



PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

REPORT OF DEBATES

Tuesday 29 June 2021

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Contents

QUESTIONS.....	1
COVID-19 - OUTBREAK OF NEW STRAIN - REQUEST FOR WEEKLY BRIEFINGS	1
SOCIAL HOUSING WAITING LIST	2
PRISONS - CUSTODIAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT - IMPACT OF LOCKDOWNS	4
SECURING TASMANIA'S FUTURE - STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY	6
SOCIAL HOUSING WAITING LISTS	8
HOUSING APPLICATIONS - NUMBERS OF CHILDREN	9
SOUTHERN OUTLET - IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND CONSULTATION.....	10
TASMANIA PRISON SERVICE - REHABILITATION OPPORTUNITIES	11
NORTHERN REGIONAL PRISON - GEOTECHNICAL DRILLING AT THE BRUSHY RIVULET SITE	14
SECURING TASMANIA'S FUTURE - ANCILLARY DWELLING GRANT PROGRAM.....	16
PUBLIC TRUSTEE - ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL PRACTICES	20
FOOD AMENDMENT BILL 2021 (NO. 27).....	21
FIRST READING	21
CHILDREN, YOUNG PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES AMENDMENT BILL 2021 (NO. 28).....	21
FIRST READING	21
RIGHT TO INFORMATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021 (NO. 29).....	21
FIRST READING	21
MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	21
PUBLIC TRUSTEE	21
ANSWER TO QUESTION.....	30
HOUSING APPLICATIONS - NUMBERS OF CHILDREN	30
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY	30
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY	49
STATEMENT BY PREMIER.....	68
COVID-19 UPDATE	68
MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	96
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONDUCT OF 2021 STATE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS	96
ADJOURNMENT.....	97
TERENCE (TERRY) ROLES - TRIBUTE.....	97
TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY - CHILDREN'S GALLERY	98
MAST - SAFETY MEASURES FOR ROWERS	100
TASMANIAN HOSPITALITY AWARDS.....	102
MAST - SAFETY MEASURES FOR ROWERS	103
FERAL AND ROAMING CATS	103
TASMAN HIGHWAY - PARADISE GORGE	105
CARE PROGRAM - CREATING ACCESS TO REAL EMPLOYMENT	106

Tuesday 29 June 2021

The Speaker, **Mr Shelton**, took the Chair at 10 a.m., acknowledged the Traditional People and read Prayers.

QUESTIONS

COVID-19 - Outbreak of New Strain - Request for Weekly Briefings

Mr O'BYRNE question to PREMIER, Mr GUTWEIN

[10.01 a.m.]

I begin questions today by acknowledging the understandable community concerns surrounding the current COVID-19 outbreak. A new highly contagious strain of the virus has now been detected in four states or territories. It is a challenging time for governments and frontline workers across the country as we face the most serious outbreak since the Victorian second wave.

As the new Leader of the Labor Party, I want it to absolutely clear that we are with you on this. I give you my complete commitment that there will be no political game playing or point scoring when it comes to COVID-19. We will take a bipartisan approach and trust in the advice of Dr Veitch and the Public Health team that have served us well to date.

As you would appreciate, members of my team are being inundated from our constituents with questions and requests for information. We are fielding a range of inquiries and concerns, including QR codes, contact tracing, PPE supplies and vaccines. Will you commit to establishing a weekly briefing to assist us to respond accurately to these inquiries?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question. I am pleased to hear that you are not going to play political games because, to be frank, that is exactly what you started off doing yesterday.

Mr O'Byrne - That is not true.

Mr GUTWEIN - That is true. You simply could not help yourselves. You are right in that this is a very difficult set of circumstances. As I said this morning at the media conference, there is a moment right now in front of us in this country. The highly contagious Delta strain is very challenging and problematic and certainly has other states in some difficulties.

Last night we saw the swift action taken by Mark McGowan with Perth and Peel being locked down on the basis of one additional case as their Public Health officials did not have the full confidence that there were no further contacts in the community that could lead to a larger outbreak. He has taken the very sensible step of putting in place a four-day lockdown in that state.

New South Wales is in the first lockdown they have had, that you could classify with that term, whereby now Greater Sydney and three other large local government areas are locked down. Around five-and-a-half to six million of their population are now in lockdown for a two-week period.

Greater Darwin is now locked down as well. There are challenges that community faces regarding the contagious nature of this virus. Likewise, Queensland is looking at managing hot spots at the moment.

There is significant concern about the fact that 900 miners have now left the Northern Territory and arrived in other states. We have three here. I am pleased to say, as I did this morning, that those three are in quarantine. They have been tested; their first test was negative and they will be tested again before the end of their 14 days.

For any questions or matters of concern you have, I ask you to provide them to us quickly so that we can respond. Where there are concerns in the community, we will respond as quickly as we can with Public Health advice if necessary, but importantly by providing advice to your constituents on how they can best navigate some of the systems.

To be clear, what I have been providing at the moment has been, broadly speaking, a briefing at least once a week to all of Tasmania on the vaccination updates and any other matters relating to COVID-19. I will continue to do that. Regarding questions, I can assure you that at every single one of those media conferences, I have dealt with any question that has been raised. We have not time limited those media conferences, nor will we do so in the future. Today, unfortunately, I had to leave because we have question time but the Director of Public Health and the State Health Controller stayed to take any further questions after I had finished in the time that I had.

If you are interested in doing this in a bipartisan way, I encourage you to provide those matters of concern that your constituents are raising and we will respond directly to them. Any other matters of concern that you have, provide them in a timely fashion and we will provide that information to you. I will continue to provide at least a weekly update, as I did last Friday and I fronted the media again on Saturday. I noted the politics that was played yesterday, albeit I had two very capable ministers who dealt with questions as they were raised.

Regarding updates, if the Leader of the Opposition is sincere in what he is requesting, I encourage him to provide, in a timely way, any questions that he has, especially those from constituents. We will respond as quickly as we can with the advice to provide and support those answers. I will continue to provide at least a weekly update to the people of Tasmania and take questions with the media at least once a week.

Social Housing Waiting List

Mr O'BYRNE to PREMIER, Mr GUTWEIN

[10.07 a.m.]

It is disappointing that we are not going to be able to get a weekly briefing but we will be providing those questions to you, Premier. It was an opportunity to reset the relationship

between these parties. We sat in this House over a long period last year working together on these things and it was a genuine offer. I am disappointed that that is not being taken up.

The social housing waiting list has passed the terrible milestone of 4000 families waiting for a roof over their heads. This is nearly double what it was when you were elected in 2014. Thousands of Tasmanian families are facing a very bleak winter, couch surfing, living in cars and tents, with very little access to shelters and relying on the kindness of friends and family. What does this say about your Government's priorities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question.

I have said continuously, and it is a statement of fact - one that is well understood by most people but does not seem to be understood by the Opposition - that the most important thing we can do to ensure that we have options for people in need of housing is to build more houses. I was looking at some statistics this morning and I want to put a shout out to local government on this. In a normal year we would have 2500 to 2700 dwelling approvals in the state. This morning I looked at numbers and there were over 3900 dwelling approvals in the last 12 months. Local governments are certainly doing their job in both public investment and private investment. We are building more houses than we have ever built before.

Regarding the housing waiting list, we will do our best, over time, to provide some more granular information, but there are a number of categories on the public housing waiting list. We have people on that waiting list because they have a two-bedroom house but would prefer a three-bedroom house.

Members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Mr GUTWEIN - We have people on that public housing waiting list who would like to pay less rent; they would like a lower price option. There are those on that public housing waiting list in very difficult circumstances. The most important thing we can do is build more accommodation. That is what we are doing in the youth space and for older people.

Importantly, the private sector is delivering in spades. At the moment we are building houses in this state at a rate that has not been seen before. I put a shout out to local government to thank them for their work. It is not quite a doubling, but it is a significant increase in dwelling approvals, which means that we have the supply side starting to right itself. We are building more houses, which will put more roofs over people's heads and provide people with options.

Members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Mr GUTWEIN - Regarding the HomeBuilder program, many people are not building their first home, they are building another home. As those new homes come onto the market, as people move from their existing dwelling into those homes, more stock will be freed up. There are other incentives and options that we have announced and I will be saying more about

these shortly. We understand the challenge of getting more roofs over people's heads, but we are investing and, importantly, we are building more houses than have ever been seen in this state before.

Prisons - Custodial Inspector's Report - Impact of Lockdowns

Dr WOODRUFF question to MINISTER for CORRECTIONS, Ms ARCHER

[10.12 a.m.]

The Greens take COVID-19 and community safety very seriously which is why the Leader of the Greens, Cassy O'Connor is not in parliament today. She was feeling unwell yesterday, and she did what thousands of other Tasmanians are doing: she got tested, it is negative, and she will be returning to this Chamber shortly.

Minister, the Custodial Inspector's report tabled in parliament on Thursday was a scathing review of Tasmania's prison system and the impact upon prisoners of lockdowns. Last December there were more than 600 lockdowns across the state's prisons. Almost 400 were in maximum security, where capacity is at 117 per cent, often over consecutive days preventing inmates from accessing health care, drug therapy and legal advice. These lockdowns are not only in breach of your own Corrections Act, but they contravene the United Nations' Nelson Mandela rules, the convention on the rights of the minimum regulations for prisoner treatment.

Lockdowns have been occurring regularly and increasingly on your watch to the point where they have become an international human rights issue. How can you explain breaching your own state law and UN conventions? Repeated lengthy lockdowns deprive prisoners of basic human rights and should not be standard practice. They also produce combustible prison conditions. Will you commit to minimum UN human rights standards for prisoners and to compliance with your own rules immediately?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I welcome the question from the member of Franklin, Dr Woodruff, because I would like to make sure the facts on this are correct and on the record.

Dr Woodruff - You are disputing the Custodial Inspector's report.

Ms ARCHER - Given you have asked a question, and you have made some pretty damning allegations, Dr Woodruff, I would like to address the question.

Mr SPEAKER - Order, the question has been put. The minister should have the opportunity to answer those questions without interruption.

Ms ARCHER - Thank you, Mr Speaker. The reporting of these matters makes it sound like every prisoner is locked down for 23 hours a day every day of the week. That is far from the truth and I must correct the record -

Dr Woodruff - That is not correct.

Ms ARCHER - That is far from the truth and I must correct the record -

Dr Woodruff - It is what the Custodial Inspector said.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Ms ARCHER - The average hours of self- and secure custody across Australia in the latest Report on Government Services, or ROGS, data is 8.9 hours per day. The TPS exceeded this average every month except one month over the past six months. This failed to be acknowledged in the report; in fact, the report was simply a snapshot from December last year. The reality is that in the majority of cases when there is a lockdown it only impacts on a small portion of the prison population, and I will explain that. The majority of prisoners continue to have access to televisions and in-cell radios, books, educational materials and other activities.

Dr Woodruff - Not if you are in maximum security.

Mr SPEAKER - Member for Franklin, you have asked the question and I would appreciate if you allow the minister a chance to answer. If interjections continue the same result as last week may eventuate.

Ms ARCHER - Thank you, Mr Speaker. In most instances prisoners will not be confined within their cells during a lockdown but within their accommodation units or divisions where they are free to move around amongst each other and the entire unit or division. The units within the prison that tend to be locked most often I can acknowledge are the units which house the most high-risk, maximum-security prisoners whose behaviour whilst in prison is very difficult to manage safely, particularly for the staff involved. Again, the reporting, in isolation, fails to recognise this reality.

The Tasmanian Government notes the Custodial Inspector's review into lockdowns. Our top priority is to keep Tasmanians safe. The Custodial Inspector notes that lockdowns are a necessary and unavoidable part of the prison system, being used when required to ensure a safe and secure prison environment for prisoners, staff and visitors.

We acknowledge that spending more time out of cells is an important part of prison rehabilitation. I am pleased to indicate that the Department of Justice supports all the recommendations in the draft review, with all but one listed as an existing initiative. This clearly demonstrates that the department and Custodial Inspector are largely in agreement with the required approach to improve time out of cells for prisoners in Tasmania. This is why the Tasmanian Prison Service has dedicated staff working directly with the Custodial Inspector on matters he raises. This is quite a new initiative and it is working well.

Prison management continues to explore a variety of other strategies to minimise the likelihood of lockdowns in Tasmanian prison facilities and takes a planned and structured approach to the use of lockdowns to minimise their effects as best as possible. Importantly, we have recruited heavily in correctional officers since coming to government, with over 200 additional correctional officers employed in our prison system since 2016.

Dr WOODRUFF - Point of order, Mr Speaker, under standing order 45, relevance. This is very interesting detail but I asked a simple question: whether the minister would comply with her own law and the United Nations conventions.

Mr SPEAKER - Thank you. A point of order is not to ask the same question or repeat the question. There was certainly a lengthy preamble that went with the question and I allowed that. I will allow the minister to answer it as she wishes.

Ms ARCHER - Mr Speaker, it is relevant because this is not only about community safety but staff safety and other prisoner safety within the prison. We have a cohort of prisoners in maximum security who are endangering not only themselves but other prisoners and indeed staff, and that is a top priority.

I need to demonstrate the work the Government is doing to recruit additional correction officers. As I said, there were 200 additional including 75 in the last year alone despite COVID-19, with at least two new recruitments planned this year and the first of those underway now. This is recruitment never seen at the rate we are currently seeing and, contrary to unfounded cheap shots by those opposite to suggest that for every correctional officer put on, one leaves, is factually incorrect. Our recruitment is at a rate never seen before and we continue to recruit as fast as we can.

Under our Government there has been considerable investment in the Tasmanian Prison Service. We remain committed to addressing challenges within the prison service. That is why we are upgrading and building the necessary infrastructure as well as recruiting staff at a rate never seen before. We are doing everything possible to address this from the Government's perspective in terms of investment in infrastructure and staff, and my department is working with the Custodial Inspector to ensure that we address all those recommendations which, I note, have been accepted by the department.

Securing Tasmania's Future - Strengthening the Economy

Mr STREET question to PREMIER, Mr GUTWEIN

[10.20 a.m.]

Can you update the House on how the Government's clear plan to secure Tasmania's future is working, as evidenced by a strengthening economy? Are you aware of any alternative approaches?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for Franklin for that question and his interest in this very important matter. On 1 May Tasmanians voted for a majority Liberal government, just as they did in 2014 and in 2018. Make no mistake, the Labor Opposition at that time suffered a humiliating defeat. The election was a train wreck for Ms White.

We are delivering our clear plan, as we laid out during the election, to secure Tasmania's future. Businesses are confident; they are investing and they are hiring. Our economy is strengthening as a result. There are more jobs now than before the pandemic hit and 1800 jobs were added in May. Payroll jobs are 1.3 per cent higher than before the pandemic.

Importantly, unemployment is down from a forecast 12.25 per cent last year. Our unemployment rate fell half a percentage point in May to 5.7 per cent. The participation rate is back up to pre-pandemic levels, at nearly 61.5 per cent. The youth unemployment rate is

also down at 11.6 per cent during the month. Job vacancies are triple what they were in May last year. Our record and jobs is clear: 25 000 jobs have been created since we first came to government in 2014.

Despite the challenges of the last year, our economy continues to grow. State final demand grew 1.6 per cent in the March quarter and is now nearly 3 per cent higher than before the pandemic, the third-highest growth rate in the country and over a full year that has had the pandemic in the middle of it.

Goods exports hit \$3.8 billion for the 12 months to May, the highest on record, and exports are now 4.3 per cent higher than they were the year before, bucking the national trend which saw exports fall. Businesses are confident and they are investing, with business investment up 6.4 per cent higher than the year before; the highest annual growth and equipment plant and machinery sales in Australia, increasing 49 per cent over the year. Spurred on by HomeBuilder, which I have spoken about this morning and which is stimulating our economy and raising aggregate demand, dwelling investment right now is 13.5 per cent higher than the year before. As I said this morning, 3952 dwelling approvals over the 12 months to April, the highest we have ever seen in last 25 years.

Confident Tasmanians are supporting local Tasmanian businesses, retail trade is 24.5 per cent higher than April last year, but while our recovery is well underway, we know there is more to do to help those Tasmanians who are still doing it tough. We have hit the ground running, we have ticked off what we said we would do in 30 days, and we are working on our 100-day plan.

I was asked about alternative approaches. I wonder, based on that first question, whether the split is emerging. On one hand we have the Leader of the Opposition saying we want to work with you, we want to do the right thing by the Tasmanian community, yet Dean Winter was out there yesterday afternoon driving the boot in. You have to wonder what is going on over there, Mr Speaker. I wonder how much worse it can get. We have newspaper reports talking about communists. We have Dr Broad, who is well and truly on the record mentioning that the party is dominated by a hard-left factional group of powerbrokers, and then have Mr Winter stretching his legs yesterday.

Mr SPEAKER - Order, please refer to members by their appropriate title.

Mr GUTWEIN - Mr Winter, the member for Franklin. I could not help but think, over the weekend, about *Game of Thrones*, and most of us have watched that now. On that side of the House the acting is much worse, the factional battles are just as hard. Whilst I can assure you they are no way a representation of *Game of Thrones*, the one thing I can tell you, Mr Speaker, is that winter is coming. Winter is coming; it has not taken long at all.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Mr GUTWEIN - In finishing, I thought I would quickly update the House on COVID-19. That continues to evolve. Early today I provided an update with Public Health and I can update the House.

Last night National Cabinet agreed to mandate that at least the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine will be administered by mid-September for residential aged-care workers. We will be

working with the Commonwealth regarding the most appropriate mechanism. At this stage between 70 per cent and 80 per cent of our aged care workers are vaccinated, whereas the national average, I understand, is somewhere between 30 per cent and 40 per cent. Tasmania is doing a very good job there.

A new COVID-19 Professional Indemnity Support Scheme will add additional safeguards for patients and medical practitioners. The Prime Minister has also indicated that Australians under the age of 40 are now able to request an AstraZeneca vaccine from their medical practitioner following a discussion, taking into account their individual circumstances. I encourage people to have those discussions and I encourage our aged-care workers to come forward to get vaccinated. It is very important.

Importantly, in terms of the announcement last night by the Western Australian Premier, as of 10 a.m. today, 26 minutes ago, Tasmania has now closed its border to the Perth and Peel regions of Western Australia. They have a four-day lockdown in place. I wish them well in dealing with the Delta variant. I made the point in my answer to the first question this morning, it is a difficult situation at the moment for many other states and territories in this country. We will continue to watch and continue to take action as we deem appropriate on the advice of Public Health. We will keep the safety, health and wellbeing of Tasmanians front and centre in our thinking.

Social Housing Waiting Lists

Mr O'BYRNE question to PREMIER, Mr GUTWEIN

[10.27 a.m.]

Families in the most desperate of circumstances are now waiting more than a year and three weeks to be housed by your Government. The wait was just 21 weeks when you were first elected in 2014. What practical advice would you give to families on the wait list?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question. Unlike the previous Labor-Greens government, we are now investing record amounts into ensuring that we provide public housing, social housing. As at 31 March, the Affordable Housing Strategy has delivered a total of 1653 new homes, blocks of land and new places in supported accommodation and homeless services. The strategy has also assisted an additional 995 households into affordable homes through a range of other initiatives. The pipeline of works shows that there are 385 new public housing dwellings, 107 new units and supported accommodation and 103 new units of homeless accommodation that are either currently contracted or have already commenced.

Encouragingly, the quarterly housing report confirms that there is a stream of housing stock coming into the market with a total of 42 additional units added to the portfolio of long-term housing stock during the quarter. Every Tasmanian needs a roof over their head. As I have said this morning -

Ms DOW - Point of order, Mr Speaker, standing order 45 goes to relevance. The question to the Premier was what practical advice would you give to families on the wait list.

Mr SPEAKER - The Premier heard the question and he is answering it. A point of order is not an opportunity to re-ask the question.

Mr GUTWEIN - Mr Speaker, as I said this morning, right now in the state nearly 4000 dwelling approvals have occurred over the last 12 months. Local government has done its job. Our builders and our construction companies are now doing their job. We are building houses flat out - faster than what they have been built in the past. We will continue to do that.

As I have said, and I believe it is widely acknowledged by those on that side of the House, the only way to deal with the housing challenge is to provide more supply. That is exactly what we are doing.

Housing Applications - Numbers of Children

Ms DOW question to MINISTER for STATE DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION and HOUSING, Mr FERGUSON

[10.30 a.m.]

There are more than 4000 applications on the Housing Register. How many children in total are connected to these applications?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for her question. I will take advice as to the number of children that make up the 4006 current applications for housing on the Housing Register.

I take this opportunity to supplement the Premier's earlier answer as well. We are absolutely committed to supporting people who need housing. That is what we are about. The Leader of the Opposition may well wish to crow about the waiting time at the time of the election in 2014 when the Labor-Greens government was thrown out. He has forgotten that people were leaving the state in droves at that time. They were desperately looking for work interstate. We had people leaving the state in record numbers.

If he wants to reflect on that, he ought to reflect that in this time we have pressure on our housing system right across the board because people are not leaving any more. In fact, the opposite is happening: people are coming here because they want to live in Tasmania. If that was not enough hypocrisy from the Leader of the Opposition, he needs to ask himself why the Labor-Greens government sacked Cassy O'Connor as the housing minister back then, in that confected divorce before they went to that election.

This Government is a government of compassion for people who need housing, that cares for people who desperately need the support. We want them to have a roof over their head and, I dare say, in the heart of hearts, that is the position of every member of this House. We want to help people. There is no denying that there is a housing challenge. That is why we have the largest expansion of housing in my lifetime underway, commenced under the previous ministers, Mr Jaensch and Mrs Petrusma, with the Affordable Action Strategy, which has now been doubled down on at the recent election.

I took a look at what the parties were offering at the recent election. We added \$280 million to our strategy so that we can build another 2000 homes, out to 2027. We are delivering.

Dr Woodruff - But you did not build them. You talked about them.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Mr FERGUSON - For those who say that, they are denying facts. Right now, there are 492 houses under construction. We have built 1000 and we have 1500 out to 2023 and we are looking over the horizon so that it is sustainable and provides the houses that our growing state needs. I accept we can always do better. That is why in the recent election we took our commitment to a record \$615 million. That is a demonstration of our commitment.

There is always more to do. When there are individual people who need help, we advise them strongly to stay in touch with their support team at Housing Connect. It is not just an 1800 number, it is not just a drop-in-your-application form. There are people there who are committed, who care and want to walk the journey with people and help them, if need be, with their emergency housing and also support their kids and help them to find long-term sustainable housing.

That is the task I am committed to. I thank the member for her question. I will provide her the information if I can readily assess it before the end of question time or certainly before lunch time today.

Southern Outlet - Implementation Plan and Consultation

Ms JOHNSTON question to MINISTER for INFRASTRUCTURE and TRANSPORT, Mr FERGUSON

[10.33 a.m.]

On 25 February 2019, the state Government signed a historic city deal agreement with the federal government and the four Greater Hobart councils. As the Mayor of Glenorchy at the time, I was a signatory to this deal, as was the member for Franklin, Mr Winter, who was then Mayor of Kingborough.

Have you breached this deal by ignoring the implementation plan which clearly states on page 10 that 'a concept options report would first be commissioned, focusing on the existing footprint for the Southern Outlet'? If you have not breached this, where is the report? Page 10 of the implementation plan also specifically details requirements for extensive consultation. Where is this extensive consultation?

Dynnyrne residents will be on the steps of parliament today at 1 p.m. Will you have the courage to front up to them and listen to their concerns? Will you come out with me at lunchtime, speak to these people and tell them what is happening to their homes?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for her question. I am a member of a government that wants to deliver on the outcomes that were committed to in the City Deal. In fact, we are getting those results on the board right now. Anyone who is interested in the community that travels through the Southern Outlet and wants to get into the city, the people of Kingborough and Huon, would be more than aware that right now we are delivering on those commitments. I invite the member for Clark to have a look at that delivery schedule and, for example, at the Park and Ride facilities which are currently being constructed and we look forward to them being completed I believe in the first part of next year.

It is a demonstration of the transit options we have been bringing forward. It has been an absolute delight for me and I know for the Premier when he was Minister for State Growth overseeing the Hobart City Deal, to be working with the member for Clark, Ms Johnston, and equally Mr Winter, Anna Reynolds and Doug Chipman at Clarence. It has been a phenomenal process. We treasure that and do not want to damage it. It is a commitment with the federal government and in particular Paul Fletcher to work together and not play politics around the implementation plan, because it is not the state government that is responsible for that, it is joint responsibility. Everyone is looking for mutually beneficial outcomes for our community.

In respect of the additional lane on the Southern Outlet, I remind the member that that was a deal signed up to by her when she was mayor. In fact, everybody was a party to that commitment and it is obviously challenging for some more than others. With the opportunity of providing greater capacity on the Southern Outlet I accept, and we understand, it is painful for people who are contemplating impacts on their property. We have to treat those people with the greatest respect and highest regard. Rather than playing politics, we want to support people and have full information as soon as it is available.

I have stated in the past, and again state now, that there have been no final decisions on the way that is to be implemented. We need to get extra capacity on the Southern Outlet and I hope that continues to be the belief of everyone in this Chamber. We need more capacity but we need to use it to get the best possible flow-through, including placing higher importance on public transport, which is one of our great opportunities to help people rapidly transit in and out of Kingborough and Huon Valley into the city.

We will have more to say about this. We will be meeting our commitments and there will be no decisions made in of the design of that extra capacity until we have gone through a proper and robust public consultation period.

Tasmania Prison Service - Rehabilitation Opportunities

Ms OGILVIE question to MINISTER for CORRECTIONS, Ms ARCHER

[10.38 a.m.]

Can you inform the House of the Tasmanian Liberal Government's plan to enhance rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners in the Tasmania Prison Service?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for her question and interest in this very important matter. Last week I tabled the Custodial Inspector's Lockdowns Review 2021. I note that the Department of Justice supports all recommendations in the review, as I stated in my previous answer. This clearly demonstrates that the department is working with the Custodial Inspector and why the Tasmania Prison Service has dedicated staff working directly on the matters raised.

We know that we need to do more. We are working hard to improve outcomes across the corrections system. Importantly, as I have already said, we have heavily recruited correctional officers since coming to government, with over 200 extra employed in our prison system since 2016, and 75 in 2020 alone despite the challenges of COVID-19, with at least two new recruit schools planned this year and the first of those is now underway. To suggest that for every correctional officer put on one leaves is, as I said, factually incorrect. It is a misnomer that is constantly peddled out there, particularly by those opposite.

We also know that more time out of cells ensures prisoners can contribute to more meaningful and rehabilitation-focused duties such as on-site employment, education and programs. This is the best way we can ensure that upon release we are providing the best chance of success for an individual to reintegrate safely back into our community. Investment into the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners in Tasmania is a priority of mine and will continue to be my strong focus this term of government and with more infrastructure coming on-line, purpose-built facilities will also help improve their delivery.

Today I am pleased to announce a new program that has been developed to change behaviour in female prisoners. This innovative new program is designed to change destructive behavioural patterns. The dialectical behaviour therapy program aims to help prisoners change ways of thinking and behaving that are no longer helpful to them, while also assisting them to assist who they are. It commenced this month in the Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison with nine participants and is being delivered in a rolling format, allowing prisoners to start the program immediately as others complete it or are released.

The program involves group-based sessions, individual therapy sessions and is being run by a senior facilitator and a drug and alcohol counsellor. Participants develop skills, including mindfulness and awareness of the present moment; tolerating distress; coping in a crisis; managing emotions instead of being controlled by them; and communicating needs in personal relationships. It develops skills that participants can use to address a range of problematic behaviours, including substance misuse and violent behaviour, helping them to rehabilitate and become productive members of our community on release. It is progressive, targeted rehabilitation programs like this that make a difference to individuals in prison and demonstrate our Government has a strong focus on this important component of rehabilitation. This program in the women's prison was not available before. It is a new program with a very strong alcohol and drug focus as well.

The Tasmania Prison Service is also focusing on alcohol and drug intervention for male prisoners. The alcohol and drug therapeutic program known as Apsley was suspended in February last year when the Apsley maximum security unit was necessarily required to be repurposed, initially for a short fixed-term period while other parts of the prison were refurbished -

Dr Woodruff - So it is not available.

Ms ARCHER - If the member for Franklin would listen - other parts had to be refurbished so we had to use the Apsley unit because of COVID-19 and requiring isolation units.

Dr Woodruff interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER - Order, Dr Woodruff.

Ms ARCHER - The member continues to interject. There was very good reason for that and I am very sorry that the Apsley unit had to be closed down for that purpose but the health and safety of Tasmanians and our prisoners and our staff had to come first. This was a necessary response to limited urgent options available due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Woodruff - But nothing has changed since.

Mr SPEAKER - Order, member for Franklin.

Ms ARCHER - I am about to inform the House what has changed. Since that time, the TPS has been working on developing a new, much wider-reaching residential alcohol and drug program for male prisoners. Good progress is being made on that front. The Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Unit offers intensive rehabilitation to prisoners with ongoing and long-term alcohol and drug use issues through other means. Specialist TPS drug and alcohol counsellors are employed to work directly with individuals in prison and provide individual intervention to prisoners identifying as having alcohol or drug use issues. The EQUIPS Addiction Program is also currently being delivered in the Risdon Prison Complex for prisoners in the medium-security precinct. Our commitments during the recent state election were all clearly focused on rehabilitation. I am proud to be leading the shift in focus and looking forward to seeing the outcomes of our increased investment in this area. We are investing \$2.5 million towards rehabilitation programs and staff within the prisons over three years. We are in the process of approving five new therapeutic staff to work within the prison with a focus on delivering rehabilitation programs and, most importantly, drug and alcohol interventions.

We are partnering with the Australian Red Cross to deliver their community-based health first-aid program with Connect 42 to deliver the successful Just Time prison parenting program and we are also providing \$100 000 over three years to partner with Dress for Success in Hobart to expand the Welcome BackPack initiative. These initiatives bring together my clear focus and indeed our Government's focus on effective and meaningful rehabilitation programs within our corrections system.

Huntingfield Development - Update

Ms DOW question to MINISTER for STATE DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION and HOUSING, Mr FERGUSON

[10.43 a.m.]

It has been two years since your Government said it was fast tracking the Huntingfield development, yet none of the associated infrastructure has been delivered, not a single home

has been approved. The community feels completely in the dark about what is going on. Can you update the House on when you expect people will finally be moving in?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for her question. In fact, that development application is currently with the Kingborough Council. I am sure the Kingborough Council will give it appropriate due diligence and assess the infrastructure treatments against the planning scheme. I hope it is successful. I know that the department has put in an enormous amount of work into that.

I am not currently sure about the state Labor Party's position on the Huntingfield development. I am not really sure whether the dominant hard left or the extreme hard left of the Labor Party factions are allowed to have given Ms Dow a position on this, but we support it. We want it to see it go ahead and be successful.

It is about supply. The Premier has made the importance of this very clear this morning. We want to see more supply and the Huntingfield development is an exciting proposal. Not only does it provide the option for more public and social housing, but also affordable housing for people who want to make their start in their journey of home ownership.

We are all for that. The Liberal Party is totally rock-solid behind it. We want to see that development application supported and approved by Kingborough Council. Then we can all get on and see that materialise so we can provide more housing for Tasmanians.

My challenge to the Deputy Leader is to take a position on this that is supportive of the aspiration of people to get into those homes. That is the challenge for the Labor Party today.

Opposition members interjecting.

Mr FERGUSON - Mr Speaker, they come in with their pretence around wanting to be bipartisan on some issues, but on housing it is all about pot shots.

Northern Regional Prison - Geotechnical Drilling at the Brushy Rivulet Site

Dr WOODRUFF question to MINISTER for CORRECTIONS, Ms ARCHER

[10.46 a.m.]

Your new project director for the northern regional prison project is following your lead by providing false statements about the impact of the proposed prison on Brushy Rivulet Reserve. You repeatedly denied the presence of threatened values on this site until -

Members interjecting.

Dr WOODRUFF - Mr Speaker, it is hard to hear with the interjections.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Dr WOODRUFF - I am obviously touching a nerve. Minister, you repeatedly denied the presence of threatened values on this site until the Premier last week confirmed they do exist. You have failed to wait for critical spring and summer surveys needed to assess the location and abundance of known threatened flora. Instead, you are pushing ahead with drilling work by massive machinery across sensitive plant areas during a wet winter.

Residents were told by your project director that drilling would be undertaken by a vehicle 'about the size of a four-wheel drive', but today, instead, three large trucks - one with drilling equipment - have entered the reserve.

Do you agree you are knowingly avoiding required threatened species assessment by sanctioning today's drilling? Would the community believe anything you tell them when you have continually misled them from the very start of this process?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the hypocrisy and the flip on these questions is not lost. As I just heard my colleague say, they complain on the one hand about the prison system, and then when we are trying to build a prison they oppose it.

Dr Woodruff - You do not care about the Westbury community. You were always going to put it anywhere it would save your political face.

Mr SPEAKER - Order. Member for Franklin, you have asked the question. Allow the minister to answer it.

Ms ARCHER - I welcome this question because Dr Woodruff continues to peddle some mistruths about this.

I can provide the House with an update on the drilling as of yesterday. It is part of the continuing due diligence on the site. The due diligence is revealing all sorts of things that are relevant for the planning application. There is no mystery in what the due diligence is actually there for and what it turns up.

The Department of Justice is undertaking further geotechnical investigations. It will involve drilling five to six holes to enable soil and rock core testing. Drilling commenced yesterday, and will continue over approximately a week. This work follows on from some earlier geotechnical drilling work undertaken in October last year.

Importantly, a valid works authority has been obtained. My department works closely with the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment, and the independent environmental consultants, to ensure sensitive natural values that have been identified on the site are appropriately managed.

Dr Woodruff - Impossible. Totally impossible.

Mr SPEAKER - Order, member for Franklin, please.

Ms ARCHER - The Department of Justice has mapped the values on the site, which has given them a better understanding of the distribution of the important natural values on the site.

This includes not just natural values that could be directly impacted upon by driving over the site, but also things like potential nesting sites and other values that need to be considered.

All the drill hole locations have been carefully selected to manage the sensitive natural values present on the site. The Department of Justice has developed an environment management plan to guide the drilling process. Drilling operations will be conducted in a manner that takes into account the sensitive natural values that have been identified on the site. The department considers it has obtained sufficient advice and information about the natural values on the site that enables the drilling works to be undertaken. Importantly, areas of sensitive natural values have been clearly marked as exclusion zones, and will not be entered into by drilling equipment - whether it is a four-wheel drive, truck or a water tanker, Dr Woodruff. The route through the site for the drilling equipment has been pre-planned to avoid these exclusion zones and will be adhered to throughout the duration of the drilling.

The works authority issued by DPIPWE also contains conditions that must be adhered to, which will protect the values of the site. All surrounding property owners were informed of the planned geotechnical works prior to these commencing.

The department will continue to apply the highest levels of due diligence in preparation for lodging a combined planning scheme amendment and development application for the Northern Regional Prison with the Meander Valley Council at the appropriate time.

Securing Tasmania's Future - Ancillary Dwelling Grant Program

Mr ELLIS question to MINISTER for STATE DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION and HOUSING, Mr FERGUSON

[10.51 a.m.]

Can you update the House on how the Government's ancillary dwellings program is progressing, and how it will contribute to our clear plan to secure Tasmania's future?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for Braddon for his question. As I said earlier, the Government is committed to boosting supply in Tasmania. There is a housing challenge, and we want to meet that challenge head-on. As we managed the state through the pandemic, we know that the most important thing we can do while also building houses is to support jobs.

The latest ABS figures show that our economy is growing and recovering out of the pandemic with our economic growth underpinned by increasing private investment and record building approvals. These are good things. We need to keep that momentum going and increase housing supply, which is why we have initiated our ancillary dwelling program. This is very innovative, and applications for funding to support the construction of new ancillary dwellings, commonly known as granny flats, open tomorrow at 3 p.m.

Get the word out. The \$2.5 million grant program is an innovation of the Gutwein Liberal majority Government. It is one of the initiatives that we are implementing as part of our First 100 Days Plan. I hope there will be support for it to help boost housing supply, support home ownership and also put downward pressure on rents. This program will help us meet the

unprecedented growth that we have seen in demand for rental properties arising out of increased population. It does that by providing support to existing homeowners to build new ancillary dwellings on their existing title to contribute to the supply of accommodation available through the rental market.

I can advise members that grants of up to \$10 000 are available to the first 250 eligible applicants who submit a complete application once the program opens at 3 p.m. tomorrow. To be eligible for funding, applicants must construct a new ancillary dwelling, as well as make it available for rent to a tenant for at least two years.

I am pleased to advise that we will also be launching our Adding Extra Living Quarters to Your Home brochure, which I have an example of here. It explains the kinds of ancillary dwellings that people are able to construct to complement their existing home. It will be available online, and will be distributed to every council around Tasmania to get it out among their rate payers. I encourage members to get this information out as well, and I ask Tasmanians who are interested in this opportunity to contact their local council to see what is possible in their area and be part of our community.

We have a message that goes with this; it is a new one for some members of this House. It is, 'Yes, in my backyard'. Not 'Not, in my backyard', but 'Yes, in my backyard'. That is the message. It is an innovation of this Government that we believe will really help people and help meet the very challenge that Ms Dow asked about earlier today.

We know building more homes is the solution. This is why we are investing a record \$650 million into social and affordable housing, and our homelessness initiatives - including our recent election commitment that added \$280 million to extend our building program to new social housing. This is the biggest in the state for decades, if not ever. We will build an extra 2000 new homes by 2027, in addition to the 1500 already being built over the next three years. This brings to the total 3500 new homes for Tasmanians by 2027.

We really want to help the most vulnerable, particularly those people on our priority list. They are my greatest concern. They are the people we want to help with their immediate emergency needs and to help them find long-term sustainable accommodation, a place they can call their home, a place where they can afford the rent. To help us meet that challenge we have to boost supply and here is another innovative method to achieve that -

Opposition members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Mr FERGUSON - I hope the catcalling that is occurring right now is not an indication that the Labor Party is opposing the Huntingfield development. A clear position would be excellent from the Labor Party because we see it as at great opportunity for southern Tasmania to add to supply. I also hope that catcalling is not an indication that they do not support the ancillary dwellings program, with \$2.5 million in the Government's budget, a relatively modest spend to get a great outcome. With 250 additional dwellings that would help 250 individuals or even couples and it is exactly why this Government appreciates the housing challenge and is determine to help Tasmanians in need.

Housing - Release of Up-to-Date Statistics

Ms DOW question to MINISTER for STATE DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION and HOUSING, Mr FERGUSON

[10.56 a.m.]

The new Health minister has committed to releasing up-to-date statistics on the state of our health system every month. Will you commit to doing the same in Housing and human services?

ANSWER

Yes, I can.

Securing Tasmania's Future - Renewable Energy Opportunities

Mr TUCKER question to MINISTER for ENERGY and EMISSIONS REDUCTION, Mr BARNETT

[10.57 a.m.]

Can you update the House on how the majority Gutwein Liberal Government is delivering a clear plan to secure Tasmania's future in energy especially by keeping downward pressure on power prices and delivering on Tasmania's renewable energy opportunities, and are there any alternatives?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for his question and his special interest in this matter. The majority Gutwein Liberal Government is delivering on our clear plan to secure Tasmania's future and specifically with respect to clean energy which will create jobs, development, opportunity and a cleaner world. It is a very exciting energy future. I am an energised Energy minister, that is for sure, the most energised Energy minister in all of Australia because our energy policies are delivering downward pressure on electricity prices.

Yesterday I had the privilege of remarking on the release of two independent reports with respect to the Marinus Link that say two things: that Marinus Link is commercially and economically viable and it will deliver downward pressure on electricity prices, not just in Tasmania but across the nation. It backs in our plan and our view that energy consumers should only pay their fair share in Tasmania and no more, because it is strategic national infrastructure and has been identified as a priority infrastructure project for Australia, a national infrastructure project. A fair pricing outcome for Tasmanian energy consumers is absolutely vital and this has been prosecuted at the Energy National Cabinet Reform Committee led by the federal government and we are very pleased to have their support and encouragement in that regard.

There is more. The Marinus Link will deliver jobs on the ground. It will deliver 2800 direct and indirect jobs in Tasmania and Victoria. It will attract billions in further renewable energy developments in Tasmania and of course that pipeline for future investment in renewable energy. It is all part of our plan to secure Tasmania's future. We hit 100 per cent fully self-sufficient in renewable energy November last year and we are targeting 200 per cent;

this parliament has passed the legislation for 200 per cent and we are on track to get there by 2040.

As to those downward pressure on prices, from 1 July prices will be 7.11 per cent down for residential customers and a further drop of 11 per cent for small business. That is a \$30 million saving for households and \$5 million saving for small business. On top of that, there is the \$125 winter energy supplement for 90 000 Tasmanian concession card holders and that is another \$12 million. There will be support for those in embedded networks, whether it be residential aged care homes or caravan parks.

We are progressing our 100-day commitment for hydrogen to make Bell Bay a hydrogen hub, with a \$100 000 commitment to the Bell Bay advanced manufacturing zone. Yesterday I was at the hydrogen hub workshop in Hobart speaking about our renewable energy future.

I was asked about alternatives. There really is no energy policy or plan on the other side. Unfortunately, the hapless member for Franklin and now shadow minister has received the hospital hand-pass from the Leader of the Opposition. There is no policy and no plan from the other side - only a track record of upward prices when it comes to electricity. In fact it was up 65 per cent under Labor and the Labor-Greens government. That is the track record.

Under our Government over the last seven years it has been down, down, down for electricity prices. They were 5.4 per cent, a phenomenal reduction, for residential and 15.8 per cent for small business, or in real terms, an 18 per cent reduction for residential and nearly a 28 per cent reduction for small business.

During the election campaign the Labor campaign of misleading television advertisements said the Liberals would privatise the Hydro. Proven false. Then they said that 'under the Liberals, power prices would go up' - false. They went up under Labor and the Labor-Greens governments and they go down under this majority Liberal Government.

I will conclude by making the point that they are riven with the vision on the other side. You have the hard-left faction and the dominant left faction which Dr Broad talks about. It was all in *The Australian* today, which said:

... *The Australian* confirms a major split in Tasmanian Labor's dominant Left-faction, with the powerful "hard-left" Health and Community Services Union leaving, effectively creating its own faction.

Opposition members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER - Order. The minister should wind up.

Mr BARNETT - It is all here. We had the BLF previously, now we have the DLF, the dominant left faction, and further, we have the HLF, the hard-left faction. Which faction are you in?

Public Trustee - Administrative and Operational Practices

Ms HADDAD question to MINISTER for JUSTICE, Ms ARCHER

[11.03 a.m.]

You would be aware of the case that has been reported recently in the media involving Mr Michael Burles. Mr Burles is 71 and until last year, had been living independently in the community. After a stint in hospital, he was told he was going for respite in an aged care facility. The head of Advocacy Tasmania has reported seeing emails from the Public Guardian showing that they had planned, in fact, to move him permanently to aged care but that they said they were not going to tell him that. While that was going on, the Public Trustee went in to his rented unit, sold some of his more valuable goods and took the remainder of his property - photographs, mementos, personal items, all those things that are special to many of us - and dumped them in the tip and gave him a cheque for \$1000.

How can the Government defend the treatment of Mr Burles and what do you say to him and the hundreds of other Tasmanians reporting similar treatment?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for her question but I do not thank her for the premise of that question. She completely misrepresented the Government's position. We certainly do not condone any sort of treatment that is not in keeping with a statutory authority's duties and responsibilities.

Since these matters have come to light the member is fully aware that, on 10 June, I announced that our Government will be conducting an independent review into the administrative and operational practices of the Public Trustee. I have come into this House and confirmed that. While the Public Trustee operates independently of government, we are aware a number of concerns have been raised both privately and through the media from clients of the Public Trustee around how their cases have been dealt with.

I am not going to talk about individual cases; that will be thoroughly examined by the review. Nor is it appropriate for me to do so.

The Public Trustee interacts with Tasmanians at the most difficult times in their lives, regarding their financial affairs. It is important that Tasmanians have the highest level of confidence in them in the important role they serve. This is why we have called for the review.

The Public Trustee must provide professional services, delivered with integrity and understanding to the Tasmanian community. This review will go into the administrative and operational practices of this statutory authority. We will hopefully help resolve the concerns raised and also assist the Public Trustee to continue to deliver these important services. The review can also provide facts around the circumstances of different cases.

Treasury was tasked with urgently developing terms of reference. My department is finalising these as quickly as possible and I expect to be able to announce them very soon.

It is important to ensure the terms of reference are broad enough to encapsulate aspects of the concerns raised by members of the community. I confirmed that it is important for

members of the public and key stakeholders to have input into this review, and they will. Work is also underway to identify and appoint the independent reviewer who will receive the terms of reference once they have been finalised and endorsed.

I advise that I met with not only the Public Trustees CEO and Chair but also with Advocacy Tasmania. We have done that in conjunction with the Minister for Health. These discussions were very productive in allowing us to gain a better understanding of the concerns relating also to the Guardianship and Administration Act. Anything that comes out of this review will be taken into account for the second tranche of our reform of the Guardianship and Administration Act, in line with the TLIR review of that: that is to ensure that the Tasmanian community can maintain the trust and faith in this important authority, the Public Trustee, in the guardianship and administration process.

The member also knows that we soon we will be debating the Advance Care Directives, which is the first tranche of the matters for reform under the Guardianship and Administration Act. I look forward to introducing the second tranche as well.

FOOD AMENDMENT BILL 2021 (No. 27)

First Reading

Bill presented by Mr Rockliff and read the first time.

CHILDREN, YOUNG PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES AMENDMENT BILL 2021 (No. 28)

First Reading

Bill presented by Ms Courtney and read the first time.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021 (No. 29)

First Reading

Bill presented by Ms Haddad and read the first time.

MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Public Trustee

[11.11 a.m.]

Ms HADDAD (Clark) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That the House take note of the following matter: Public Trustee.

The reason for us raising this issue in parliament today is the increasing groundswell of heartbreaking stories that have begun to come forward in recent weeks and months, but in fact have stretched back years and decades. Indeed, you could describe it as a bit of a floodgates issue. After the CEO of Advocacy Tasmania raised some particular cases in the media, they have been inundated with heartbreaking stories of people in Tasmania who had their personal affairs and their lives essentially taken over by the Public Trustee.

I recognise the important role that the Public Trustee plays. They have a very significant and weighty task of taking care of people's affairs when people are not able to do that for themselves, or when they voluntarily decide that they want the Public Trustee involved in administering their affairs. But the stories that have been coming forward in recent weeks and months paint a very different picture. We are hearing of people being admitted to hospital. Then, apparently, it is not very difficult to obtain an emergency order over somebody that quite rapidly becomes an enduring order. At that point their autonomy and their input into decisions is removed, in ways discussed in question time today and that have been raised in the media several times. They are heartbreaking stories of people being given no information about the decisions that have been made about their lives; no information about where they are going to live; or how decisions are going to be made that fundamentally affect their human rights and their dignity.

Once the Public Trustee has taken over management of their affairs we are increasingly hearing stories that people are not really being given any information about those affairs once those decisions have been made. There is very little paperwork. Household bills and other kinds of paperwork do not get delivered to people any more; they get delivered direct to the Public Trustee. Clients are left in the dark about how those bills have been dealt with - if they have been paid in full or otherwise. They are given no statements or fees information from the Trustee about the costs associated with the work that the Trustee is doing. They are given very little information about how their affairs are being managed. These are people who, until an emergency order was gained over them, usually in hospital, were living their lives and managing their personal affairs perfectly well. They have had that autonomy taken away.

Some people have also been told when they have tried to appeal such decisions with the Ombudsman that there is no capacity for them to be looked at by the Ombudsman. There is a real question around accountability and who has a watching eye over the work that the trustee is able to do.

As I said at the commencement of the MPI, it does seem like a floodgate has been recently opened. This has been going on for a long time. It is not the case to say that the Government has acted swiftly in recently announcing a review. I hazard a guess that if it had not been raised in the media on ABC radio and by Advocacy Tasmania, that that action would be nowhere near as swift. Advocacy Tasmania, along with other NGOs, has been raising such issues since around September 2020.

There are individual cases of people who have come directly to members of parliament. We have written to the trustee and to the ministers involved. Andrew Wilkie and I and even the member for Clark, Madeleine Ogilvie, have written letters around some of these papers so it is not right to say that as soon as these came to the attention of Government that action was taken swiftly. That is simply not the case.

I will not identify individual cases but some of the examples that people have been given is that when their family members are taken to hospital they are very quickly given tests. Family members are not talked to about what those tests involve and quite quickly they are being diagnosed, often with dementia. They are given very little information about what that means for their family member. Decisions are quickly made, arguably, by the Trustee, in the best interest of that client when in fact it is against the wishes of the family and often against the wishes of the person involved. It is extremely worrying that their autonomy is being taken away when they do often still have capacity to make some of their own decisions.

One example of the potential mismanagement of funds is a case that involved the person's son who, at age five, was rewarded a payout due to some negligence. That payout was in 1996 and it was \$4000. That was a lot of money at that time. It is still a lot of money now for many people but at that time the mother of this person described it as almost enough for a house deposit back then. She wanted to be able to maintain and manage those funds but was told that the law did not allow it because he was under 18. So, for the next 13 years the money was managed by the Trustee. Her lawyer told her at the time that it would earn interest and it should be at least double that value when he received the money by the time he turned 18. In fact, when he turned 18 he received \$3007 in total. That was not on top of the \$4000: in fact, he received less money than was originally awarded to him back in 1996 when he was aged five.

As I said earlier, it is not always for emergency orders and guardianship orders. There are cases where people voluntarily have the Public Trustee manage their affairs.

Time expired.

[11.18 a.m.]

Dr WOODRUFF (Franklin) - Mr Speaker, I have been listening to stories that have been circulating since I became a member in this place in 2015. It is very difficult when you get presented as a member of parliament with one particular slice of information about what has happened in a very complex process under an order or a situation that is established under a guardianship and administration act. There is always, as you would expect, a lot of complexity in these situations. When I recently became aware of the conversations that Advocacy Tasmania were having in the community and the comments they were making from late last year and early this year, I was very concerned. It tweaked my attention immediately because I had been hearing stories over the years. I was confused. Increasingly, I became shocked and then when I heard Ms Groombridge, the CEO of Advocacy Tasmania, speaking on ABC I was deeply appalled.

I found what she said compelling, disturbing and slightly frightening as a person who has grey hair and who is not a lot younger than some of the people in the stories that Ms Groombridge was talking about, who have their rights fundamentally deprived in the most tragic ways; people whose possessions have been sold without their knowledge or against their will, people whose liberty has been deprived - really appalling stories.

We recently met with Ms Groombridge. We have met and spoken to other people who have made allegations of mistreatment and really appalling breaches of human rights that they allege in the way the Guardianship and Administration Act has been mismanaged by, they allege, the board but particularly in hospitals, in rehabilitation centres, and in aged care places across Tasmania. This is a breadth which really takes your breath away. What I found very compelling from Ms Groombridge's comments was that when, as the CEO of Advocacy

Tasmania, she bravely went public with comments she has been talking about for years, they were not surprised but disturbed nonetheless at the avalanche of response in the community. This has touched a chord so deep and strong from people who have had their rights deprived and from family members who have had to watch powerless from the sidelines.

She has been very strong in her advocacy. She and other staff of Advocacy Tasmania met with the minister in September last year and with the Council of the Ageing Tasmania and Health Consumers Tasmania. They have tried to work with staff at the LGH and the Royal Hobart Hospital and have had almost no success there. An initial meeting was very short. They tried to have a second meeting in May this year but that was cancelled after no-one from the Royal Hobart Hospital turned up and they have not heard anything since. They wrote several letters to the LGH in September last year but did not get a response. They have had a right to information request at the LGH from October last year but have heard nothing and they have been in touch on a regular basis and are not getting anything substantial out of the Government.

It is, they are alleging, an extremely serious extent of deprivation of liberty and an abuse of human rights. They put it into four categories: the abuse of emergency orders; the unlawful detention of people in hospital and in-patient facilities; the premature entry of people into residential aged care; and the conduct of the Public Trustee and the Office of the Public Guardian themselves.

We have heard from Ms Haddad, the member for Clark, about the situation of Mr Burles that was most distressingly reported recently. We also know that the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute in 2018 recommended wide changes to the Guardianship and Administration Act.

I heard the minister's comments, and I am sure she will get up and speak about how the Government and she have put out media releases about this just last week, obviously responding to the community's extreme concern at what has come to light. The minister said, 'Yes, we are working on this. We have done one tranche.'

Ms Archer - We are. Do you realise how much work goes into this?

Dr WOODRUFF - Minister, every single day people are having their liberty withheld from them. There is the distressing story of a woman we might have all met in Salamanca, the woman in the chair, Jill with MS. Four months of her life have been lost. She is being held against her will because of a paternalistic, controlling approach from doctors. It is also the responsibility of the Health minister. Where is the Health minister? Why are hospitals not responding on this matter? Why is Advocacy Tasmania and lawyers asking questions of staff and being met with, as has been clearly reported by Advocacy Tasmania, fake duty of care orders that do not exist in law. Staff are saying -

Ms Ogilvie - What are you talking about?

Dr WOODRUFF - Staff nurses are telling Advocacy Tasmania that people are being held with duty of care orders that do not exist. It is an awful act and the Greens will be working on behalf of Tasmanians to get to the bottom of it.

Time expired.

[11.25 a.m.]

Ms ARCHER (Clark - Minister for Justice) - Mr Speaker, this allows me to correct some things Dr Woodruff has just said. I want to start by saying that nobody has ownership in this place on compassion or empathy. We all have our own circumstances and stories. The member talks about dementia; I have personal experience with that. I would not wish that on anyone, nor would I wish any of these circumstances on anyone. This is why the Government has acted with this review as soon as issues come to light. Members of parliament write on a number of different issues and when these issues were aired, of course we have listened, both privately and publicly as they have been raised. The Government has acted swiftly on this and called for the review.

As I said in question time earlier today, the Public Trustee must provide professional services delivered with integrity and understanding to the Tasmanian community. We have to get to the bottom of all of these claims. I will note that of some of the examples that have been raised, Ms Haddad raised one from back in 1996, so it is important to acknowledge that many of the people who worked at the Public Trustee back then may not work there now. I know that the Public Trustee officials have been deeply affected by some of these claims as well, so we are dealing with human nature here. The review needs to get to the bottom of all sites. Of course these complaints are shocking. I agree with Dr Woodruff and that is precisely why we need to get to the bottom of it.

I want to clarify some things as to whose role is what: members are throwing around the terms Public Trustee, Public Guardian, and Guardianship and Administration Board as if they are one and the same thing when they are all separate and distinct entities. It is important to note for those listening to this debate that the Guardianship and Administration Board is a protective jurisdiction which conducts hearings and makes determinations according to the Guardianship and Administration Act 1995, Powers of Attorney Act 2000, Wills Act 2008 and the restrictive intervention provisions of the Disability Services Act 2011. The board is a decision-making body comprised of independent statutory appointees that has the power to appoint substitute decision-makers for persons with a disability who do not have capacity to make those decisions for themselves.

The Guardianship and Administration Act sets out the powers and responsibilities of that board. The board can appoint guardians and/or administrators to assist clients in managing their personal affairs. The role of guardian is quite different from that of administrator. The board can only make emergency orders which have been referred to in this debate when urgent circumstances exist and where there are no less restrictive options to address the situation. Statutory members appointed to the board review all information supplied prior to making any orders. Orders will only be made when sufficient evidence is provided to warrant an order being made in accordance with the law.

This is what they are supposed to do and I want to make crystal clear what their powers are. An administrator manages the financial affairs of a person who has a disability and is incapable of making reasonable judgments about his or her estate. In the making of administration orders, the board may appoint the Public Trustee as the administrator. The Public Trustee only manages the financial affairs; it is not the decision-making body in relation to any of the medical matters.

The Public Guardian is appointed as a substitute decision-maker of last resort by the Guardianship and Administration Board based on an assessment of the person's decision-

making capacity and various aspects of their life and need for a guardian or administrator, or both. Such appointments are time limited to a maximum of three years for each appointment and subject to review at that point. The guardian makes personal decisions on behalf of a person who has a disability and is incapable of making reasonable judgments about personal matters such as accommodation or health care. It is expected the board respects the rights of people with disabilities to make their own decisions wherever possible. When it is not possible, it works to ensure that its own decision-making processes are accessible, impartial, fair and just.

The board, where possible, seeks to ascertain the views and wishes of the person subject to the application. This is the very crux of the issue, because there are complaints about this not being observed. This is the subject matter I expect we will deal with in the second tranche of the reforms to the Guardianship and Administration Act.

Dr Woodruff - What will you do now, in between, because you do accept these things are happening, don't you?

Ms ARCHER - The Minister for Health needs to deal with matters that might be occurring within the hospital system. We have met with Advocacy Tasmania, as I have confirmed in question time, and there were certain things we said we would address. We are about to write back to Advocacy Tasmania.

In my last minute remaining, without just answering questions from Dr Woodruff, who keeps interjecting, I want to make clear that the board considers the human rights principle of people with disabilities making their own decisions, wherever possible, to be of the utmost importance. I am advised by the board that this is something they always try to apply. Having said that, we can put that and make that crystal clear in the Guardianship and Administration Act.

I am assured that is the principle they abide by, but if that is falling over, we are not discounting people from being able to tell their stories that touch on guardianship and administration matters during the review of the Public Trustee.

Time expired.

[11.32 a.m.]

Ms OGILVIE (Clark) - Mr Speaker, I open by recognising the amazing work of Advocacy Tasmania, an organisation that I have had a lot to do with, not only in the last decade as a member of parliament, but in my previous life as a barrister and solicitor, particularly during pro bono work in relation to the disability sector.

Like the Attorney-General, we have had personal very recent experience of the difficult trajectory of dementia, and it is an awful disease. It is not the same journey for every person. When it comes to competency, and that test applied by the medical profession that people are competent to make decisions, that competency can come and go. People can be competent to make some decisions and not others. At a personal level, we have recently had a distressing and sad experience of that.

I have been, for a decade or so, an advocate for those who may need some assistance with decision-making. Some may need assistance with their care or the management of their

finances. Regarding the Guardianship and Administration Board, we keep an eye on that to make sure that when issues do arise, as they have, that we are dealing with them with the utmost care, concern and respect for people and their lives in these distressing situations.

We have some hot issues in the public sphere at the moment but another reason we have these acts in place, and the capacity to manage people's money and finances, powers of attorney, now advance care directives, which the Attorney-General has been fantastic on, working with me over many years to get these reforms into place. From a legal perspective and a court 'award of damages' perspective, sadly there are situations - regularly - where somebody is injured due to acts of negligence or other insurance issues. These can be terrible injuries, and awards can be in the hundreds of thousands - or even millions - of dollars. I have seen some of these situations where people have been injured quite dramatically and are not physically or intellectually - particularly with acquired brain injury - able to manage their finances.

I point out that it is not mandatory in those circumstances for an administrator to be appointed. People are entitled to make their own decisions about their money management; it really depends quite a lot on the capacity of those families to do that. For example, my understanding is that some people choose family trusts as a model; some choose perpetual trustees to do that financial management. That is one sector and category that I believe you can put to one side.

Sadly, when it comes to these emergency situations, further things can happen in life. I certainly have had experience of that with one of my children. Again, it depends on the capacity of the family and the capacity of the individual, and what is happening in those circumstances. The worst of all scenarios is when it is a child, and we have heard a story about that this morning. I am really robust about this. I am for people who have suffered, or who are suffering, a circumstance in which they feel that they are not being properly cared for, whether it is in an economic sense, a medical sense, or just in a community sense.

I applaud the Attorney-General for bringing on a review. It is a great thing to do, it is the right thing to do, and it is what I asked her to do when I was an Independent member for Clark. I was very pleased that she and the Government were listening. It is part of the reason I like this team, so I wanted to put that on the record.

Mr Ferguson - Hear, hear, we like having you in our team.

Ms OGILVIE - Thank you, fantastic, we will get some work done. I want to say that I have friends and relatives who have been through these circumstances. I have constituents who have been in court a decade at least, who I continue to work with, and when I have been able to intercede between the problem and the Public Trustee it has always been able to be resolved. It is much more difficult when there is a court case, because judges are independent. They make their views, they bring down their judgment, and then that gets implemented. It is much more difficult to do that.

I feel it would be helpful for more lawyers to be available to assist people, particularly in the disability sector. It is something I did as a pro bono effort, and many lawyers do as well. Some of my constituent referrals have come from my former colleagues in the legal profession who have reached a point of saying, look, we actually think this needs to be addressed.

I am going to leave it at that and say I am very supportive of the review. Let us get that done.

Advocacy Tasmania, fantastic, keep doing that work, but look at what else needs to happen. I was very pleased, many years ago in this place, to bring forward the need for an advance care directive as another way of ensuring there is a solid legislative basis.

Time expired.

[11.39 a.m.]

Ms O'BYRNE (Bass) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this. I echo the words that have been said about Advocacy Tasmania and the great role they play. However, it is fair to say that their frustration at the moment is overwhelming. They are incredibly frustrated that their voice has not been heard; there have been times they have attempted to advocate, but there has not been the response they need. They are genuinely concerned for their clients. They have talked about a tsunami of cases that have come to them since the public raising of these issues, and it is important we are talking.

The reason we have raised this today is because there are two things that we need. One is that we absolutely need a review into what has been going on. We need to understand and we need to have a path forward, but we know that review is going to take some time. The terms of reference are not out yet. There will be a long process, and there has to be by nature a proper investigation into this space.

There are also the actions that might need to be taken now to ensure that people are given the safest possible environment, not only those who are currently concerned about the way their circumstances are being dealt with, but also those who may be frightened that they may lose agency if they do have an accident and end up in hospital.

We have that immediate response to take care of as well, and there are things we can do there. We can ensure they have information about advocacy opportunities. We can ensure that the staff they are dealing with are well trained in the matters they may be presented with so that the best advice is given, because that is the most important thing that we have to do.

One of the reasons we do not hear many of the stories is that the act itself, quite rightly, tries to protect the identity of people for whom orders have been taken out - it should - but the other side of that is that people are frightened of raising those issues publicly, because they also may fall foul of the legislation which talks about any particulars which are calculated to lead to the identification of any person in respect of whom proceedings have been brought about, or any other person concerned in the proceedings, and pictures of those people. There has been a concern that if you do raise an issue, you are going to find yourself foul of the law which is not the intent of that particular provision, but certainly has been part of the problem in silencing information around it.

We are here because we know that people's rights are being ignored. We know people's lives in some cases are being utterly destroyed, that agency is being denied, and that people's possessions are being lost or destroyed. We need confidence for anyone who is about to enter this process that the right services, information and support will be provided to them. We cannot have people too scared to go to hospital because they might lose their agency; they

might lose their home; or they might have to be put into an aged care home and have their possessions sold out underneath them. That confidence for people is paramount.

Most of us walked on that Elder Abuse Awareness Day walk. We all support that. If we support it there we have to support it in the other actions we take. We now have a review as a result of the harsh sunlight that has been shone on this issue in the media recently, but our concern is that this has been known about and understood in this building since 2018. It has been some time. The minister rightly says that these things are complex and legislative work takes some time, but it has been 2018 since the Law Reform Institute report.

The minister did say there were some matters that the Minister for Health must address. Advocacy Tasmania tried to raise these issues with the then minister back in September and received nothing. Those are concerns about the way that we approach that. We do need a plan for those urgent actions that need to be undertaken. We do need to understand that, because the minister did quite rightly point out the differences between the role of the Public Trustee and the Guardianship and Administration Board.

What we have is the financial role about people's financial circumstances, but also very importantly the second role, which goes to individual agency and the right of people to see and do the things that they want. We know that there are people who are being denied ability to leave hospital; denied the ability to leave aged care; not allowed to talk to certain people; not given the financial wherewithal to undertake the normal things in life that they should be able to undertake. All of these things matter.

The decisions that are made should be the least restrictive option. That is actually an obligation upon the agencies. They have to also be in the person's best interests, but in many cases the least restrictive option would be to give people access to advocacy and support. That is what should be happening - and that is certainly in many cases what is not happening.

In the time left, I want to talk about the very public case of a gentleman in George Town who had a fall, broke his ankle and ended up in hospital. His case became known to the Guardianship and Administration Board. The Public Trustee was appointed to take care of his finances, without conversation and engagement with him. He was moved into aged care. He did not then have any contact with the Trustee for 10 months. His dog was given to somebody else to take care of. He has not been able to access any of his own money. He had no idea what had happened to his property. This is a very well-known person in George Town. He had a huge collection of cars, model planes and a whole lot of -

Members interjecting.

Ms O'BYRNE - This has been in the public media already. I am not identifying him inappropriately, Ms Ogilvie.

Many of his things belonged to his mum and dad, and they meant so much to him. Nobody knows where they are. He has cars but nobody knows where they are. Advocacy Tasmania was eventually able to get him an allowance of \$69 a week so he could go out on outings. He has been told that it is okay because, 'What we might do now because you have had these concerns is we might refer it to the Ombudsman', but we also know that the Ombudsman is not in a position to deal with it. When the case that Ms Haddad raised was referred to the Ombudsman back in December, just a few weeks ago the Ombudsman wrote

back to them saying they were not able to take any action on it because they do not have the staff to address it. They said they would try to get to it as soon as possible but they do not have the resources.

Ms Archer - They have not been able to replace vacancies, so do not distort that.

Ms O'BYRNE - The point is that they were written to back in December and if they still have vacancies now and you think that is an excuse, that is not okay.

Ms Archer - Take it up with the Ombudsman.

Ms O'BYRNE - Take it up with the Ombudsman? The Ombudsman is resourced by this Government. If the answer to the concerns of people on these orders is to go to the Ombudsman and the Ombudsman then says they do not have the resources to be able to deal with it, then that is a fundamental issue for government and you know that. It is not okay. We need the review, we need the work done, but we also need people taken care of now.

Time expired.

Matter noted.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Housing Applications - Numbers of Children

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing) - Mr Deputy Speaker, during question time I committed to Ms Dow to provide information on advice and this is what I have from my department.

In relation to children, to be eligible for the Housing Register an applicant must be 16 years old or older. This means the youngest applicant age on the Housing Register as at 31 March 2021 is 16 years. There are 241 applicants; I am advised 6 per cent are youth aged 16 to 18 years old. Families or single parents with children who are under 16 years old represent approximately half of the Housing Register; I am advised 1947 applicants, or 49 per cent.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 24 June 2021 (page 57).

[11.47 a.m.]

Mr BARNETT (Lyons - Minister for Primary Industries and Water) - Mr Deputy Speaker, it is an honour to stand here in this place as Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction, Minister for Resources, Minister for Trade, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and, importantly, member for Lyons. It is an honour to serve and I thank Tasmania's forty-sixth Premier, the Honourable Peter Gutwein, for the ongoing

faith and support he has shown in me in all of these portfolios, particularly with the additional portfolios of Trade and Energy and Emissions Reduction.

At the outset, I congratulate the Speaker on his ascension to the Chair. I know Mark Shelton will do an excellent job. He is a good colleague and friend and I congratulate him wholeheartedly on this new position.

I put on the record my sincere thanks and congratulate the former Governor of Tasmania, the Honourable Professor Kate Warner, and Dick Warner, for their service to the people of Tasmania over many years. Professor Warner taught me at law school as I think she did nearly half the legal profession of Tasmania. I hear a comment from the member for Clark in that regard as well.

I would also like to congratulate and welcome to the role the Honourable Barbara Baker and her partner Don Chalmers. Don Chalmers also taught me at law school and was dean of the law school when I was there in the early 1980s for a number of years. I am delighted at that appointment. I know she will do an excellent job with the support of Don and I look forward to working with her. She had so many attributes in so many respects, including as a fine tennis player, and not just a lawn tennis player but a real tennis player. We have a number of things in common and my family has known the Baker family for some time and in fact my late father was very good friends with the late Bob Baker, who also taught me at law school.

Certainly this last year has been a very testing one for all Tasmanians from all walks of life and I could not be prouder of the job that the Gutwein Liberal Government has done, particularly our Premier in such trying circumstances. His leadership has been exemplary under the most difficult circumstances and at a time when we have most needed that leadership. We will need to continue with that leadership in Tasmania in the months and years ahead. Over the last few days and weekend we have seen that the COVID-19 pandemic can have its way and we need to respond accordingly, so I am thankful for the hard work and trojan effort by the Premier and his team in Cabinet and in this Government but across the Health Service, police, Department of Premier and Cabinet. I thank my department and Biosecurity Tasmania for their efforts at the front line in the past but also in advance under very onerous conditions, often going beyond the call. It is definitely a job across government and I acknowledge that and put it on the record. I thank them for their past efforts and acknowledge their efforts going forward.

As a government we have been disciplined, united and responsible, yet we have had to adapt to the circumstances. We have used that 'p' word in the last 12 months or so, 'pivot', and we have had to pivot to the circumstances. We have had a global crisis and we have had to address it with compassion and care but also with a key objective to rebuild our economy and keep our jobs on the line and make that a priority.

Tasmania is the best place in the world to live and that is why I am ferociously passionate about getting the best outcomes for Tasmanians. I often talk about Team Tasmania when I meet with stakeholders and constituents. We are all in this together giving it our best shot and we are keeping Tasmanians safe while rebuilding our economy, those key objectives. I thank all Tasmanians for their perseverance and their positivity in coping with the pandemic. It has been a fantastic effort and you can see from the vaccination rates that Tasmanians have responded in different ways and I say thank you to all Tasmanians for their efforts.

We are setting out to prosecute our clear plan to secure Tasmania's future and we are doing that. We have a clear vision for Tasmania. It is a state of opportunity to deliver on jobs, development and opportunity for all. It is underpinned in so many ways, to keep Tasmanians safe, to grow our economy, to protect against future challenges and ensure that we can continue our record investment in essential services, whether it be health, education, police, welfare or housing.

We have made record investments in that regard, including our \$5 billion support for infrastructure in the years ahead. This is record investment and we are doing it for and on behalf of Tasmanians to deliver a stronger economy. You cannot fund essential services like health, education and police without a strong economy, and this is something the Opposition often forget. Something I learned in my Senate days and over many years under the stewardship of the then Prime Minister John Howard was that you need a strong economy to provide that support for health, welfare and the like.

There are 25 000 more jobs in Tasmania now compared to when we first came to office in 2014. It was a basket case under the Labor-Greens government with 10 000 jobs lost and the economy in recession. We have turned that around and certainly there are more jobs now than before the pandemic. We have a bold agenda, a clear plan to secure Tasmania's future, and we are on track.

With respect to energy and emissions reduction, we have a natural and competitive advantage in Tasmania. We have renewable energy in spades. We have water and wind resources which are world class and we are using that and grasping those opportunities as a government with both hands to deliver a renewable energy future which will underpin our economy, attract investment, create jobs and support Australia's transition to renewable energy. It will deliver a cleaner world. We are already 100 per cent self-sufficient in renewable energy, since November last year. It was fantastic making that announcement at Granville Harbour with others and I am so proud of Tasmania's leadership, one of the few jurisdictions in the world to reach 100 per cent. We have now got the target of 200 per cent by 2040. We have legislated that, it is a bold commitment and we are delivering on it. Very few jurisdictions, if any, have put that target on their energy use by 2040. I am pleased and proud that we have done that with the support of this parliament. We have got out Renewable Energy Action Plan that is out there for all to see. That is the vision for the future that will take us to 2040 and beyond.

We have the renewable energy target. For the fifth year in a row we have achieved zero net emissions; it is an Australian first. We are leading Australia big time. It is all based on the fact that we have affordable, reliable and clean energy in Tasmania. Yes, it will keep the lights on but prices down. As I said in parliament earlier today, what we are all about is keeping downward pressure on electricity prices. Down, down, down as opposed to the former Labor-Greens government. In just over seven years 65 per cent up, up, up. There is a big contrast there. We have big plans with project Marinus, the Battery of the Nation, renewable hydrogen. They are all massive agendas that we are prosecuting with full force and effect working shoulder to shoulder with the key stakeholders.

Only yesterday I was working with the hydrogen hub group from across government GBEs. All the various agencies of government are focusing on how we can prosecute our renewable hydrogen future, which is fantastic. We have plans for Tarraleah, in my electorate in the Derwent Valley, Central Highlands. It is an older plant but we have plans through Hydro Tasmania to double the capacity from 120 megawatts to 220 megawatts; a \$700 million

development that will put 100 new jobs on the ground as early as next year, rising to 250 jobs during peak construction. It does require a further \$65 million from the federal government to back that in as well as an underwriting agreement.

We have plans for pumped hydro with Lake Cethana being identified for the first pumped hydro site multimillion-dollar development delivering not just for Tasmania, in terms of jobs on the ground, particularly civil construction jobs, but also jobs in other places as well. It will help the national electricity market for sure.

I would like to recognise Michael Wallis who is in the Chamber today. He has had a background in the energy space and worked for the Hydro years ago. He knows the Central Highlands really well. He is a colleague and a friend. I acknowledge his presence in the Chamber today and I thank him for being here.

Renewable hydrogen is Tasmania's super power - that is what I call it. It certainly has so much potential that it is based on producing reliable cost-effective large-scale emissions through hydrogen. This is all happening in Tasmania because we have natural assets in water and electricity. You need infrastructure - road, rail, port - and that is what we have, particularly at Bell Bay, which is being targeted as one of those hydrogen hubs. That is very exciting indeed.

There will be more to be said about that. We are not ashamed of the fact that we have the largest support package in all of Australia for a renewable hydrogen industry development to happen here in Tasmania. We have a lot of interest now from Origin, Able Energy, Grange Resources, Woodside Energy and Fortescue Metals. And so many others are interested.

We have provided funding support to the Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone. This is all backed in with lower prices, which I announced last week: 7 per cent lower for residential customers; and 11 per cent small business customers from 1 July. Again, down, down, down. That is great and it is on the back of the support from the winter relief supplement - \$125 for concession card holders. Some 90 000 Tasmanians will benefit.

We have the TEELS, Tasmanian Energy Efficiency Loans Scheme program, \$30 million over two years. That is going to be a boost with respect to energy efficiency appliances and solar systems and the like. We have doubled the funding for the No Interest Loans (NILS) Energy Saver Loan and Subsidy program. There is a lot that has been done.

I have mentioned that there is a lot more opportunity in emissions reduction space. The latest greenhouse gas emissions data shows that in the financial year ending June 2019 Tasmania emitted negative 1.65 megatons of carbon dioxide equivalents, 108.6 per cent lower than the 1990 baseline. Much has been achieved with a big plan ahead to secure Tasmania's future.

With respect to agriculture and water, the last statistics from the ABS really say it all. Across Australia: 0.4 per cent increase in agricultural production: in Tasmania, a 14.7 per cent increase. How good is that? Thank you all those involved in agriculture in Tasmania. It is outstanding. Of course, it is based on the fact that you have that liquid gold, water: liquid gold delivering reliable access to water. You have the cool climate, fertile soil and importantly those enterprising farmers and agribusiness.

They are the key ingredient for success in Tasmania. They are delivering in spades backed by our Government in so many different ways and I would like to outline some of those ways.

We deliver the most comprehensive and visionary agricultural policy in Tasmanian history with a \$50 million support package prior to the election to accelerate agriculture with \$30 million for water; \$23.7 million of that over the next four years to deliver on tranche three - the Don, the Tamar, Sassafras, Wesley Vale, Northern Midlands, Fingal. These are areas that have been targeted and we will meet that demand, subject to federal government funding support of another \$100 million. I have been in communication with the federal government in recent days in that regard.

We have just secured \$4.7 million from the federal government for the south east extension scheme. If and when that comes through, and I am very hopeful and positive about it, it will be the largest irrigation scheme in Tasmania down there in the south east, southern midlands and of course, Gretna.

We have funding for the Rural Water Use Strategy. Last week I was pleased and proud to release details on the roundtable with respect to rural water. Thank you to Sam Hogg, Tas Irrigation, Rosanna Coombes from NRM North, John McKew from TFGA. They referred to them as the Knights of the Roundtable. We are very keen to ensure efficient and wise use of water. We have a lot more to do there.

We have funding support for new agricultural protection package. Biosecurity could not be more important. When I talk to fruit growers, farmers and the like, they know how important biosecurity is. They are backing in our plans to ensure that we keep out pests and disease and keep the Tasmanian brand pure, fresh, clean, natural wherever possible. We will do everything we can to do that. There is always more to do.

We have the Community Farming Partnership Program of \$5.6 million, improving farm safety and the like to address the impact of drought, assist on business resilience, financial counselling and support.

On Sunday I was there with Elizabeth Skirving from Rural Business Tasmania and John McKew CEO of Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association backing in a federal and state government initiative to future proof against drought in Tasmania. It was interesting in a wet and soggy paddock in the northern midlands. Droughts will come again and we need to be prepared and that is what we are doing. We are planning for the future.

We have \$3 million for the Agricultural Development Fund Supporting Research and Development. We are backing in again the importance of research and development for the future. We have \$7 million over three years for our farm research.

Our farms at Elliot and Forsyth on the north-west coast. With Elliot we have leveraged that with \$7 million from Dairy Australia. Thank you, Dairy Australia. They recognise the importance of dairy industry in Australia.

If you talk to anyone involved in the dairy industry they acknowledge the very good environment we have for the dairy industry. They acknowledge the importance of the industry and how good Tasmania is in delivering on record dairy production. It is great feedback. They

know we are backing them to the hilt and we are supporting them wherever we can, not just with water projects, cows out of the creeks and the like. We have a lot of support packages to support the dairy industry and agriculture across the board.

In terms of our visionary agricultural precinct in Launceston with UTAS, the Tas Institute of Agriculture is moving there. My department is moving out to Newnham. We are going to be working shoulder to shoulder with stakeholders and industry all based in Launceston in Newnham. Very exciting. Big plans.

I have signed the MOU with the Vice-Chancellor some weeks ago. It is all part of delivering on our 100-day commitment. It is happening and we are on track.

The site, 7.5 hectares at Mt Pleasant, will be equivalent, making available 100 building lots. The minister for building things, member for Bass, Mr Ferguson, will be very excited about that opportunity for private, affordable and social housing for Tasmanians.

There is more to say about our strategic industry partnership program but the bottom line is we are working shoulder to shoulder with industry. One of the great things about COVID-19 over the last 12 months or so, is that we work shoulder to shoulder with industry to get the job done, to respond to the opportunities and the challenges before us. There is a lot of work to do and we are getting on with the job.

Concerning border controls and Biosecurity Tasmania, they have done a fantastic job under great pressure and many challenges. I acknowledge their wonderful work again.

With regard to the seafood sector, there is no stronger supporter of our iconic seafood industry than the majority Tasmanian Liberal Government. It is worth \$187 million annually to our economy. It is across our community, in the rural and regional areas, in our ports and towns, our processors, the freight sector, the retail and hospitality sector. I wear that T-shirt, 'Eat more seafood'.

I was at a meeting with the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council last week and thank them for their work and efforts, including the funding support we have for them with Rural Alive and Well regarding mental health in that industry. It is important and I thank them for that.

A couple of weeks ago I was at a conference with the Tasmanian Rock Lobster Association and the positivity in the room was very encouraging. I am advised it was one of the largest attended conferences in recent history. We are backing them with \$3 million in our Wild Fisheries Action Plan. We have much to offer there, including our seafood trails, website and other initiatives.

My department is working on recruiting specialist officers to support emerging marine industries. We will soon be commencing discussions with the Tasmanian Aboriginal communities on the development of Aboriginal cultural fisheries. Last week I approved the necessary instrument under the Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995 to provide \$350 000 levy relief for the shellfish market access program. The department is progressing plans for the development of a new east coast rock lobster rebuilding strategy and has commenced work to review rules to allow catch sharing on waters between fishers.

In each of those areas, we will keep working closely with the industry and the peak groups to ensure the programs are delivered according to business, industry and community benefit.

I note growing sophisticated and persistent efforts by opponents of marine farming to shut the finfish marine farming industry down. I will have more to say about this in the days and weeks ahead. This campaign is undermining Tasmanian jobs. Its objective is to shut down future opportunities for our kids and is designed to kill off our regional communities, based on fear and misinformation rather than facts and science.

There is a deliberate, well-funded industrial campaign to attack marine farming in Tasmania. It is being led by the radical, anti-jobs and anti-science green ideology. It is being led by actors, mainland fly-ins and career keyboard warriors who are now seeking to mobilise sensible Tasmanians by misinformation and half-information.

I speak, of course, of the radical Bob Brown Foundation and their allies, and radical anarchist organisations that actively promote breaking the law and conflict with workers, denying people the right to work to support their families. That is what their objectives are all about.

This organisation, which masquerades as a charity - and I have had communication with the federal government about that anomaly - has even advertised for a full-time role specifically to shut-down the salmon industry. It is bizarre. It is so wrong and it undermines jobs, families and opportunities in Tasmania.

Once upon a time, a charity was there to support people in need. It seems this is not the case any more. Thankfully, there are changes underway at the national level to ensure the regulator has greater ability to intervene when an organisation is encouraging law-breaking, as the Bob Brown Foundation does day in, day out.

We have the parliamentary Greens who are the parliamentary arm of the radical Bob Brown Foundation. That is what they are doing and they are their mouthpiece in this place.

In terms of recreational fishing, there is no stronger supporter of course than our Government. I love recreational fishing, whether it be inland or sea fishing. The opportunity for hunting is terrific in Tasmania. This is part of the Tasmanian way of life and that is why we are working through our draft deer management plan and we are looking forward to further consultation in that regard. As to recreational fishing, I released that draft 10-year strategy, the first ever in Tasmania. We are backing it in and getting feedback on that right now and in the weeks ahead. I thank TARFish for their support and advocacy as well and look forward to further work with them. As minister I want to see more opportunities to go fishing, particularly for young people, women and people with disabilities to ensure fishing is an opportunity for all future generations.

We are backing them with funding support of \$3 million dollars, with \$2 million for sea fishing, whether it be boat ramps, jetties and the like, sea fishing organisations and clubs, and \$1 million for new and upgraded facilities for inland fishing and improved access. We are backing them in. They are right for the Tasmanian wildlife and we can enjoy that opportunity for recreational activities. We have offered free licences for the next four years for those younger Tasmanians, the next generation of inland fishers. We have the tagged trout promotions coming up which are very exciting indeed, and I will have more to say about that.

In terms of forestry, there is no greater supporter of the forestry sector and we are backing it in with \$11.7 million over five years. It is amazing how important it is delivering jobs, particularly in those rural and regional areas. We have just had the High Court knock back comprehensively the Bob Brown's Foundation attack on the forest industry and of course within a week they say they are not giving up on forestry, they will still keep attacking the forest industry, but now they want to start attacking the salmon industry.

We have had a comprehensive win that vindicates our position that forestry is managed in a sustainable way. It is a \$1.2 million industry delivering thousands of jobs, direct and indirect, across rural and regional Tasmania. We are supporting it with a \$10 million fund over five years for more on-island processing and value-adding, supporting the Tas Timber promotions board, carbon offset initiatives with STT and delivering long-term resource security for smaller and larger sawmills and a whole lot more.

In terms of mining, mining and mineral processing is delivering more than 50 per cent of our exports in Tassie and thousands of jobs, particularly in those regional areas.

Mr Ellis - Hear, hear.

Mr BARNETT - The member for Braddon who has just interjected is such a strong supporter of mining and mineral processing. We were there together, Mr Ellis and myself, on the west coast and we visited the MMG mine supporting the workers and their rights to work, supporting the company and their right to put forward their application, after more than 80 years where they are, to continue mining for years and decades ahead, going through due process, but of course the Greens and the Bob Brown Foundation are opposing it and radical protestors are trying to stop it. We support MMG's right to progress and we will back them in. We backed the industry in with the export drilling grants initiative, the geoscience initiative and the diversity action plan. There is so much to do and say and we are backing them in big time.

We know that the end game for the BBF is another lockup, in this case their reference to the so-called Tarkine of 440 000 hectares of Tasmania and they want a new Tarkine national park or World Heritage Area. This area for the last 150 years has been used for forestry, mining, recreational activities such as fishing, for farming and other recreational activities and it is mixed use, multiple use, and the very good op-ed in the paper today by Ray Mostogl from the Tasmanian Minerals and Energy Council highlighted exactly that point. Well done, Ray Mostogl.

We are backing in and will re prosecute our workplace protection laws; we said this prior to the election. We will bring it on and I am calling on Labor to support it, to get behind it. They have squibbed it and opposed it for the last four years and in fact the four years before that as well. It is time to stand up for our productive industries and the rights of Tasmanians to earn a living.

In the few moments I have to conclude, I wanted to talk about trade. Trade is about jobs. Exports means jobs in Tasmania. We have just hit a record \$3.8 billion in exports. This is fantastic and congratulations to Tasmanian exporters across our productive industries and manufacturing and the like. Of course this is all based on our Trade Strategy released by the Deputy Premier and former Minister for Trade, Jeremy Rockliff. Thank you, Jeremy, for such

good work. So far it is great working with the key stakeholders in the trade space and it was really an honour to meet with the Japanese Ambassador to Australia, Shingo Yamagami, His Excellency, and his wife just a few weeks ago to welcome him to Tasmania and announce the Tasmanian trade advocate in Tokyo. We have big plans to grow our exports and support our trades industry and those involved.

Regarding veterans, everyone in this place knows the strong support of this Government for our veterans, with the biggest support package ever in Tasmanian history of \$1.4 million over the next four years for new and existing programs to support veterans, ex-serving personnel and their families. We are so supportive, we want to back them in and we have done that in so many different ways, including through mental health and wellbeing and the Teddy Sheean VC Memorial grants. It is great that we can celebrate that Teddy Sheean has his Victoria Cross after 78 years since 1 September 1942. We are backing them in in so many different ways and we will continue to do so.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is great to wrap up and say how proud I am to be part of the Gutwein Majority Liberal Government and to have the opportunity to prosecute our case for more jobs, more development and supporting our families and communities across Tasmania. We are doing that with purpose, with a plan, being positive, being proactive, being passionate and we will persevere. In the last 12 months we have had to pivot in light of COVID and we will need to do that again to be agile and respond to the circumstances. It is an honour to serve and I look forward to continuing to do so.

[12.17 a.m.]

Dr BROAD (Braddon) - Mr Deputy Speaker, first I thank the people of Braddon for again showing me confidence and voting me into this place. I definitely would not be here without the support of many people in the electorate of Braddon and I commit to working as hard as I can to represent them to the best of my ability. I am also fortunate now to be in a position where I have won as many elections as I have lost, so I hope I can improve that over the following years. I was pleased to increase my personal vote but it is pretty obvious that as a party Labor has a lot more to do to reach majority government.

I welcome Her Excellency Barbara Baker's appointment as Governor. She will do a fantastic job. She has big shoes to fill.

Professor the Honourable Kate Warner has done a magnificent job as governor and she is someone that Tasmanians should aspire to become, someone who is level-headed, well spoken, well researched, and well thought through. She is an inspiration for not only all Tasmanians but especially for women, paving the way for the many female governors to come, including Barbara Baker. I recognise the contribution of her husband Dick, who has been a loyal companion by her side through some ups and downs through the governorship, facing personal issues such as cancer, in which she showed great courage and stoicism and got through that. I wish her all the best for her retirement.

I recognise the contribution of Rebecca White who has led the Labor Party for four years. She made the decision to step down and she is also a shining example for young women everywhere, not only in her ability to lead but also in demonstrating that motherhood itself is not an impediment to high office. It is something all women can do and she has definitely shown the way, because it was never something that held her back and she managed to balance her family life and professional life. That should be an inspiration to others. I wish her well,

especially since the birth of her son, Hudson, which we all welcome. One day she is in parliament, the next day she has a baby, again showing that there are no barriers to women participating at the highest level. That is something that we should encourage. Rebecca demonstrating that it is possible should be inspiration for others who will follow.

Our election campaign was less than ideal. The Government has played merry hell with it and, no doubt, will keep reminding us about it. After every election, especially when a party like the Labor Party does not win government, there is a period of soul-searching. The best time to do that is post-election.

Our campaign was less than ideal but I am not one to stand by. That is why I put my hand up for leadership and raised issues that I believed needed raising. There was a vote, the first time that has happened, and I congratulate David O'Byrne for winning the leadership, and Anita Dow for being elected unopposed as deputy leader. Despite what the Liberals say, I am a team player. Always have been. I will continue to work hard every day to make sure Labor wins the next election and that we hold the Government to account.

Two great new members have been elected on the Labor benches, Janie Finlay and Dean Winter. They are both significant people. They have much to offer the party and I look forward to seeing how they develop in their roles. I also send my respects and condolences to fellow members who lost their seats, Jennifer Houston and Alison Standen. Both gave significant contributions in their time, which was too short. I hope to see them back, to not give up on the Labor Party but continue to fight the good fight. I look forward to seeing the member for Bass, Janie Finlay, and the member for Franklin, Dean Winter, progressing through this four-year term.

Talking about four-year terms, the Government has questions to answer. Why did we actually go to an election a full one year early? We have not received a good answer. We have a confected political answer: that the Government was in a minority they created by sacking the former Speaker, Ms Hickey, only to have the new member for Clark, Madeline Ogilvie, come across to the Liberal Party within a matter of hours. It can be demonstrated that the minority was confected and they could have sorted the problem well and truly before, and there was no need to go to an early election.

Was it opportunistic? We saw the election result in Western Australia. No doubt it had the Premier excited because there was a landslide to Labor in Western Australia, wiping out the Liberals so now they can have a party meeting on a motorbike, with only two members, and as part of a five-member coalition. They could have a party meeting in a hatchback.

No doubt, Mr Gutwein, the Premier, had a look at that and thought, well let us get excited, that COVID-19 bounce might be worth a lot of political mileage, then went to the election. That may be a reason. There might be another reason, though. There might be multiple reasons. It might be because the Premier has something to hide. Maybe he knows something that we do not, and the public of Tasmania do not, and he has not been honest about it. Time will tell and that is something we may have to highlight. What happens in the next year that he knew about but has not been totally honest with the electorate about?

Maybe it is the levels of debt we are likely to see in the coming budget. We know that the budget has been delayed until August, conveniently given the Government space to go to an early election. Maybe it has been part of a cunning plan for a long time. Debt and deficit

is something we need to keep an eye on and hold the Government to account on. We have not seen debt in this state since Jim Bacon paid off a former Liberal government's debt. That is what we are looking at again.

We know there is going to be a significant number, in the billions. How many billion is it? Is it one, is it three, is it more, especially in the out years?

It is getting to the point now where the Government cannot hide. They have been spending the cash ever since they came into government in 2014. Basically, they have run the accounts down and now they are going to have to borrow to maintain our current services. How did we get to this point? The Government is no longer able to hide. They may use COVID-19 as an excuse, but if we turn our minds back to the Budget before COVID-19 was even something we were aware of, we were looking at a billion dollars in debt.

Before COVID-19, the forward Estimates showed that Tasmania was headed to a billion dollars in debt. COVID-19 has no doubt added to that debt, but the fact is that the Liberal Government has blown the budget, and we need to hold the Government to account.

The Liberals have spoken much about our campaign, pretending that their campaign during the election was a shining example of what to do. Well, I beg to differ. The Liberal campaign was far from smooth sailing. First, we had a health minister in hiding who disappeared from the Tasmanian media for a good two to three weeks, and would not debate our health spokesperson, Bastian Seidel, and would not participate in any public debates and basically did not front.

Then we had the Liberal candidate in Bass, Lara Alexander, expressing a lot of concern and highlighting how she was prevented from speaking publicly. Here is someone with an amazing track record in the community and had a lot to say, but was prevented. The Liberal powerbrokers and backroom people would not let her speak. That was pretty disgusting.

We then saw the candidate for Franklin, Dean Ewington, sacked for an online COVID-19 lockdown rant that was published earlier in the year. We had an example where a candidate like Dean Ewington was thrown on the scrapheap for making a comment online, and he had to go, because that was the Government's political strength. The Premier built a lot of his reputation based around being the strongman during COVID-19, and he could not have somebody on the Liberal ticket saying something different - so obviously he had to go.

Then, someone like Adam Brooks, who was facing charges, catfishing, using fake licences and had multiple identities. When that was highlighted to the Premier, the Premier attacked the reporters. Why did the police come to Adam Brooks' house in the first place, with the charges for failure to store ammunition? We have not had an answer to that question. The Liberals used Adam Brooks. They knew he had issues and was not in a good place, but they selected him anyway, even when it was clear, I believe, that it was not in Mr Brooks' best interests to actually be a candidate at that election. This falls on the Premier.

Mr Brooks knew he was in trouble, and the Liberals must have known he was in trouble, too. That was my fourth election campaign against Adam Brooks and he is a good campaigner, there is no doubt. Every time you turned a corner, there was Adam Brooks. If you went to the opening of a door or a beer can, there was Adam Brooks. This election, Adam Brooks was nowhere to be seen. He was completely absent from the field. A few signs went up, but not

as many signs as in the past, and where was Adam Brooks? The only time I saw Adam Brooks was on Anzac Day. He had this crappy Telstra van from the 1980s that he was using to cart around his signs, and there he was sitting in it. He parked behind my car, which had my name on it, which you could see from space, so it was obviously my car.

I came out after breakfast at the RSL Club in Latrobe and there was Adam Brooks. He got out and we had a conversation, and that was the only time I saw him during that entire campaign - whereas in the past, Adam Brooks was absolutely everywhere. He knew he was in trouble.

The Premier must have known Adam Brooks was in trouble, but all the Premier did was deny, deny, deny - despite evidence, despite CCTV evidence, despite accusations from multiple women, and despite photographs of fake licences, for which he has subsequently been charged in Queensland. We got denials from the Premier, shamelessly accusing a quality reporter like Emily Baker of tricking up evidence. He would not address it at all. At the very least, the Premier owes an apology to Emily Baker. The way she was treated was a disgrace, when what she was doing was highlighting a significant issue - the behaviour of one of the Liberal's candidates.

I reaffirm that the Liberals knew and the Liberals used Adam Brooks, even though it was definitely not in his best interests because of his mental health issues. They used him and that is a disgrace.

We took good policies to the election that I believe would solve problems. I believe our health plan would make a difference. I urge the new soft and friendly Minister for Health, Jeremy Rockliff, member for Braddon, to do more than just consult and talk and appear to be doing all the right things. I would urge him to sit down with our health person, Dr Bastian Seidel, and go through Labor's plans, because there were things in our plan that would make a difference, and make a difference now.

The better utilisation of regional hospitals is a really good idea. Putting on nurse practitioners to deal with low-level emergency cases - broken limbs, stitches and those sorts of things - would relieve pressure on our hospitals, like the North West Regional. Hospitals like those in St Helens, Smithton and on the west coast could be better utilised. I urge the new health minister, Mr Rockliff, to stay good to his word and take on board Labor's policies - and not just talk about it. We want to see some action.

We also have to see the false economies in health. We have seen it for years under this Government with the reliance on locums and part-time employees, the delaying of treatment, the extending of waiting lists and the cutting of preventive health funding. These are false economies, because all they do is cost Tasmanian taxpayers more in the long run. When somebody does not get a medical issue seen to early, all that does is create an even bigger problem that costs more money in the long run. The reliance on locums is not good use of money.

I saw Mr Ferguson have a crack at us about our policy on returning maternity services to the Mersey Hospital. What he did not address is the number of women actually giving birth on the side of the road on their way to the North West Regional Hospital. This is happening. The former failed health minister did not address this at all. He also talked about how the Mersey's maternity services were struggling because of the reliance on locums. He could have

done something about that. He could have employed people permanently so there was not this reliance on locums.

What do the Liberals do? The Liberals cut back the services, they underfund services, they make the service unsustainable and they shut it down. The Liberals have a track record of doing this. It is actually time for the Liberals to deliver on their promises. They have been in government seven years, and this will turn into 11 years unless they decide that we are going to be going on three-year terms from now on. There are four years ahead of us; their seven years will turn into 11 years.

The Liberals cannot continually blame Labor forever. I know the Government just loves blaming Labor for everything. Well, the Liberals have been in government seven years, so by the end of their 11 years they are going to have to deliver something. We have to get past this whole idea of putting out pretty pictures and press releases and doing announcements.

No more pretty pictures. Tasmania needs action - not another action plan with no actual action. We cannot have the Government talking about fast-tracking something that never happens. We have had all these photo opportunities when the draft plan turns into the redraft plan, turns into the action plan, and yet we see no action.

The Government definitely needs to go to the dictionary to figure out what 'fast track' means. Every time they say 'fast track' what that actually means is another delay.

Doorknocking throughout the election campaign, health was a massive issue. I ran into people who had been on the waiting list for years for hip operations. This has to stop. We have seen the waiting list blow out. The list to even get on the waiting list has blown out even more. There are 50 000 people waiting just for an appointment. That is a disgrace. The Government have to do something about it. Not just talk about funding or action plans; do something about it. They have to do something about the stalled projects that have not passed the pretty picture stage, such as Macquarie Point, the Bridgewater bridge, traffic. They also have to manage their budget sustainably as I have said. They cannot hide anymore and spin will not work forever.

In the next four years we will be looking at debt and deficit. We need to hold the Government to account. The Government cannot do stupid things. Yet the Government has plans that are stupid. An example would be the Cam River bridge. The Government has a plan to duplicate it; to put another two-lane bridge next to the existing two-lane bridge so we could have four lanes. We could work on it. That could be the basis for a traffic management plan to fix the Cooee crawl. But what are they going to do? They are going to knock down the old bridge so that there are still only two lanes. Spend all this money on a new bridge and knock down the old one so instead of having four lanes we will be back to two. That is a stupid decision and the Government really needs to think about it.

A stupid decision I have spoken about on adjournment is bureaucracy gone mad, making rowers wear life jackets. I urge the Government to reconsider because I am not going to give up on that one I can tell you that. It is madness and I will keep campaigning on it.

The Government also have to do their job. They cannot shirk their responsibility. Over there are the Treasury benches and the responsibility of government is to deliver. They have to do their job. They have to make sure that WorkSafe is doing its job when we have notifications about protests. WorkSafe representatives witnessed Bob Brown Foundation

protesters running, jumping onto a moving excavator and locking on. They saw that and yet there has been no prosecution. The minister talks about anti-protester laws. No doubt we will have that debate again -

Members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER - Order

Dr BROAD - You know my position on that. We can go around this merry-go-round again. The Liberals are just doing this for political purposes when they have legislation in place in WorkSafe but they are doing zero about. They could do that today. Prosecutions could be put today because WorkSafe inspectors witnessed the Bob Brown Foundation locking onto a moving excavator and do not do anything about it.

Also, these reviews. The guardianship review that has sat on the desk since 2018. For three years they have sat on that report and they are now only just starting to deal with little bits of it. In the meantime, vulnerable people are seeing their assets seized and control of their finances taken over and losing control of their own lives. Why? Because this Government has not done their job.

It is now time to do your jobs, people on that side, and not just do reviews. You have to get to the implementation phase. It is not just pretty pictures. It is not just reviews. It is not just draft plans. It is not some fast track or whatever other language you like to use. You actually have to do your job and we will definitely be holding the Liberals to account.

The Greens are absent from the House at this stage so I will probably be able to get through this without frivolous interjections and points of order, which I am looking forward to.

Members interjecting.

Dr BROAD - Apart from that side. I do not know. Maybe they have issues to deal with as well.

We know that the Greens, despite their election night victory speech, are still only two members. On election night, Cassy O'Connor, the member for Clark, delivered a magnificent Greens victory speech and yet they are still only two members. As Leader, she has lost members on her watch. They are not gaining ground. There is no doubt they did better this election. They had a very well programmed series of stunts, culminating with Richard Flanagan's book, *Toxic*, that just coincidentally dropped in the last week or so of the election.

They have been wholly and solely rejected by the electors - apart from the city-based electorates of Franklin and Clark. In the regions they have been well and truly dumped by the voters. In Braddon, they are up to about 6 per cent. I cannot remember if they beat the Shooters and Fishers this time, but probably not. Craig Garland definitely beat them.

Their policy of economic destruction continues. Already we have seen them in this place attacking mining, forestry and Rosebery's tailings dam proposal. We see Bob Brown supporters. The Greens are definitely the political wing of the Bob Brown Foundation and are taking more notice of what the Bob Brown Foundation is doing. We have Bob Brown supporters saying silly things like 'Save the Tarkine'. This was tweeted today by a supporter

saying that 'saving the Tarkine might still be enough to save the planet'. I mean, 200 hectares on a mining lease could be enough to save the planet. This came from a Bob Brown supporter in Queensland. When you look at the statistics, the amount of forest in Tasmania that is under reserve is 42 per cent. So, 42 per cent of forests in Tasmania, trees and things that are classified as forests are in some kind of reservation. This Queensland supporter should be campaigning in Queensland because only 1 per cent of forests in Queensland are under protections. Maybe, instead of coming down and trying to ruin Tasmania's mining industry, she should have a look in her own backyard.

It is not just the mining and forest industry. We see now that they are going to be campaigning more against the salmon industry. We saw that throughout the election campaign with the stunts and *Toxic*, the book that Richard Flanagan wrote.

The Greens make the old strawman argument, run the arguments and then change their minds. They shift the goal posts and then change their minds. They are calling for the salmon industry to be completely land-based and yet they campaigned recently against a hatchery in the Derwent Valley. That was an on-land salmon facility and they campaigned against it. Do we really believe that the Greens would give the big tick to a facility that is one thousand times bigger than that hatchery in the Derwent Valley? Of course not. It is a fallacy. The Greens are against everything and we saw that throughout the campaign.

There was one week when they wanted to shut down forest industry, shut down salmon, racing and duck shooting and, in the past, they have campaigned against plantations, hydro schemes, windfarms and now they are also looking to go after agriculture.

In her Address-in-Reply, the member for Clark, Ms O'Connor, talked about how they are going to go after agriculture under the guise of irrigation and water quality. Ms O'Connor's son is now in New Zealand and there is a campaign about water quality in New Zealand. Maybe she is seeing an opportunity to try to shut down yet another industry. When I heard Ms O'Connor speak, I thought, here we go, now she is coming after agriculture.

I am a proud Tasmanian and I love Tasmania. I choose to live in Tasmania and when I travel I always say I am Tasmanian, before COVID-19, when you were allowed to travel. It appears the Greens are not proud of Tasmania because they continually talk the state down. They continually overlook our achievements. They continually overlook the fact that half our state is in reserves and we are current net zero carbon emitters.

It is difficult to find what other jurisdictions are net zero emitters but I found a couple. There is Bhutan and Suriname. Bhutan is in the Himalayas, a small kingdom. Suriname is a Dutch colony in South America. Both those are zero net carbon emitters. It is hard to find statistics on sub-national jurisdictions but Tasmania is a net zero emitter. If you compare us to Bhutan and Suriname: Bhutan has a GDP of \$9426 per annum; Suriname has a GDP of about 50 per cent more at \$15 845 whereas Tasmania's gross state product, is \$59 779. We have managed to be net zero emitters and still have a GDP of \$60 000 compared to \$15 000 or \$9000. Tasmanians should be proud of this.

The Greens should be saying to businesses; if you want to offset your carbon omissions set up business in Tasmania. Instead we have the Greens trying to destroy the businesses that are already existing in Tasmania. They have to stop talking down the state and trying to ruin our economy. That means we will not be able to run our hospital systems, to fund our parks

and wildlife, to look after the people of Tasmania, to make sure that people have well-paying jobs. You cannot do that unless you have an economy. We have managed to protect half the state and be net zero emitters. We should be proud of that and the Greens should be shining a light on that instead of bagging out Tasmania's environmental performance.

I am looking forward to having a role in my shadow portfolios so I am very grateful to have back primary industries, fisheries and water as well as resources. I am passionate about agriculture, forestry and mining but also I have managed to pick up the very important shadow portfolio of trade and am looking forward to getting my teeth stuck into the trade portfolio. Obviously the biggest exports are primary industries, forestry and mining so I have already had an insight into the issues in trade, but also I am very pleased to have picked up veterans affairs and I look forward to participating more. I have always gone to Anzac Day events, events recognising Vietnam veterans, recognising the navy and air force personnel. My sister is in the air force and has been for a long time, so I am very proud to have veterans' affairs.

I am not here on my efforts alone. I thank the volunteers who helped me, people who put up signs, people who helped me campaign, people who helped me with social media posts. There is always the risk of missing somebody but I thank Stacey and Tony, Gordon, Dad and Warren for putting up my signs. My dad turns 80 in January and yet he was still out there putting signs up for me in all sorts of weather, ably assisted by Gordon and Warren. I thank Tessa, Richard, Nick, Kim, Nikki, Thom, Shannon, Graham, Joe, Terry, Paul, Tom, Brendon and Nichola, especially my electorate officer Haidie Fullard, who was a rock who went over and above. I really look forward to partnering and working with Haidie for really good outcomes for my community in the coming four years.

Time expired.

[12.47 a.m.]

Mrs PETRUSMA (Franklin - Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management) - Mr Speaker, it is with great delight that I rise to reply to the Governor's Address. I congratulate you on your election to the Speaker's Chair. I have no doubt that your wisdom and experience will provide for a very orderly but fair House. I would also like to congratulate all new and returning members of this House on their successful election on 1 May as we collectively form the fiftieth parliament of Tasmania. Being a member of parliament is a great honour and privilege and I know that we are all here because we all want to make Tasmania an even better place in which to live, work and raise a family and to enjoy everything that our beautiful state has to offer.

First, I thank the electors of Franklin for their overwhelming support. The support from my people in my electorate was truly humbling and I look forward to representing them in parliament and in Government over the next four years. I also wish to acknowledge my fellow Franklin member and great colleague, Nick Street. I want to congratulate him on his re-election. I look forward to working with him very much for the next four years for the betterment of the Franklin electorate.

I am truly honoured to have been asked by the Premier to join his Cabinet. I congratulate him on our historic third term election victory, as well as to thank him for his leadership and friendship. The Premier, Mr Gutwein, has shown strong and calm leadership throughout the pandemic, with decisive decision-making that has protected Tasmania's people whilst

rebuilding our economy. I look forward to working with the Premier and my Cabinet colleagues to secure Tasmania's future.

It is a core function of government to ensure that its citizens and communities are kept safe from harm and I look forward to working with our police, fire and SES heroes over the next four years as the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management. Since 2014 the Tasmanian Liberal Government has made significant progress in this portfolio and I look forward to building on that progress to ensure our communities remain safe, especially during COVID-19. I recently had the pleasure of visiting the State Control Centre and saw first-hand the work that has been undertaken by our police officers and state servants while working hard to protect our state from COVID-19. Under our emergency management arrangements Commissioner Hine as State Controller has responsibility for coordinating the whole-of-government response to the pandemic and I want to offer him my sincere and deep appreciation for his strong leadership, as well as my sincere and deep appreciation to Deputy Commissioner Scott Tilyard as Deputy State Controller, as well as all of our hard working emergency service and health personnel who continue to be on the front line of keeping us all safe and protected from the threat of COVID-19.

To assist, the new state-of-the-art State Operations Centre and State Control Centre will be operational this year, providing our emergency service personnel with the equipment and space they need to plan and respond to emergencies. On top of this, we are also providing \$900 000 to establish a permanent multi-hazard intelligence team that will work from the State Control Centre to plan and provide rapid advice to incident response.

This Government also understands that we face increasing climate-related threats and challenges, which is why we are responding and planning for these threats to ensure our communities are ready and resilient. The provision of skilled staff to activate the State Control Centre promptly in emergencies will provide the preparedness and capability to plan and respond to all types of hazards.

This Government also has a strong track record for rebuilding our Police Service. On top of the 258 police officers that the Government has previously committed, we are adding an additional 50 police officers over the next five years, bringing the total to 308 under this Liberal Government. This will take Tasmania Police to the highest establishment that it has ever had, with 1428 police officers, a 30 per cent increase since 2014, and will assist Tasmania in being one of the safest places in which to live, work and raise a family. However, we know that there is more work to be done, which is why the focus of the additional 50 police officers will be to bolster criminal investigation capability which will help to tackle cybercrime as well as disrupt organised crime networks.

I recently had the privilege of visiting the Crime and Intelligence Command, a new division of Tasmania Police that has been established due to the investment of this Government. This new command is delivering real results to the Tasmanian people, results like the one we saw earlier this month involving the dismantling of a drug syndicate yielding the largest volume of illicit drugs and cash seizures in Tasmanian of over \$5.5 million. We are also delivering more support roles for police officers to ensure our officers remain on the front line and in our communities. This includes eight additional State Service employees who will support police in roles such as prosecution, cybercrime and digital evidence analysis.

The Tasmanian Liberal Government also delivered the police Capability Review in our last term. This demonstrated that the nature of policing is changing, with a need for specialist roles that complement and assist police investigations. This is why we are providing this support to our police, so they can continue the fantastic work they are doing in reducing crime in our state.

Since 2014 the Government has also provided significant investment to improve our police stations around Tasmania. This is in recognition of both the need to contemporise police stations for our officers and also because we have increased police numbers in our communities to help keep Tasmanians safe; therefore larger stations are needed to accommodate these additional officers.

We are also delivering a new \$5 million police station in Longford, a new \$5 million police station in New Norfolk and a new \$12 million Emergency Services hub at Sorell. On top of this we have committed \$20 million to provide a new police station at St Helens and to upgrade the Bridgewater police station.

This Government has also delivered our nation-leading health and wellbeing program for our emergency services personnel. This is in recognition of the challenging and confronting roles that our emergency services workers perform and the risk factors that can impact their mental and physical health. Due to the success of the health and wellbeing program, we are doubling our initial \$1.5 million investment to provide the program with \$3 million per annum. This will provide support services to both our career and volunteer emergency services personnel. This program is already delivering real results in the form of physical and mental health support through services such as psychologists, physical exercise programs, critical incident stress management and wellbeing support.

I am pleased to note that this Government will also deliver a \$4 million grants program to allow local communities to purchase and install CCTV cameras to make Tasmania safer. While overall crime is reducing, we know there is more to be done to keep our communities safe. This is why the installation of these CCTV cameras will help deter criminal activity and allow police to access evidence that will assist them to identify offenders as well as to prosecute them. These new cameras will provide an additional tool for our police officers and build on our very successful drone program which is already delivering results in prosecuting offenders.

Unfortunately, our emergency services personnel are at times confronted with violent offenders which in some incidents can involve offenders biting, spitting or exposing our personnel to body and blood fluids.

This is abhorrent and places our frontline workers under stress as they wait to hear the results of blood tests to determine if they have been exposed to a transmissible disease such as HIV or hepatitis.

To address this, the Tasmanian Liberal Government will introduce legislation to ensure that mandatory blood testing can occur when a person has deliberately exposed a frontline worker to blood or body fluids that puts them at risk of contracting a disease.

For more than 25 years Crime Stoppers has operated in Tasmania providing an important avenue for people to report crime and to assist police to identify offenders. Earlier this month we had Crime Stoppers Week which focused on reporting those that deal with drugs. This

Government recognises the important role Crime Stoppers plays in our community, which is why we will provide Crime Stoppers with \$100 000 over the next four years to assist in delivering its education programs and adopting innovative programs such as Bikelinc, which will assist Tasmania Police to return stolen bikes to their owners.

Responses to critical mental health incidents usually involve uniformed police officers and this does not always result in the best outcomes for a patient. This is why this Government will deliver a \$5.1 million emergency mental health co-response team. This team, comprising mental health workers, police and ambulance officers, will improve the way our services respond to critical and specialised mental health cases, ensuring better outcomes for our patients.

I acknowledge our Tasmania Fire Service and State Emergency Service career and volunteer personnel for the incredible work they undertake every day to ensure our communities are ready to respond to emergency situations, and also for their valiant efforts when fire, flood and other emergency incidents occur. They are always there for us in our time of need and I thank them, as I do Tasmania Police, from the bottom of my heart for their bravery in keeping Tasmanians safe.

To assist them, the Government has invested strongly to keep our community safe from the threat of bushfires and floods. This includes \$1.7 million for community protection planning for floods and storms; \$4.66 million for flood mitigation for the township of Latrobe; \$2.75 million for new state-of-the-art firefighting appliances; \$2 million to provide volunteers with equipment through our grants program; \$1.5 million to undertake a flood-mapping project; and \$9.3 million for 12 extra staff to reduce fuel loads across the state.

We are also continuing a strong investment to provide our communities with as much planning protection as we can from the effects of hazards and emergencies, to ensure that our communities are ready and resilient to the threats of bushfires, floods and other emergencies.

We have already invested \$55 million in the fuel-reduction program to protect our communities from bushfire. Building on the success of this program, we are committing a further \$2.5 million to support mechanical clearing. This funding will provide an alternative to burn offs, with machinery to remove trees and undergrowth.

A new division is also being established within the Tasmania Fire Service to manage planning and response to bushfires. This is through an investment of \$8 million. This division will have responsibility for the management of the Fuel Reduction Program.

On top of this, our Red Hot Tips program has been hugely successful, with 144 farms and private landholders registering. These participants manage over 327 500 hectares of land and have now completed 189 planned burns. This has been achieved through the Government's initial investment of \$595 000. Due to the success of this program, we have committed a further \$2.5 million so as to continue to manage and reduce bushfire risk. This funding will allow the program to expand so that more landholders and farmers can seek assistance to undertake bushfire planning and burning, which will enhance business property and community safety.

We are also investing \$2 million to roll out enhanced standard equipment for volunteer brigades. Our volunteers rely on special personal protective clothing and equipment to ensure

they can do their jobs. This means helmets, overalls, jackets and mission-critical equipment that they need to keep themselves safe.

We are also providing \$250 000 to provide new-generation defibrillators for volunteer fire trucks. This not only increases safety for volunteers; it prioritises an added level of coverage to support communities in rural and remote areas.

It is important, especially for our rural communities, that our highly trained volunteers are supported. With this in mind, we are providing \$2.4 million to establish a dedicated team to recruit and support our volunteers across the state. These new staff will be recruited specifically to work with communities and brigades to recruit new members and retain existing members.

In addition, a permanent executive officer will be allocated to support the volunteers' associations. This Government strongly supports our volunteers, which is why we are providing the support needed to grow our volunteers throughout our communities.

We will also deliver a new Fire Service Act for Tasmania. The act was proclaimed in 1979 and is no longer contemporary. Work is underway to commence consultation on the development of a new act.

Debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from above.

Mrs PETRUSMA - (Franklin - Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management) - Mr Speaker, I am also delighted to be appointed as the Minister for Parks. Tasmania's natural assets are world-renowned and they hold a special place in my heart. I am a passionate and frequent user of our parks, and my family and I love nothing more than to pull on our hiking boots and to get out and about in our wild and beautiful places.

I passionately believe that protecting our outstanding universal values must be achieved through culturally sensitive, environmentally sustainable visitation to our national parks, reserves and Crown lands, to ensure that our beautiful land is available for our future generations, and that future generations can not only explore and learn about our state's unique wild places, but ensure that our wild places will be passed on to future generations in even better condition than they are today.

Through our unprecedented investment, the Tasmanian Liberal Government has demonstrated its firm commitment to ensuring that these special places are protected and presented in ways that will allow all people to enjoy the natural and cultural values they contain, irrespective of their level of ability.

That is why, in the recent election, this Government made commitments totalling more than \$41 million to future-proof our world-renowned national parks and reserves through our

Parks Powering Regional Economies policy. This investment will continue to support our regional economies in terms of economic activity and job creation. These commitments also build on the Government's record investment in our parks since 2014, where more than \$80 million in funding has been committed.

I am particularly pleased about the planned upgrades to the parks facilities in my electorate of Franklin and the far south region. The Government has committed \$3 million towards two major projects in the area, investing in both the redevelopment of the Hastings thermal pool site and upgrades to the Cockle Creek campgrounds.

The Hastings Caves State Reserve is already a key regional tourism drawcard. Renovation of the popular thermal pool and surrounds will ensure that these facilities are suitable for all.

Cockle Creek is the southern gateway to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, and is a popular area for camping and for families.

As part of this project, we will realign the site and provide new and enhanced camp sites, including facilities for RVs and motorhomes. These works will build on and complement the recently completed new day use shelter and toilet facility at the site that I was delighted to visit recently.

A small but very important commitment in the far north-west of the state is the improvement of access to the Black River day use area through the upgrade of Spion Kop Road. This commitment will deliver the resheeting and upgrading of 2.1 kilometres of road, and for the removal of vegetation and clearing of drains. We have also committed to contracting the works within 100 days. This will certainly be achieved, and I am advised that the grading and resheeting works will occur in the next month.

On Tasmania's west coast, the Government has also committed \$600 000 to complete the Horsetail Falls Trail at Queenstown, adding to the short walk offerings that are a significant drawcard activity.

Stage one of the Horsetail Falls walk was funded by the Liberal Government to assist the west coast community after the Mount Lyell mine entered care and maintenance back in 2014. At a difficult time, our investment provided access to a platform overlooking the falls, adding a memorable tourism experience to the region that supported increased visitation and jobs in the area.

Our commitment to stage two will provide an attraction in its own right, taking visitors right to the top of the falls and providing a complementary experience to the extensive work being undertaken by the West Coast Council to build a mountain-biking destination at Mount Owen.

On the east coast, Freycinet National Park has been one of the fastest growing and most popular tourism destinations in Tasmania. We have taken the responsible approach of improving infrastructure to meet the existing demands, but also taking steps to ensure that the benefits of tourism do not compromise the national, cultural and social values of the magnificent Freycinet Peninsula.

Our commitment of an additional \$14 million will fund the development of a new visitor gateway to the park. The gateway will include a transport hub with a shuttle bus to the Wineglass Bay car park, and redesign the road to alleviate congestion on Freycinet Drive as well as reduce the impact on residents.

This new visitor gateway will also build on our joint \$15.6 million investment in partnership with the Australian Government to deliver improved waste water treatment and other projects, such as the already completed shared-use track from the Freycinet National Park visitor centre to the Wineglass Bay car park and the second lookout at Wineglass Bay.

I was pleased to recently release the Tourism Master Plan for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. One of the priority actions from the plan is the development of a master plan for the Mount Field National Park. This iconic national park is a gateway to the TWWHA and the Tasmanian Liberal Government has committed in the election to undertake these master planning works as well as to construct a new arrival concourse at the entrance to the park, a very much needed \$1.8 million investment.

The Maria Island National Park is a key attraction on the east coast and the Tasmanian Liberal Government has recognised our commitment to further invest in this site with an additional \$6.8 million for stage 3 of the Maria Island Rediscovered project. This follows on from our previous commitment of \$5.8 million, which will ensure that Maria Island remains a unique and sought-after destination on the east coast of Tasmania.

The new commitment will enable the completion of new wastewater treatment facilities, fund the installation of improved electricity generation infrastructure, including power connection to all buildings in the Darlington precinct, as well as improving rainwater storage infrastructure and undertaking crucial heritage maintenance. This important project will ensure the facilities on Maria Island are modern and fit for purpose.

Flinders Island has some of the most beautiful and photogenic landscapes in Tasmania and providing access to these areas for visitors is very important for ensuring that these places can help drive, in a sustainable manner, our regional tourism economy on Flinders Island. This is why we have acknowledged this with a \$900 000 investment into parks assets on Flinders Island. The funds will deliver improvements to infrastructure at Trousers Point Beach, perhaps the most photographed place on the island, as well as investment in camp facilities across the island.

Ben Lomond has, for many years, been known as a ski destination. Its close proximity to Launceston and the presence of existing infrastructure, make it perfect for development as a year-round attraction. The Tasmanian Liberal Government will invest \$2.8 million to unlock the potential of this national park by undertaking crucial planning to guide future development, identify priority infrastructure crucial in the development of this site and investing in the highest priority assets. This investment will allow the Government's current funding of a replacement for the Ben Lomond public shelter which was destroyed by fire in 2018.

A planned \$2.8 million investment to replace the Tamar Island Boardwalk of the wetland centre will secure the future of this outstanding visitor asset in the north of the state. The centre provides access to a superb wetland and ecosystem of mudflats, lagoons and islands with abundant wildlife and plant species and is operated 364 days of the year by a fantastic team of

dedicated volunteers who provide visitors with valuable educational and recreational experiences.

In my electorate of Franklin, we are investing \$1.7 million in upgrades of picturesque Cape Bruny in the South Bruny National Park. These funds will deliver upgraded day-use facilities, improve road access and car-parking facilities and site-planning work to guide future development. These works will also ensure that the site remains able to cope with an increasing number of visitors wishing to see this glorious and most beautiful coastal environment.

The redevelopment of the Edge of the World experience at Arthur River will provide an important visitor experience in the far north west of Tasmania at this wild and beautiful coastal location. This investment is important because currently, while the far north-west region receives about 150 000 visitors a year, only about 30 000 of those visitors head in to the area west of Stanley. We want all areas of Tasmania to benefit from our strong visitor economy. This Government has therefore committed \$2.75 million to undertake this redevelopment, which will provide another high quality, natural attraction, to draw visitors to the coast and provide a reason to stay another night. The redevelopment will allow for the construction of a new, unobtrusive all-weather shelter which will offer visitors the opportunity to take in the breathtaking vista of the west-coast landscapes and the pounding Southern Ocean.

The project also provides another opportunity to deliver high quality interpretive materials to highlight the outstanding values of the Western Tasmanian Aboriginal Cultural Landscape.

Since the development of Safe Homes, Safe Families, our first Family Violence Action Plan in 2015, we have demonstrated our commitment and our belief that it is every Tasmanian's right to live free from all forms of violence and abuse and it is everyone's responsibility to make it happen.

As a survivor of family violence, I am humbled as the new Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence to now be able to work with my cabinet colleagues, this parliament, across government, with community sector organisations, businesses and the wider community and towards this important aim. This is an issue of immense personal importance to me, and eliminating family and sexual violence is, and continues to be, a top priority for the Tasmanian Liberal Government.

Over the past six years, the Tasmanian Liberal Government has invested over \$240 million in direct and indirect services in responding to family and sexual violence. In addition, since 2015 we have provided a further \$61.2 million in funding specific measures and we have secured \$7.1 million in additional investment by the Australian Government. We are now in the second year of our second family and sexual violence action plan, Safe Homes, Families, Communities, which continues to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of people affected by family and sexual violence, particularly women and their children.

We are also progressing the implementation of 40 actions under Safe Homes, Families, Communities. These actions form a whole-of-government multi-agency response to addressing family and sexual violence, including measures for primary and early prevention, response and recovery, and actions to strengthen the service system. Alongside my fellow ministers, I am privileged to have responsibility for delivering seven actions as the Minister for

the Prevention of Family Violence and a further five actions as the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management.

I thank all of our emergency services and support personnel, as well as anyone across government, in our non-government organisations, who assist survivors of family and sexual violence and helps them in their most vulnerable time of need.

I was privileged to recently visit the Safe Families Coordination Unit and see firsthand their important work in action. Under action 27 the unit is undertaking important work in mapping high-risk families, identifying affected children and notifying schools, and making recommendations to other government agencies.

The SFCU is also working with all partner agencies to broaden data access and to facilitate strategic data analysis. This aims to provide a more comprehensive evidence base to inform future policy direction and decision-making around targeted, effective interventions.

Our trial of electronic monitoring undertaken under action 28 proved very successful, with an 82 per cent decrease in high-risk family violence incidents, a 75 per cent decrease in assaults and an 81 per cent decrease in threats, as well as an 87 per cent decrease in allegations of emotional abuse, a 74 per cent reduction in property damage, a 100 per cent decrease in reports of stalking, and 80 per cent did not reoffend in six months following the removal of an electronic monitoring device.

In addition to providing victims with an extra level of safety and comfort, electronic monitoring provides information that forms evidence in court and, in some cases, helps victims avoid attending court to give evidence. This is why our election commitment includes \$2.4 million to continue the monitoring of high-risk family violence perpetrators so as to increase the safety of victims and the accountability of perpetrators.

It is also notable that while there was an increase in reporting of low-risk family violence incidents from 2015 to 2020, at the same time there was a continued reduction or decrease in the number of family violence incidents assessed as high-risk, which is now down 30 per cent. This is because the action plan is not just a checklist of 40 measures: the action plan is a living document that evolves over time. We will always look at new ideas and explore opportunities to invest into programs that will make a difference.

We will also take action to address emerging needs. I was inspired to recently meet with the CEO of the Sexual Assault Support Service, Jill Maxwell, and the new CEO of Laurel House, Kathryn Fordyce, following the Government's announcement of additional funding of \$500 000 to these two wonderful organisations. This additional funding was provided in response to increased demand for their services, enabling both organisations to employ more counsellors and administrative staff. I was touched to see the comments of Jill Maxwell in the newspaper where she said, 'this will make an immediate and tangible impact for many Tasmanian survivors of sexual violence'.

In total for 2021-22, \$3.91 million will be provided to support Tasmanians affected by sexual violence. It is important to know that our investment in family sexual violence is having a real and measurable impact. As our last annual report on achievement shows, our actions have seen 4421 abused children being identified, with 3015 notifications by the Safe Families Coordination Unit to schools, so as to support students experiencing family violence. The

SFCU mapped 197 high-risk family violence incidents; 643 clients provided with support, counselling and referral options; 353 additional clients provided with legal assistance by the Women's Legal Service and Legal Aid; 155 women provided with safety upgrades to support them to remain in their own home or home of choice; and 238 children and young people provided with 2019 hours of counselling support by the Australian Childhood Foundation.

As part of our Keeping Women and Girls Safe election policy, we have also committed to the development and implementation of a third action plan. The third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan will continue our strong track record through a comprehensive public consultation process with the community and key stakeholders that will commence later this year, and will develop a range of fully-funded evidence-based initiatives to continue our efforts to eliminate the incidence of family and sexual violence in our communities and the devastating impact it has on victims and their families.

In advance of the development of Tasmania's third action plan, the Australian Government will convene the next national summit on women's safety in July. This national summit will bring together both levels of government, together with persons with lived experience, family safety advocates, service providers and other stakeholders. The summit will continue the important discussions that Australians are now having, building on the existing national plan in forming the development of the next national plan that will commence in 2022. I am very much looking forward to participating in the summit alongside the other Tasmanian community delegates who will be accompanying me.

Tasmania has voted for a strong, stable majority Liberal government because we presented a united team and a detailed plan to secure Tasmania's future. As part of the Gutwein Liberal team, I look forward to delivering on our commitments over the next four years, improving and caring for the national and cultural values of our parks, working with our police, fire and emergency service heroes to keep Tasmania safe and continuing our fight against family and sexual violence.

I also want to thank my ministerial staff for everything they have done for me over the last few weeks since becoming minister. I deeply value all of their advice and support, and I also want to thank my electorate officer Rochelle, without whom I would not have been re-elected. I also want to pay tribute and acknowledge the love and support of my family. Without my husband Tim, my four children and my six grandchildren, I definitely would not have been elected, because it was through all of their help and support that my election signs were put up. They helped to keep the house tidy and clean and I just want to say how much I value their love and support of me.

I thank and acknowledge everyone in this House for being returned to this Fiftieth Parliament.

[2.47 p.m.]

Ms HADDAD (Clark) - Mr Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to give my contribution to the parliament today in response to the Governor's opening of the Fiftieth Parliament.

I begin by congratulating you, Mr Speaker, on your election to the Office of Speaker. It is a true honour and a job not to be taken lightly and I look forward to you presiding over this Chamber in a fair and impartial way that best serves the Tasmanian Parliament and Tasmanian people.

To the Liberal Government, you are to be congratulated for being re-elected for your first third consecutive term in Tasmanian history. It is an enormous honour to be elected to this place and there really is no higher honour and or responsibility than to be elected to government. As the Government it is your job to listen to all your constituents, our constituents, and all of the communities in Tasmania, even those you disagree with, to ensure that nobody is left behind and to honour and deliver on every one of your election commitments. It is our job as the Labor Opposition to ensure that this is the case. It is our job to keep the Government to account and to continue to be voices for our communities who need Labor to stand up for them and give them a voice.

I am of course disappointed that we did not win government this election as the Labor Party. We had policies that I know would have benefited Tasmanians who need it, because it is Labor who stands up for the disadvantaged and it is only Labor governments that have historically achieved broadscale social change that really benefits the citizens of Australia and Tasmania.

They are things like Medicare, which is once again under threat from the federal Liberals in Canberra, things like the race discrimination and sex discrimination acts federally, which have shaped the fabric of Australian workplaces and communities when it comes to the treatment of women and the treatment of people of colour, and the Anti-Discrimination Act in Tasmania, which balances the protection of people's freedom of expression along with the vital need for protection from discrimination on attributes such as race, sex, sexuality, irrelevant medical or criminal records. That is under threat from the Liberals in Canberra as well.

Had we been elected, we would have implemented a suite of policies that would have benefited all Tasmanians, and I am going to give a few examples to the Chamber today. Firstly, our policy to provide free school lunches in all government primary schools was as much a public health policy as it was an education one. It would have been an integrated program with healthy food and eating and preparation of fresh ingredients embedded into the curriculum from early years with support for teachers, schools and families.

During the campaign, we doorknocked a young mum in Glenorchy who burst into tears when we told her about this policy because she told us that she does not send her daughter to school sometimes because she cannot afford to send her with food in her lunchbox. It is heartbreaking to hear that very real story because not only is that little girl sometimes missing out on food but she is missing out on education too. The sad reality is that we know that family is not on their own. We know there are many children like that little girl who miss out on food at home and at school, which is heartbreaking and a sad sign of the entrenched poverty that we deal with here in Tasmania.

As people know, for many years I worked and volunteered in Tasmania's community services sector where I worked directly with people and organisations supporting the many people doing it tough in our state. I became very familiar with the issues of food insecurity, social isolation, homelessness, addiction, mental health and the entrenched poverty we deal with here. That is why the free school lunch policy, developed by my colleague in the upper House, the member for Elwick, Josh Willie, was such a positive one and I was really proud to stand behind it. Just imagine our future after a generation or two of people experiencing food security and healthy eating from a young age. I know for a fact that a policy like that would definitely begin to address some of the chronic illness that we face in Tasmania and we would

in time to not only see better health and wellbeing outcomes but also better social outcomes, less pressure on our already acute health system and better educational outcomes to boot. I am disappointed that we do not have the opportunity to implement that policy.

We also had a comprehensive package of policies to support Tasmanian women across a range of portfolios. As people know, shockingly one in three women have experienced a form of physical violence since the age of 15, and I think the statistics are about the same in terms of sexual violence experienced by women in this country. Family violence is one of the most distressing and clear illustrations of the continuing unequal treatment of women in our society.

Labor committed at the election to \$28 million that would have done a number of things in this area, including providing more emergency shelters, because we know that emergency shelters at the moment are often full to capacity and people are being turned away each day. Often people presenting to shelters have more complex needs which makes the situation all the more distressing and difficult to deal with.

Labor would have employed more case workers to provide intensive support across the 23 emergency shelters that operate in the state. These new staff would have assisted women escaping family violence to access the critical supports that they need. We would also have amended the Residential Tenancy Act which currently stipulates that women have to leave sheltered accommodation after three months. This routinely forces people out before they are ready, so we would have legislated to allow a person to stay up to 12 months when family violence was a factor and the reason for them being in the shelter.

Still in Housing, we would also have provided an extra \$6 million to expand the Rapid Rehousing program with an additional 150 private rentals. The reason this is so important is that it would have provided roofs over people's heads to transition out of emergency shelter accommodation when escaping family violence. Not only is there increasing pressure on the shelters being unable to house people, but even when people are in the shelter, when they have to leave, if there is not somewhere safe for them to go and live, that can be one of the reasons people return to violent relationships, so 150 more Rapid Rehousing properties across the state would have provided that transitional housing that is so desperately needed.

We know that when women are escaping family violence, they are also on long wait lists for crisis support, so we would have provided extra funding to specialist family violence support to let them meet this growing unmet demand. Another specialist service that women often need when escaping family violence is legal representation, and it was devastating during the campaign and since to hear that Women's Legal Service Tasmania was stretched for funding and looking like possibly having to close their Launceston service and lose the vital skills of professionals able to assist women with navigating the complex legal system during family separation, property, settlements and custody disputes. These are complex and daunting legal issues for any separating family but the addition of family violence to the situation makes them much more complex. That is one of the many reasons why specialist legal services are so vital and why they would have provided an extra \$2.8 million to make sure.

One of the other very important parts of this policy was an extra \$1 million dollars for police family violence training. I know that at high levels Tasmania Police are absolutely committed to dealing with family violence and to better recognising the complexity of family violence. Indeed, our Tasmanian family violence legislation is the only legislation in the

country that specifically allows for legal action to be taken for nonphysical forms of family violence such as economic and social abuse.

However, on the ground we do often hear differing stories and I am sure my office is not alone of hearing different experiences of people in the police system. It has been described by some as a Russian roulette, meaning someone presenting to a local police station escaping family violence could have a very positive experience with police officers who take them seriously and deal sensitively and comprehensively with their situation. However, heartbreakingly, we also hear stories of women being turned away and not taken seriously or of police officers simply not recognising that what they were hearing about and witnessing was a family violence situation.

Often times I believe this was not due to malice or a lack of care but rather a lack of understanding and training and a lack of tools in how to recognise the red flags of early signs of family violence - things like coercive control, financial control, belittling demeaning, social control, isolation from friends and family. We all know that these are forms of family violence and that is becoming increasingly recognised. While these types of family violence do not always lead to physical violence I would hazard to say that in almost all cases of physical family violence and in particular in almost all cases of fatal family violence, coercive control was a present factor in that relationship prior to the escalation to physical violence.

Another example of something Labor committed to delivering had we been elected was to establish 10 extended-hours bulk-billing GP clinics. Two in Clark and one of them in the Glenorchy CBD would have been open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week and be fully bulk-billed, providing at least 100 consultations every day. I know that it is just not Labor officers who hear stories every day about people struggling to get into see a GP or waiting for very long periods to see a GP if they can get in at all and if they can afford to see a private GP. People who are not able to afford to see a private GP, waiting even longer to see a bulk-billing GP or missing out altogether on healthcare that they need. Many people miss out on healthcare, meaning that conditions worsen or that they visit emergency departments at the hospitals around the state for issues that need medical attention but do not need emergency care.

This was one of the most welcomed policy announcements that I found when I was out doorknocking. I doorknocked a couple in Chigwell who told me that they often find themselves needing to visit the emergency department because they cannot afford to go to the after-hours clinics that privately charge. He volunteered that information. He said that they knew they did not need to be at the emergency department but that things have cropped up in their lives. His wife has a chronic health condition that means sometimes they do need medical care and the only way that they can get it is to arrive at the emergency room. They told me that story which I thought really demonstrated the need for community-based healthcare and for bulk-billing appointments for all Tasmanians. It is one of the major reasons that our hospitals are overrun and why doctors and nurses and others working in the hospital systems are so incredibly hard-working and over-worked and over-stretched by working in very difficult circumstances partly because of the demand on the emergency departments.

For that couple and for many thousands like them around Tasmania it would have been a welcome thing indeed to be able to walk into a GP clinic in their community any time from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. knowing that they would be fully bulk-billed for that consultation. Not only would that take the pressure off the stretched hospital system but it would also mean people are getting the healthcare they need when they need it earlier before they become so unwell

that they need acute care and they would be getting it right in their community. It was a positive policy that would have delivered something desperately needed: another health policy that it is sad for Tasmanians that Labor was not elected to implement. Now we see major plans from the federal Liberals in Canberra to start dismantling Medicare, piece by piece. For some reason, they do not like access to public health in Canberra.

Labor built Medicare under Gough Whitlam and they rebuilt it under Hawke after it was dismantled by Malcolm Fraser. We defended it at every single election since then and the Liberals continue to take platforms to federal elections to tear it apart. That is what they look to be doing again this year. Labor federally will continue to fight those proposed cuts to Medicare and they will be doing it all over again. We have done it at every election since Fraser and we will do it again this time with Morrison. Every time that Liberal governments threaten to dismantle Medicare, Labor will be there to defend and support it, every time. It is something that no Australians can afford, least of all Tasmanians, where we have high rates of chronic disease and its high reliance on our public health system.

In my portfolio areas of Justice and Corrections, I will mention briefly the recently released report from the Custodial Inspector which is very worrying. Not only does it shine a light on the worrying pattern of the use of lockdowns at record rates, but that the main reason for lockdowns is because of short staffing.

I will briefly read some of the concerning issues from that report. It is believed that around 30 per cent of lockdowns were as a result of staff shortages. Staffing issues are also getting a lot of attention at the moment when it comes to conditions at the prison.

The Community and Public Sector Union State Secretary, Thirza White, said that they have recently conducted a survey of around 40 correctional officers at the Ron Barwick Prison -

Ms Archer - Is that public record? We have not been told how many were surveyed.

Ms HADDAD - I might be reading this wrong and I apologise if I am. Two-thirds of the 40 correctional officers at Ron Barwick Prison responded to the survey in May in the *Mercury* on 28 June. They said that management practices were affecting their health and safety. They said that the survey was prompted by shockingly high workers' compensation and personal leave usages and by a multitude of individual cases involving management, including cases before the Equal Opportunity Commission. They presented the results to the Director of Prisons in June, with the expectation that urgent action would be taken to remove the risk of health and safety of staff working in the prison.

Ms White goes on to say that no action has been taken to eliminate or control the risk of members by the close of business last week, so provisional improvement notices have been issued by health and safety representatives consistent with section 90 of the Work Health and Safety Act 2012. That is an unprecedented step and not one that I can remember happening before. Those notices were given to prison management and to the Department of Justice. That means that Worksafe will now be compelled to investigate working conditions at the Ron Barwick Prison.

The results of the survey showed that 95 per cent of the respondents said they either disagreed or strongly disagreed when asked whether prison management created a trusting and

open workplace. They also showed that 82 per cent of correctional officers did not feel respected or recognised for the difficult job that they do.

When asked if they ever feel stressed or anxious at work, 32 per cent said every day, with none responding 'never' and only 4.5 per cent responding 'rarely'. In the report tabled in state parliament on lockdowns, Mr Connock noted that half of the officers recruited since 2015 and 2016 have left the prison service and 70 more had active workers' compensation claims of whom 40 were not undertaking correctional officer duties.

When asked what caused them to feel stressed or anxious at work, 68 per cent cited a lack of support from their management, 72 per cent said that staff are treated differently by management at Ron Barwick and 72 per cent cited constant changes in working arrangements.

Those are pretty damning and unprecedented reports into conditions, not only for inmates but also for staff in the Tasmanian Corrections system. They back up several earlier reports that have been released by the custodial inspector over many years. This information is not new, and shows a worrying pattern of behaviour and a breakdown in culture under the administration of this Government in the corrections system.

I know there are people doing the best they can, and there are people with good intentions working in that system at all levels, but the culture that has been allowed to be created - demonstrated very clearly in those survey results released by the CPSU - paints a very worrying picture for all of us to take into account.

Mr Speaker, the debate we are having is in response to the Governor's opening of the Fiftieth Parliament of Tasmania. I also would like to welcome the appointment of Her Excellency, The Honourable Barbara Baker, to the position of Governor of Tasmania. I was really delighted and encouraged by this appointment. I congratulate Her Excellency, along with her husband Professor Don Chalmers, who was one of my favourite lecturers at university. I have no doubt they will shape the roles that they now hold and do amazing things for Tasmania.

They do, of course, have big shoes to fill, because the honourable Professor Kate Warner was one of the most delightful governors this state has ever seen - and I think that is unanimously felt across the Chamber. Mrs Warner and her husband, Dick, took their roles in new directions, focusing on things like food insecurity and working with schools and young people on growing and preparing fresh food. They opened up Government House to so many people and groups. They were so completely warm, kind, accessible and down to earth in those roles.

Members know that Professor Warner is also an extremely well-respected academic who had spent decades as a criminologist and a legal academic contributing to all areas of the law. In her work with the Tasmania Law Reform Institute, Professor Warner was author of a significant number of reports and recommendations to government on ways to strengthen and improve our laws - for example, the landmark jury study, reform to our evidence laws and the human rights act.

Significantly, one of her final acts as governor was to launch the Justice Reform Initiative, which is a national movement pushing for evidence-based justice and corrections policy. It is supported by all sides of politics, and there are patrons in every state and territory.

Professor Warner will be a patron now that she has finished her governorship. I will read briefly from the speech she gave in May this year, launching the initiative and announcing she would be their patron in Tasmania. She said she had spent more than 40 years as a criminologist and, in that time, the imprisonment rate in Australia has increased from 70 or so per 100 000 adults, to 124 per 100 000 today:

And yet we have long known that imprisonment is a failure - it does not deter the individuals who are sent there, nor does it rehabilitate them nor deter others from committing offences.

Without police and a criminal justice system, crime would undoubtedly increase, but we know that there is no evidence that marginal deterrence - increasing the severity of penalties for the crimes that most worry us - sex offences and non-sexual violent crime and serious property offences - deters members of the public from offending.

We do need to take crime seriously, but this does not mean embracing a law-and-order ideology. When the public say sentences are too lenient, they are saying we want crime to be taken seriously. Research on public attitudes to crime has repeatedly shown that the public think crime is rising when it is not, and they underestimate the severity of punishment for crimes. For example, in the National Jury Sentencing Study, less than a quarter of respondents knew the proportion of rapists sent to prison. While most said sentences for sex and violent crimes were too lenient, when jurors were asked to suggest a sentence for the offender, 62 per cent suggested a sentence more lenient than the judge's sentence. And when informed of the judge's sentence, most said it was appropriate.

On these measures, the public is not clamouring for harsher sentences.

Rather than mandatory sentences and other populist sentencing measures, criminal justice policy should be evidence-based. Responding to the drivers of crime, investing in education, community development, housing, social support, access to drug and alcohol treatment, mental health and disability support is a much smarter way to reduce crime and imprisonment.

This is not to say in relation to rehabilitation that 'nothing works'. Some offenders will need to be sent to prison. With a smaller prison population more resources can be put into strengths-based programs that assist prisoner pre- and post-release to desist from reoffending.

That was the honourable Professor Kate Warner's speech, not my speech. It was one I was very happy to hear her give at Government House in May this year, and I very much look forward to her continuing work in legal academia, and in particular with the justice reform initiative.

Finally, I congratulate everyone who has been elected to serve in this parliament. I thank Rebecca White for her incredible leadership of the Tasmanian Labor Party over the last four years. It was an honour to serve in her caucus. Rebecca is a kind and consultative leader, and

did so much to mentor new members like myself and our new Deputy Leader, Anita Dow, when we were first elected in 2018, along with our other colleagues.

Some members might not know that I actually worked for Rebecca on her staff when she was first elected in 2010. People did not necessarily believe she was going to be elected that first time, but to our delight she was. She was quickly made a parliamentary secretary for small business and cost of living. We had our boots on the ground and our teeth stuck into that portfolio straight away. We had roundtables around the state and shaped policy and ideas that fed into the economic development plan the Labor government was developing. I have worked with and observed many politicians over the years, and I can safely say, hand on heart, I have not met one who works as hard as Rebecca White. She really is unflappable. Nothing is ever too much trouble for her. Nothing goes in the too-hard basket.

The recent birth of her beautiful baby boy, Hudson, is quite the example of that. She was here in parliament just last Thursday taking it up to the Liberals on a range of money bills, and on Friday morning gave birth to her beautiful baby son. Big congratulations to Rebecca, Rod and big sister Mia on the arrival of Hudson. I know they would be enjoying these early precious days very much. Bec has shown us that parenthood should be no impediment to politics or leadership. Many of us in the Labor caucus and across the Chamber juggle work and family with young kids. A few of us are single parents, just like thousands of Tasmanians doing the same across the state.

I am glad Rebecca has taken on the key portfolio of treasury. I know how hard she and all of us will continue to work under the new leadership of David O'Byrne. Congratulations to David for taking on the leadership, along with Anita Dow as our new deputy leader. Thank you also to Shane Broad for the fair campaign that we saw within our party processes for leadership of the parliamentary caucus.

Over the last few days the Liberals of course have criticised this process and sought to take it to pieces, but unlike them or any other political party in the country, the Australian Labor Party is a democratic organisation that gives every rank-and-file member of the party a say in who will lead our parliamentary caucus. I know there will be a time of reflection, and there is after every election loss, but all of our team is united behind David and the work we have ahead of us.

Congratulations to all the returning members, and to the three new members elected for the first time: Kristie Johnston, Janie Finlay and Dean Winter. I know all three will make a significant impact on the work we do here and to represent their communities. I look forward to working with each of them on the issues we face together.

In congratulating these members, I also pay tribute to my colleagues Jennifer Houston and Alison Standen and wish them all the best for the future. It is sad to lose these two fantastic women from parliament, notwithstanding that I know Janie and Dean will both do amazing jobs.

Jennifer held the distinction of being the first palawa woman elected to this place, which is an incredible honour, and also responsibility, which she took with great pride. Every time she addressed the parliament I knew it would be something worth listening to. She may not have had an aggressive and loud parliamentary style of address, but what she had to say was always moving, heartfelt, informed and profound. I feel very lucky to have met Jennifer when

we were both endorsed as candidates for the 2018 election, and to have come to know her and her family as we served in the caucus.

Alison, though, I have known much longer. We met when we were both on Labor's staff in the 2000s, and then we had our children at the same time. My daughter Lucy and Alison's son Nicholas are the same age, and they even went to childcare together in town. Lucy and Nick both started high school this year, so that is a sign of how long Alison and I have known one another, working in and around each other as advisers, and then later in the community sector and public sector. We were both so nervous when we were preselected in 2018, and honestly both had the feeling that we probably did not stand a chance of election. There were much bigger names running alongside each of us in Franklin and then Denison.

We were both equally thrilled and honoured when we were elected in 2018 and then we got to work together here in the state parliament, where I witnessed Alison's incredible attention to detail, her passion for policy and her kind heart. I am excited that she is nominating for the Senate because I know what an incredible contribution she will make to our national parliament and to our country if she is successful.

Finally, in my last two minutes, I want to thank everyone who volunteered and helped on my campaign this time around. My second time facing the polls definitely felt different from the first. I am indeed honoured and very fortunate to be returned as the Labor member for Clark to represent my community and stand up for the values people saw in my first campaign and since. My values are that everybody is equal, that all people should be treated with dignity and respect, and that everyone has a story to tell worth listening to.

I believe that only when politicians and governments listen to our communities that good policy can be made, because if we are not listening to the people affected by the policy decisions of government we will not be making the best decisions we can. A sincere thank you to my small campaign team, Natalie, Claire, Scott, Terry, Dave, Michael, Kester and Ben. We kept the same small campaign team in 2018 just with one small addition. I was really honoured about that; it was a small, solid group of hard workers to whom I will be forever in debt. Thank you to every single person who doorknocked, folded letters, letterboxed, phoned people, put up posters and did so much else for the campaign. I will not name them all but they know who they are. We had some new volunteers this time around, from young high school students to retirees and everyone in between. It was a pleasure to work with each and every person who contributed to my campaign. I feel very lucky to count every one of them as friends.

Finally, a big thank you to my family, to my beautiful children, Charlie and Lucy, my mum Ann and my sister Alex, without whom I could not actually do this job. They are always on standby for late sitting nights when we are all in this Chamber and I cannot leave; they are there ready to step in and play mum. I also thank my dad George, who lives interstate now but came down for the final few days of the campaign and had the big job of helping us clean up from the election night party and was always on the phone and was a great source of advice. Thank you to my volunteers, my campaign team, my family and the people of Clark, most importantly.

[3.17 p.m.]

Mr JAENSCH (Braddon - Minister for State Growth) - Mr Speaker, I would first like to say how wonderful it is to have you as our Speaker and to be able to address you as such. You have made a difference already after just one week in the role to the quality of the functioning

of this part of our parliament. I congratulate you on being nominated and elected and look forward to you having a long and satisfying career in the role of Speaker of our parliament.

I also congratulate our Premier, Peter Gutwein, on his re-election and his leadership of our party to re-election. It was the right thing to do to go back to Tasmanians to ask them to re-endorse and re-mandate a majority Liberal government under his leadership. He tested that and the people responded, reinstalling us. That was the right thing to do in the circumstances and I am very glad to be part of a returned third-term majority Liberal government for Tasmania.

I congratulate everybody who was elected, both new for the first time and those returning here. I have the utmost respect for everybody who puts themselves forward for consideration or judgment and seeking the support of their peers in their community; it is a big thing to do for all of us and our families. I have the utmost respect for anyone who puts themselves through that process and who shares the honour, as I do, of being elected to serve here. I want to thank the people of my electorate of Braddon. I am grateful, honoured and humbled to be your representative again in this place and I will never forget the trust you have put in me to do a good job.

To commence my contribution, I first acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the original owners and continuing custodians of this land and pay my respect to Elders past, present and emerging. I am greatly honoured to have been appointed again as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs as part of this Government that believes very strongly that we must continue on our pathway to reconciliation with Tasmania's Aboriginal people. We have a genuine desire to make a positive difference based on genuine respect for over 40 000 years of Aboriginal heritage and culture and one that points to a brighter future for Aboriginal Tasmanians.

We are strongly focused on achieving better outcomes for our Aboriginal people by prioritising our commitments under the new Closing the Gap National Agreement and finalising our reviews into the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975 and the model for returning land. Now, in consultation with Aboriginal people, our Government wants to find a pathway to reconciliation through the recently announced truth-telling process to be facilitated by our former Governor, Professor Kate Warner.

Professor Warner, who will be supported by Professor Tim McCormack, a Burnie boy, will deliver a report to the Government by October to be tabled in parliament later this year. Most importantly, in that report will be included recommendations that will outline a proposed way forward towards reconciliation as well as the views and stories of Tasmanian Aboriginal people, a truth-telling process on what a pathway to treaty may consist of. This initial process is going to start right away and Professor Warner will begin the discussion with Tasmanian Aboriginal people in the coming weeks.

Our goal is to see better outcomes for Tasmanian Aboriginal people and more opportunity for them and their families to dignify their relationship that we as Tasmanians have with our Aboriginal heritage and achieve a truly reconciled community. I look forward to hearing the views and the stories, the voices of Tasmanian Aboriginal people as part of this important process and I am proud to be Minister for Aboriginal Affairs as we embark on this important journey.

In 2017 our Government amended the Aboriginal Relics Act, as it was called then, to address some of the most outdated, problematic and offensive parts, including the 1876 cut-off date from what was before then considered to be Aboriginal heritage, increased penalties for damage to Aboriginal heritage, the removal of the ignorance defence and renaming it as the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975. Additionally, the independent statutory Aboriginal Heritage Council was established, replacing a non-statutory body that had been advising governments since 2012.

Another important amendment was the requirement for a periodic review of the act and I am pleased to announce that this review will soon be concluded. Having now received and considered feedback from a second round of consultations held late last year, the Government will soon be tabling a report that will detail the outcomes of the review and start a new conversation. We are committed to protecting Tasmania's remarkable 40 000 years of Aboriginal heritage, which is why we are reviewing the effectiveness of the act that does that and I look forward to sharing its findings in the very near future.

We also want to see more land returned to Tasmanian Aboriginal people, and reviewing the model for returning land is an important part of this process. Our Government first started this review to identify the barriers to returning land and explore options to improve the land return process. We did this because we recognised that connection to country, land and sea is a fundamental pillar of Aboriginal identity and wellbeing.

The first stage of the review was a consultation process completed in June 2019, followed by the release of the Improving the Model for Returning Land to Aboriginal Communities Consultation and Stakeholder Feedback Report. The feedback from the consultation process was clear. The current process to return land does not work for all Tasmanian Aboriginal people and in fact there is no process at all to return additional land to that which was contained in the schedules to the original legislation.

Major issues identified from the submissions to the consultation report also indicated that obviously more land should be returned but that assessing land to be returned should include agreed criteria, that Aboriginal representation and the voting processes for the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania needs to improve and that there should be improved governance and accountability in the management of returned land.

The Government was intending to hold a second consultation process last year to further explore the issues raised, but COVID-19 unfortunately resulted in delays. We are now preparing to commence the second round of consultation and will have more to say on this soon.

Development of a framework that works for Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal Tasmanians and government may take some time to deliver but it is important that we get it right. Members would also remember that Tasmania became a proud signatory to the new national agreement on Closing the Gap in the middle of last year. This historic agreement builds on the important work the Tasmanian Government has done in recent years on the journey of reconciliation.

To support this, the 2021 Tasmanian State Budget included funding of \$1.2 million across the forward estimates as a demonstration of our commitment to the Closing the Gap refresh initiative. This funding is our contribution to a national funding pool that will be

reinvested here in Tasmania to build the capacity of Aboriginal community organisations to deliver services that result in better outcomes for their people.

We are working right now with Aboriginal organisations, government agencies and service providers on Tasmania's implementation plan to set and meet Tasmania's targets as part of this national commitment. As part of this process, a series of themed round tables were held in Hobart and Launceston earlier this year in partnership with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre as the Tasmanian representative on the Coalition of the Peaks.

At the Closing the Gap round tables, which were led by an independent facilitator, participants discussed how the agreement's national targets and four priority reform areas might be realised, and how partnerships between the Tasmanian Government and Aboriginal organisations could be strengthened. Further consultations with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and organisations are taking place right now. Our Government is committed to continuing to work in that partnership with the Tasmanian peak representative body and Aboriginal organisations to finalise Tasmania's first implementation plan, which will be presented to the Closing the Gap joint council in August this year.

Our Government has a plan to secure Tasmania's future by creating a more diverse and resilient economy to help protect us against future challenges and changes. We are delivering on our 2020-21 election commitments, including through our first 30-day and 100-day plans. Within the first 30 days, under my new State Growth portfolio, we have committed to facilitate the provision of a \$100 million no-interest loan to Incat to construct a 120-metre high-speed vessel, securing 500 jobs, creating a further 100-150 jobs, including up to a further 60 apprenticeships.

We have now delivered this commitment, with the Premier and I jointly announcing on 18 June that the loan facility is now formally approved, with both parties reaching in-principle agreement on the fundamental commercial loan terms.

We are also on track to deliver our State Growth commitments, namely to facilitate the provision of a secured \$600 000 interest-free loan to PFG Group for three years to build an ultra-durable, high-density polyethylene prototype vessel for the defence sector, the domestic and international markets, and to increase the building projects support program by \$10 million. This is to get stalled and shovel-ready projects that stopped during COVID-19 back into operation, back on schedule, following the closure of the first round on 14 May 2021. I expect to be making positive announcements in both those areas ahead of the 100-day deadline.

We have a strong and proud record of achievement, with over 25 000 jobs created since we came to government in 2014. As at May 2021, employment is higher than pre-pandemic levels, with 259 600 Tasmanians now having jobs. Our economy is one of the strongest in the country and the unemployment rate is 1.9 percentage points lower than in March 2014.

The CommSec *State of the State* report for January 2021 ranks Tasmania as the best performing economy in the country for the last four consecutive quarters. Business investment is 6.4 per cent higher than before the pandemic and annual building approvals, as the Premier was noting this morning, are at 3 952 over the last 12 months - the highest in a quarter of a century. By every measure and in comparison, in particular, with other jurisdictions, our

economy is growing strongly and is in a good position to recover fully from the impacts of the pandemic and the responses that we, as Government, needed to take to it.

This has not happened by accident. It has been supported by our focus last year on targeted business and industry programs to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on Tasmanians and Tasmanian businesses. This included our \$50 million COVID-19 Business Support Loan Scheme, which supported over 350 impacted businesses with interest-free loans during 2020, at a time when traditional sources of business finance were proving harder to access.

Our \$60 million Business Growth Loan Scheme, which opened in September last year, is continuing to provide low-interest loans to help businesses develop post-COVID sustainable business models that support the retention of jobs and business growth.

Our \$30 million Building and Construction Support Loan Scheme, which opened in March, is helping to bring forward paused commercial construction projects that will support jobs and create new or improved buildings or infrastructure around Tasmania. This scheme was warmly welcomed by the industry. I congratulate all those in the private sector who have taken the risk, who have continued to invest and started Tasmania moving again with their own money, alongside the support from our Government.

As Minister for State Growth, I am very pleased to be a minister for the Tasmanian Development Board, which continues to support Tasmanian businesses and industry to help grow our economy and employ more Tasmanians. I am looking forward to continuing to work with that very talented group of Tasmanians and friends of Tasmania who are dedicated to the future of our state and the recovery of our economy.

A burden of unnecessary regulation is a significant impediment to efficient and effective operation of any business. That was highlighted again in the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council report. I am very glad to have responsibility again for red-tape reduction as part of our Government. That is why, last year, we introduced two bills which came into effect in November 2020, along with a set of regulations that support TasWater service standards. The reforms have been endorsed by a number of peak industry bodies who know what the changes will mean to their members and the broader industry. I am looking forward to continuing to work through further rounds of red-tape reduction reforms to reduce duplication and improve the efficiency of government's services to support investment in our economy.

I am also very glad to be the minister with responsibility for our Antarctic sector, which is a valuable industry sector to the Tasmanian economy, with real non-wage spending by Antarctic sector organisations increasing to nearly \$159 million in 2019-20. The sector employs nearly 950 FTEs here and also brings thousands of expeditioners and conference delegates to Hobart in every normal year. The creation of a state-of-the-art Antarctic and science precinct will attract national and private Antarctic and Southern Ocean institutions. They will be attracted by the combined capacity of Hobart's existing world-class expertise and the opportunity to establish a long-term facility alongside a working port that can support the maritime component of our research and scientific endeavours.

The federal government continues to invest in Antarctic-related investments such as the expanded Bureau of Meteorology presence. Tasmania will remain the gateway to Antarctica and home port for CSIRO's RV *Investigator*. Hobart will also soon be home for the Australian

Antarctic Division's research and supply vessel, *Nuyina*. The Tasmanian/Australian Governments, along with key organisations, continue to work closely on the development of the business case for the Antarctic and science precinct at Macquarie Point and the Hobart City Deal, committed to progress the business case for that precinct, which is well-advanced. The international focus on what we are doing here and the partnerships we are building continue to be strong. In the very short time that I have been the minister, I have met with senior diplomatic delegations from the UK, Switzerland and Japan. All are very interested in co-investing and establishing a presence here, and a relationship with Tasmania in the areas of science and research in Antarctica. I look forward to that unfolding story as well.

As part of our commitment to secure Tasmania's future we are investing in building Tasmania's circular economy. We know that recovering resources from waste creates business opportunities and jobs and leads to improved environmental outcomes as well. The Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Committee's final report highlighted sustainability as a key consideration for this Government, and building our circular economy is an important part of our response. We need to take hold of this opportunity, which also responds to the introduction of national waste export bans which honed Australia's focus and resolve on waste management and resource recovery over the last year. This Government's waste action plan provided the foundation for some key reforms to Tasmania's waste management and resource recovery sectors and we have continued to build on this work.

Our environment policy released during the election reiterated how serious we are about building our circular economy, investing in our waste management and resource recovery sector, and building confidence and growth in this new and fast-evolving industry. A key focus is improving the management of organic waste from domestic and industrial sources, including household food organics and garden organics, referred to as 'fogo'. A huge volume of organic waste that has traditionally gone to landfill can now be reprocessed and reused as a valuable resource, leading to improved soil health and a reduction in legacy issues such as leachate odour and greenhouse gas emissions to the environment. We are investing \$4.5 million from our circular economy fund to improve and increase organic waste reprocessing capacity across our state. This commitment will help us reach our target to reduce the volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 50 per cent by 2030.

It is vital that we support businesses who are investing in state-of-the-art solutions to waste issues that grow our circular economy and promote sustainable practices. That is why we announced that we will support Dulverton Waste Management to develop a state-of-the-art in-vessel composting facility at their existing industrial composting operation at Railton in northern Tasmania as well as supporting the feasibility and design work for a large-scale organic waste solution for the south.

In another circular economy initiative, we are committed to commence the introduction of crumbed rubber into our state road resurfacing program from July next year. We have allocated \$3 million of our circular economy fund to partner with industry to invest in a crumbed rubber plant and we expect to be seeking expressions of interest for this in the coming months.

Mr Speaker, I move -

That the debate be adjourned to a later hour.

Motion agreed to.

STATEMENT BY PREMIER

COVID-19 Update

[3.38 p.m.]

Mr GUTWEIN (Bass - Premier) - Mr Speaker, I thank Mr Jaensch for his indulgence.

I want to provide an update to Tasmanians on the situation in terms of Queensland. The Deputy State Controller and the Director of Public Health have continued to monitor the situation throughout the day and provide advice to government.

Earlier today, as members would be aware, the Premier of Queensland announced that a large part of that state would go into a three-day lockdown from 6 p.m. tonight in response to COVID-19 cases in that state. In response I can advise Tasmanians that I have just been informed by the Director of Public Health that 13 local government areas in Queensland are to be declared as high-risk areas.

The declaration will come into effect from 6 p.m. today and applies to the City of Brisbane, the City of Ipswich, Logan City, Morton Bay region, Redland City, Sunshine Coast region, the Shire of Noosa, Somerset region, Lockyer Valley region, Scenic Rim region, City of Gold Coast, City of Townsville including Magnetic Island, and the Aboriginal Shire of Palm Island.

Anyone who has been in any of these areas on or since 19 June will not be permitted to enter Tasmania unless they are approved as an essential traveller by the Deputy State Controller. A number of premises in these areas have also been declared as high risk. Anyone who was in Tasmania who has been in Queensland on or since 19 June must check the list of high-risk premises at www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travelalert. If they have been at any of the premises at the specific dates and times they must immediately self-isolate and contact the Public Health hotline on 1800 671 738.

Anyone who has been at any of the high-risk premises at the specified dates and times and is intending to travel to Tasmania will not be permitted to enter the state. Anyone already in Tasmania who has been in any of the high-risk LGAs on or since 19 June but has not been at any high-risk premises at the specified dates and times does not need to quarantine but must monitor themselves for symptoms. If they experience any cold or flu-like symptoms, even mildly, they must immediately self-isolate and contact the Public Health hotline on 1800 671 738 to arrange testing.

I know that I speak on behalf of the Tasmanian community in saying our thoughts are with Australians right across the country at the moment as they work to get on top of these outbreaks. We will continue to monitor the situation overnight and provide further updates on Tasmania's response accordingly, but I would once again say to Tasmanians, ensure that you follow the restrictions and guidelines we have in place, ensure that you have good hand hygiene, that you cover your coughs and sneezes and, importantly, if you feel unwell do not attend work, do not go to a function, self-isolate and arrange to get a test.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from above.

[3.42 p.m.]

Mr JAENSCH (Braddon - Minister for State Growth) - Mr Speaker, as I was saying, we have allocated \$3 million to partner with industry to invest in a crumbed rubber facility to turn used car and truck tyres into a product that can be applied in our road surfacing programs across the state from next year. We will be going out to market through an expression of interest process to identify a suitable industry partner to co-invest with us in so doing and I will have more to say on that in coming months.

This is all on top of our commitment to introduce a container refund scheme which will commence in 2022 to introduce a statewide waste levy which we aim to complete by the end of this year and to continue our work on having a rolling program of strategic planning for investment in our waste and resource recovery sector.

Also stand by for announcements - excuse me, Mr Speaker, how much time do I have?

Mr SPEAKER - You have nine minutes.

Mr JAENSCH - I will also confirm that we have provided \$5.5 million as part of an \$11 million recycling modernisation fund grant scheme to support plastics recycling enterprises in Tasmania, and we will have more to say on that in the coming days and weeks.

I have also become Minister for Local Government since the election. I have a long and strong relationship with local government in Tasmania and it has a strong relationship with all of our communities right across the state. One of the most important initiatives and reforms that I will be responsible for over this term is to proceed, hopefully with the assistance and cooperation of other parties and the Independent in this House, to commence a process of reform and review of local government right across the state.

Those in this Chamber will be familiar with PESRAC's recommendations for what they call a 'clean sheet' review of the role of local government and the form in which it can best proceed to provide value and its essential services to Tasmanians and the communities it serves. I am not going to pre-empt any more about the shape of that process and the scope of it before meeting with members of other parties who have agreed to form with me a working group from this Chamber across our parties and involving the Independent member for Clark as well, to set the terms of reference and a plan for how that review process will be undertaken and the expert panel to be appointed to it. I will be bringing recommendations from that group back to parliament in the coming months.

I have also continued to be the minister for planning, and I am looking forward to our long-term reform program reaching some very important milestones over the coming months and years - including the rollout being completed of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, the development of Tasmanian planning policies, and the review of our regional land use strategies right across Tasmania.

While those processes are underway, we will continue to liaise with local government as planning authorities, and with the Tasmanian community, to ensure that there is a supply of

land, as well as the capabilities for us to meet our needs right now, while there are things like our housing challenge and its requirement for suitably zoned land to provide places for Tasmanians to live.

We will, against the backdrop of the continuing reforms, ensure we are staying in touch with what Tasmania needs from its planning system and the various organisations that have roles in it, and work cooperatively with them to ensure we are delivering the land and the sound planning decisions that Tasmanians have come to rely on from us.

Mr Speaker, for the first time in my parliamentary career, I have also become the Minister for Heritage. As part of our 100-day plan, my first challenge and task will be to develop a funding agreement to provide \$1.25 million to the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority for the establishment of a convict heritage hub at the Penitentiary Chapel. One of the things that is most exciting to me about my heritage portfolio, and about that project, is that it brings together various passionate and experienced stakeholders to create an exciting new experience across a range of organisations with different backgrounds, expertise and talents to bring to the table.

Tasmania, arguably, is Australia's treasure trove of European-built heritage. It exists across many different forms. Many different organisations have responsibility for its care, protection and presentation, from the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority to Parks to the National Trust and a huge number of private owners, volunteers and friends of Tasmanian heritage.

I am very much looking forward to seeing how we can best manage our entire heritage portfolio, support all those who have custody and stewardship of our heritage, and work collaboratively and with synergy wherever we can to ensure we are taking good care of the heritage that we are stewards of - and presenting it as an asset, an opportunity for Tasmania, and as a driver of our tourism economy as well.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, I have not been able to do full justice to all parts of my portfolio, but I want to save a couple of minutes to speak about my electorate. Like the rest of Tasmania, my electorate of Braddon in north-west Tasmania has been through a lot in the last 18 -months. It was just April last year when we became the focus of the nation's COVID-19 response, with the first hard regional lockdown. The Hercules flew over our house to land at Wynyard, to bring in the army to close and deep-clean our hospital, and it really hit home at that time.

All but the most essential businesses and services closed, and nobody knew for how long. It had an immediate immense impact on our community and our economy. Over the last year and a bit since then, things have gradually reopened. Most of our businesses have survived through their sheer commitment, as well as the support that has been provided by government at all levels, it has to be said.

The hospitality sector has been one of the very last able to reopen and to bring people together to celebrate being a community again. Pubs, clubs, cafes, restaurants and venues are now starting to reopen. Closures are still affecting them and there is uncertainty, but it was fantastic to be in Stanley on Saturday night with several hundred members of my community enjoying a concert and a band, all together again.

It was also brilliant to be in Hobart last night at the Tasmanian Hospitality Association Awards, where 14 of the 38 categories were awarded to businesses from my region - little businesses that a year ago might have been looking down the barrel of oblivion, and you could see it in their faces at the time. Last night you could see the resilience, enterprise, defiance and the sense of community we had, all being in a room together celebrating our survival and our strong future.

I love that about my community, and being their representative in this place. We can only go from strength to strength.

[3.51 p.m.]

Ms BUTLER (Lyons) - Mr Speaker, it is an honour to rise as a member of the Fiftieth Parliament of Tasmania. From the Premier's statement a matter of minutes ago, advising us about the situation in Queensland at the moment, it is a reminder about how tenuous current arrangements are, and how easy it is for anywhere in Australia to be put into lockdown. We certainly have not got a hold of this awful illness yet, and we certainly have not made sure that enough of our population have been vaccinated yet. There are many things we have done very well, but there are also a lot of things that I feel we could have done better.

I put on the record that I give my best wishes to all the people in Queensland, New South Wales and around Australia who are having to go into lockdown at the moment.

I congratulate the Government on its election win, and all of the elected members as well. Campaigning is certainly a difficult time in everyone's lives. It is not easy and I extend my congratulations to everyone who has been successful.

Congratulations also to Mark Shelton, the Speaker of the House. It is a good appointment for the people of Lyons and he will do a fine job in that role.

I congratulate the new Governor, Barbara Baker, and pay my absolute respects to Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AM. I am excited by the news that our former governor will be working alongside Aboriginal people in Tasmania with a view to truth-telling and a treaty. This is good news.

I pay my respects to my fellow Labor Lyons member, Rebecca White, who worked so hard to represent the community as leader of the Labor Party. I look forward to our continued work together representing the people of Lyons.

I would also like to mention Alison Standen and Jennifer Houston, both incredible women, who I consider friends. I look forward to seeing what their next steps are. Alison Standen would make a fabulous senator. She has amazing attention to detail, is tenacious, and if she were successful in that role, she would do a very fine job and represent Tasmania well.

Congratulations to my good friend of many years, Dean Winter, and the fabulous Janie Finlay. They both worked very hard during their election campaigns. Both of those new members bring new energy to the team. They have vast experience and I am pleased to have them here fighting the good fight alongside me.

I also thank my parents, Heather and Geoff Butler, who flew down to Tasmania for a month to help with the election campaign. Mum reminded me during that campaign that my

first election campaign was when my dad ran for council when I was four years old, when I was out letter-boxing. We are a well-oiled machine, us Butlers. Again, thank you for putting your lives on hold for the Labor Party and for our family.

Dad actually managed my signage campaign, which was a massive endeavour if you consider the sheer scope and size of Lyons, and I would like to thank my always supportive husband David and children Madelaine, Archie and Alexander. In truth they have not seen that much of me over the last three years. I have spent a lot of time on the road, as most of us do in the House, trying to establish ourselves and represent our communities to the best of our abilities. I thank them for their patience and understanding. It is not easy for our families and often they have to take a back seat to our political roles.

To the people of Lyons, thank you, and I am going to name a few people but I am hoping I do not forget anyone and I apologise in advance if I do. Thank you to Di Robertson, John Hortle, Carol Firth, Julian Harbegee and the people of Westbury who gave us a swing despite running two local people on their ticket. I will return to speak to the ongoing shambles of the Westbury prison project during my response today. Also, to Peter Wildman, Linda Poulton, Anne-Maree Loader, Emma Hamilton and all the Hamilton family, thank you. To the people of Bridgewater, Gagebrook, Herdsmans Cove, Old Beach, New Norfolk and Brighton, you have put up with me for the last 12 years now, so thank you very much and I am really pleased that you have supported me to be able to keep representing you as a local member.

Also to my hometown of St Helens, thank you very much. To Christina Sharp and Kath Hobson, my incredible electorate officers, and to Reuben Eberhardt for your loyalty, wit and also tenacity, and to Matt Balla and Sofia, thank you for everything, you guys were unbelievable. To the wise and brilliant Michael Polley, thank you for sharing your incredible knowledge of the Lyons electorate. Thanks to the Gaddens, Dan Hume, Dee Alty, Peter Kearney, Robert Flanagan, Ian Wakefield and the amazing Kevin Midson for fighting the good fight with me.

We will renew our beloved Labor party. We worked super hard, we covered so much ground and we did not stop fighting for the entire term. It was a relentless three years but it certainly was worth it.

I cannot pretend that I am not disappointed to lose my shadow portfolios. This is the choice of the Leader and the winner of the ballot. It is unfortunate because there was a lot of work behind the scenes that had already been put into those policy areas and really digging deep and a lot of unfinished business and policy ideas, so I will not lie, I was very disappointed. That said, I am very committed to being a good local member. I enjoy it and I like representing the voices of the Lyons community. To me it is the best part of the job and the part I enjoy the most.

The Police, Fire and Emergency Management portfolio was an absolute pleasure to represent on behalf of the Labor Party. I believe that the Government radio network needs to be prosecuted. We were never advised on whether or not the ownership of those emergency towers would stay in the hands of the Tasmanian people. We asked that question but never received a response. I think the ownership of those towers has been given to Telstra and that is a really valuable asset to the people of Tasmania. There is a lot that needs to be prosecuted

with the Government radio network. It is a half billion-dollar investment, a needed investment but it certainly needs to be well prosecuted and I am sure we will continue to do that.

I have so much time for Tasmania Police, the PAT, our Tasmanian fires and volunteers and our still desperately underfunded State Emergency Service. I was proud to support PAT and provide a policy whereby a Labor government would build a police force for the future by employing an additional 67 specialist officers to improve resourcing, the CIB, crash investigation, digital evidence, forensics, surveillance, serious and organised crime, cybercrime, police prosecution, drone pilots training and education.

Nearly half of these new police officers would have been located in the north of the state, where serious crime has continued to escalate. I do not feel we have prosecuted this well enough. We certainly need to because it is an ever-increasing problem and people in the north are scared.

It is a pity that despite seven years of campaigning that the people of the Derwent Valley will not receive a permanent police presence even though thousands of local people have signed the petition asking for this. Community policing is a direction which Tasmania Police are embracing. It is a preventative strategy where local police officers become part of a community. They personally know and understand the families within their communities. This is what the people of the valley crave and it is very disappointing that we were not able to deliver that.

One of the great benefits of my previous role was visiting the volunteer fire brigades across the state. Each brigade has its own distinct culture, as most members in the House would know, but there is a funding discrepancy across the various brigades which needs to be rectified. The stealth closure of brigades is an issue and honesty about the strategy is required. I look forward to working with various brigades across lines to ensure that there is community consent for these amalgamations.

I also really enjoyed looking after the Arts portfolio and would like to thank Kath Melbourne and other members of the ERC, which embraced me with knowledge and understanding of the community, especially through the very difficult COVID-19 period.

I was really proud of the Creative Kids Voucher policy which we brought to the election. Labor believes that the arts are instrumental in reflecting who we are as individuals and as a community and as such it is important that everyone should have access to the arts. The Creative Kids Voucher is based on the New South Wales program. It was actually introduced by the Liberal government in New South Wales and has been really successful. We were able to engage with the person who wrote that policy in New South Wales so we were able to ascertain what worked and what did not work and I really believe it would be a fantastic thing for Tasmania. It provides vouchers of \$100 to encourage school-age children to take part in creating cultural activities across Tasmania. The vouchers provide an injection into the creative sector and it is an opportunity for businesses organisations within that creative sector to have a diversified income stream.

We know participation in creative activities can have profound effects on a child's development; however, many families cannot afford to meet the associated costs. We know that \$100 does not really go towards, say, purchasing a new violin or tap-dancing lessons for a year or coding lessons for a year, but it is a start and it stimulates the actual sector as well. We

think the Creative Kids Voucher program would have helped families meet the cost of participation and tuition in performing arts, visual arts, coding languages, literature, music and other creative and cultural activities, providing young people with a great opportunity to find their passion and also support investment in our arts and creative industries.

Another area I would like to raise is the price Tasmanians pay for fuel, and this is another area I have been doing a fair bit of work on over the years. Petrol prices have climbed more than 20 cents a litre in Tasmania this year and Tasmanians pay more than nearly any other state for fuel.

The fuel app which was introduced by the Government last year was heralded as a solution to stopping price-gouging and when it was brought in I stated at the time that the app is probably going to become a great way for Tasmanians to be able to read how much they are being ripped off at the bowser because I did not see how it would reduce the prices. All it would do is show Tasmanians how much they are being ripped off. That is actually what has happened. All the app has provided is a great way for Tasmanian motorists to realise how much they are paying. It is not driving down the price through competition, which was apparently the panacea that it was meant to be. It has not done that at all.

The Government must do more. We understand that the cross-structure for petrol is complex and maybe the Government is not prepared to manage the situation efficiently. There are options that the Government promised it would implement if prices continued to soar and be well above what consumers are paying in other states. This is actually happening now so it is time for them to do something about it other than providing an app to show people how much they are being ripped off. Time to do more.

It is the time to concentrate on the wholesale price. It is the time to concentrate on capping prices, potentially. The FuelCheck app has not worked. It is failing. It did not work in New South Wales either. All it does is provide people with information about where they can go to get cheaper petrol. It does not drive the prices down. The cost of living is not being addressed by the Government and the price of fuel works into that.

Average weekly earnings are the worst in the country, by far. Average weekly earnings in Tasmania is \$79 846, compared to the ACT, \$99 164. You look at New South Wales - \$93 236, the Northern Territory - \$92 000. South Australia, I think, is the next closest to us and that is \$82 000. There is a huge difference between average weekly earnings in Tasmania and other states. It is not funny and needs to be addressed. Cost of living is a huge problem here in Tasmania.

We have over 4000 Tasmanian families on waiting lists for social housing. The gap between the haves and have-nots is accelerating. I believe that Tasmania is a natural Labor state and I do not believe that the growing gap will be addressed by this Government.

The social housing waiting list continues to climb. The waiting time for housing has increased, from 53.9 weeks to 55.6 weeks. Waiting times for people with mental ill health are the worst in the country, I believe. It is very hard to gauge because a lot of it is not captured.

Many Tasmanians have moved interstate so they can access health services. This is also hard to capture but that was the information coming back to us, especially campaigning and

door-knocking, and hearing stories from people around this state. I heard this quite often from people who would not, potentially, come into your office, write you a letter or give you a call.

Outpatient waiting list numbers have increased from 51 388 to 54 469. That is disgraceful. People waiting for surgery has huge spin-on effects.

It reminds me of a gentleman I went to see. I thought I was going to his social housing property because he wanted a ramp built. He is in a wheelchair and is finding it impossible to gain access to his house. I went to the housing provider and asked if they could provide a ramp so that he could enter his property. It was then that I learnt that this man had been waiting for hip surgery for three years. He had his own home previously. He lost his job because of his hip, so he could not work any more. He then lost his house because he could not pay the mortgage any more because he did not have a job. Then he moved into social housing and went on a disability pension. It was good that he was able to access a disability pension because other people in that position are kept on Newstart, which puts them even more under the poverty line.

He would not have been in social housing, he would not have lost his job, he would not be on a disability pension and he would not be in a situation where he cannot even get into the house he is in because he is in a wheelchair and there is no ramp, if the surgery had happened in a decent amount of time. There are huge spin-on effects from having a poor health system, which end up costing more. That is a really good example. The good news on him is that he is having his hip surgery, I am told, in mid-July. That has been booked in finally. But he should not have had to go through what he has.

I briefly mention, because you will expect me to, the second round of geotechnical drilling work which began yesterday on the Birrale Rd site, just out of Westbury. Last October the State Government's ineptitude resulted in the geotechnical drilling on the Westbury Reserve being brought to an indefinite halt. I remember this day because Mr Shelton, who was the Police minister at the time, stated publicly that there had been a protest and the drilling had to stop. The poor local police officer was asked by the media if that was the case and he said, 'No, that wasn't the case. It had nothing to do with the protesters at all. That was embarrassing for the minister at the time.

There was an attempt to blame the halt to work on protesters. It was only spin. The documents pertaining to that say that on 27 October the Department of Justice was re-evaluating the need for the drilling to occur and the drilling contractors were then told to stand down indefinitely. That information has come through RTI documents. That is what really happened when you take the spin away and do not blame the protesters for it. The RTI documents indicate that they were told to halt.

Last week, residents of properties adjacent to the reserve were advised by the Government that the necessary works authority had been obtained. That includes conditions to manage the sensitive nature values on the site. On a positive note, I am pleased that the Government recognised that the site has sensitive natural values. It is, after all, a federal reserve, with documented endangered species.

I have been on the site a number of times and I am sure Dr Woodruff has also been on the site. It is a beautiful place. I have had a look at environmental mapping which has been undertaken on that site. There are masked owls, wedge-tailed eagles, Tasmanian devils. There

is endangered flora and fauna, which is one of the reasons why the site is a federal reserve. It is logical.

It is also my understanding that no Aboriginal heritage assessment has been undertaken on the site at this point in time. That is another area which I would appreciate the Government undertaking before they do any more drilling on that site.

It does beggar belief that you have persisted with this poor economic decision to build a maximum-security prison on a federal nature reserve, in a bushfire-prone zone, without any of the required infrastructure feasibility study or community consultation on that particular site. It is not economically feasible or sensible that this development goes ahead on the Birralee Road site. It is a bit of a joke.

According to RTI documents by the Department of Justice, the nature reserve near Westbury was chosen by one person, the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tim Baker. Mr Baker was previously Chief of Staff to Will Hodgman and a longstanding member of the Liberal Party. I know Tim; he is quite a nice guy, but he chose the site according to the RTI documents. RTI information suggests that Mr Baker's selection of this site was not based on economies of scale, evidence, suitability, economics or community consensus.

The first site chosen was proving to be a political nightmare for the Liberal Party and it really was. Font PR gave a fair bit of light to how dangerous it was becoming, especially for the likes of some of the northern Lyons members. The community were really cross about the whole way in which it was handled.

I assumed that the Liberal Party were happy for the member of Clark, Elise Archer, to wear the public brunt of the unsuitability of the site. It became clear that the Government were in trouble politically due to their lack of community consultation, which I just spoke about, the lack of a feasibility study and lack of transparency in relation to the site choice.

I consider the work I was privileged to undertake representing the people of Westbury, was the largest political thorn in your side during the last term of government. It really did show how poorly you were operating in some of the decisions you were making. It exposed the Government's disdain for that community. We still have no information as to why Westbury was chosen in the first place. Apparently, it was because it was close to services. That is not true. And central to the north? Not really. A job creator which rose from 250 jobs at the start, then went to 500 jobs and now it is 1000 jobs, which is unquantifiable, given you have never been able to provide any information about what that actually looks like. That was never made clear. The expression of interest process was also never made available to the public. In fact, all of it is still really secretive.

The Government found themselves wounded, especially Mr Barnett and Mr Shelton, and decided to go into rescue mode. It is my understanding and my belief that you needed to park that project on a site nearby to contain the damage into one area and stop doing any more damage to yourself. The documentation refers to the site also as 'the Tim Baker site'. That is crazy. Correspondence between Mr Baker and the Department of Premier and Cabinet in June 2020 link Mr Baker closely to the promotion of the site to the prison. This is all RTI; this is not made up. This all happened. It was Mr Baker who provided the initial lies to the Premier's office on the environmental integrity of the site; information which the Premier

subsequently read into the record in parliament and information which has been found to be incorrect.

I look forward as a local member to keep prosecuting this debacle. We would really like you to open up the expressions of interest. After all these years give the poor people of Westbury a break and open up the expression of interest process properly. Please stop drilling in an area where you are just wasting money. We all know that it is just a park site and it would never work there.

The people of Lyons are diverse. I really appreciate the opportunity to be able to represent them for the next four years. I take the role very seriously. There is so much need in our community. If you look at, say, the Gagebrook community as opposed to the Sheffield community, one thing which all the communities across Lyons crave and really need from us is advocacy. I take that role very seriously. I am absolutely honoured to be able to continue in that role.

Educational deficiencies are something that I would really like to spend a lot of time focusing on in the next four years. I am aghast that over 50 per cent of our population are functionally illiterate. That is acceptable and I find that inequity staggering.

Also, one thing I would also like to concentrate on is the quality of building. I did a fair bit of work on that. It was interesting doing a lot of re-doorknocking during the campaign and going back to a lot of the properties. A lot of them are still leaking. A lot of the quality problems are still there in those social housing properties. There have been efforts to rectify it but there is also a lot that has not been rectified. That is something that I would really like to prosecute. Because of the surge that we have been having in building and construction in Tasmania, we need greater protections in building and construction for consumers and also for builders.

It might be time for the Government to look at re-introducing a proper home builder insurance scheme so when you go to build a new property there is a certain amount of money that you pay as part of your package to insure you so if there are any problems in building that property you are insured as a consumer and the builder is also insured to be able to return to rectify. We do not have anything other than going through HIA at the moment. Apparently when we were in government many years ago there was not a need for it. I think we phased it out but it might be something with this surge in building that the Government should be looking at.

In summing up once more I am thankful to the people of Lyons for electing me and our team. There is a lot of need and I look forward to representing and advocating for the people of Lyons. and I believe we will be in government in four years' time and I am putting you on notice today. Thanks.

[4.19 p.m.]

Mr TUCKER (Lyons) - Mr Speaker, I rise to formally respond to the Premier's reply to Her Excellency. As this Government sets out our plan to secure Tasmania's future and to make the opening of this, the Fiftieth Parliament.

I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on being elected to the role. As a colleague and also as a great mate, I know you will be able to act effectively, fairly and firmly but of course

impartially to a minister under the Standing Orders, so that everybody in the House is expected to be treated in the same way. I know you will excel in it, as you have done with your dedication to the people of Tasmania in the great electorate of Lyons.

We, the members of the House of Assembly of the state of Tasmania in parliament assembled, desire to express our thanks for Her Excellency's speech and to express our loyalty to the Sovereign. I also welcome our new Governor, Her Excellency Barbara Baker, and pay tribute to our outgoing governor, Kate Warner, who has made a wonderful contribution in the role over the past six years and to this state. We assure Her Excellency that our earnest consideration will be given to the measures to be submitted to us and that we will faithfully carry out the important duties entrusted to us by the people of Tasmania. We join Her Excellency in the hope that our labours may be so directed as to advance the best interests of all sections of the community.

I congratulate all members, those re-elected and new, and welcome you all. We are here in parliament as members to work together for our state and more so the Tasmanian people who live on this remarkable, safe island which has been inhabited by the Tasmanian Aboriginal people for more than 40 000 years. The Liberal Party has been re-elected by the people to work for the people. We have made commitments and we shall make true on these commitments, which bring great responsibilities. Our Government needs to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all Tasmanians and we have a strong plan for our state's future. I know my Government will lead with conviction and compassion and continue to place the wellbeing and welfare of the people of Tasmania first.

For the first time in history a majority Liberal government was elected for three terms and we owe it to the people of this state. I congratulate Premier Peter Gutwein for his strong personal performance and leadership. It is a privilege to continue serving Tasmanians alongside him today. I would also like to humbly thank the people of Lyons for their support in me, our team and plan for the future and for their confidence in us by returning a majority Gutwein Liberal government.

There is no doubt that recent times have tested and challenged us all. I acknowledge the majority of us have done it hard through the COVID outbreak. I also acknowledge all our frontline workers for their continued support and businesses for their patience and understanding. Let us not forget our volunteers who are truly amazing. The numbers of volunteers show the true help of the Tasmanian community. The reason Tasmania has become a safe state is due to each and every one of you, the respect you have shown our island and its people in placing trust in this Government. I congratulate you and thank you.

COVID-19 is not over yet and many Tasmanians are still doing it tough. We know there is more to be done. Our economy is growing again and remains the number-one economy in Australia for the fifth quarter running. Our first 30-day plan following the writs outline many commitments which we have delivered on. Entering into the Government's 100-day plan outlines many major commitments and one is to address our health system and acknowledge our ambulance volunteers. This is why work shall commence with the Volunteer Ambulance Officers Association of Tasmania on a memorandum of understanding to work together on attraction, retention, training and support.

A plan shall be developed to deliver and additional 22 300 elective surgeries and endoscopies statewide and during the next 18 months we would like to see an extra 8300

surgeries. Planning and consultation shall begin for the constructions of the next stages of the \$580 million redevelopment of the LGH. We have a four-stage plan to be made public this year, with an updated master plan for the North West Regional Hospital and local health facilities, including the first stage of the new mental health precinct to replace the ageing Spencer Clinic for completion in 2025.

Planning will also include an upgrade of the Dover Medical Centre. The North West Cancer Centre shall see planning for the installation and recruitment of staff for the second linear accelerator for operations to commence in 2022. There will be \$17 million in new investment into better in-home and better palliative care services. We will commence the detailed design work on the \$200 million stage 2 redevelopment of the Royal Hobart Hospital, including new wards, an expanded ICU and expanded emergency department.

We will release an implementation plan for Rethink 2020, Tasmanian's new mental health plan; establish the guidelines for the \$1 million hospital avoidance co-investment fund to support capital upgrades for GPs, pharmacies and primary health providers, who will extend facilities to provide more after-hours care; and increase access to medicinal cannabis, including authorising Tasmanian general practitioners to prescribe medical cannabis products and allowing more pharmacies across the state to dispense these products.

The Circular Head region will begin the recruitment of a locally-based mental health specialist and the Oatlands Midlands Multipurpose Centre and stage 2 of the Kingston Health Centre redevelopments will commence community consultation. This will allow people to receive care in their local areas, making life more comfortable and enjoyable. It also has the added benefit of decreasing traffic movements on our highways, as people are not travelling to Hobart and Launceston for medical care, along with their relatives visiting them.

The Mersey Community Hospital will see an expanded redevelopment providing more bed capacity. For the first time in Tasmania this Government would like to initiate the move to enable pharmacists immuniser access to the national immunisation program to allow local pharmacists to support the health needs of Tasmanians.

We will commence negotiations with the Royal Flying Doctor Service for a strategic partnership with a long-term contract up to 10 years. When you live in a rural or remote part of Tasmania you cannot underestimate the work the Royal Flying Doctor Service provides.

We will commence consultation to inform the development of Tasmania's first carers recognition legislation and we will work with Glenhaven on the planning and design of a new purpose-built Kentish House.

This majority Government will establish Tasmania's first disability commissioner and there are plans to meet with a ministerial disability consultative group to discuss and develop our new active ageing strategy working alongside COTA.

We will improve and recruit additional health staff across our health system. We have delivered more funding, more staffing and more health services than any previous government and the recent state Budget included \$9.8 billion for health over four years, an increase of some 70 per cent since we came to government in 2014.

Of course the greatest asset in our health system is our people and we want the Tasmanian Health Service to be considered a workplace of choice where everyone feels valued. Minister Rockliff is focused on improving the workplace culture in our hospitals and has already made a start with incentives such as the pathway to excellence.

Our Government has a clear vision for Tasmania to be a state of opportunity, no matter who you are, where you live, your circumstances or background. Together we worked to keep Tasmania safe through the pandemic and then placed our state in a strong position for recovery.

Over the past seven years there have been 25 000 more jobs in Tasmania and we see more jobs now than before the pandemic. We have commenced discussions with our new jobs hubs regional communities in Burnie, Brighton, Huonville and St Helens with local, empowering and steering committees to deliver the best location and model for delivering local jobs for local people.

The jobs hubs success has been driven by local people wanting to get outcomes for their community. As we continue to work with the local communities across the state, it is imperative that we listen so we understand the outcomes that are best for them.

I have already recruited an employee from the St Helens employment hub, in a roundabout way. Cindy, who works in the St Helens hub, was cutting my hair recently. I was talking to her about the hub and the success of the hub in Sorell under Andrew Hyatt's guidance and said, 'If someone pops up who might suit the farming trade, give me a call.' A week later I received a call from Cindy, and let us say the rest is history.

The establishment of a new Jobs Tasmania unit in the Department of State Growth launched the Tasmanian employer bonus to incentivise employers to take on a long-term unemployed job seeker, with \$6.5 million over two years; increase the Building Projects Support Program by \$10 million to get stalled and shovel-ready projects off the ground; and commence work on the establishment of the new \$1.5 million Jobs Tasmania partnership fund for partnerships between the state Government and non-government sector to support our 'local people into local jobs' agenda.

Mr Speaker, we have a strong plan for education. We have delivered record funding to education in the 2020-21 Budget. We committed \$7.5 billion over the forward Estimates, with an additional \$204 million in capital works. There are now hundreds more staff in our system, including 269 more full-time equivalent teachers, 250 full-time equivalent teacher assistants and 80 more professional staff.

There has also been a steady increase in students completing year 12. We are committed to further improving the retention of students beyond year 10 as part of our plan to create a job-ready generation of young Tasmanians, because more Tasmanians in high school and other relevant training means more Tasmanians gaining employment.

Skills and education, especially youth training, is a vital part of our society. We need to provide opportunities for our youth. Let us begin by releasing a stakeholder-informed implementation plan for a new not-for-profit government business model for TasTAFE, to enable a more flexible choice for learners; more training in our regions; and planning for 100 additional teachers; provide more job opportunities by advertising the first tranche of additional school health nurses; advertise for the first tranche of speech pathologists,

physiologists and social workers to deliver the commitment of availability in every child and family health learning centre.

The Government also recognises that we must continually look at our teaching and what we can do to achieve better outcomes. It is becoming increasingly clear that phonics is essential for children to become successful readers, spellers and writers in their early years of schooling.

Under our plan, we have provided access for all Tasmanian primary and district schools to year one phonics and are providing additional professional support for teachers. This will add to our goal that by 2029, no student from a government school entering year 7 will be below the national minimum standard for reading. It further strengthens our investment of \$35 million into literacy initiatives.

We need to create the jobs to keep our youngest and brightest here and create pathways for them. I have personally seen the export of my three sisters from this state, and I don't want my kids to follow in their footsteps.

We all know the effects that hunger can have on learning and development. We, as a Government, will be extending the Tasmanian School Canteen Association's School Lunch Pilot program. This program is reducing behavioural issues, improving concentration and increasing school attendance.

We will commence planning for the reintroduction of TasTAFE jockey apprentice training and mandatory training packages linked to licences.

Renewable energy is a useful energy collected from renewable resources, which include carbon-neutral sources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves and geothermal heat. Renewable energy creates job opportunities, and this Government shall identify the first tranche of schools for our renewable energy program. We shall commence work on the re-establishment of the \$30 million Tasmania Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme and boost the No Interest Loan Scheme's Energy Saver Loan and Subsidy Scheme with additional funding. Tasmania has secured its reputation as a climate leader, being the first state in Australia to reach net zero emissions for five years in a row, reaching our 2050 target earlier.

As we transition to a low-emissions economy, we shall continue to harness our island's economic benefits. We shall expand the scope of the Landcare Action Grants Program to include carbon fibre initiatives, in addition to practical on-the-ground works for sustainable agriculture and river-care activities, and commence the creation of a new \$250 000 Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Pilot Program that provides a rebate of up to \$10 000 on any carbon farming advice sought to enter the market.

Tasmania has experienced the highest annual growth rate in the value of residential construction in the country. Our state also led the way on the number of houses being built annually, with 3112 new dwellings completed in 2020, 13.2 per cent more than the previous year. More than \$1.82 billion in building work was completed last year, and 3214 more dwellings were started. Tasmania's building construction industry is going from strength to strength, with a strong growth in building approvals. There is a huge pipeline of infrastructure and housing works still to come.

We will table legislation to implement and announce changes to land tax thresholds and payment arrangements, increasing stamp duty concession thresholds, and boosting the First Home Owner Grant to \$30 000. With the housing boom, our infrastructure, roads and transport are impacted. This Government has recognised the congestion problems and is focused on building better roads, schools, hospitals, bridges, dams and irrigation networks across the state.

This Government will develop the business case to take to the Australian Government for a co-investment of \$320 million to make a second Tamar River bridge a reality. We will implement detailed planning and design work for the \$115 million joint state and federal funding for the \$55 million four-lane upgrade for the South Arm Highway between Pass Road and Oakdowns, and \$60 million for the Algona Road interchange and Kingston bypass duplication.

Work will commence to develop a 10-year strategy action plan for each of our major highways, and commence planning with Metro Tasmania and the Department of State Growth to deliver a modern common ticketing solution that will apply to all general-access public transport, including Derwent ferry services, fare payment by credit card, phone and wearable smart devices, and the introduction of additional school and commuter buses on high-demand routes to assist with demand.

We have put forward a bold plan with our public transport policy that will deliver more buses on our high-demand routes, all-access and all-weather bus stops, more park-and-ride facilities and, importantly, common ticketing across all of the 17 general-access bus operators - and in real time, so people can see where their bus is.

As the minister, Mr Ferguson has said, this policy has been praised by the rail, tram and bus unions, who are not always the best friends of the Liberal Party, but they have held it out as a great policy and would have liked to have seen something similar from Labor.

The Sorell bypass project is now under construction, as well as the Midway Point intersection. I have checked them out numerous times myself. We are grateful to the people for understanding that roadworks mean delayed travel time and some disruption, but those disadvantages are more than outweighed by the long-term benefits on our highways out to Sorell or the gateway to the Great Eastern Drive.

Late last year, the Morrison and Gutwein governments jointly funded the \$180 million needed to fully duplicate out to Sorell, including the causeways, which were the missing pieces. We have now completed the set, and brought the total project value to a staggering \$350 million.

These are intergenerational road infrastructure projects for the south-east part of Tasmania, the Hobart community and the Tasman Peninsula. This Government will look into other areas, like seeking advice from TasPorts on potential port upgrades that will support the development of the hydrogen hub at Bell Bay; working with the Flinders Island Council on priority sections of the upgrade to Palana Rd; more electrifying, with a second Electric Vehicles ChargeSmart Grants Program providing \$600 000 for electric vehicle fast-charging stations in regional Tasmania and key tourism destinations. Advice will be sought from the Department of State Growth on potential locations for three new park-and-ride facilities. The development of a program to upgrade bus stops at priority locations will commence.

Addressing the lack of affordable housing, the cause is the imbalance between supply and demand - a result of strong economic growth creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs, which increases demand for housing, and the insufficient construction of new housing units to provide enough supply to meet the demand.

We will work with relevant agencies to give effect to the \$2.5 million Ancillary Dwellings Grant Program, which provides \$10 000 for the first 250 land owners who construct a new secondary dwelling and make it available for long-term rental for at least two years.

We will begin working with the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania to deliver early works and planning for the revitalisation of the Showgrounds, with infrastructure ready for the 250 new homes to be completed by late 2022. We will continue construction of the 552 social and affordable homes now under contract and finalise contracts for a further 764 homes.

We shall commence consultation with key stakeholders and broad scoping for the comprehensive Tasmanian housing strategy and begin consultation with the under - 16s homeless working group regarding implementation of new initiatives, including the Lighthouse Project.

Family and sexual violence victims fall across many of our services, including health and emergency services. Psychological effects of sexual assault and sexual abuse do not end when the physical effects heal. When something as traumatic as sexual assault or sexual abuse occurs, the effects and memories of the traumatic event will haunt and consequently cause long-lasting mental health problems. This can lead to sleeping disorders, eating disorders, depression and suicidal thoughts or actions. The Tasmanian Liberal Government is providing an additional \$500 000 to sexual assault support services in response to an increase in demand across the state. The Sexual Assault Support Service and Laurel House will each receive an additional \$250 000 to provide specialist and recovery-based services that support children, young people and adults affected by sexual assault and violence.

Since 2015, the Tasmanian Government has delivered a comprehensive family and sexual violence action plan, implementing fully funded evidence-based initiatives. While this plan has significantly increased the level of support and services available to victim survivors, we acknowledge that increased awareness is also leading to increased demand for support services. This has been seen across the country. As many people come forward to report, the additional funding will help our sexual assault organisations meet demand by employing additional counsellors to support more Tasmanians across the state.

The recruitment of 50 additional police officers to further build police numbers over the next five years and the recruitment of 48 additional paramedics over the next two years to both urban and regional locations will be a major benefit to rural communities.

This majority Liberal Government shall begin scoping the operational model for the \$5.1 million emergency mental health co-response team to assist police and paramedics in mental health emergency call-outs, for an inter-agency mental health co response reference group. We will also scope the procurement of the \$9 million investment into the Ambulance Tasmania fleet with contemporary vehicles and replacement of critical equipment to support our paramedics.

It is important to consult with our emergency services on the best outcomes, from an additional \$1.5 million per annum investment into their health and wellbeing. We will establish emergency service liaison roles to work with local communities on recruitment and retention of firefighter and SES volunteers. Work will begin on a consultation for the development of a modern-day, new Fire Service Act.

This Government has many other plans moving forward, such as removing police officers from port duties from the north-west and introducing provisional arrangements and commencing recruitment of new therapeutic staff for the Tasmanian Prison Service to provide drug and alcohol intervention and program delivery. We will start work with local government on the guidelines for the \$4 million grants fund to instal CCTV in regional towns. We shall continue to protect our frontline workers and start working on draft legislation for mandatory disease testing for deliberate blood and body fluid exposures against frontline workers.

Our Neighbourhood Houses provide essential services and friendships to our communities and are a vital hub, and an updated funding agreement with Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania will be beneficially boosted by introducing a new family and communities support working pilot. Neighbourhood Houses are not the only community place to be. Our Men's Sheds also play a crucial role within communities, so we will start the development of expanded guidelines for the Tasmanian Men's Shed Association grants program to include mental health and wellbeing initiatives.

This Government has invested in our sporting sector and began working with Football Tasmania and its clubs on the \$10 million upgrade to football facilities at key locations in preparation for hosting international-based camps in 2023. In addition, we will develop a grant deed to provide \$40 000 per annum to Bowls Tasmania to ensure Tasmania has its own team in the bowls premier league.

In more for the youth of Tasmania the majority Liberal Government will provide free angling licences for junior inland anglers for the start of the season in August. We are also going to work with Volunteering Tasmania on the new youth volunteering army for Tasmania, convening a meeting between relevant agencies.

There is nothing more important than the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. One of the Government's most important investments has been implementation of our \$5 million Child Safety Redesign, Strong Families, Safe Kids. We now have a new plan to build on our achievements for our Strong Families, Safe Kids Next Steps Action Plan 2021-23. The next steps action plan will focus on consolidating the changes we have already made in embedding the intent of our reforms in new key areas.

We know that the hospitality industry underpins jobs, investments and the lifestyle in regional communities and also our visitor economy. No other industry has felt the pain of COVID more than the hospitality industry. The industry can hold their heads high with their resilience, tenacity and ability for sheer hard work, and we as a Government have shown our strong support and will continue to back the industry in any way we can. We know that regional events in particular not only provide economic activity in regional areas but are a great way of celebrating what is special about Tasmania. We have committed \$31 million to deliver iconic events to rebuild our vibrant industry.

In summing up, I would like to thank Her Excellency the Governor, the Honourable Barbara Baker for her opening speech I would also like to honour our previous Governor, Professor Kate Warner.

We are all here to work hard together for Tasmanians to grasp and understand every opportunity for our state. We have responsibility for all Tasmanians. Over the last seven years this Government has built a stronger, more resilient Tasmania and has steered our state safely through the ongoing threat of a global pandemic, but there is still more work to be done. We have a plan to take this state forward so our children will have something to be proud of.

[4.50 p.m.]

Dr WOODRUFF (Franklin) - Exceptional timing, Mr Tucker.

Mr Speaker, I acknowledge the first peoples of this island lutruwita/Tasmania the palawa pakana. For many tens of thousands of years, they walked and tended this place and to the uneducated they have left few obvious marks of their long living but to the palawa today and to those of us who listen and learn, the very shape of the landscape, its vegetation type and pattern and the location of plants and animals clearly reflect the loving and respectful management of Aboriginal peoples across this island.

The ancient coastal middens, the grasslands and the half-woody hills were formed by eating preferences or hunting preparation. Season by season, weather condition by weather condition, tree type by tree type, cool burning has shaped this land and provided for and protected the people within it.

We have so much to learn from the wisdom developed over thousands of years and about how to live in harmony with this beautiful island. The Greens are committed to truth telling and to justice including through a treaty and the return of lands. We commend the Government on the announcement of the treaty committee and are committed to listening and learning from Aboriginal people throughout this process.

Before going any further, I will take a moment to recognise the new members in this place. Ms Johnston, the first Independent elected to the House of Assembly since its reduction in size, which is quite an achievement. As a Green, I understand how hard it can be campaigning without all the resources of the major parties and so Ms Johnston has certainly earned her place here. Congratulations and welcome.

Ms Finlay, you came so close to being elected last year and it must have taken courage to put your name forward again. I am looking forward to seeing that same courage on display here in parliament. Welcome.

Mr Winter, it has been a wild ride to get here. The people of Franklin deserve strong advocates in this parliament. I know Mr Winter's passion for our community is very real, so welcome too.

A well-functioning natural system and a habitable climate are the foundations of stable systems that have evolved over millions of years to support all life on earth, including the lucky people who call this island home today. On the land and in the sea, the variety and quality of animals and plants influences how much carbon we have stored in soils and plants and dictate

when clouds and dust form. Living organisms are the main factors in our global carbon cycle. They are the basis of our food, our clean water and air. They keep our global and Tasmanian climate friendly for human life. That is why protecting biodiversity and avoiding dangerous climate change are key goals of the Greens.

We are in excellent company. These are also the goals of global bodies such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United National Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the UN Sustainable Development goals. Along with the Greens, these international bodies recognise that the challenges of biodiversity decline, climate change and human wellbeing are all intertwined. If we do not address these issues today we threaten people's good quality of life now and increasingly as the years progress. When I say addressing the crises, I am not talking about gazing at a distant time horizon. The Liberals' policies today in government and every day are directly contributing to climate change now and the loss of biodiversity. We need to apply a laser focus to stop state-sanctioned native habitat loss and to protect our globally important carbon stores. We need to disarm the harmful influence of corporate interests on government decision-making because this influence is at the heart of our failure to, for example, protect native forests from the deforestation that is adding to climate heating or to protect our marine waters from intensive salmon farming that has been so damaging to the environment, or to protect prime agricultural land, the country's largest dairy farm from gross pollution and animal welfare abuses.

If we are complacent about the threats to our democracy, if we think we are immune from the same forces that are acting so corrosively on the US government, we are in for a bleak and unjust future, which is exactly why we need to harness the shared vision that many Tasmanians have in common. People of all ages, work types, political persuasion and spiritual belief in Tasmania share a deep love for this island home. We want to preserve what makes our home unique and special. There are things that need to change if we are going to have a kinder, fairer and more sustainable community. We need to listen to the school students and the scientists and do what we can to ensure we have a safe climate future. We value the environment for its intrinsic beauty and spiritual delight. As the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council report found, 'Tasmanians see the environment as essential for health, wellbeing and prosperity'.

We want a health system that provides the care that people need when they need it no matter where they live. Everyone should have a stable, secure and affordable home. We should all be treated to a high-quality education no matter what our income is. Anyone who wants a job should have that opportunity. We humans are social animals and transport and digital communication are essential for a functioning community so we need them to be universally accessible and affordable. Our community should be safe and inclusive no matter where you were born, your gender, your sexuality or your ability.

Our democracy should be strong and open with everyone getting a real say about decisions that affect them and with our laws fairly enforced, including for powerful corporations. When you look at this vision and compare it to where we are today, it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the change that is required. For example, if we look at the health system, at the moment getting to see a GP has become extremely difficult for most people. Ambulance response times are the worst in the country, emergency department waiting times and ambulance ramping are out of control. The elective surgery waiting list is at record highs with people waiting in pain for years.

Mental Health Services are in such desperate straits that specialists have called for an inquiry. People in regional areas often do not have the basis of primary health services. Preventative health is significantly underfunded and our entire health system is understaffed with doctors, nurses, psychologists, allied health workers and others and there is a constant battle to recruit and retain healthcare professionals.

If we look at the situation with the environment, we have suffered a climate that is heating at a rapid rate and more extreme weather events including bushfires. Floods and coastal erosion are impacting communities. Native forests with critical habitat are being logged and burned. More and more wildlife is being pushed to the brinks of extinction with damaging developments still being approved. Our waterways are being polluted and native animals are killed by a salmon farming industry that is being encouraged right now to ramp up expansion even while they are underregulated, under monitored and breaches are not being enforced. Wilderness and public protected areas are being privatised and developed apace for the profit of private companies. Mining companies treat the natural world as a resource to plunder and choose to destroy significant environment even when alternative options exist. Protected native animals and birds continue to be hunted and culled, yet, feral animals are left to flourish.

In housing we know we are short 11 000 social and affordable homes. The public housing waiting list has ballooned; rents and mortgages have skyrocketed. The average Tasmanian is in financial distress due to their housing situation. Airbnb and short-stay accommodation are dominating most rental markets in the state. Homelessness services are struggling to keep up with demand and too many tenants in public housing and private rentals have poor living conditions as a result of neglected property and insecure tenancy laws.

This is our reality in Tasmania today. Most people I speak to are despondent about the possibility of meaningful change in any of those areas, let alone all of them. The enormity of the task involved and the glacial pace of improvements that this Government has brought about, if they ever happen, are why so many Tasmanians feel apathetic, even cynical about politics. This is a dangerous place for society to be in.

Why is it that the community cares so much about these issues which affect hundreds of thousands of people, but nothing is ever prioritised in the Liberals budget or policies to make an effective real difference? Why do successive Liberal and Labor Governments continue to engage in practices that are not supported by the majority of the population?

It is not because humans are inherently selfish or competitive. Those are myths that have been comprehensively debunked. In fact, the opposite of them is true. When Tasmanians are confronted with terrible situations, we reach out and help each other in droves. We have consistently proven that throughout recent bushfires and floods, during the COVID restrictions and through community fundraising. Tasmanians will do and give whatever we can for people who are suffering, have lost everything they own, or have been unlucky in life.

Stepping back, these issues that I have been talking about, climate change inaction, attacks on biodiversity and the failure of government to provide even a safety net of social services, are symptoms of the same root problem.

We do not get the change we all want and could have because politics has become stacked in the favour of money and interests of big corporations and the super wealthy. They donate millions or billions of dollars at the federal level to the Liberal and Labor parties every year

and they do not do this for charity. They want and expect outcomes through favourable business decisions and the major parties want this money to fund their election campaigns.

It is totally reasonable to ask how this can be legal. It is because the same parties that benefit from this dirty contract have kept working complicity together, to keep donation and Liberal and election laws weak in Tasmania. In Tasmania we do not even get to find out who has donated to a political party until 18 months later. The Greens are focusing on what can be done to help Tasmanians instead of serving the interests of secret corporate donors. That is because we declare all of our donations in real time and we serve the Tasmanian community.

Most public services right now are being underfunded relative to the need they should be meeting. As a state, however, we are far from penniless. We can raise the money we need for the public services that we all collectively expect. COVID has shown us that spending on government services massively ramps up the jobs and it makes sure that people are not left out and have to deal with hard times on their own. The fact is, we could continue to afford to do this, as a state and as a nation, but it would mean that corporations that profit are Tasmanian people and Tasmania's natural assets would have to pay for their privilege of doing so.

At the moment, the public are not getting a fair return from mining, gambling and fish farm companies which operate under exclusive business licences, set up by either the Liberal or Labor governments of the day. Developers are making a motza from simply planning rezoning decisions, bringing them profits before they have even spent a cent on construction. For example, in Tasmania, mining companies pay royalties to the Tasmanian state just at the national average and not above that. This would have equated to more than half a billion dollars to spend on public services over the last 10 years. That is a lot of money in Tasmania.

What we have today, is Liberal and Labor parties, successive governments, giving special business deals to big corporate donors that benefit the shareholders of these companies, instead of having them pay their fair share, which is what other states do, and putting that money into quality public services. The money is, instead, leaving the state.

Instead of legislating for environmental protection and keeping public reserves from being privatised, the interests of donor companies such as Tassal and Huon in the case of salmon, means that laws are not enforced, for example, with salmon farming. The recent RTI shows us that the barbaric treatment of seals which ought to have been investigated did not happen, or it means that laws are rewritten in the favour of companies, such as the cable car company and the kunanyi bill that was written with the support of both parties.

At the moment the Liberals are actively saying no to hundreds of millions of dollars, a potential investment that should be going into health, housing, education, public transport and other government services. We could be having more ambulance staff and centres. We could be having more school social workers. We could be having more staff working in the Public Guardian to check out fair processes. We could be having more money going into drug rehabilitation and education for inmates instead of putting it into a northern prison.

The Greens would increase the mining and salmon farming royalties and rents for profits that are made from public resources. We would follow the lead of other places that make some of the profits from windfall property gain come to the public purse. That creates a lot of money in the budget to spend on the things Tasmanians want the most.

Mr Speaker, during COVID restrictions last year corporate interests were temporarily sidelined and the Greens worked in a tripartisan, cooperative, constructive and effective manner. Collectively, we demonstrated across the parties what is possible when a company's interests are not muddying the waters. We recognise the challenges I have outlined that we face as a state are all connected. We cannot deal with these issues one by one. If we want to leave an enduring and positive legacy for Tasmania's children - and I genuinely believe that everyone in this Chamber, everyone who stands for parliament genuinely wants to leave a positive legacy for the children of Tasmania - then we have to seize this opportunity post-COVID, whenever that might be, to reshape our state's future for the better. There are options to do things differently.

The Greens reject the idea that things cannot change and that this distorted underinvestment in public services is normal. It is not humane and we do have choices. That is why we took a comprehensive plan to the election, a Green new deal. If it was implemented, the Green new deal would deliver a greener and fairer future for Tasmania that joins us all up together and gives us all a chance for a life well lived.

We would invest in more community and preventative health; develop a statewide strategy for emergency departments; increase the capacity of the Royal Hobart Hospital and the Launceston General Hospital; progress the establishment of urgent care centres; recruit and retain the nurses, midwives, doctors and allied health workers to meet the shortfall statewide; hire 224 more paramedics; and establish an inquiry into mental health services to make sure the real issues for Tasmanians today, young people and old people dealing with the challenges of a rapidly changing world, can be responded to in a compassionate way when needed.

We would amend the law to make sure that planning decisions remain independent from the minister and empower communities to have meaningful input into decision-making. We would also establish a new tribunal for appeals which would follow the Queensland example in being more accessible for everyday people by delivering planning decisions in plain language and prohibiting legal representation.

We would also make the Environment Protection Agency properly independent and resource it so it can properly undertake monitoring and enforcement activities. We would set a target of 10 per cent of Tasmanian waters to become no-take marine reserves and require all new fish farms to operate as closed-loop, land-based farms and transition the ones that are in the sea onto land.

We recognise that the Liberals tough-on-crime approach to justice has failed and we would establish an evidence-based approach to justice which put more emphasis on restorative programs, rehabilitation and education. This is the model that is working so well in countries overseas, which are seeing a reduction in crime, an increase in public safety and a more humane way of dealing with prisoners. We would provide the funding that community legal centres need and establish a bail hostel to prevent people without access to stable housing from being jailed unnecessarily.

The arts sector has kept us going through COVID. They are always there with people creatively exploring ways to help us to understand the changing situation we are in and help us to find a humorous outlet, a spiritual outlet, a deep reflection and an opportunity to collectively be together as a community and share awareness of the path that other people are travelling along with us at the same time. We know the arts sector is important and we would provide

far more funding to particular parts of the sector and overall \$1.5 million to nurture regional and community groups.

We have a comprehensive plan for climate action that would bring down emissions in every sector of the economy. We have tabled our Safe Climate Bill that would establish annual emissions targets and create a safe climate commission to oversee climate action in Tasmania. We would support the key industries to meet targets, fund new technologies, create more renewables and facilitate investment in the decarbonisation process of our economy. Most importantly, we would work with local governments to have local adaptation plans developed and also at the state level for state adaptation plans.

We do not underestimate and we cannot underscore the importance of preparing for the rapidly changing climate, both by supporting volunteer firefighters and emergency workers and preparing communities for inevitable extreme weather and the coastal erosion, which is already taking away properties and threatening infrastructure and roads around many parts of regional Tasmania.

We know that well-functioning natural systems and habitable climate is how life on Earth evolved. Our island's biodiverse plants and animals help keep our climate stable and bring us clean air and water. Without these, our lives would be bleak and our future would be insecure. The Government's policies today are increasing climate heating and destroying precious biodiversity. They are draining money from our most important public services. We need to remove the harmful influence of corporate interests on government decision-making and budget priorities.

The influence of secret political donations is corrosive to our democracy. This is why the Government continually fails to make any progress on the things that Tasmanians care about. We should be able to have quality health services when we need them and homes for everyone. We should be acting on climate change and keeping our carbon stored and restored, and we should be looking after our public lands rather than flogging them off for private gain. We need independent government bodies that put the interests of our collective community for a healthy environment and democracy ahead of short-term private businesses.

Tasmanians are very passionate about this island and the Government has a choice. Both parties can walk together with Tasmanians and try to find collective problems for these massive crises that face us, or accept that people will continue to peacefully stand up and defend the places they love and their right to humane, basic services every Tasmanian has a right to. People will not stop standing up for the places they love. People understand that there is no other way of replacing them, so they will do everything they can to protect the places they love, whether it be kunanyi, the Brush Rivulet reserve, the glorious temperate rainforests in the Tarkine or Rosny Hill; all of these places around Tasmania.

Tasmanians understand that if governments will not protect them, if laws are overlooked, if laws are rewritten to further the interests of private companies, nothing else remains except to work together collectively and stand up against injustice. Or we could choose to work together, and that is what the Greens propose. We propose a Green new deal that is a compact for the future, that builds a fairer, greener Tasmania, that listens to and respects the wisdom of the palawa pakana.

This will be the work of the Tasmanian Greens in this term of government. I give that work my whole heart and energy on behalf of the people of Franklin and for all Tasmanians.

[5.16 p.m.]

Mr STREET (Franklin) - Mr Speaker, I start by congratulating you, as has everyone else who has risen, on your elevation to that Chair. It is not your first stint in that particular position, and I am sure you will do a stellar job over the next four years.

It was an excellent Address from the Governor last week, but it has to be said that after 22 people have risen to speak on that address, it is difficult to go searching for original points to make.

Having said that, I am going to take some time to acknowledge some people, to thank some others and talk about what we plan to do over the next four years.

First, to Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AM, for her service to Tasmania, I say thank you. I was pleased to hear that her commitment to the indigenous population of Tasmania will continue in her work in the coming months. There are varied opinions, not only in this place but across the state, on how best to progress reconciliation with the First Tasmanians, but we can all agree that actually talking about it and having a conversation is the start of any process. I look forward to the recommendations Professor Warner brings back to the Government in the coming months.

I congratulate Barbara Baker on being appointed Governor of Tasmania to take over from Kate Warner and fill those massive shoes. I am certain she will do a terrific job. I do not know Ms Baker all that well, but Tasmania being the place it is, I am godfather to a child, and the Governor's youngest daughter, Sophie, is the godmother to that child as well. We have a tenuous link as Tasmanians, and the degrees of separation are never too far away - and that is the case with the Governor and me.

With regard to people and organisations to thank, I will start with the Liberal Party. It is a massive honour to represent the party in this place and in the electorate, and to be preselected to run at an election. The Liberal Party has been incredibly patient with me across a couple of failed campaigns, and a couple of recounts, to find myself back here. It is a pleasure this time to be elected in my own right and be here for the full term. I thank the state director of the Liberal Party, Stuart Smith, and also the Liberal Party members who have shown their faith in me.

I do not know what it is like in other parties, but in the Liberal Party and the Hare-Clark system, it is very difficult for the party to support every candidate. What tends to happen is they run the central campaign, and then when you get preselected for the Liberal Party you go home and look at your family and friends with raised eyebrows and basically say to them, 'are you ready to go around again for me?'. I am incredibly lucky that on every occasion I have asked, my family and friends have stepped up to the plate.

To mum and dad, and to my sister Lauren and her husband Scott, my brother-in-law, thank you very much for the time and effort you put into helping me and also for your support. Over my time in politics, I have been able to develop a thicker skin than I perhaps had when I first came into this place, but family hear the things that are said about all of us and they tend

to take them to heart more than we do, so it is a tough road that they hoe, but I thank them for their support.

I need to thank two other members of my family individually. First, my younger brother, Christian, who basically is chief organiser on my political campaigns. There is 12 years difference between Christian and me, and he loves election campaigns simply for the fact that each night during an election campaign he gets to ring me and tell me what I am going to be doing the next day and how I am going to do it.

My youngest brother, Lincoln, is basically chief motivator on my campaigns. Lincoln and I spent an inordinate amount of time putting up posters, as most candidates do, but this time around I think we put up double the number of signs as the last campaign, which is probably a bit of a benefit of having the former premier resign and hand over some of his sign sites.

Lincoln worked tirelessly with me to get that done, and on the day after the election, after quite a late night, we then spent 10 hours pulling those signs back down again. He never once complained. Like I said, he is the chief motivator. When I was struggling for energy and to get stuff done, Lincoln was the one who was ringing me and urging me to get out and to keep going. He does all of this while running his own business as well from 5.30 a.m., so the effort he put into my campaign was remarkable and I thank him.

We all in this place know the benefit of our electorate officers and the work that they do. I am extremely fortunate to have one of the best in Anna Vincent. Anna runs my office and my life, which she enjoys doing it has to be said, but there are any number of different charitable organisations in the electorate of Franklin that benefit from having Anna in my office organising donation drives and what-have-you. She never stops going above and beyond the call of duty. I know for a fact, from the phone calls and emails I get, that the people of Franklin very much appreciate having Anna in my office.

Finally, I need to thank the people of Franklin. As I said, I have been elected to this place a couple of times on a recount. This is the first time I have been elected in my own right. On election night I still did not get the confirmation I was hoping for so that I could actually enjoy the night, and had to go through the torture for a couple of weeks afterwards - but, to the people of Franklin, I will spend the next four years doing everything I can to represent you and work for you to the best of my ability, and you should expect nothing less.

Mr Speaker, politics is a tough business, and it is hard on the people involved. One of the hardest things is that in order to enjoy being here, you actually have to risk losing at elections. It is something that I certainly do not ever take for granted, having lost a couple of times, and I want to take a few minutes to reflect on a few people who did lose their seats at this election.

First, to my colleague in Franklin, Alison Standen. Everybody who has got up and spoken about Alison has mentioned her conscientiousness and attention to detail. She was an incredibly hard worker for the people of Franklin. We disagreed on a great deal, but I never doubted why she was here, or her intentions. She is an incredibly good person, and I wish her all the best with what she chooses to do in the future, and that includes her partner, Kate, and her very fortunately named son, Nicholas.

I have to say that one of the common sights when I was sitting in that chair deputising occasionally for the previous Speaker in the previous parliament was to see Labor members raiding Ms Standen's lolly container. I do not know whether that was a responsibility of the Whip, or whether that was just something that Ms Standen took on board -

Ms O'Byrne - A long-term obligation of the Whip.

Mr STREET - A long-term obligation of the Whip, and so I am sure Ms O'Byrne has already refilled the lolly container, ready to go.

Ms O'Byrne - We are judged on our lolly quality.

Mr STREET - Yes. To the former member for Bass, Jen Houston, I know her personal circumstances at times meant that it was a difficult three years for Jen in this place. I never really got the opportunity to know Jen that well. I was only here for 12 months with her, and about seven months of that was in lockdown with COVID-19, so parliament was not sitting, but towards the end of last year, there were a couple of occasions when we were discussing Indigenous matters in this place, and passion and conviction with which she spoke on those issues made it very clear that she was not just proud of where she had come from but was proud to be standing in this place representing where she had come from. She ought to be extremely proud of what she achieved in three years, proud that she was elected in the first place and that she served the people of Bass to the best of her ability. Again, I wish her all the best with her future endeavours, whatever she decides to do.

To Ms Finlay and Ms Johnston as new members, congratulations, and I was going to include Dean Winter in that but I am going to make a separate mention of Dean. I was just going to welcome him aboard, but seeing he took his inaugural speech as an opportunity to point out that Dad gave him his first job and that I was the one to convince him to run for Kingborough Council the first time, I guess the secret is out that Mr Winter and I are long-term friends. Not only are we friends, but our families have been friends for more than 30 years. I do not want to get too sentimental, but I loved Murray and Margaret Winter, Dean's parents, like family. Whilst there was nothing anybody can do about it, the fact that they were not able to sit in the Speaker's Reserve last week when he made his inaugural speech the way that my Mum and Dad were able to is incredibly unfortunate, because they would be so proud of Dean, not just for getting elected but for standing up for what he believed in.

I cannot let it go by without telling a quick story about Mr Winter's father - I will have to get used to calling him Mr Winter - Murray. The Winter family house is only a couple of hundred metres down the road from my Nan's. Back in 2011 I had made the decision to run for Kingborough Council. As with most information between the Winter and Street families, that had somehow been passed on to Murray and Margaret through the telephone line between my mother and Margaret. I was driving down to see Nan one day and Murray was out the back of his place on Windsor Street so I stopped to say g'day. After exchanging some pleasantries, he said, 'I hear you're running for Kingborough Council', and I said, 'Yes, I am, Murray'. Murray referred to everybody affectionately as 'cock', and he looked at me square in the eye and said, 'Cock, why would you want to put yourself through all that rubbish?'.

I have to say that during the first couple of weeks of the election campaign the phrase, 'Cock, why would you want to put yourself through that rubbish?' is something that automatically came to mind with Murray. I also know that Murray was incredibly proud of

Dean and understood his passion for the Labor Party. Dean and I have disagreed about politics for as long as I can remember. His blind worship of Paul Keating indicated to me at a very young age that we were going to have a problem with Mr Winter and that he was never going to be sitting on this side of the Chamber with me. But I have to say, come what may at the end of four years, Dean and I will still be friends. Our families will still be friends. We will disagree about things in this place vehemently and then at the end of the day I hope we will be able to go downstairs and have a beer together like we always have.

I pay tribute to the leadership of the Premier, Peter Gutwein. The Premier came into his position as Premier at the same time as I was re-elected to this place. I remember giving an interview not long after it was confirmed that I was going to be the person to take Will Hodgman's seat. I was asked what sort of premier I thought Peter Gutwein would be and I said that in my opinion leaders tend to be shaped by circumstances as much as anything else. I could not have known how right I was going to be about the Premier. His leadership through COVID-19 was exemplary. He kept Tasmanians safe and made the strong decisions that needed to be made, even when they were unpopular. His personal vote at the election is a wholehearted recommendation of his leadership over the previous 15 months. To the rest of Cabinet, congratulations on your appointment to those portfolios and I look forward to working with all of you for the next four years.

I briefly want to touch on a few election commitments that were announced. A couple of infrastructure announcements were particularly important to me. The first one is the Algonia Road intersection upgrade, a \$60 million project that will transform that part of Blackmans Bay, Kingston and also down the Channel. Anybody who has to come through that intersection knows of the growth in housing in that area and down the Channel and the effect it has had on that intersection. The Channel Highway corridor study was completed last year and one of the recommendations was the flyover that we are now going to build. I am so pleased that the Minister for Infrastructure found it appropriate to bring that project forward and make it an absolute priority. The people of Margate, Snug and further south the people of Blackmans Bay will benefit immensely, but it will also improve traffic flow onto the Southern Outlet which means that everybody who travels south from south of the city each day will benefit.

The Rokeby bypass is very much the same thing for the eastern shore on the other side of my electorate. It is remarkable when you come over the hill on South Arm road at Glebe Hill and see the amount of development going on in that part of Franklin. The Rokeby bypass is an incredibly important project in terms of dealing with that traffic flow and I look forward to it progressing over the next four years.

Another project close to my heart is the commitment to Bayview College for a \$35 million sports precinct. It is not just transformational for the Clarence Plains area but also for that school itself. They have done an amazing job in rebranding that school and lifting its public profile and image and the money we spend there will benefit not just the students at that school but the wider community.

Finally, the stage 2 build of the Kingborough Health Centre is an important cog in the health system for people who live south of the city. We know of the pressures on the emergency department and other areas of the Royal Hobart Hospital. It is my hope, and I am sure it will come to fruition, that the building of the Kingborough Health Centre will take some pressure off the Royal Hobart Hospital and allow people to access the care they need closer to home.

It was raised by a number of people who have got up to speak since we came back to this fiftieth parliament that health was a major issue during the election campaign and it undoubtedly was. Within the Health portfolio a particular interest for me is the issue of mental health. It is something I have spoken about in the past and something I will continue to speak about in the future. We have got so much better in recent times at talking about mental health and how we deal with it. Now we have raised the profile of it, the challenge for all of us is to improve the services people access who are dealing with mental health issues. I think we are doing that but we are going to have to continue to do that over the next four years as well.

To be honest, I think that COVID has raised the issue of mental health in everybody's mind again. Human beings are not meant to live in isolation. We need interaction with one another and we benefit from it. During the lockdowns the people who were most isolated and dealing with mental health issues probably had that situation exacerbated. They cannot be forgotten as we come out of COVID and we need to continue to improve the mental health services that people can access.

I want to touch quickly on renewable energy for two reasons: one, because it is important but two, because the minister responsible spoke this morning and I took note of his passion for this area, not just this morning but his passion since he has had the portfolio and before. The entire world is coming to where Tasmania is already at in terms of renewable energy. Our renewable energy production might turn out to be the biggest competitive advantage Tasmania has for the foreseeable future, not just in hydro but in pumped hydro, in wind and in the growing area of hydrogen production.

It is an incredibly exciting time to be in Tasmania. The Marinus Link is a project of extreme significance for Tasmania. I am heartened each time I hear the minister reiterate that Tasmanians will not be asked to pay for more than their fair share of that project. He is right, it is nation-building infrastructure and it is incredibly important. We have what everybody else wants, which has not always been the case with Tasmania but it certainly is now and we need to take advantage of it.

To finish, I want to talk about the re-litigating of election results and it is something that has happened since we came back. It happened in the media in the days following the election and it happened following the 2018 election as well.

It seems to me that there are people within this place and outside who are not particularly happy with the election result and think it is their role to re-prosecute the election as though they have a right to do so because they do not like the result.

The member for Franklin, Dr Woodruff, in her response just then, was talking about cynicism towards politicians and the fact that elections are stacked in favour of the major parties. Opinions like that treat the voters with contempt. Every four years in this state and every three years federally, the voters decide who comes back to this place. It is incredibly denigrating and patronising of people to think that they know better than the population.

I am old enough to remember volunteering for the Liberal Party back in 1998, 2002 and 2006, when the Liberal Party lost elections. We did not get to a position where we were able to get the result we did in 2010 then the overwhelming victory in 2014 by looking down our noses at the voters and pretending that we knew better than them. We got out, we talked to the voters; we talked to them about what was important, and at each successive election we put

forward a plan for Tasmania that aligns with the majority of the values of Tasmanians. That is why we have been successful in being returned here.

We will never take for granted the faith that Tasmanians have put in us. We will spend the next four years delivering on the plan that we took to the election. I look forward to working with every member of the Liberal team in this place to continue to deliver that plan.

Mr Speaker, I move -

That the debate be adjourned until tomorrow.

Debate adjourned.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Joint Select Committee on Conduct of 2021 State and Legislative Council Elections

[5.38 p.m.]

Mr SPEAKER - Honourable members, the following Message has been received from the Legislative Council:

The Legislative Council having this day agreed to the following Resolution now transmits the same to the House of Assembly and requests its concurrence therein: -

Resolved, That a Joint Select Committee be appointed with power to send for persons and papers, with leave to sit during any adjournment of either House and with leave to adjourn from place to place to inquire into and report upon -

- (1) All aspects of the conduct of the 2021 state election and 2021 Legislative Council elections and matters related thereto; and
- (2) That the number of Members to serve on the said Committee on the part of the Legislative Council be four.

R. J. FORREST, Deputy President.
Legislative Council, 29 June 2021.

Mr BARNETT (Lyons - Minister for Primary Industries and Water) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That that message be made an order of the day for another day.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

[5.39 p.m.]

Mr BARNETT (Lyons - Minister for Primary Industries and Water) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

Terence (Terry) Roles - Tribute

Mr BARNETT (Lyons - Minister for Primary Industries and Water) - Mr Speaker, as a member for Lyons, tonight I rise to speak on the passing of Terence (Terry) Roles who sadly passed away last week after a tough two-odd year battle with motor neurone disease. The funeral will be held tomorrow, I understand, at the Deloraine Rotary Pavilion at 1 p.m. We will be unable to attend but I extend my deepest condolences to the Roles family, friends and colleagues after Terry's sad passing. I know I can speak for you as well, Mr Speaker, when I share those condolences.

Terry will be remembered for his 32-year career in thoroughbred racing, which saw him inducted into the Tasmanian Racing Hall of Fame in 2020. He was incredibly well regarded and respected in the racing scene, from riders to trainers to the stewards, across the board.

Highlights include being a winner of more than 500 races from 1982 to 2014, including five Tasmanian Grand National steeplechases. Major Tasmanian wins included, I am advised, the Devonport Cup, twice; the Tasmanian Derby; Gold Sovereign twice; the Strutt Stakes, twice. Victorian Wins included Australian Steeplechase; Ian MacDonald Steeplechase; and the Galleywood Hurdle.

Terry Roles saddled up his last runner as a trainer in January 2016, with his last winner saluting in 2014. He was inducted in Tasmania's Hall of Fame in 2020 and said it was one of his greatest achievements.

Terry had a career change in 2012 from horse trainer to nursing when his daughter Erin was on life support for seven weeks after a life-threatening fall from a horse. Inspired by the care she received he completed his nursing diploma in 2013 and cared for the elderly at Deloraine's aged care facility, Grenoch Home, a wonderful institution in the Meander Valley in Deloraine, for which the local community are very grateful.

Terry had a strong association with the local footy club in Deloraine serving as a trainer and a manager up until his motor neurone disease symptoms worsened. He particularly enjoyed the club's 2020 premiership win. I know - I was there and I think the Premier as well. With a Deloraine Kangaroos win it was quite historic. It was a fantastic day. The whole town and others were out and about enjoying that success which has been a long time coming.

In 2019 Terry, accompanied by a number of Deloraine football club members attended the Big Freeze, at the Melbourne and Collingwood game, where he presented the football to the senior umpire at the start of the match, keen to raise awareness and fundraising for motor neurone disease with Neil Daniher. It certainly is fitting that I should be speaking today

because just this morning I tabled a motion in this place regarding motor neurone disease global day, a global day of recognition for ALS and MND, which occurred on Monday 21 June 2020.

MND affects over 420 000 people globally with over 140 000 people diagnosed with MND each year, which is more than 380 new cases every day. Over 2000 Australians are living with MND, including more than 40 Tasmanians. Australia reports more than two people per day die from MND. This is very personal for me, of course, with my father who had MND. He had it for three years. Mum cared for him with the support of others; family and friends of course. So, it is a particularly appropriate to recognise those who are affected by MND, and their families, at this difficult time.

The Big Freeze 7 at the MCG fundraiser, coordinated by Fight MND this year raised a record \$14.6 million allowing more funds to be made available for research into finding an eventual cure for MND. What a fantastic effort. How wonderful to get such an outstanding result, a record amount this year. I said in the motion:

Congratulations and thanks MND Australia, MND Tasmania who for more than 20 years have proved an effective advocacy, prompted optimal care and support options for those living with MND and tirelessly raised funds for research into the cause and ultimately the cure for MND. I am a former president of MND Australia and a former board member of MND Australia and likewise an MND former ambassador as well. I love trying to stand up to support people with MND and their families.

In conclusion, a wonderful tribute to Terry who was a life member of the Deloraine Pony Club as well, keen member from a young age who enjoyed show riding all of his life. Terry also taught and instructed children at the club where his two daughters were members - a lifetime passion for horses and riding. In conclusion I would like to pass on my heartfelt condolences to Terry's wife Rosanne and his daughters Erin and Sophie, his family. I know his brother Peter well. He is wonderful man and a great community member in Deloraine. Peter and Glen do a wonderful job supporting the local community.

I pass on condolences to his friends, his wider community friends and so many others because, Terry, you will be missed.

Ms Archer - Hear, hear.

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery - Children's Gallery

[5.44 p.m.]

Ms ARCHER (Clark - Minister for the Arts) - Mr Speaker, I echo the sentiments of the member who just spoke. I will never forget the ice bucket challenge that I did. It was the former premier, Will Hodgman, who challenged me when I was Speaker of this place. I stood out on the lawns on a winter's day and faced the big buckets, but for an incredibly worthy cause and an incredibly debilitating condition.

I rise on the Adjournment this evening to talk about the new Children's Gallery at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. I urge members who have not been to TMAG for a while

or if you have children or you consider yourself a bit of a big kid at heart, please go and have a look.

As Minister for the Arts, I had the opportunity to recently officially open TMAG's new dedicated Gallery for Children/mapiya lurni around here, which is the dual palawa pakana and English name for this exciting interactive space that offers a unique cultural, educational and tactile experience for young families visiting TMAG. It is designed specifically for the enjoyment and engagement of children aged zero to seven. You might ask how you cater for young babies, but there is a section there specifically designed for babies. It is an extraordinary space. It also caters for accompanying grown-ups.

The Children's Gallery is a culmination of a \$1 million investment by our Government and several years of hard work and dedication and collaboration by staff and volunteers at TMAG. The gallery space has been carefully developed with guidance and advice from early learning and educational experts, as well as TMAG's very own children's reference panel. The purpose of the children's reference panel is for TMAG to hear, engage and empower young voices, enabling this important audience group to influence the planning and development stages of exhibitions, programs and resources.

I thank these young people who made such an invaluable contribution by providing their advice, their feedback and recommendations to shape the development of this wonderful new permanent gallery. It is not only there for school holidays or for an interim period, it is actually a permanent gallery. It is on the side of the TMAG building that faces onto Liverpool Street. They have removed the covers from the windows so you get natural light through and the children can see outside. That perspective is taken advantage of throughout the gallery as well.

It features the work of many talented Tasmanian artists. The gallery aims to capture the child's perspective, taking visitors on a journey through Tasmania as a little big home, a place of deep oceans, soaring rock columns and tumbling waterfalls, but also a place for tiny nests, comfy kitchens and fire-pit stories.

It is one of those captivating spaces that you cannot possibly see everything in the one visit. There are very small details that you can easily miss. There are so many intriguing objects and artefacts to explore in this colourful space, from glowing rocks and prehistoric fossils to beautiful paper-cut worlds, a waterfall slide and an ancient story in the sky.

The slide, although it does not have water on it, is specifically designed for children, but me being a small person, decided that I would take a bit of a plunge down it. Apparently the heavier you are, the faster you go. It did not have a mat on at the time so on the last day of the campaign, I received an injury after I had told one of our fellow candidates not to do anything silly on the last day and get injured. I did not listen to my own advice. In any event, it was such a wonderful experience. I am sure that mapiya lumi around here will help to spark and foster a lifelong love for the museum amongst children who visit it.

Congratulations again to all of those who have worked so hard on this significant and valuable project. I would like to shout out to the Director of TMAG, Janet Carding, who prior to COVID did quite a bit of research and travel interstate and overseas in relation to this project to ensure that the children's exhibition is world class, and it is. It has been several years in the making. The amount of \$1 million was part of our last election commitment. With COVID-19 intervening, it has taken that time, but delivered in a way that has certainly delivered the

initiative as part of our 2018 election campaign and delivered an incredible result for children and big kids who visit the TMAG space in future.

MAST - Safety Measures for Rowers

[5.50 p.m.]

Dr BROAD (Braddon) - Mr Speaker, I rise to once again talk about something I am passionate about and that is the sport of rowing. I started rowing as a skinny 14-year-old kid and have been rowing since that time. I have proudly competed for Tasmania and internationally for Australia, winning medals all along the way. Not only that, I have rowed for enjoyment but I have also coached. I have taught kids to row over 30 years, including school crews and club crews. It is fair to say that I have a reasonable amount of knowledge about the sport of rowing.

I spoke last week about what I believe is one of the dumbest decisions I have heard, bureaucracy gone mad. That is the Government insisting that rowers wear lifejackets unless they are followed by a speedboat containing enough lifejackets for people under their control. When I put out a release highlighting the issues with this new requirement that came in on 1 January that MAST is now going around trying to enforce, I was very disappointed to see a reply, a media release from Michael Ferguson, the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, which is headlined 'Labor continues to deliberately mislead Tasmanians'. Typical of these sorts of releases there are some cheeky little lines in there that I find quite disgraceful. It continues:

Labor's Shane Broad is rowing in the wrong direction with a blatant disregard for safety, and more foolishly - the regulations were introduced by his own former Labor-Green government.

For a start, the idea that I would blatantly disregard safety is outrageous. I have coached kids, I have helped out and I have been a participant myself. My oldest daughter is getting to the age where she wants to start rowing. In the summertime I am going to teach her to row and I am not going to put a lifejacket on her because there is no need. I will go through that again.

The media release says the regulations were introduced by the Labor-Greens government but they did not include rowing. There was a carve-out for rowing and the regulations that the Government put through that came into force on 1 January were put in by the Liberal Government. This Government made the change and the Government should change it back.

It goes on to say that Rowing Tasmania requested an exemption when MAST said they were going to have to wear lifejackets. The discussion here is that Rowing Tasmania requested an exemption from the requirement in 2019 and an amendment was agreed to allow rowers not to wear a lifejacket in a rowing scull provided there is a coach's boat within 200 metres carrying enough lifejackets for all occupants in the shell.

When they say Rowing Tasmania, I think they mean the Rowing Tasmania CEO, because the board members did not know about this. The minister should do his due diligence because the board members of Rowing Tasmania are very upset about this.

On Saturday night I went to the Mersey Rowing Club dinner, as I have done for a number of years now, even before I was elected. They were talking about how stupid this decision is

to try to make rowers wear lifejackets. That room was full of young kids. Those very experienced coaches and people involved in the Mersey Rowing Club, just like they were at the Ulverstone Rowing Club, teach kids all the time to row and they do not need or require a lifejacket.

Other countries and other states deal with this in various different ways. Nobody else is doing this, minister. Nobody in Australia has to wear a lifejacket in a rowing shell. This is happening in Tasmania for the first time - only in Tasmania. There are very few jurisdictions in the world that actually make lifejackets mandatory. The only place I could find - and maybe there are others - is Canada in the wintertime, because it is so freezing cold that you have to wear so many clothes that if you did fall in you would sink. Australia is not like that. Tasmania is not like that.

In the sport of rowing, rowers wear skintight lycra suits. The reason they do that is because rowers want to get the maximum amount of movement possible to get that maximum length to row. Lifejackets obviously impede that. As I said, other countries and other places deal with this issue in a number of different ways. One way which is very sensible is to classify rowing shells as a flotation device, because they are. Rowing shells float, oars float, the whole thing floats.

One thing I and the rowing club teach kids to do is how to get back into a boat. If you fall out, especially out of a single scull - and it is very easy to fall out of a single scull - one of the things you do with kids is teach them how to get back in. You flip the boat over, get the oars together and get yourself onto the boat. Do you know what would make it really hard getting back into a boat, Mr Deputy Speaker? A lifejacket. It would get caught on the boat as you went in. There is a very good explanation of how to get back into a boat and it is part of a rowing safety capsize video. You find that video on the MAST website and it explains to you how to get back into a boat. If you want to look at the MAST website at how to get back into a rowing shell, you can imagine someone wearing a lifejacket that is inflated trying to get back into a boat - it would be impossible.

In this attacking media release to come back at me it says:

The dangers of cold-water immersion should be obvious to Dr Broad and
I would encourage him to play a responsible role in this matter ...

If you cannot get back into the boat, because boats float, you get on top of it. You do not put a lifejacket on and stay in the water. You get onto the boat, and that is what we teach kids to do. The number-one rule is if you cannot get back in you stay with the boat, because the boat floats. You definitely do not need a lifejacket.

I could go on more about this but he talks about the belt-style products that are now available that do not inhibit the rowing stroke. I just do not believe that at all. The minister needs to talk to the schools and the clubs. If he does he will understand how upset people are. The rules are so ridiculous there is no carve-out for regattas. At Lake Barrington at times there are eight eights rowing at one time, and they will have to be followed by umpires' boats carrying 72 lifejackets. The exemption is if you are followed by another motorboat within 200 metres, you will have to carry 72 lifejackets. It is ridiculous.

Time expired.

Tasmanian Hospitality Awards

[5.57 p.m.]

Ms COURTNEY (Bass - Minister for Hospitality and Events) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise tonight to acknowledge the 2021 finalists and award winners held at last night's Tasmanian Hospitality Awards that were held at Wrest Point Casino. It was a fabulous night of celebration and it was wonderful to see the return of the awards after they were cancelled last year due to COVID-19.

I pay tribute to the THA for ensuring that these awards were able to go ahead. It is important for us all to be able to recognise the businesses that have achieved so much and indeed it was a wonderful night of celebration for what is a very proud industry.

I was very pleased to be able to join the Premier together with a number of my parliamentary colleagues and hundreds of tourism and hospitality operators as we came together to acknowledge the amazing work they have done delivering quality experiences to visitors as well as locals all around Tasmania.

The awards comprise of 42 categories across our restaurants, accommodation providers, hotels, pubs, clubs, community clubs and RSLs. I congratulate each of the finalists and winners. They have done an amazing job of delivering world-class experiences and should be very proud of what they achieved.

I also thank the staff who work at each of these operators. We know that it has been a very difficult year for all those people working within the hospitality industry. For them to be able to demonstrate their resilience, tenacity and ability to look towards the future is very heartening and gives me great confidence about the sector going forward.

There are two awards in particular that I will mention. The first one was the Premier's Award for Contribution to the Community which was awarded to Bridport Hotel owner Darren Martello, who was the recipient of this award in recognition of his work with Clean our Coast annual event as well as his support of local live music acts and charities.

I also acknowledge the recipient of the Hospitality Minister's Award for Contribution to the Industry which was awarded to successful Launceston identities Suzanne and Ralph Norton. The success of Suzanne and Ralph is testament to their hard work, determination and willingness to be able to look at opportunities and work with their amazing teams. After leaving their careers in Victoria, Ralph and Suzanne moved to Tasmania and entered the hospitality industry. They bought their first pub in Launceston in 1983, growing and developing the family business before expanding the company to purchase a second venue, the Queenstown hotel, which itself has just experienced a spectacular milestone. They went on to establish two popular hotels, as well as the Launceston Cabin and Tourist Park in Hadspen, before embarking on European travel with their family.

Returning to Australia, they embarked on operations of the Victoria Hotel which they decided to redevelop into an Irish theme pub. This was reminiscent of their time travelling through Europe, particularly Ireland, where they saw the warm intimacy of the Irish pub and decided to replicate the idea in Australia with great success. There will be very few of us who have not heard of the Irish Murphy's brand.

Throughout their careers, Suzanne and Ralph have owned and operated a number of amazing venues. Having spoken to them on a number of occasions, their passion and their dedication for their venues and their staff is very obvious. They have a work ethic that is like no other and I wish them very well in the future.

I would also like to acknowledge the other successful recipients from northern Tasmania and across Tasmania. It really was a showcase of regional hospitality at its best. In addition to the success from Ralph and Suzanne Norton, Cataract on Paterson and Rupert and Hound took out a number of awards and were finalists across a number of categories. Karen Burbury should be very proud of what she and her team have achieved. 9/11 of the Launceston City continues to be one of the most popular retail outlets across Tasmania. The Metz took out an award for best bar presentation and service. The Tonic Bar at the Country Club Launceston took out best live music or entertainment venue. Black Cow Bistro pleasingly saw best bistro dining. I acknowledge the Crazy Duck up at George Town. The Crazy Duck took out a number of awards, including restaurant of the year regional which is a wonderful success in such a wonderful community.

In closing, I pay tribute to all the hospitality operators around Tasmania. They have endured an incredibly difficult 18 months and they have come out the other side showing why their industry is robust and why it will have a strong future.

I place on the record my sincere thanks to Steve Old and his team at the Tasmanian Hospitality Association. They have worked very hard to represent their stakeholders and members. It has been a very trying time for them personally as well as professionally. It is a credit to them the way they have fought hard for their industry. With the support of peaks such as the THA, I know the industry more broadly will have strength into the future.

MAST - Safety Measures for Rowers Feral and Roaming Cats

Dr WOODRUFF (Franklin) - Mr Speaker, I rise to make some comments about one of the most serious environmental issues in Tasmania, which is the damage caused by feral and roaming cats.

I also want to comment on the strength of passion that Dr Broad has brought to the issue of the lunacy of a law to require rowers to wear life vests. He has laid out his mission to defend the law which would require the madness of wearing a life jacket for people in that particular sport. I totally endorse Dr Broad's efforts in this area and his comment when he said that the minister needs to talk to the schools and the clubs, because if he does he will understand how upset they are about having to wear life jackets.

I encourage Dr Broad to take the opportunity to build a bridge between and himself and the Tarkine defenders because Dr Broad has made it very clear on the record here in the Chamber that he would personally break this law, because he thinks it is a bad law and it should not be made. He has personally said he is prepared to be a law-breaker for something he so passionately defends. That is on a personal level.

The Tarkine defenders have, for the 40th day now, and every single day, been putting themselves in freezing-cold forest conditions, day on day. People are being arrested and they

are doing it for a collective understanding about the life-saving elements of the Tarkine forest, and the life-saving benefits of an intact, temperate rainforest system such as takayna.

Maybe Dr Broad should consider talking to the Tarkine defenders. Then he will understand how upset they are at a company that has alternative options, at this point in 2021, with the climate heating that is occurring, with the tremendous carbon stores that takayna provides, with the critical habitat for endangered species. He will understand if he talks to them how passionate they are, how upset they are at bad and mad laws that would allow this beautiful rainforest to be flattened for a toxic tailings dam.

I also want to talk about feral cats and stray cats, and the public conversation that has developed over the last week since we tabled a bill in this place about cat confinement, and the necessity for cat confinement in Tasmania.

It is pretty clear that, following the tabling of the bill last week, the majority of Tasmanians, on the record by the Government's own figures, and also from the strength of the comments made to various media websites - to the ABC, the *Mercury* and *The Examiner* - that Tasmanians passionately want to have these changed. We do not understand why the Liberal and Labor parties were deaf to this obvious change that needed to come into law last year. We certainly hope they will reflect on where we are and what people really want when this matter comes to debate at a later point.

I did not want to talk about the bill, but about the fact that Ms Jan Davis made some comments today about the role of bodies such as the RSPCA taking responsibility for feral cats or colony cats. They have been given the responsibility of managing those cats, and was concerned that any legislation about cat confinement has to recognise the role of cat management facilities under the regional strategies, and recognise that bodies such as the RSPCA do the important work of being given feral cats to deal with.

In their mind, in her words, to be required to take a trapped cat to local government that has no resourcing would not help the situation. We hear Ms Davis, and we hear the RSPCA, along with Ten Lives Cat Centres and all the other cat shelters that deal with feral cats being dumped. Any legislation on cat refinement has to include the responsibility of the government of the day to provide funding for local government. That necessarily is the case.

Unfortunately, it is not in the capacity of the Greens in bringing a private members bill to parliament to also provide a budget bill. We do not have the opportunity to include funding in legislation, but absolutely, that is a critical part of mandatory cat confinement.

There is also an opportunity under the existing act, section 41(2), that the general managers of councils can delegate any of their functions or powers under the act, which would include nominating bodies such as the RSPCA or cat shelters suitably funded to be given the responsibility of dealing with cats that had been surrendered to councils or captured by councils. We are behind the cat shelters and the RSPCA in their call for legislation and funding to go to local governments to make sure that the risk of toxoplasmosis, the risk of the incredible damage to farming productivity and the potential risk to human health from toxoplasmosis can be reduced as much as possible by people being responsible for confining their cats to home.

Time expired.

Tasman Highway - Paradise Gorge

[6.10 p.m.]

Ms BUTLER (Lyons) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise on the adjournment this evening to make comment and read this article in relation to the closure of the Tasman Highway near Orford at Paradise Gorge which featured in the *Mercury* and I think it is important for it to be read into our *Hansard*. It is an important local insight into the absolute mess the people of the east coast have been having to deal with for four weeks now. It reads:

The Tasman Highway near Orford looks no closer to opening after a local uncovered the rock and boulder-strewn state of the road with his drone over the weekend.

Curiosity got the better of Shannon Wells, who flew his drone into the rock clearance zone of the Tasman Highway near Orford and was surprised to find it still covered with rocks.

Mr Wells, a drone enthusiast and managing director of scenic flight business Par Avion, was visiting his parents' shack at Orford when he decided to view the clearance progress for himself. His drone footage captured at 3.30 p.m. on Sunday showed the highway still strewn with large rocks and boulders.

'There were lots of flashing lights and quite a few vehicles but no-one working and, my golly, there were lots of rocks there,' Mr Wells said. 'I'm surprised, I must admit. It doesn't look like it will be ready in a couple of weeks. Maybe in a month.'

The Tasman Highway was closed in late May due to the danger posed by overhanging rocks, and works currently underway to remove the rocks and remediate the road surface are expected to be completed by mid July.

Mr Wells said with school holidays coming and with interstate travel less likely for families due to coronavirus outbreaks across the country the timing is not good for the Tasman Highway to be closed.

It is important for the House to recognise comments made by local people about what is really going on there at the moment. Mr Wells says:

'It is a pretty big issue as people want to do things for school holidays. It's disappointing. I go out there once or twice a month with the kids but with the road closures I haven't gone up there a couple of times as it's a bit of a drive.'

One of the questions we have not had an answer to was one we asked last week in the House of the minister and that was what compensation has been provided, if any, to residents. We have not received an answer to that. Yes, there is compensation for businesses, but there has not been any answer about any compensation provided for residents. That would be for wear and tear of their vehicles, extra fuel costs for people who are able to attend work and have missed hours of work, and for the inconvenience. There has not even been a response to that

question but it is a really important question for residents - not just business compensation but for residential compensation as well.

The other question we will still keep pushing is around the metal mesh which is apparently coming which will hold up some of those rocks which will then assist to reopen that. We also have not had any proper answers we can relay to that community about how much time it will take for that mesh to arrive and be inserted in the right place. Safety is paramount but the people of the east coast really deserve some proper answers, especially around compensation for residents, not just for businesses, and also around what kind of realistic time frame they will be looking at. The Premier came out after the announcement, and stated that it would be for two weeks and then it will be reopened.

That was not the case at all. I do not think that was ever going to be the case. That gave the people of the east coast some form of hope and faith that maybe this will just take two weeks. It was never going to be the case and Wielangta is really proving not to be a good alternative route for the community. It is very difficult for people to use normal vehicles on that road and there really should have been a much greater effort put in to making that road a better and more effective alternative route for that community.

It has really left them in a very sticky situation. We would like that answer to be provided. We did ask last week in question time about compensation for residents. If that is being structured and is being rolled out at the moment, I would welcome that. That is fantastic. That is great news for the residents. But a lot of people may not have money sitting in the bank. They may rely on a pension and they simply do not have a few thousand dollars spare sitting in their bank account to pay for additional fuel or accommodation costs. People are having to attend the Royal Hobart Hospital via Lake Leake. That is a big cost for a lot of people. We need to make sure that residents are properly compensated. That communication needs to happen.

We would also like, again, more information provided on that metal mesh system that will be apparently installed to provide greater safety. We would like to know when that is going to happen and to be able to give the residents some realistic time frames about how long this mess will be on their road and when they will be able to access it again.

CARE Program - Creating Access to Real Employment

[6.17 p.m.]

Ms O'BYRNE (Bass) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I wanted to take a moment to recognise the CARE program, the Creating Access to Real Employment program that had a couple of graduations recently in Launceston. I was able to attend one of those. I note that the Minister for Education would have been one of the minister's responsible for the ongoing funding of this project. I look forward to it continuing to have ongoing funding. It has been a great project.

I wanted to commend Andrew Billings from St Giles, the Migrant Resource Centre Chair, Andrew Frost, Ambassador for the Migrant Resource Centre, Dr Frank Madill, former Speaker of this House, for the great work that they have done in providing and supporting a 15-week training program which is strongly supported by the amazing Louise Monahan who guides participants through the program. It has been running for a few years now and it proudly works

on providing pathways and training opportunities for jobs in aged and disability care sector and particularly targeting our migrant community to provide those pathways.

We know that we have areas with significant work force shortage and we also know that we have people who are really keen on getting jobs and the connection between the two has been absolutely magnificent. I was so impressed by the fabulous presentation at the graduation when each of the participants had just a few words to say in order to talk about just what the program meant to them. I will read the words of Saru, Sulabh, Kumari, Bikram, Mamie, Bhaskar, Manip, Dilip, Ran, Binod, Bikash, Ponir, Maheshwar in order in their speech. They all took turns to talk about the parts of the industry and experience that worked best for them.

I have found the opening introduction. My apologies for my appalling Nepali, as I say swāgatam and in Swahili, karibu - the speeches went in order:

Saru said:

Welcome everyone, thank you for joining us on our graduation. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Skills Tasmania and Work Pathways for providing funding for this training.

We also extend our thanks to the Migrant Resource Centre North who, in partnership with St Giles, have given us all the chance to embark on this exciting learning journey.

Sulabh said:

We have studied four accredited units from the Certificate III in Disability Support through St Michaels RTO and found the delivery of these units by Molly and Mindy to be informative and enjoyable. We learned about different aspects of supporting people with a disability and understanding what their needs are.

Kumari said:

This learning was then applied in our work placements. Who would like to thank all our workplace employers for giving us the opportunities to gain real-life experience.

Bikram said:

For those of us who went MRC, we gained experience in community-based support. We were able to support NDIS participants to access the community and participate in events. We saw how these activities added value to their lives and this gave us a real sense of satisfaction. Thank you.

Mamie said:

The work placement at St Giles was good value and we were able to gain experience of disability support in group-home settings. We thank your organisation for being flexible with our shift times.

Bhaskar said:

At St Michaels, we were literally thrown in the deep end, with our first task on the first day being swimming. It gave us a good understanding of the responsibilities involved, and we experienced the joy and the satisfaction seeing clients empowered to join in these every day activities. Thank you for providing us with this great opportunity.

Manip said:

Inspiring is how I describe my time at Able Australia. Before placement, I did not know what to expect. The experience has opened my eyes to what the needs of people living with a disability are, and I learned vital skills and handling different behaviours. I really appreciate being accepted as part of your organisation. Thank you.

Dilip said:

We would like to thank the staff at Life Without Barriers, who are always extremely helpful and very friendly. They made us feel welcome and at ease.

Ran said:

Your day centre is a positive workplace and we all enjoyed our time there.

Binod:

We found the clients great to work with in activities to support their interest and encourage independence.

Bikash said:

We enjoyed the practical experiences and gained good skills that we can build on. Thank you.

Ponir said:

We would like to thank all of those involved in giving us learning opportunities in class - Mark, Carl and Catherine. We appreciated all the efforts that you made on our behalf.

Maheshwar said:

A special thanks to Louise for being our instructor throughout the course, and providing your experience and precious time. Throughout the 15 weeks of training, we never felt bored. We had a bit of a laugh and lots of fun, which helped us engage and focus on our training. We feel prepared and ready for a career in disability support. Thank you.

These are the words of the 15 participants in their thankyou speeches. It was a very empowering event. I was excited to know that some of those workers already had job interviews and they were very hopeful of transitioning into the disability care sector. It is a great project. I hope it continues to be funded, and I commend everyone who is involved in it.

The House adjourned at 6.22 p.m.