there is ambulance ramping is because there are not enough beds or staff in the hospital to look after people. That is how you ban ramping; you do not just build little enclaves at the entrance of the A&E to wheel people in, park them there and go. You can send on your ambulances. That is not fixing the problem at all. All that is doing is moving deck chairs on the *Titanic*. I am glad the minister for Health is listening to that.

Back on to something more positive: I thank my parents, Heather and Jeff Butler, who live in Melbourne and flew down to Tassie for three weeks to help with my election campaign. They certainly set the pace and they provided structure and support as per usual. To my mum and dad, thank you for putting your lives on hold for our beloved Labor Party and thank you for always reminding me of the light on the hill, the need to represent our communities too. In the wise words of Gough Whitlam after his dismissal in 1975:

Maintain your rage and enthusiasm for the campaign for the election now to be held and until polling day.

To listen and to work hard for change, because Tasmania is only at its best when a Labor government is steering the ship.

Again, my dad Jeff managed my signage campaign, which was a massive endeavour if he considered the sheer size and scope of Lyons. Mr Shelton, Mr Barnett and the other honourable member for Lyons, Tabatha Badger, would understand that it is a big space.

I thank my always supportive husband, David, who has the patience of a saint, and my children, Madeleine, Archie and Alexander.

Also, to my amazing electorate officer, Tina Hogan, thank you so very much for your patience and dedicated hard work. She really is a one in a million. You make such a difference to the community, especially through the work that you do through our Bridgewater office.

Viv Campbell, my Longford electorate officer, was newly appointed and in her first campaign. She shone. She held down the fort in a calm and friendly manner. She is an absolute gem.

I thank the incredible group of volunteers spread across lines who worked tirelessly on my campaign. I am sure I am going to miss someone; I hope I do not: Sheridan van Asch; Di Robinson; John Hortel; Bill White; Carol First; Julian Harvey Gee; Scott Wells; Judy and Jen Nelson; Bec Hanby; Sybilla; Sean Manners, Jill Visor, the tenacious Reuben Eberhardt, Pauline Williams, Sarah Williams, Naomi Arnold, John and Caroline Bedelph, Jeff Hull, Mia Arnold. To the wise and brilliant Michael and Kim Polley, thank you. Also, thank you to Dick Adams, Dee Alty, Daniel Hume, Peter Carvey, Robert Flanagan, Ian Wakefield from the mighty Australian Workers Union (AWU), and the amazing Kevin and Mitchell Midson. Thank you for fighting the good fight for me and with me.

I am honoured to look after the portfolios of Police, Fire and Emergency Management. I am in awe of the incredible work ethic and professionalism of our police service. I am also aware of the increased duties our police service is expected to pick up for other government departments as the government implements budget efficiencies directives across many departments, asking many in frontline services to cut costs. This often means not filling

positions due to attrition or not undertaking comprehensive long-term strategies to recruit and retain staff. Our police are being asked to step in for paramedics, social workers, counsellors, mental health specialists - the list goes on - to meet those growing gaps. It is not okay for our police to have to do that. They do it because they are trained to do it under an oath to protect. They will fill those gaps, but the cost to those police officers long term is very rarely beneficial to them.

We are also asking the police minister to reconsider the stationing of police officers during the construction of the new, and overdue, Bridgewater Police Station. This was something we looked at in the Public Works Committee. We know building the new station in Bridgewater will take 12 months. In the interim, they are placing a makeshift, I think it is 8:45am to 4:45pm, five days a week, Monday to Friday, two-person place where people can do their bail check-ins and so forth at the front of the civic centre in Bridgewater. That will be it for 12 months as far as police stationed in the Bridgewater community. They are being decanted to Glenorchy, so the after-hours police response to places like the Derwent Valley will be coming from Glenorchy, not Bridgewater. That is adding an extra 10 to 15 minutes, even more potentially, for police to respond to those after-hours calls. We know there will also be a delayed response for the people of Brighton, Bridgewater and Gagebrook because that response will be coming from Glenorchy.

The Derwent Valley now houses an absolutely beautiful new police station. It is state of the art, fit for purpose and it is quite big. Of an evening, it is closed and the police response to the Derwent Valley comes from Bridgewater. We are asking that the minister for Police consider relocating some of those police officers normally stationed on shifts at the Bridgewater Police Station to the New Norfolk Police Station, whilst others go to the Glenorchy Police Station. This would take pressure off police officers attending those callouts and also provide quicker response time for those communities. We are hoping the police minister will consider that as an option. It would not be too disruptive to police operations. We certainly would not tell police how to conduct their operations as they are the experts. However, to me that seems to make a fair bit of sense, so we are hoping that will be considered.

I also look forward to continuing in my role as shadow minister for veterans. We are very proud of the veteran housing policy we took to the election. That was a policy to build 21 houses with comprehensive wraparound services for homeless veterans and their families. It is a pity the government has not embraced that policy. We intend to keep pursuing this policy as it is important, and we do not consider the state government is doing enough for Tasmanian veterans in need. Tasmania has the highest number of veterans per capita in Australia, at 17,219. That is the Australian Bureau of Statistics figure for 2022. Veteran homelessness is nearly three times higher than the broader population. RSL Tasmania's wellbeing team sees homelessness in approximately 34 per cent of their cases. There are up to 50 Tasmanian veterans homeless or at immediate risk of homelessness right now.

Research projects by RSL Tasmania and UTAS highlight the significant gaps in the wellbeing of veterans. Notably, 40 per cent have experienced trauma during service, 55 per cent suffer from mental illnesses, and 39 per cent live with ongoing disabilities. Furthermore, veterans face challenges in accessing community transition, health and human services, often hindered by logistical, financial and cultural barriers.

The new sites would be located on RSL Tasmania land with specialist wraparound services. The specialist wraparound services are where you really get - and I will be crude about

this - bang for your buck. That is what would really make a difference to those veterans experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The sites would be at Primrose Sands, Huonville, New Norfolk, Queenstown, Railton and Westbury. I will keep pushing this, minister. I know the RSL has put this to you as well and that there are different supports on different levels for this policy. It is certainly worth considering. It is those wraparound services that will make those differences to saving veterans' lives. It is a really good policy.

I am also looking forward to working in the women's portfolio. I am not scared to ask the hard questions and make a stand on that. I will always work very hard to make sure that women are safe and that there is no discrimination, whether it be conscious or subconscious.

I will also be looking after the Corrections portfolio. I do not think the government is going to like that very much because you are stuck with me investigating this northern prison again. I am looking forward to prosecuting whether or not the economics stand up for it, the model of operation you intend to use on that proposed prison and whether there is any good will in the Deloraine community for a prison of that size to be on that site.

[4.13 p.m.]

Mr SHELTON (Lyons) - Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise this afternoon to make my contribution to the Address-in-Reply to the speech of Her Excellency the Governor, Barbara Baker. What a marvellous speech. It outlined what her government is going to do in this parliament. As a member of this government, I am pleased to be standing in front of everybody, the new members, and the older members. Mr Abetz is not here. What did happen for me during the election was that Rob Valentine was retiring come that election. He was actually the grandfather of the House; he was the oldest male between the two Houses. Unfortunately, I was the oldest one prior to the election in this House. What has happened is that Mr Abetz is about six months older than I am, so I do not hold the mantle of the elder statesman of this House any more, which pleases me somewhat.

I congratulate all members on being elected. It is truly an honour and a privilege to be elected to this place to represent your electorates and the Tasmanian people. I have had the privilege of being here now for five terms. As Ms White indicated, we were first elected in 2010. It has been a privilege to serve the people up until this point and I look forward to continuing that. It is daunting for the new members, of course. In 2010 a substantial number of new members came in as well. I can remember that happening. For all the new members, yes, it is a bit daunting, but you will get the hang of it.

We should respect each other individually more than we do. Unfortunately, this place tends to bring out the worst as far as personal comments go, and I hope in this new congenial atmosphere we do not go down that path in the future. We need to stay away from that, and, in actual fact, the Standing Orders say you should not make personal comments; hopefully, that will be the case. Welcome to all the new members. You will get the hang of it and if one of the older guys in this place can assist you at any time with anything, please ask.

I congratulate you, Madam Deputy Speaker, on your election to the Chair. I also congratulate Michelle O'Byrne on being elected Speaker of the House. Obviously, it is not the outcome I would have preferred, but nevertheless she will make a fine Speaker. Whilst tidying up the Speaker's room, leaving the key on the desk, I also left a Mintie there as well. We move on.

From my perspective, of course, now it is about Lyons. Everybody has their own electorates. I would like to talk about elections. I actually love elections. I have been through five elections. We have a number of former mayors and deputy mayors in the Chamber who have been through mayoral elections. I started in 2000 and I think I have been through either five or six local government and mayoral elections, and five state elections.

I love campaigning. I love talking to the community. I like finding out what their needs are, how they are feeling, what is going on and you get to see nice houses around the place and neat gardens and all that sort of thing. You have a really good look around. I love electioneering because it gives me and all members a chance to get out in the community. We do get hooked into this place and centred on what we have to be doing, but we should be talking to the community and that is what elections do. They get you out there.

I congratulate the Premier taking on the premiership and being the Leader of the government. I am honoured and happy to represent the people of Lyons as I speak about our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future and what it will deliver for the electorate of Lyons. Time will not allow me to go through every announcement the government has made within Lyons because Lyons is such a large electorate covering more than 35,000 square kilometres. I would like to mention a few of them.

The Rockliff Liberal government is pleased to announce investments which I will highlight. We are investing \$32 million to build four new super-sized child and family learning centres to meet the growing demand - including one at Longford where my electorate office is - adding to the existing 15 centres already operating in Tasmania, and a further three that are under construction. These centres are purpose-built facilities where children from zero to five years of age and their parents and carers can access free support services and activities that assist them with the challenges of parenting and early childhood development, including free access to psychologists, speech pathologists and social workers. They will be built to national quality standard requirements, so they have additional spaces to enable partnering with early childhood education carer providers to deliver early education, long day care, and vocational care, along with outside school hour care where there is a demand for those services.

Madam Deputy Speaker, another expenditure is on our paramedics. We are going to employ 27 extra community paramedics over the next four years to treat Tasmanians in their homes, and to assist in treating walk-ins at the district hospitals of Deloraine, St Helens, St Marys, Campbell Town, Oatlands, New Norfolk and the Tasman Peninsula.

We will provide \$1.5 million to the Midlands Agricultural Association to establish Tasmania's first shearing and wool handling innovation centre at the Campbell Town showgrounds, which will include a shearing shed and associated amenities. The shearing and wool handling innovation centre will provide state-of-the-art education facilities in a central location and will work with TasTAFE and other RTOs to provide further employment opportunities. This will allow students to learn their craft without the need to travel to the mainland for this purpose. I was in our shearing shed with my brother on the weekend, teaching our kids a little bit about crutching dirty sheep. They were not all that impressed, mind you, but that was part of their education.

We will also invest \$75 million into the Greater South East Irrigation Scheme, which will unlock a further \$150 million worth of federal government funding. I know the Greens member for Clark mentioned irrigation and the dry season we have in Tasmania at the moment.

Irrigation in Tasmania spans more than this government. It goes back over previous governments. The dry spell that we had around Tasmania this year has created difficulty for some, but where we have been able in the past to provide irrigation water, it has saved a lot of farmers and regional communities. They were able to maintain their activity and assisted Tasmanian's economy because they grew their potatoes and their peas and that has produced income. Without that investment from the federal government, the state government and the farmers themselves, we would have had a more difficult time in regional Tasmania than has been experienced.

Mr Fairs - Water is?

Mr SHELTON - Liquid gold, as the former minister has said in the past. This scheme will deliver up to 37,200 megalitres of reliable irrigation water each year to more than 300 irrigators in areas such as the Jordan River Valley, Gretna, Tea Tree, Richmond, Campania, Sorell, Pawleena and Forcett.

Work with the Rural Youth of Tasmania and Dairy Tasmania will support the construction of a permanent multi-use structure at Quercus Park with \$350,000. Agfest agricultural field days bring between \$21 million and \$26 million to the local economy and this investment will assist to future-proof the dairy industry participation in Agfest, as well as provide an all-weather facility for other community groups to utilise such as the Launceston Show Society, car clubs, dog clubs and music festivals.

I do not know how many in this Chamber went to Agfest, but I was there for the three days. Agfest is a marvellous thing. For those new members who do not know where I live, it is Bracknell so it is only down the road, six or seven kilometres, so I can go in the back door and be there at 6 a.m.. My normal day starts just after 6, where I go to the Bracknell school tent, where my son, who is part of the parents and friends, already has the lights on and the barbecue going, and we cook between 350 and 500 egg and bacon muffins every morning. Rural Youth do a great job, but they get hungry and order some egg and bacon muffins, so there is a permanent order there of 70 egg and bacon muffins by 7.30, and we are all on spatulas and heating up the muffins to get their food ready for them. Bracknell Primary School do great pork and lamb rolls, with either gravy or mint sauce. If you are ever there next year, it is fantastic.

What it does is provide an opportunity for the primary school parents and friends to come together. There are dozens of volunteers over the three days. There are huge logistical activities with two tents, volunteers, barbecues, cool rooms, and so on. It provides the school with something like \$12,000 to \$15,000 a year. That gives the parents and friends the money they need to invest in the libraries and furniture and so on. Deloraine school is there, and Hagley is there. It is a great thing; it is a fantastic thing.

We are joining with Rural Youth Tasmania to establish Tasmania's first purpose-built Earth Works Training Site at Quercus Park. This will be only the second site of its kind in Australia. Rural Youth will partner with the Civil Contractors Federation of Tasmania to deliver real 'live works' training. It has been identified that 667 new plant machinery operators and other critical workers will be needed every year until 2027. This site will assist in providing trainees with up to 3000 hours of training and qualifications per year, in the civil and construction sector, supporting more than 330 apprenticeships.

The 2030 Strong Plan also invests more than \$79 million for roads servicing Lyons to include \$20 million from the Lyle Highway between Granton and New Norfolk, \$20 million for the East Derwent Highway between Bridgewater and the Bowen Bridge, \$6 million, as has already been discussed today, toward the upgrade of the Wielangta Road, and a further \$1 million toward the remediation of the Sorell Rivulet Bridge in Sorell.

The Tasmanian Liberal Government has also committed funding for work on roads and bridges in the Southern Lyons area, including the \$786 million new Bridgewater bridge. I love driving over there, coming down and seeing the advancement. Week by week there are more columns going up, more deck going up. It is just marvellous to see. It is just lovely. It is good to see that finally taking place.

As part of the Midlands Highway 10 Year Action Plan, roadworks will be occurring at Ross, Oatlands, and north of Campbell Town. They are expected to be completed by 2025. I want to mention the fact I have investigated the Midlands Highway quite closely on my walks between Launceston and Hobart. I have had somewhat of a bird's-eye view, looking down at the road. The strip north of Campbell Town, from Conara to Campbell Town, does need upgrading. It is the most difficult part to walk. There is only 500mm of verge and you have trucks coming at you at 100 kilometres an hour. You are stepping off on the gravel, your feet are moving, and you are stepping back. It will be fantastic when the whole Midlands Highway has been upgraded. It has made it a safer road now and it will be a very safe road when the whole works are completed. I look forward to that happening.

In talking about the walk, I thank everybody who supported me in my charity walk between Launceston and Hobart for St. Giles. I was able to raise \$25,000 this year to support St. Giles. It is a marvellous effort by Tasmanians. There are a lot of other supporters that support St. Giles and other charities. I would only say to people - and I know times are tough out there with the cost of living and that sort of thing - but there are fantastic charities out there if you have a few bob spare. It is tax deductible. Donate to a charity.

Further upgrades to the Illawarra Road are also due to be tendered in the coming months. Work will take place from Springfield to the Bass Highway. We are also assisting in securing a new Lyons base for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS); it is a vital service for all Tasmanians.

Following a \$6 million shortfall in federal funding, the Rockliff Liberal Government has committed to this funding gap to ensure the new purpose built RFDS base can be built at the Launceston airport near Evandale.

As well as being headquarters for RFDS Tasmania, the new base has been designed in consultation with Ambulance Tasmania to include an Ambulance Tasmania operations room, enclosed ambulance bay parking, a patient transfer room, six Ambulance Tasmania crew reset rooms and an Ambulance Tasmania administration space.

The 2030 Strong Plan also invests \$188 million in delivering major upgrades to schools. Upgrades will be completed at the Campbell Town District High School, Deloraine High School, Jordan River Learning Federation, East Derwent Primary School in Bridgewater, and to Dodges Ferry Primary School.

We will see the completion of the new \$74 million Brighton High School. Is that not a fantastic development? Just like driving down and seeing the Bridgewater bridge, it is marvellous to have a look at the new school at Sorell. Also of note, the \$24.78 million project of the Sorrell School to be completed by the by the end of this year, including a new child and family centre at Sorell.

The 2030 Strong Plan invests in our beautiful east coast area by completing the St Helens and Georges Bay Walk and the St Mary's Education Centre, as well as constructing new Telstra towers to ensure reliable coastal communications. It provides funding for upgrades at May Shaw Health Centre and invests in vital infrastructure for the hospital at St Helens and St Marys.

We will also invest in local tourism, committing support to events such as the Bicheno Food & Wine Festival and the ECHO Festival in Swansea. We commit to more affordable housing and social housing; to the construction of 18 units underway at Triabunna, and eight units at Fingal to assist in those builds.

We are also supporting the Volunteer Marine Rescue units by the \$1 million investment over 4 years to support those vital services along Tasmania's coast.

Debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Deputy Premier) - Madam Deputy Speaker, I move -

That the House does now adjourn.

Beauty Point Caravan Park - Petition

Ms FINLAY (Bass) - Madam Deputy Speaker, I seek the leave of the House to table a document which is a community petition that has been prepared by the community, but unfortunately does not conform with the Standing Orders.

Leave granted.

Ms FINLAY - I will read it into the *Hansard*. The petition reads:

We, the undersigned, wish to register our extreme concern about the detrimental impact on the health and wellbeing of customers at the Beauty Point tourist park. The park's ageing demographic comprises single men and women, older couples, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and others with diagnosed mental and physical health issues.

Specifically, they are concerned about the park and they seek an immediate 6-month moratorium on actions or changes proposed by the Managing Director: urgent mediation to discuss and resolve issues affecting the tenure and quiet enjoyment of our lodgings; oversight of the park management by a

regulatory body in compliance with the Residential Parks Act; and, an independently chaired committee for residents and park management to raise and resolve any ongoing issues.

The petition was organised in the community about a number of concerns, and it follows a letter sent to the Premier and to a number of other ministers by the West Tamar Council. The West Tamar Council moved a motion at their meeting on 19 March 2024. As a result of that motion, they were compelled to write a letter to government to raise a number of issues to seek to review legislation with that review ideally looking at enhancing security for tenure, establishing grievance procedures, including minimum standards for facilities and services and providing operators with clearer guidelines for the management of tenancies in their sight. They are also seeking an interim measure being a memorandum of understanding to formulate guidelines which safeguard the rights of long-term occupants.

The concluding comments in the letter indicate that it is paramount to the West Tamar Council to prevent long-term occupants from facing abrupt evictions, resolving compliance issues in parts and ensuring the overall viability of caravan park businesses. These proposed actions strive to address the immediate concerns of long-term occupants, striking a balance with owners and should lead to better outcomes for all parties. The council was looking forward to receiving a response as a matter of urgency.

The petition and the letter from the council follow a constituent question that I posed to the Premier this morning in regard to this government acting with urgency to seek to clarify circumstances for long-term residents and park operators, not just where these constituents live in Beauty Point, but also for anyone else finding themselves in these circumstances across Tasmania. I am pleased with the support of the House to be able to table that petition with 2108 signatories. Significant concern is being expressed by the community seeking to have urgent action.

I know that across the community there is a number of reasons why people find themselves living in caravan parks, why they purchase an asset and choose to call it home. I have had the pleasure of meeting a number of people who live at the caravan park at Beauty Point, people who have chosen to retire from across the country to Tasmania, coming to seek the moderate temperatures and nice seasons we have here and to have enjoyment, pretty much on the edge of a waterfront property.

There are people who have chosen to move there because as they progress through life, it is home and their community and somewhere they can secure their future and stay in their local community, and other members of the community who for a variety of reasons find it financially suits their purposes. There is a real feeling within the collective community locally at Beauty Point throughout the greater West Tamar community and we have heard from people from different places as well aware of the concerns for people to want to stand up and care for the security, safety and ongoing quiet enjoyment of the properties that they occupy at Beauty Point.

Thank you to the House for accepting the petition. I am keen to hear the response of the Premier, who has just arrived in the House, to the constituent question this morning and I am sure that the West Tamar Council are keen to have a response to the letter they provided to government regarding these concerns also.

Road Safety Week

[4.39 p.m.]

Ms BURNET (Clark) - Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise this evening to speak about the issue of road safety. Everyone recognises that safety on our roads is so important, with the rate of incidents, injuries and deaths still occurring a cause for deep concern. Like many critical issues for our community, there is no one easy fix to make our roads safer. There are numerous factors behind what we are seeing on our roads and of course there is a range of great programs that are already underway. However, there is always more to be done.

Last week was Road Safety Week. I joined with the Minister for Transport as the Greens spokesperson for transport at the launch of Road Safety Week and there was the founder of Safer Australian Roads and Highways at the national launch at TMAG. It was pleasing to see that road safety received prominent media coverage. Representatives from across the political spectrum and from all levels of government were also making this a focus, but we need to make sure this focus and the words we have all used is reflected in a year-round commitment.

As Greens transport spokesperson I am particularly keen to take a positive and constructive approach to this issue to make sure it stays on the community radar and to feed in suggestions of where improvements can be made

One area we believe there is a real opportunity for improvement is road safety around schools. We recognise the many significant measures already taken over the past few years to make things better. However, if you talk to parents at many schools, they will still tell you they have concerns. Quite often it is those people close to their community, who know the roads very well, who have much of the intelligence on what is happening and the dangers. Whether it is unsafe intersections or congestion of traffic that cause unpredictable car movements, people are still going too fast through school areas. Issues with bus drop-off locations and crossings, areas where the same problem crops up time and time again, or something else - we know where there are problems. This is especially true around school pickup and drop-off times.

Last week, I was at South Hobart Primary School with Greens councillor and local parent Gemma Kitsos, who could readily identify a range of road safety concerns around the school. This was no surprise. Everyone who takes a child to and from school knows the area well, but all too often these local insights are only discussed between parents at the school gate or in the home. People do not know the who, what or how of bringing up such issues with those responsible for fixing them.

The Greens believe there is a real opportunity for improving road safety around schools by drawing on the local knowledge and insights of people who are interacting regularly with specific infrastructure or a particular area. Drawing on this knowledge can give us a better sense of how things are working on the ground and help us identify possible changes.

I have written to the Minister for Transport in relation to this. On behalf of the Greens, we are putting forward an idea to the government to set up and promote an easy-to-use, centralised, dedicated way for parents and school communities to report road safety concerns. This is an important step that could be taken to improve our understanding of what is really happening around our schools. It is also a great way of increasing the awareness around school safety year-round. We believe using a single well-promoted app or website for all schools,

where parents, the broader school community and locals can feed in what they are seeing, could have big benefits. There may be some immediate quick fixes identified.

Over time, the government and other relevant bodies will be able to build an understanding of commonly identified school and local issues. This could include infrastructure, signage, education, changes to car movements or speed, or other measures. The Greens believe this is an idea that could make a meaningful difference to road safety around schools, and we hope the Minister for Transport will give it real consideration. After all, it is the safety of the most vulnerable of road users, and to the benefit of all when we make our roads around schools safer.

Supreme Court of Tasmania - Bicentenary Law Week Events

[4.44 p.m.]

Mr BARNETT (Lyons - Attorney-General) - Madam Deputy Speaker, I am pleased tonight to pay tribute to some very special people and organisations.

First, I pass on my congratulations to Chief Justice Alan Blow with the ceremonial full sitting of all our Supreme Court judges, together with chief justices from various other jurisdictions, with a special tribute from the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, on the occasion of the bicentenary of the Supreme Court of Tasmania. The Supreme Court of Tasmania is the oldest supreme court in Australia, and it was a very special event last Friday, 10 May.

The Supreme Court was created as the Supreme Court of Van Diemen's Land by the sovereign under the Third Charter of Justice and commenced activities on 10 May 1824. The first sitting of the court administered the oath of office to Attorney-General Gellibrand and to William Sorell as the first registrar of the court. It also admitted George Cartwright, Hugh Ross and Frederick Dawes as practitioners. All were admitted as barrister, attorney, solicitor and proctor. The first person to be tried before the Supreme Court was William Tibbs, who was charged and convicted of manslaughter.

The ceremonial sitting of the court was addressed by the president of the Australian Bar Association, Peter Dunning KC, the president of the Law Society of Tasmania, Julia Higgins, and the president of the Tasmanian Bar, Tom Cox, together with myself. It was an honour to make that contribution. Ms Higgins provided some interesting facts and statistics regarding the court that I believe are worth reflecting upon. Ms Higgins indicated that between 1824 and 1831, the Supreme Court admitted an additional 21 practitioners and that, up to today, 5,584 practitioners have been admitted to the Supreme Court of Tasmania. I am one of those.

Mr Abetz - Ditto.

Mr BARNETT - Ditto from Mr Abetz and, indeed, many others. Sir John Pedder was the first chief justice of the Supreme Court of Tasmania. He served from 1824 to 1854. Since that time, there have been 13 chief justices of the Supreme Court of Tasmania, with the current incumbent, Chief Justice Blow, having held the role since 2013 after having been admitted as a justice of the Supreme Court in 2000.

There have been 42 puisne judges of Tasmania in its 200-year history. Women were not allowed to practise law in Tasmania at the time the court was established. They were first allowed to practise in the state in 1904. However, it was not until February 1935 that Ms Nancy Helen McPhee was the first woman admitted to practise in the Supreme Court of Tasmania.

I should note that I was admitted to the Supreme Court of Victoria on 11 April 1984, and to the High Court of Australia in 1984. Yes, I am giving away my age totally. Many years later, I was admitted to the Supreme Court of Tasmania. That was a special day, all robed up and in a wig. My father's best friend at school admitted me in the Supreme Court of Victoria. It was a special day.

The first woman appointed to the bench in Tasmania was Justice Tennent in 2005, followed in 2009 by Tasmania's first female magistrate, Justice Helen Wood, then, in 2021, Justice Jago.

While most aspects of life in Tasmania have changed markedly over the last 200 years, the important role the Supreme Court plays as Tasmania's highest court remains unaltered. The separation of powers of the executive, the parliament and the judiciary is clear and evident today. The independence of the judiciary is incredibly important. If you contrast that to other jurisdictions or countries, including the USA, where there is such a strong political influence on the appointment of judges, it highlights the importance of the judiciary being independent and impartial. I think we can take great credit in Australia for the fact that it is independent, and we do not have those similar sorts of concerns.

I pay a tribute to Stephen Escourt on his new book, which I have in the Chamber today, *From Convicts to Computers: Two Hundred Years of the Tasmanian Supreme Court*, which, as the title suggests, traces the 200-year history of the court up until the present day.

I hear some giggling. I have been reading it. It is fascinating.

Mr Bayley - You have a sidekick behind you, minister.

Mr Abetz - I was holding it up.

Mr BARNETT - I am glad you were holding it. I would not consider it a prop.

We are celebrating Law Week next week, starting on 20 May. I will be hosting an event in Parliament House in honour of our legal profession and Law Week, and the important role that it takes in our legal year. Likewise, a special commendation to the Legal Profession Board, to the chair, Kaz Pitt, the board members and those involved.

Before I conclude, I pay tribute to Legal Aid in Australia and in Tasmania, their 50-year anniversary. We will be hearing from Kristen Wiley next Tuesday on the role of Legal Aid. Thank you to all those volunteers in the legal profession who support Legal Aid and those involved in Legal Aid for the work they do. They do a wonderful job.

Finally, to Manoj Fernando, Migration Institute of Australia in Tasmania, who received the Early Career Lawyers Award from the Law Society of Tasmania at their annual dinner, which I attended some months ago. I am looking forward to presenting a special certificate to

Manoj for his wonderful work and contribution here in Hobart and to pay credit to him next Tuesday. Looking forward to that opportunity and to pay those tributes today in the House.

Hamlet Cafe Commercial Kitchen

[4.51 p.m.]

Mr WILLIE (Clark) - Madam Deputy Speaker, I am going to enjoy this new format of adjournment speeches. It is different from what I am used to. We used to call them special interest speeches, and it is a different time of the day.

I rise tonight to talk about a very special organisation, Hamlet, which is a cafe and commercial kitchen and catering business in South Hobart that is a social enterprise. I was fortunate to attend the opening of the commercial kitchen on 4 April. They have a wonderful landlord who offered the next-door site at a very agreeable arrangement. The state government kicked in \$250,000. I spent some time last year lobbying members of the government for that funding and I think it reached the Premier's office before a decision was made. It was a very pleasing outcome that the opportunity was realised for the organisation. Congratulations to Emily Briffa, Mat Rowell and the board. There are some very qualified people on the board at Hamlet.

Their mission is to empower the underrepresented and build skills and independence so that people can display their abilities in an employment setting. Not only do they support Tasmanians who are underrepresented in the workforce; they create more inclusive workplaces in our beautiful state. Last financial year they assisted more than 45 per cent of their graduates to secure employment in the open employment market in the tourism and hospitality industries. They have built great partnerships to build a pipeline of employment for their clients with large-scale employers like MONA, MACq 01, and Banjo's Bakeries. Banjo's Bakeries is a good one. Because there are so many of them around the state, it is easier to place people in work near where they live, particularly if they have mobility issues: great partnerships, great businesses helping great Tasmanians who are trying to live their best lives and develop their employment skills.

Hamlet recently had Creak and Ford do some economic analysis: \$28 of economic benefit was generated over the working life for every dollar spent on training at Hamlet.

On the opening night of the commercial kitchen, Michael Shaw spoke about his life before becoming part of the Hamlet family, as he would say. He had anxiety, he had a stutter, he was socially isolated. Hamlet supported him to significantly improve his life, to the point where he spoke at his grandmother's funeral. It was a huge moment in his life for him to be able to do that for his grandmother. He spoke about how proud he was and how much personal development had been facilitated by the people at Hamlet.

I was fortunate to visit again recently with the opposition leader, Dean Winter, and Ella Haddad, the other local Labor member for Clark. We walked in the door and there was a very enthusiastic fellow behind the coffee machine. He said, 'Hi Josh, you might not remember me, but I know you'. I thought, where is this going? He said: 'I did some work on your house a long time ago as a plumber with my dad, and I played a game of golf or two with you. That was prior to me having a stroke and nearly losing my life. I have had huge changes in my life since I knew you and I just thought I would introduce myself and say that I love this place and

I love being a barista here. It makes me have a different outlook on the world.' He said he was really enjoying his time there. That is James Mackie. It was great to meet him again, to hear his passion for the work he is doing at Hamlet. He seemed much loved in that environment by his co-workers and the people supporting him at Hamlet. It was great to bump into people like James. He is a great example of the sorts of people that Hamlet is supporting.

Back to some of the economic analysis - \$8.1 million of economic benefit will be generated by Hamlet's 2023 trainees, over their total working life. It is estimated \$120 million of economic benefit will be delivered by all 723 Hamlet trainees over their total working life. We are investing in people. The state government has a partnership with them, which is great. Some of their funding runs out in October, I encourage members of the government, particular ministers, to continue supporting this great organisation.

They do have other ambitions too: a state government social enterprise strategy; more advocacy at the national level - it is a very competitive market, social enterprises - and potentially some amendments to the Treasury instructions for the Buy Tas, which could include social enterprises. If there are any members of this place or in the public who are hosting an event and you need catering, please reach out to Hamlet. It is a great investment in people. It is a really feel-good way to cater an event. There are great economic returns and jobs and people living happier lives. I just wanted to rise tonight to commend the work they are doing and let them know they have a friend in me.

Answer to Question - *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* - Review

[4.58 p.m.]

Mr ABETZ (Franklin- Leader of the House) - Many a coffee and a lunch has been had at Hamlet when I had an office further up Davey Street. It was not too far to walk. I commend the member for Clark for a very uplifting speech.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to refer to the member for Clark, Ms Johnston's, question earlier today in Question Time regarding the government's review of the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995*. A review of the act commenced in 2021. A discussion paper was released in 2022. It sought stakeholder input on contemporary fisheries management issues.

I am advised that a summary of the consultation feedback has been published and the government will be considering issues raised in determining any future fisheries reforms. As the new minister, I am determining the way forward in relation to this matter. Therefore, there is no end date I can provide to the member for Clark at this time. I thank the House.

Lindsay Tuffin - Tribute

[4.58 p.m.]

Mr BAYLEY (Clark) - Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise this evening with a heavy heart to speak about the enigma that is Lindsay Tuffin. Lindsay was a giant of a man, both literally and figuratively. After health challenges and a gradual decline, Linds, as he was affectionately known, passed over the horizon earlier this week. Amongst many, there has been an outpouring of sadness and stories on the news of Lindsay's death. In talking to friends and colleagues, the

adjectives that describe Lindsay have been truly eclectic. Amongst other things, he was a machine, brave, larger than life, non-compliant, anti-establishment, a vanguard and cracking good fun.

Lindsay grew up at Marrawah on a soldier settlement block and both expressed and demonstrated a profound love of Tasmania. Any interaction with Lindsay usually involved a tale of adventure and action, most often on wheels. He was an avid cyclist, famously settling into a recumbent and churning through hundreds of kilometres in an effort that left him invigorated, lean and fit. At over six feet tall, this kept him an imposing figure with a big voice and a boisterous bearing.

He was a true character, a gentleman and a colourful raconteur. Motorcycling was a passion, undoubtedly for the exhilaration, but some might be justified in asking if it was just for the leathers. Perpetually dressed in black leather with a beanie, this added to the imposing and introduced an element of an outlaw; always overshadowed by class, sass and mischief.

Lindsay's legacy is undoubtedly in the media. In an era before social media, Lindsay spearheaded an alternative approach to media that bypassed the mainstream and gave voice to those struggling to get airtime or with access to none.

In 2002 he founded the *Tasmanian Times* and offered a platform to publish with few filters at a time there were no others. Anti-censorship to the nth degree, *Tasmanian Times* published pieces and allowed comment-based debate through a period of political time that many consider some of the darkest in living memory. This was the era of Gunns, with its arrogance, entitlement and absolute capture of Tasmania's body politic, media and other machinery. In the words of Bob Brown, I quote, 'he gave us exposés about the corrupt, bigoted and downright nasty figures who blight Tasmania's future for their own advancement. His *Tasmanian Times* put a brighter light in the cavern of politics and business'. *Tasmanian Times* was influential and broke the stories the mainstream media would not touch. Many followed though and, as far away as France, *Le Figaro* picked up stories of Tasmanian travesties and published them in their sorry sordid detail.

For 200 years much media in Tasmania had run on silence and fear. Lindsay refused to cower to powerful forces and believed in truth and the discussion of truth. In February 2006, just before the calling of an election, *Tasmanian Times* ran the story that everybody in the media knew, but no one would touch - the premier's house. He told the tale of a premier of the day, receiving kickbacks from the construction company subsidiary of Tasmania's monopolistic logging company, seeking political favours to build the biggest pulp mill in the southern hemisphere. A pulp mill that would trash forests, pollute air, poison people, dump toxins into Bass Strait, and that was traded for a reno on a heritage house in a great Tasmanian political saga that was never to be told, if not for Lindsay Tuffin.

He was brave, forthright and uncompromising when it comes to scrutiny, accountability and the right of the public to know the truth. Prior to and during the establishment of *Tasmanian Times*, Lindsay worked at the *Mercury* newspaper; editor of the *Sunday Tasmanian* for a period of time. Lindsay dedicated his life to a vibrant media that asked hard questions of power and printed the answers. While much in Tasmania has changed, much has stayed the same and while the characters have changed in many cases, the script has not.

While there will never be another Lindsay Tuffin, we need more journos like him - committed to the story, capable of telling it, and willing to do so.

My condolences go to Sue and all of Lindsay's family and friends. Tasmania is a brighter place for his being. Lindsay leaves a legacy of extraordinary journalism, diligently delivered in the face of power and establishment. He was loving, lovable and much loved. He will be sorely missed, and I wish him well in the world beyond. Vale Lindsay and thank you.

North West Harness and Greyhound Racing Track Project

[5.03 p.m.]

Mr WINTER (Franklin - Leader of the Opposition) - Madam Speaker, I congratulate Josh Willie on his outstanding inaugural speech today. In making my contribution, I actually forgot that Josh was new to this House. When I thought about our new members, I remembered Meg Brown and said she was a great addition. I forgot Josh Willie because he has been with us for longer than me. Frankly, he is the member of the Legislative Council who was always destined to come to this place. He is much better off here, a much better fit in the House. He is looking forward to the fight and we are looking forward to having him here in the right place with us over the course of this term of Parliament.

I rise tonight to talk about an issue that I am really passionate about, which is racing, and particularly those participants in the north west who have been badly let down by this government. The north west racing industry is the home to about a quarter of the industry. Unfortunately, they have been let down by this government and by the recent announcement that the government will no longer go ahead with the north west harness and greyhound racing track. The circumstance is that they were happy at the Devonport Showgrounds. The government promised them, as they left the Devonport Showgrounds voluntarily, as Tasracing voluntarily ended the lease, that they would build them a new track. That was more than two years ago. It was only on 8 May 2024 the government finally came clean and admitted what I had been telling the industry up there for a long time was going to happen, and that was that they were not going to build the new track.

During the election campaign they continued to say, both the Premier and the then minister for racing, Felix Ellis, that they would not build it at any price, but they would not say they would not build it. They would not just admit the truth. It was only on 8 May the returning minister for Racing finally put out this statement. It said, 'the Tasmanian government acknowledges the decision by Tasracing to not proceed with the proposed north west tracks project'. It was not Tasracing's decision. Tasracing was going ahead with the track. They asked this government for more money, and this government would not provide it. They would not provide the money needed to keep the greyhound racing industry on the north west coast going; at the election, in the last budget, when they knew that if they did not provide that funding, the greyhound racing industry on the north west coast would die.

With the decision on 8 May, the greyhound racing industry is left with only a few trainers who are having to travel for hours. As Ben Englund told me today, every time he takes his dogs to Launceston, he loses a day's work. For someone like him who is a full-time plasterer who has his own business, this change puts enormous pressure on him. People like Robyn and Gary Johnson - who have been doing this forever, who have Ulverstone Pet Food Works and who make an incredible contribution to the north west economy - have had all of that ripped out

from under them because of the decision by this government to close down greyhound racing in the first place two years ago - and now to not commit to a new track that allows it to keep going.

For the harness racing participants, the hardworking, phenomenal harness participants, Devonport Harness Racing Club president Claire MacDonald, gave comments to *The Advocate*, and Alison Jarman, mayor of Devonport, speaking on behalf of herself as a participant, showed emotion when she talked to ABC Radio about what this means: the devastation for the industry. The decision by this government was covered up to pretend as though it was Tasracing's decision. It was this Liberal government that let the industry down. They have killed off the greyhound racing industry in the north west coast and the decision puts enormous stress and pressure on the harness racing industry. It leaves only Burnie and Carrick and people like the Davis family: Steve Davis, who is having to travel and spend hours in the car, and Brody Davis who is looking for more opportunities to drive in this state. These people are being let down by this government, let down again and again.

Today I see the absolute shemozzle of the Murrhly review, and the first interim report of stewards established to examine and further investigate the issues raised in the Murrhly report. Whether you follow racing or not, you know about the Murrhly review, because you have seen the complete and utter shambles of the handling of these complaints. The ABC report uncovered in a couple of weeks what ORI had not been able to identify for years. There was a massive cover-up. There were huge integrity issues in the racing industries, which had been covered up for years. They were outlined and found by a group of journalists who did the job that ORI had refused to do under 10 directors of racing in about 10 years. It had not been able to do it until a bunch of journalists decided to ask some questions.

Then the former minister for racing Madeleine Ogilvie stood up in this place and said that racing had never been in a better place. Then we had minister Ellis, who received the report that said there was race-fixing. There was team driving and there were massive animal welfare issues perpetrated by Ben Yole Racing. Then he let Ben Yole keep racing for another two months without doing anything, not a single thing about it.

Ms Ogilvie - All you do is talk everyone down.

Mr WINTER - There we go, talking everyone down.

Ben Yole Racing was perpetrating animal welfare breaches under your watch, minister Ogilvie, and you did nothing about it. You did nothing about it. In fact, you ordered ORI to investigate itself and then the Premier, Jeremy Rockliff, told you to do that. That is exactly what happened. You did nothing.

Ms Ogilvie - I ordered the Murrhly review.

Madam SPEAKER - It is end of the day so we will let him speak. We will stop interjecting, thank you.

Mr WINTER - Through you, Madam Speaker, this former minister did nothing. Instead of finally acting when they got the Murrhly review, they did nothing for two months, allowed him to keep racing and it took Tasracing to stand them down, and when the Minister for Racing, Jane Howlett, finally came back to the ministry, she said thank you to Tasracing. Well, it was

Tasracing that stood up because former minister Ellis had refused to do anything about it for two months and said that there would just be an investigation, and was happy to let Ben Yole Racing continue on, even though he knew about the animal welfare breaches, he knew about the race-fixing, and they let them keep going. Harness racing in Tasmania is an integral part of our community, and it should be allowed to continue, but this Liberal Government keeps letting these industries down and I desperately want them to finally step up and fix it.

Relay for Life

[5.10 p.m.]

Ms WHITE (Lyons) - Madam Speaker, I rise to talk about the local Relay for Life events in my electorate of Lyons that are run by local communities in both Triabunna and Sorell, raising funds for the Cancer Council Tasmania.

Cancer Council Tasmania's Relay for Life events bring together communities to celebrate survivorship, remember loved ones lost, and empower teams of families, friends, and colleagues to raise money to fight back against cancer. The Triabunna Relay for Life was held recently on Saturday, 6 April, and I congratulate everybody who participated.

Chairperson, Sophie Murfitt said:

Triabunna Relay for Life was organised by myself as chair and the Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Spring Bay, who helped on the day of the event. The 2024 Triabunna Relay for Life was a huge success, bringing together over 200 relayers and raising over \$52 000 for Cancer Council Tasmania.

The Sorell community are proud to bring Relay for Life to their community on Saturday 5 October this year. Those in this place may be familiar with the Chairperson, Joe Birch, who has a personal connection to the importance of raising awareness of cancer, having lost his beloved mother just three years ago. Joe says:

Sorell Relay for Life is being organised by passionate local volunteers and each relay event is an experience that will stay with you forever, with memorable moments celebrating survivors and carers. We honour those we've lost through a moving candlelight ceremony as we raise funds that stay in Tasmania to support Cancer Council Tasmania.

With 10 Tasmanians diagnosed with cancer every day in our state, I would like to recognise the important role these Relay for Life events play in fighting back against cancer and making a tangible difference in the lives of people affected by this disease, whilst urgently highlighting the need for support and action. If anyone would like to participate or support in the Sorell Relay for Life, you can find details about that on the Facebook page and register ahead of the October event.

In closing, I again convey a massive congratulations to the committees of Sorell and Triabunna Relay for Life events for their continuous commitment to this great cause. Their work is changing the lives of people impacted by cancer across our state.

Greens' Response to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

[5.16 p.m.]

Ms ROSOL (Bass) - Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to respond to minister Ellis's proud claims this morning that the government would be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime to protect people. What a disappointing, outrageous, and uninformed response to the question raised by Ms Badger, the Member for Lyons.

We face a difficult situation with social breakdown and an increase in anti-social behaviours. We definitely need to address these issues, but being tough on crime will not protect people. Instead, locking young people up will increase their sense of alienation and do nothing to address the underlying causes of difficult antisocial or criminal behaviours. I note the contradiction in what minister Ellis said this morning, on one hand saying being tough on crime and locking young people up, while on the other saying being tough on the causes of crime to protect people. We know that the causes of crime come from the things that I spoke about yesterday in my inaugural speech.

We know that when people experience intergenerational trauma, intergenerational poverty and disadvantage, that they are deeply affected, and it has an impact on them for the rest of their lives. We know the effect of trauma on young people. They experience the world as unsafe and live in a constant state of threat. They struggle to regulate their emotions and manage their behaviours and they have incredibly low sense of self-worth and carry around a deep sense of shame at all times. All these effects of trauma are what lead to difficult behaviours that can be unpleasant and unsafe.

Being tough on crime is not the correct approach to respond to this and it will only lead to more trauma, and we have seen that that is what happens at the moment in places like Ashley Youth Detention Centre. Being tough on crime will only lead to more trauma and a repeat and escalating cycle of misdemeanour, as more shame is triggered in these young people, and they have an increasing lack of safety. We have to look at the root causes of criminal behaviour and dig below the surface to identify circumstances that have led to them and respond to the needs these behaviours reveal.

I know from my fostering that we use a model in fostering called PACE, which is like a therapeutic approach to caring for children. P stands for playfulness, A stands for acceptance, C stands for curiosity, and E stands for empathy, so PACE. provides a sense of safety to children and to young people and that therapeutic approach is much more effective in helping them recover from the trauma than they have experienced than any kind of strict draconian response would ever be.

We can expand that model of PACE. and think about that more broadly at a systemic level and think what we are doing for the young people of our state to help them to feel safer, to help them have their needs met, for them to feel cared for and valued. Once we start to address those issues, we will start to see changes. They might take a while to come through, but we will start to see changes there.

It is not just me saying this; the Commissioner for Children and Young People describes the government's tough-on-crime approach as a blatant disregard for the rights of children and the Commission of Inquiry has made strong recommendations which focused on the need for therapeutic approaches to youth crime.

I call on the government to lay down their tough-on-crime approach. It is not going to work and perhaps to put more emphasis on their tough-on-the-causes of crime comments and actually do what is necessary to make things safer for our children so that they are less likely to engage in criminal behaviours.

Neighbourhood House Week 2024

[5.17 p.m.]

Madam SPEAKER - Member for Franklin, I believe you are exempt from the new members rule because you do not need to give another first speech.

Mrs PETRUSMA (Franklin) - I do not need to do another one.

Madam Speaker, this week is Neighbourhood House Week 2024, which is being celebrated from 13 to 19 May.

I know all of us in this place love neighbourhood houses because they are just such a wonderful place-based solution. Neighbourhood House Week is an annual nationwide initiative that celebrates the over 1000 neighbourhood houses, community houses and centres right across Australia, with this year's theme being Stronger Together. This week, neighbourhood houses are encouraging members of the community to come together to participate in simple acts of togetherness, whether it is a shared meal, a collaborative project or just a friendly chat.

Across Tasmania, neighbourhood houses are hosting a variety of events that aim to bring together community, to weave stronger bonds, and to explore the incredible strength that emerges when we stand side-by-side.

The Neighbourhood House model in Tasmania is now around 50 years old and today consists of 35 houses. It has the largest, most diverse community service footprint of any non-government organisation in Tasmania.

They are also community-led organisations that are strategically located to lead and coordinate community development in areas of most need and to build capacity using a community development framework. Each house works towards four goals: to connect community, to support people, to create opportunities, and to foster local leadership.

I know, like other members in this House, I am a frequent visitor of the neighbourhood houses in the Franklin electorate as they are the heart of our community. They bring people from all walks of life together to connect, learn and play. Through collaborative initiatives, inclusive programs and shared spaces, they cultivate an environment where every voice is heard, every story is valued, and every member contributes to the vibrant mosaic of our shared community.

In Franklin, our neighbourhood houses are being very busy this week and have hosted or will be hosting more events tomorrow to bring the community together. On Monday the wonderful Rokeby Neighbourhood Centre hosted an Empower Yourself workshop and tomorrow will host a community barbeque, while the Geeveston, Risdon Vale and Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood centres are also hosting community barbecues.

Tomorrow I will have the pleasure of attending the Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre, where Manager, Ben Cooper and his team are doing amazing work for their local community and I am really looking forward to supporting this family-friendly event tomorrow afternoon that will include face painting, garden games and a delicious free barbecue.

Very pleasingly, the Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre, which incorporates the Warrane community garden, was successful in receiving a commitment this election for The Hood in the Hub project which will invest in the sustainable construction of a building for the garden utilising sustainable design principles, while also serving as an educational tool for the community regarding environmentally-friendly and sustainable construction and structure design as well as provide a much-needed new facility for the community centre and the garden.

Over the past decade the Tasmanian Liberal Government have been one of the biggest supporters of neighbourhood houses and this support will continue, with the government making several commitments at the election to further support and enhance neighbourhood houses in Tasmania. We will boost funding to all neighbourhood houses by \$50,000 a year so the houses can continue delivering for Tasmanians at the forefront of their local communities.

I acknowledge that minister Jaensch is here tonight. The trial of the place-based Community Connector Program for neighbourhood houses has also been another initiative of the Liberal government with a pilot involving 11 connectors. The trial comes to an end in June 2024 and we will be providing ongoing employment for the 11 community connectors as well as begin a staged expansion to deliver even more community connectors across Tasmania.

We will provide \$6 million in new capital funding over the next three years to ensure all houses are fit for purpose and contemporary, and also will extend for two years the current trial of a new mobile bulk-billed GP clinic which will deliver up to 4500 additional appointments a year. The program, delivered by the Moreton Group, will provide walk-in bulk-billed GP services in four hourly clinics, five days a week, and will operate on a rotating roster that visits neighbourhood houses in New Norfolk, Clarendon Vale, Gagebrook and Chigwell, the Salvation Army in Glenorchy and Flint House in New Town. The two-year expansion begins at the end of 2024.

Madam Speaker, I extend my grateful thanks on behalf of everyone in this House as I am quite certain that every member in this place is very grateful to our neighbourhood houses, for the wonderful people who work in and around Tasmania's neighbourhood houses and also for the immense work that they do each and every day. They contribute so much to our communities and they make a significant difference to the lives of so many Tasmanians.

Madam SPEAKER - Are there any further speakers on the adjournment?

Before putting the question, I want to make one quick statement. I thank the parliamentary staff, the Clerks and all the people who work in this building for the excellent start to the parliamentary session that we have had. Everyone has done a lot of work to make sure that we can all participate here and do our job. I also commend all the members for the exemplary behaviour we have had during the first week. Long may it continue because spending time outside the Chamber is going to be less fun than being in here.

With that, the question is:

That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 5.23 p.m.